

NETHER WYRESDALE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes for the PC meeting of 20th November 2014, 7.30PM @ Scorton Primary School

Present: Cllrs Cottle, Collinson, Anderton and Atkinson, Lancashire County Cllr Sandra Perkins, Wyre Councillor Val Wilson, Nick Osborne (LCC), Peter Young (Chairman of Forton Parish Council), Joanne Golton (Village Hall Committee), the clerk & a member of the public.

1. Apologies for absence:

Cllrs Babbs and Gorst

2. Declarations of Interest:

None

3. Minutes from last meeting:

Signed as a correct record.

4. Police report:

None

5. Matters arising:

Clearance of trees (Tithebarn Lane to Higher Lane)

The clerk stated that Mr Whewell has instructed his agent to pursue the buyers so that the timber can be removed.

Defibrillator (village hall)

Cllr Cottle agreed to raise this at the next Methodist Chapel meeting with a view to putting this in the porch.

Plaque

Cllr Babbs absent therefore no update (re architect John Parkinson).

The Parish Council mentioned the email sent by a member of the public regarding the other architect Thomas Mawson. He will attend the meeting in January.

Coping stone (west side of Gubberford Bridge)

The clerk reported the response from Karen Cassar (Highways) who stated that this has been reported to the bridges team and they are currently awaiting the repair to be completed (no timescale).

Depressions in Highway (Nr Gubberford Bridge)

The clerk reported the response from Karen Cassar (Highways) on the 27th October which states:

“An investigation has been completed and there were no defects which met our prescribed intervention level on the highway, no repair work will be completed at this moment in time.”

Blocked Drain (Higher Lane)

The clerk reported that Karen Cassar (Highways) had responded that this is now clear.

6. Open forum:

Life for a life (Scorton picnic site)

Nick Osborne (LCC) explained that LCC are considering offering a small part of Scorton Picnic Site as a memorial tree planting scheme to a charity called Life for a Life. LCC already have such schemes at Beacon Fell & Crook O'Lune. He explained that Life for a Life are constantly looking for new sites.

The benefit to the County Council is that, in return for entering into an agreement for the land, Life for a Life will carry out grass cutting and some woodland management on the site which helps reduce the costs of management which is important at a time when LCC are looking for substantial savings due to the diminishing budget.

He provided a map of where this will be. He stated that it will be on the fringes next to the motorway.

Currently 5 rangers cover the county and they report as to what work is required. LCC also respond to public comments about what jobs are needed. Trees that are planted are to celebrate births and other occasions. Any plaques in situ will be A5 size.

Lancashire County Cllr Sandra Perkins stated that she has seen other similar schemes and supports this one.

The PC stated that it is a good idea but were concerned about people treating the area in a similar fashion to a graveyard (e.g. by leaving memorials such as teddies). Nick reassured the Parish Council that this should not be an issue and notices will go up on the site. The PC were also concerned about the effect on existing wild flowers. Nick stated that the chosen areas are not conducive to flowers growing and therefore this would not be an issue.

Neighbourhood and Local Planning

The Forton Parish Council chairman Peter Young explained what Forton has done in relation to the Local Plan. They have used the CPRE Guide to Neighbourhood Planning booklet. They have worked on settlement boundaries and they have proposed potential changes to Wyre Council on a map. They have also agreed a set of planning principles and submitted these also. They have stated specific roads within their parish that they don't want to see any development on. They have expressed support for business development not just housing. Their Parish Council are also making enquires about the target development figures. They intend to produce a map specifying where they want the development to be. He explained that public bodies can use ordnance survey maps in publications but they have to apply for a license. He provided the clerk with the online details. Cllr Collinson requested her to look into this.

A member of the public said that Wray Parish Council had submitted their plan and this was available to view online.

7. Playing field:

Progress report

Cllr Cottle stated that the PC has been granted £2,500 from The Forest of Bowland. He should hear about the request to Lancashire Environment Fund soon. Sport England has postponed the decision date from February to April.

Playing field inspection report

Cllr Collinson stated that the report is with John Slinger who has been given instruction as to what the PC require. The copy will be returned to the clerk at a later date.

8. Bikes & Barrows:

Cllr Collinson reported that the next meeting is at the Chapel on 2nd December.

Cllr Cottle reported that he will remind the electrician about installing external sockets at the Chapel. He also made a request for the public toilets to be kept open for the running event and suggested contacting DANFO. Cllr Collinson will deal with this.

9. Correspondence/circulated items:

Refer appendix 1. Items to discuss are:

LCC – Lancs minerals and waste consultation no comments

10. Borough Council & Lancashire County Council matters:

Wyre Cllr Val Wilson reported:

- ❖ There is a full council meeting next week and the budget will be discussed.
- ❖ She warned of a scam doing the rounds where a card is posted through the door advising that there is a parcel that couldn't be delivered. The number on the card is a premium rate number with very high charges. Cllr Collinson will put this on display in the shop.

