

NETHER WYRESDALE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes for the PC meeting of 16<sup>th</sup> October 2014, 7.30PM @ Scorton Primary School

Present: Cllrs Collinson, Cottle, Babbs, Atkinson, Gorst, PCSO Terry Molloy, the clerk and a member of the public

1. Apologies for absence:

**Wyre Councillor Val Wilson**

**Lancashire County Cllr Sandra Perkins**

2. Declarations of Interest:

**None**

3. Minutes from last meeting:

**Signed as a correct record.**

4. Police report:

PCSO Terry Molloy reported the following crime comparison for Sept 2013 & Sept 2014 in the Wyresdale area:

**ASB** 1. An individual drunk at Forton services. (Last year 3.)

**Crime Count** 9. (last year 4). The majority increase is connected with Forton services. A wallet was found at Forton services and the cash was stolen. Other crimes include a lawnmower & concrete breaker theft from a property in Scorton and secondly, a dog attack incident.

Terry also confirmed the following:

**Previous burglaries.** There was no update regarding these.

**New powers.** These have made it easier for police to tackle crime.

5. Matters arising:

**Notice board**

The clerk confirmed that £370 was received in the account on 19<sup>th</sup> Sept.

**Overhead hedge clearance (end of crescent Trough Rd to Garthwood Barn)**

The clerk reported that Mr Whewell has made arrangements for these overhanging boughs to be cut using a safety basket.

**Clearance of trees (Tithebarn Lane to Higher Lane)**

The clerk reported that Mr Whewell has agreed to inspect the debris following the felling of diseased trees.

### **Hedge cutting (Gubberford Bridge next to layby)**

The clerk reported that Mr Whewell has arranged for the contractor Paul Whittingham to cut the hedge on the 15<sup>th</sup> October. It was confirmed that this had been done.

### **Defibrillator (village hall)**

Cllr Collinson stated that this has not been actioned yet. The options considered for location are either the village hall or the chapel.

### **Street sweeping**

The clerk read the reply from John Bettle (WC) on 25<sup>th</sup> Sept:

*"I can only apologize if did not give sufficient clarity in my previous correspondence, but I must relay that even though we have a 3 week schedule in place, the Street Cleansing service is actually based on an out-turn as opposed to a frequency led specification, which in real terms means the areas are swept as and when required.*

*The requirement to sweep is based on the National measurement produced by DEFRA (Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs) in a code of practice produced to specifically deal with litter, and rates cleanliness of a road between "A" (perfectly clean) and "D" (heavily littered), and I have attached a copy of those litter levels for your information. Using the code of practice means the service is operating on visible evidence, as opposed to perception of cleanliness, and I can confirm that levels A to B- are acceptable standards, with C+ to D- being unacceptable, and the Council's sweeping regime is designed to ensure your area does not deteriorate to a recognized unacceptable level.*

*The mechanical sweepers undertaking the work in Wyre are designed to sweep both footpaths (which type of sweeper depends on the size and make-up of the footpath) and channels (between the kerb-edge and the start of the carriageway).*

*All sweepers should sweep up to the kerb line, but the machines are fitted with suction equipment operating like a large vacuum which is very close to the ground, and if the carriageway has significant damage or the road surface falls away towards the channel at a significant gradient the suction equipment could sustain significant damage, if the operator attempted to sweep the area, but if you find an area where this is happening please make me aware and I will investigate the matter and give relevant feedback. I must also stress that the biggest hindrance to the sweeping operation being completed is stationary vehicles.*

*Wyre have been undertaking footpath sweeping throughout the Borough for approximately 18 months, but the task has proven to be slower than anticipated as the build-up of detritus was significant, due to this form of cleansing not being carried out for several years. However, even though we have the code of practice in place we are targeting a minimum of an annual sweep of all footpaths throughout the Borough."*

The clerk was requested to forward the last two emails he has sent to the Parish Council members for perusal.

### **Plaque (to commemorate the architect John Parkinson)**

Cllr Babbs has tried to contact the person at Wyre Council several times by phone and email but he has not had a response. He will keep trying.

### **Cobbles (The Square)**

The clerk reported that Karen Cassar (Highways), has responded as follows:

*"A visit and contact has been made with the owner of The Barn. We are currently in the process of arranging works which will have the least impact on The Barn's customers. At this stage I cannot provide a timescale."*

A member of the public stated that there is a code of practice that is applied to areas within a conservation area. The clerk was asked to request Karen Cassar to ensure that this is adhered to when undertaking repairs.

