

## Minutes of the Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2021 at 7.00pm at the Quaker Meeting House, Lancaster

**Present:** Councillor Nick Webster (Chairman)  
Councillors Duncan Hall, Denise Parrett and Kevan Walton.  
Derek Whiteway, Parish Clerk  
No members of the public attended the meeting

### **21/043 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Councillor Chris Norman, City Councillor Tim Dant and County Councillor Gina Dowding.

### **21/044 Minutes of the previous meeting**

- 1) The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2021, were approved without further amendment.

#### **Matters arising:**

- 2) **21/036 – Councillors’ Roles (Bailrigg Garden Village).** The Clerk confirmed that he had written to the Clerk of Scotforth Parish Council (SPC) to accept their invitation to join in a meeting with SPC and others to discuss issues presented by BGV developments. There were no further developments to report at this stage.
- 3) **21/037(e) – Parish Council Priorities and Objectives 2021/22.** The Clerk reported that he had contacted The Lancaster Guardian regarding the previously submitted report on the Snuff Mill Lane footpath works, which has not yet been published. A response was awaited.
- 4) **21/039 - Long Mile Lane Flooding.** The Clerk confirmed that he had liaised with City Councillor Dant to share contact details of interested parties. Given the progress made by the farmers in clearing the ditch, and that a decision on proposed foreshore works was awaited from Natural England, the Clerk felt that a meeting of interested parties was unnecessary at this time.

### **21/045 Declarations of Interest**

No further declarations were made.

### **21/046 Planning Applications**

The following new planning application was considered:

**21/00559/FUL Change of use of agricultural land to equestrian land, erection of 2 stable buildings, an ancillary storage building, boundary fencing and gates and construction of an area of hardstanding.** Land Adjacent to Barn 4, Waterside Farm, Stodday Lane.

Councillor Walton queried whether the application should be 'retrospective' as he believed that some buildings had already been erected on the site. Following discussion, Councillors resolved that, subject to agreement of wording between Councillor Walton and the Clerk, a consultation response should be submitted expressing no objections to the proposed development, but querying whether the application is actually retrospective in nature.

**Resolved:** That a response be submitted expressing no objection to the proposed development but querying whether the application is actually retrospective in nature, given the existence of buildings already on the site.

#### **21/047 Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP)**

Councillor Parrett provided Councillors with an update on the project. Lancaster City Council and Natural England had now responded to the draft NDP with an opinion that no further work was required. Councillor Parrett would therefore be presenting the draft Plan for formal consideration/approval at the Parish Council's next meeting, on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

Councillor Parrett advised that, following the consultation process, the document now contains amendments (identified by a blue font) and a new policy in response to comments made by United Utilities regarding the treatment of surface water. The City Council was also proposing a slight change to the Design Codes document, which would be incorporated into the Parish's published version in due course.

The City Council's Consultation Officer had also replied to Councillor Parrett, confirming that the City's Elections Team would organise and run the NDP referendum and that no publicity costs would fall on the Parish Council.

Given these updates, the Clerk confirmed that he would liaise with Councillor Parrett to finalise and submit a grant application for 2021/22 to cover the remaining consultancy costs associated with finalising the process and the NDP being made.

**Actions:** Councillor Parrett will provide Councillors with the final draft NDP for formal consideration/approval at the meeting of the Parish Council scheduled for 7<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

The Clerk will liaise with Councillor Parrett to finalise and submit to Locality a grant application for 2021/22 to cover the remaining costs of the project.

#### **21/048 Flooding Issues – Long Mile Lane and Aldcliffe Hall Lane.**

The Chairman reported that positive news had been received from United Utilities (UU) engineers regarding the water leaking onto Aldcliffe Hall Lane. Using electronic surveying equipment, UU had traced the pipework in question and are proposing to 'sleeve' it to eliminate any leaks. The message received had been that UU were committed to remedying the problem in whatever way was necessary.

The position regarding flooding on Long Mile Lane had already been discussed to some degree under Matters Arising from the previous minutes (see Minute 21/044(4)). The Chairman reported that the work undertaken by local farmers to clear the path side ditch had reduced water levels and eased the flow from tidal water. A decision was still awaited by the Morecambe Bay Wildfowlers Association from Natural England regarding their application to undertake gully clearance work on the foreshore.

#### **21/049 Smuggler's Lane Hedge Trimming.**

The Chairman updated Councillors on discussions held with the County Council's Public Rights of Way (PRoW) Team and with the Parish's Lengthsman regarding future maintenance of the Smuggler's Lane hedges and verges.

Given that the County Council's work schedules could not guarantee when trimming work would be carried out, the PRoW Team had suggested that the Parish Council considers whether it could perform this work. The County Council already provides an annual grant of £500 to assist the Parish with certain maintenance work on public rights of way. The Lengthsman had provided the Chairman with some initial estimates for the work and had made suggestions as to how work during the 'out of season' periods might help improve the hedgerows and ease the trimming burden during the growing months.

Following discussion, Councillors resolved in principle, pending the receipt of options and detailed costings from the Lengthsman and a review of the budget, that the Parish Council should negotiate with the County Council to take on the maintenance work for a trial period.

**Resolved:** That the Parish Council agrees in principle to take on the maintenance of Smuggler's Lane for a trial period. The final decision is to be dependent upon receiving options and detailed costings from the Lengthsman, a review of the budget, and a satisfactory outcome to negotiations with the County Council PRoW Team.