Lancashire County Cllr Sandra Perkins reported:

- ❖ There is a budget meeting coming up soon. Cuts are expected.
- ❖ There is a meeting next Thursday about the recycling centre.
- ❖ The memory café (for dementia sufferers and carers) which she has set up has been very popular. The next one is on 3rd December between 10AM and 12PM in Garstang Library. Posters will go up advertising this.

11. Planning:

None

12. Decision notices:

14/00714/LAWE – (Certificate for existing replacement GG @ The Lodge, Scorton Hall Park, Scorton) **Lawful**

13. Highways:

Street sweeping

The clerk stated that following a request from Cllr Collinson, John Bettle (WC Street Cleaning) has made a further response on 16th November. The PC are aware of this but feel that all their questions have not been resolved. Cllr Collinson will email him again asking where he goes and for how long.

Hedge cutting

The PC requested the clerk to contact James Whewell to thank him for the hedge cutting work that had been done.

14. Lengthsman:

Jobs undertaken

The clerk circulated the time sheet.

Jobs to do

Strimming the full length of the Millennium way from the railway bridge to the river bridge.

Lengthsman arrangements in Forton

Cllr Peter Young stated that they have organised volunteers to do most of the work but they intend to employ someone for certain areas of grass cutting. He stated that Cllr Fiona Riley has more information if the parish is interested.

15. Village Hall:

Update

Joanne Golton reported the village hall news:

- ❖ The booking secretary has resigned and they need a replacement. There is a small payment for this job. Cllr Collinson will look into this.
- ❖ There is a new cleaner at the hall.
- ❖ The village hall has a turnover of approx. £10,000 P/A. Recently, they have lost 2 main users, the WI and the antiques fair.

Future sustainability of the village hall

Regarding the latter, Joanne Golton confirmed that if another user is lost, the hall will start to lose money. They need to find grant funding to fix the floor. Cllrs Wilson and Perkins stated examples of halls that had received such funding. Joanne stated that at present, there are only two members of the committee and she has insufficient time to fill out the necessary paperwork. She is also having difficulty in recruiting volunteers. She is looking into the long term sustainability of the hall including the building condition and management. One option would be to look at doing an asset transfer to the Parish Council and she asked the members to think about this as a possibility for the future.

16. Finance:

6 month account update

The clerk confirmed that remaining funds at the start of October are £12,182.93. After remaining expenses at the end of the year there will be £9575.70.

Balance at 30th October is £11,933.70.

War memorial handrail - £120 No invoice received yet.

Notice board Cllr Collinson stated the notice board has not been repaired yet (nor the new one made).

Precept 2015/16

Following discussions in item 15, the clerk asked if the PC wanted to consider an increase in the donation to the village hall. Cllr Cottle suggested this be increased from £600 to £1000 P/A. The PC agreed to this increase. The precept amount was therefore approved for £12,600.

Computer fund - £108.46 Approved.

17. Health & Safety:

None

18. Points of interest:

None

19. Date of next meeting: **29th January 2015**

As there was no further business, the meeting concluded at 9.05PM

APPENDIX 1 – CORRESPONDENCE (EMAILED)

WC – Have your say on council services

Community Futures – info bulletin

**Rural Services Network - Digest 20/10, 27/10,3/11, 10/11, & 17/11, Rural opps
bulletin & Rural vulnerability service x 2**

Right Driver – poster for free Highway Code training

WC – Agenda for employment & appeals 3rd Nov link

WC – CAB scrutiny review group agenda 3rd Nov link

Clerks & Councils Direct magazine

WC – Portfolio holder reports 27th Oct links x 2

WC – Overview & scrutiny minutes 20th Oct link

WC – Cabinet minutes 22nd Oct link

WC – Planning committee agenda 5th Nov link

WC – License for xmas tree decorations letter

WC – Standards committee agenda 6th Nov link

WC – Schedule of executive decisions 29/10, 7/11 & 20/11 links

Charity Commission - News Autumn 2014

WC – Engaging with communities task group agenda 10th Nov link

WC – Audit committee agenda 11th Nov link

WC – Full council minutes 16th Oct link

LCC – Autumn parish champion newsletter

WC – Employment & appeals committee 3rd Nov link

WC – Portfolio holder decision 27th Oct links

LCC – Winter service briefing note

WC – Community E- newsletter

LCC – Minerals & waste consultation see item 9

WC – Portfolio holder reports 7/11 links

WC – Overview & scrutiny agenda 17th Nov link

WC – Planning committee minutes 5th Nov link

WC – Standards committee minutes 6th Nov link

WC – Portfolio holder decision links 7th Nov links

Community Futures – Poster and info bulletin 17/11

Police – Crime summary Oct

WC – Audit committee minutes 11th Nov

LCC – Dec bus service changes

WC – Planning consultations cessation of paper copies

WC – Full council 27th Nov agenda link

WC – Overview & Scrutiny minutes 17th Nov link