### **Leaning lamp post (The Crescent)**

The clerk reported the response from Barrie Stoddard (Highways senior engineer for street lighting) on 3<sup>rd</sup> October:

*"I sent a crew out today to check if the column is safe or not. Either way, we are unable to straighten concrete columns so it will be replaced over the coming weeks."*

### 6. Open forum:

#### **Request for yellow lines (PO)**

The PC discussed the emails received from 2 members of the public and considered their request for yellow lines outside the post office. They have unanimously agreed that this is not appropriate because they are aware that there has been local opposition to this proposal in the past. They believe that yellow lines would be ineffective as they can't be enforced and also feel that the business should be accessible to the public. As there is no alternative car park in the village, preventing parking at the post office is not a viable option. The clerk was requested to respond to them accordingly.

#### **Request for plaque (Thomas Mawson, Architect)**

A member of the public requested the PC to consider whether they would like to have a plaque for Thomas Mawson who was born in the village in 1861. He stated that Mr Mawson was a top landscape designer and gardener and is highly recognized nationally. The PC agreed it would be a good idea to research him and the member of the public is happy to provide a project plan for the PC and suggested that one idea may be to have a memorial garden for him based on his principles.

### 7. Playing field:

#### **Progress report**

Cllr Cottle reported the following:

£107,000 funding has been applied for including Sport England, the Masons (£5000) & FOB (£10,000). He has discussed with FOB having a sign advertising them and they have included this in their bid. Garstang Tennis Club have expressed their support and offered to do some coaching. He stated that by February 2015, it will be known whether the bids have been successful.

#### **Playing field inspection report**

The PC agreed to assess the playing field. The clerk left her copy of the inspection report with Cllr Collinson.

## **Maintenance and upkeep**

Josh (lengthsman) has done some cutting back. Cllr Collinson suggested that he should continue to concentrate on this area (see item 14).

### 8. Bikes & Barrows:

Cllr Collinson state that a meeting will be held before Christmas.

### 9. Correspondence/circulated items:

**Refer appendix 1. Items to discuss are:**

**EM Highway services – Letter re scheme to replace bridge joint between junctions 33 & 32.** The clerk read the letter.

### 10. Borough Council & Lancashire County Council matters:

**No WC or LCC representatives in attendance.**

### 11. Planning:

**14/00714/LAWE** - Certificate for existing replacement GG @ The Lodge, Scorton Hall Park, Scorton

**Comments regarding the above were sent to WC on 7/10/14.**

### 12. Decision notices:

**14/00460/FUL** – (2 storey side ext, SS rear ext and front porch @ Ivy Cottage, Station Lane, Scorton) **Granted**

**14/00499/FUL** – (Erection of 1.9M high boundary wall & gate (retrospective) to station Lane Frontage @ 1 Priory Gardens, Scorton) **Granted**

### 13. Highways:

#### **Blocked Drain (Higher Lane between the kennels and the t junction)**

Cllr Atkinson reported this. Due to standing water issues, there is concern that in winter, this will be prone to freezing and will be a hazard to motorists. The clerk to report to Highways.

#### **Depressions on road (nr Gubberford Bridge)**

Cllr Cottle reported that some sort of utility work has been done and there are several depressions in the road at right angles to the kerb. The clerk to report to Highways.

#### **Coping stone (west side of Gubberford Bridge)**

Cllr Cottle reported that this has been knocked off. The clerk to report to Highways.

### 14. Lengthsman:

#### **Jobs undertaken**

The clerk gave the latest job sheet to Cllr Collinson. This was circulated.

## **Jobs**

It was agreed that the lengthsman should concentrate on cutting all shrubs on the play area and deal with hedging and planting near the chapel wall towards The Barn entrance. This should be made a priority over litter picking.

## **Lengthsman 2015/16**

Cllr Atkinson stated that the lengthsman duties should be split and someone else should be taken on to do the litter picking. Cllr Collinson made a list of areas that require maintenance by a lengthsman. It was suggested that the back of the village hall should be included (see next item). For the purpose of the precept, the number of hours P/W and hourly rate should be kept the same. The clerk confirmed that he is paid £13 per hour, 10 hours P/W. His annual payment is £5980 plus £150 materials.

### 15. Village Hall:

#### **Update**

The clerk stated that the village hall is holding a Christmas Market on 2<sup>nd</sup> November to help raise funds for the hall.

