



## Minutes of the Meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2021 at 7.00pm at the Quaker Meeting House, Lancaster

**Present:** Councillor Nick Webster (Chairman)  
Councillors Denise Parrett and Duncan Hall.  
City Councillor Tim Dant  
Derek Whiteway, Parish Clerk  
One member of the public attended the meeting

### **21/032 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Councillors Kevan Walton and Chris Norman and from County Councillor Gina Dowding.

### **21/033 Minutes of the previous meeting**

**1)** The minutes of the Parish Council Annual Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021, were approved subject to a minor typographical change to minute 21/016(b) – appointment of the Deputy Chair for 2021/22.

#### **Matters arising:**

**2) 21/029(3) – Lengthsman.** The Chairman reported that the Lengthsman had cleared the steps leading from leading from the Smuggler's Lane public footpath onto the estuary multi-use path. The Lengthsman had advised that handrails were not generally installed in such locations, but that alternative options to assist walkers when negotiating the steps would be considered.

### **21/034 Declarations of Interest**

No further declarations were made.

### **21/035 Planning Applications**

No new planning applications had been referred to the Parish Council since the last meeting.

### **21/036 Councillors' Roles**

The Clerk reported that a request had been received from Scotforth Parish Council inviting Councillors, along with those from Thurnham with Glasson and Ellel Parish Councils, to collaborate in a meeting to discuss issues presented by Bailrigg Garden Village (BGV) developments. Councillors agreed that this would be beneficial and resolved to respond positively to the invitation. It was agreed not to appoint a particular Councillor to lead on this initiative at this stage.

**Resolved:** That the Parish Council will join in a meeting with Scotforth Parish Council and others to discuss issues presented by BGV developments.

### 21/037 Parish Council Priorities and Objectives 2021/22.

The Chairman led a discussion on possible projects/initiatives for the coming year. Topics considered included:

- Opportunities to plant trees within the Parish, possibly connecting with the City Council's pledge to plant one million trees across north Lancashire. The Chairman suggested the strip of land adjacent to the Padfield Lane and East Lodge, known locally as 'Sour Holme' was a possible location. Councillor Dant suggested that the Council approach the Fairfield Association in taking forward any plans.
- The possible installation of a 'welcome sign' for Aldcliffe, similar to the 'Stodday Village' stone sign.
- The possible installation of a 'parish pump' similar to that in Stodday, one suggested location being close to or opposite the well archway stone at 'Melrose' on Aldcliffe Hall Lane. Councillor Parrett suggested that an installation of this nature might be linked to celebrations of the Queen's platinum jubilee in 2022.
- Installation of a feature on the corner of Aldcliffe Hall Lane, suggestions including a milk churn stand or milk churns, at Bank Farm.
- Development of the existing picnic site on the multi-use estuary path opposite the end of the Snuff Mill Lane footpath. The Chairman reminded Councillors that United Utilities had offered to provide a tour of the establishment and had also given a verbal commitment to support improvements to the picnic site. Councillors discussed options for raising additional funding and the need to include suitable disabled access to the facility.

**Action:** The following actions were agreed to progress the suggestions discussed at the meeting:

- a) Tree planting opportunities will be researched with reference to the City Council's tree planting plans and targets and contact will be made with the Fairfield Association in developing plans;
- b) Councillor Hall will make enquiries with the owners of Bank Farm regarding a possible installation outside their property;
- c) The Chairman will contact United Utilities about the previous offer of a site visit and support for developing the estuary path picnic area;
- d) Councillor Dant will seek advice from the City Council's Public Realm team regarding development of the estuary path picnic area; and
- e) The Clerk will contact The Lancaster Guardian regarding the previously submitted report on the Snuff Mill Lane footpath works, which has not yet been published.

## **21/038 Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP)**

Councillor Parrett provided Councillors with an update on the project. The draft NDP has been sent to Lancaster City Council for final review, including the possible need for a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and/or Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). Comments had been made by Natural England advising that information should be provided to support the screening opinion to assess how protected species are being protected.

The City Council's support officer had responded to Natural England, providing the evidence currently available and seeking clarification of what additional information might be necessary. This information is to be forwarded to the Parish's consultant, Louise Kirkup.

In relation to the remaining work to complete the project, Louise Kirkup is to provide figures and advice on what should be included in the application for grant funding from Locality.