#### **21/050 Public Discussion and Updates**

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

##### **1) South Lancaster Housing Proposals**

The Chairman introduced an emailed report from City Councillor Dant, which gave details of a proposed partnership agreement for a 25-year scheme to provide up to 9,185 houses on land to the South of Lancaster (including the area currently proposed for the Bailrigg Garden Village (BGV) development).

The proposals had been brought forward by Lancashire County Council, with backing and infrastructure funding from Homes England. The proposed 9,185 homes compares with the originally designated 3,500 homes for the BGV.

Lancaster City Council is being asked to sign up to a Partnership Agreement with Lancashire County Council and Homes England, by 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021 and the matter is likely to be debated at the City Council's Full Council Meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

In his email, Councillor Dant set out a range of questions and concerns over the proposals, which would affect the parish either directly or indirectly.

Councillors discussed Councillor Dant's report, expressing serious concern about the scale, scope, and timing of the proposals. Councillors also discussed concerns that there had been indications that these, and other developments in the district might give rise to a resurrection of plans for a 'Western By-Pass' and additional bridge across the River Lune close to the parish.

Following discussion, Councillors resolved that the Parish Council should write to the City Council's Democratic Services Officer expressing concerns over the proposals and urging the City Council not to enter into a partnership agreement. It was also agreed that Councillors should write to individually to the City Council to express their own personal views and that a flyer should be issued to parishioners advising them of the situation and urging them to make their views known.

**Resolved:** That the Parish Council will write to the City Council's Democratic Services Officer expressing concerns over the proposals and asking the City Council not to enter into a partnership agreement.

## **2) Picnic Site, Estuary Path near Stodday**

Councillor Dant has proposed to make an application to the Lancaster University Wind Turbine Fund for funding to help improve the picnic area beside the Lune Estuary Multi-Use path opposite the end of the Snuff Mill Lane path. Councillor Dant suggested that an application be jointly signed by himself and the Chairman of the Parish Council.

It was suggested by Councillor Parrett, and agreed by all, that the possibility of applying to the Lancashire County Council's 'Parish Champions Fund' should also be investigated.

**Resolved:** That the Chairman will join City Councillor Dant in signing an application to the Lancaster University Wind Turbine Fund to help fund improvements to the picnic site.

## **Clerk's Report:**

### **3) Application for a Public Bridleway, Snuff Mill Lane path**

The Clerk reported that a consultation invitation had been received from the County Council's PRow Team regarding an application by the British Horse Society for the above path to be adopted as a public bridleway.

Councillors discussed the application with reference to the current condition and levels of use of the path and the fact that ownership is not established. Following discussion, Councillors resolved to submit a response setting out the known features and condition of the path, which it feels the County Council should consider regarding its adoption as a public bridleway.

**Resolved:** A consultation response will be submitted setting out the known features and condition of the path, which the Parish Council feels should be considered by the County Council in relation to the application for a public bridleway.

**4) East Lodge**

The Clerk reported that he had received a response from the City Council's Empty Homes Officer stating that she would be picking up on concerns raised by the Parish Council about the condition of East Lodge.

**Action:** The Clerk will contact the City Council's Empty Homes Officer in a month's time for an update.

**5) The Queens' Platinum Jubilee Celebrations**

The Clerk reported that he had received and circulated to Councillors an emailed brochure from the Lancashire Lieutenancy outlining planned celebrations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June 2022. It was agreed that this be deferred for consideration at a later date.

**Members' Updates**

**6) Highways (Chairman)**

Nothing to report.

**7) Amenity, including the Lengthsman (Chairman)**

Nothing further to report.

**8) Stakeholder Liaison, including United Utilities (Councillor Walton)**

Councillor Walton reported that he had recently been in contact with the United Utilities' Site Manager regarding ongoing noise concerns, which were being investigated but not yet resolved. The Site Manager had invited Councillor Walton to visit the site.

**9) Broadband Provision (Councillors Hall and Walton)**

Councillor Hall advised that he was preparing a report for consideration at the September meeting of the Council. The Chairman reported there had been no further developments regarding the roll-out of 'full fibre' broadband connections in the parish.

**10) Ancillary (Chairman)**

Nothing to report.

**11) Other Matters**

The Chairman reported that Councillor Chris Norman had formally submitted a letter of resignation from the Council. It was agreed that the Chairman should write on behalf of the Council to Councillor Norman expressing sincere thanks for his work not only for the Council, but also in securing its establishment in 2017.

The Clerk advised that he would inform the City Council of Councillor Norman's resignation and make arrangements to advertise the vacancy.

**Public Discussion:**

No matters had been reported.

**21/051 Payments**

Payee & Detail	£
Quaker Meeting House – hire of room, 1 <sup>st</sup> June 2021 *note 1	23.00
Quaker Meeting House – hire of room, 6 <sup>th</sup> July 2021	19.00
Derek Whiteway – Parish Clerk salary and expenses, June 2021	138.02
HMRC – PAYE deductions, June 2021	30.40

Note 1 – this invoice had already been paid under delegated authority and was presented for information only.

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

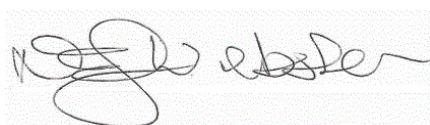
**21/052 Date and venue for next meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at the Quaker Meeting House, commencing at 7.00pm.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm



Clerk of the Council



Chair

Date: 7<sup>th</sup> September 2021