#### **Back of village hall**

The clerk read an email relating to this from Joanne Golton:

*“The back of the village hall has a small grassed area and a large shed. It has a small flagged path running along the back of the hall between the two fire exits and to the shed entrance. There is a fence to the rear and a boundary gate to either side of the building.*

*The grassed area currently has building materials (ladders, rubble, buckets etc) on it from the improvement works to next door and the boundary gateway between the hall and the cottage has been removed to enable access. Although permission for use of the village hall garden has not been sought, we are understanding of the need for access and space to enable the development works to progress. I am confident that these materials will be cleared away and the grass area left tidy and also that the boundary gate will be re-installed.*

*The back garden is maintained via the Parish Lengthsman who is asked to trim it twice a year to prevent the growth of weeds. The Village Hall cannot afford to have this area flagged or filled with woodchip at the current time and any funds for the hall would prefer to be diverted to solving the problem with the stability of the main floor.*

*If there are any complaints regarding the village hall please can I ask that they be directed to me or John Kenyon, we'd be more than happy to deal with them directly.”*

### 16. Finance:

#### **account update**

The clerk stated that bank statement is late. This has been a particular problem recently.

#### **War memorial handrail - £120**

No bill receive yet. Cllr Babbs will inform the clerk when he has received it.

Items approved for payment:

**Air ambulance donation - £50**

**Clerk stationery expenses - £48.23**

17. Health & Safety:

**None**

18. Points of interest:

**Local plan meeting**

Cllr Babbs circulated maps giving examples of development. He stated that three areas in the parish have been looked at. Wyre council are seeking land (not open countryside development) and they propose to start developing areas chosen between 2016 and 2031. Wyre Council are prepared to look at any site put forward even if it is on a flood plain. The role of the Parish Council is to decide how the growth of the village is achieved in the long term (e.g. mainly on one site or spread out in smaller developments and over what period) and to make landowners aware of Wyre Council's interest. The PC agreed it was important that if a site is developed, any design statement relating to materials used should be strictly adhered to and not changed at a later date.

19. Date of next meeting: **20<sup>th</sup> November 2014**

**As there was no further business, the meeting concluded at 9.15PM**

**APPENDIX 1 – CORRESPONDENCE (EMAILED)**

**LCC – Bus service changes October**

**LALC - NALC amendment to model standing orders**

**WC – Garry Payne elections 2015 arrangements**

**Community Futures – E-bulletin 22/9**

**Rural Services Network – Weekly digest 22/9 & 29/9, 7/10 & 13/10, Rural opps  
bulletin and rural housing spotlight**

**CAB – Community champions**

**LALC – Advisory workshops**

**WC – Planning committee agenda 1<sup>st</sup> Oct link**

**WC – Portfolio holder report & decision 25<sup>th</sup> Sept (renewal of banking  
services contract) link**

**WC – Overview & scrutiny committee 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept minutes link**

**WC – Schedule of executive decisions links 25/9, 29/9 & 9/10 links**

**WC – Cabinet minutes 24<sup>th</sup> Sept link**

**LALC – Wyre Area meeting 30<sup>th</sup> Oct emailed to Cllrs Collinson, Babbs and  
Cottle**

**WC – Planning committee update sheets 1<sup>st</sup> Oct link**

**LALC – Three tier forum agenda request**

**Yates playground info** emailed to Cllr Cottle

**WC – Engaging with communities task group 8<sup>th</sup> Oct agenda link**

**FOB – Bulletin Oct**

**LALC – Accounts**

**Police – Crime figures Sept**

**EM Highway services – Letter re scheme to replace bridge joint between  
junctions 33 & 32 see item 9**

**Community Futures – E-bulletin plus Oct Newsletter**

**PSE – E-newsletter**

**Wyre Voice – Community E-Newsletter**

**WC – Full council agenda 16<sup>th</sup> Oct link & item 6 questions**

**LCC – Nov bus service changes**

**WC – Overview & scrutiny committee agenda 20<sup>th</sup> Oct link**

**LCC – Review of rights of way improvement plan**

**WC – Minutes links for planning 1<sup>st</sup> Oct & Engagement with communities  
task group 8<sup>th</sup> Oct**

**WC – Agenda for cabinet 22<sup>nd</sup> Oct link**

**WC – Remembrance events 2014**

**Preesall underground gas storage x 2**