## **21/039 Long Mile Lane Flooding**

City Councillor Dant had shared with Councillors a cautiously encouraging email received from Natural England in response to his email supporting the Morecambe Bay Wildfowlers Association's (MBWA) application to work on the foreshore. Cllr Dant also provided an update on work recently undertaken by local farmers along Long Mile Lane, which had demonstrated that the drain does work, albeit slowly. It is accepted that work is required to clear the gully and repair the clack-valve.

Cllr Dant had liaised with County Councillor Dowding on the matter, with the outcome that the County Council would consider talking to Natural England, but would not enter into discussions with the Parish Council. Given this position, it was suggested that the Parish Council might try to enter into formal talks with the MBWA and the farmers concerned.

Councillor Parrett reported that the pothole on the lane was still recorded on the County Council's system as 'awaiting assessment'

**Action:** It was agreed that City Councillor Dant and the Clerk would share contact details held with a view to arranging a meeting of the parties concerned.

## **21/040 Public Discussion and Updates**

### **City and County Councillors' Reports**

No further reports had been received.

### **Clerk's Report:**

#### **1) The Ramblers Association**

The Clerk referred to recent emails from the local Ramblers' Association seeking support for proposed initiatives to improve a 'Lancaster Circular Walk' which crosses the Parish. Councillors agreed that the proposals should be considered and

discussed with the Ramblers and City Councillor Dant offered to be the Parish's contact person for any discussions.

**Action:** The Clerk will contact the Ramblers' Association expressing support in principle for its project and providing City Councillor Dant's details as the Parish's representative in any discussions.

## **Members' Updates**

### **2) Highways**

Nothing to report.

### **3) Amenity, including the Lengthsman (Chairman)**

Nothing further to report.

### **4) Stakeholder Liaison, including United Utilities (Councillor Walton)**

Nothing further to report.

### **5) BT Openreach (Chairman)**

The Chairman reported that contractors had last week begun to roll-out 'full fibre' broadband connections in Lancaster, with an exploratory cable being introduced in Aldcliffe. This service would only be installed and available to properties on public roads/streets. To access the service, householders will be required to pay a fee (understood to be £500 for up to 200m connection and more beyond that distance) to have the a connection installed to their property. It was envisaged that the service would provide 1Gb broadband performance. Installation would have the drawback of disturbance to drives and gardens. On the subject of potential supplier incentives, Councillor Hall offered to research wifi suppliers.

The Chairman advised that the advent of short-range 5G telephone signal might provide an alternative solution for many people, again subject to a national roll-out. Councillor Hall again offered to research this facility.

**Action:** Councillor Hall will research any supplier incentives for full-fibre installation and details of potential 5G telephone signal provision.

### **6) Ancillary (Chairman)**

Nothing to report.

### **7) Other Matters**

Nothing further was raised.

## **Public Discussion:**

### **8) Smugglers Lane**

The Clerk reported that parishioner Mollie Foxall had copied him into emails exchanged with the County Council about recent hedge trimming work on Smugglers' Lane, which had destroyed the displays of wildflowers. Councillors

agreed that the Parish Council should also write to the County Council to express how appalled and dismayed they were at the action taken.

**Action:** The Clerk will write to the PRow Team at the County Council stating how appalled and dismayed Councillors felt about the abrupt and unnecessary destruction of wildflowers on Smugglers' Lane.

#### 21/041 Payments

Payee & Detail	£
Robinson Countryside – Lengthsman Services, March and April 2021 (note 1)	255.00
Derek Whiteway – Parish Clerk salary and expenses, May 2021	160.78
HMRC – PAYE deductions, May 2021	40.20

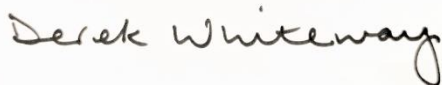
Note 1 – these invoices had already been paid under delegated authority and were presented for information only.

**Resolved:** That the above accounts be approved for payment.

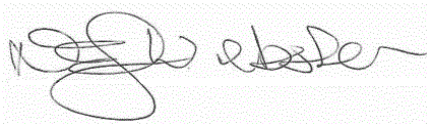
#### 21/042 Date and venue for next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> July 2021 at the Quaker Meeting House, commencing at 7.00pm.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm



Clerk of the Council



Chair

Date: 6<sup>th</sup> July 2021