

MINUTES of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 7 December 2022 at Newburgh School, Back Lane commencing at 7pm.

PRESENT: Cllrs Moore (Chair), Roughneen, Turner, Halliwell and Pennington. Cllr O'Keefe acted as Clerk.

Cllr Moore welcomed Celia Pennington to her first meeting since joining the Parish Council.

116/22

TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Atty, Borough Cllr Pope and Clerk Sandra Jones.

117/22

COUNCILLORS TO DECLARE AN INTEREST IN ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

Cllr Moore declared an interest in the Appleton Fields item and the planning application relating to 2 White Cottages.

118/22

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 23 NOVEMBER 2022

It was resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 23 November 2022 should be approved and signed by the Chair.

119/22

ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

The meeting was not adjourned for public discussion as no members of the public were present.

120/22

PLANNING

**a) Applications to be considered:**

Cllr Moore left the meeting at this point and Cllr Roughneen took the Chair.

2022/1191/LBC - Demolish 2 rear 20th Century single storey extensions and porch and replace with single storey extension and internal alterations. Demolish current detached garage and sheds and replace with a single detached garage at 2 White Cottages, Back Lane, Newburgh - No comment.

Cllr Moore returned to the meeting at this point and resumed as Chair.

Application No: 2022/1150/FUL – single storey rear extension at Walkdene, Ash Brow, Newburgh – No comment.

**b) To receive an update on the planning applications relating to Eden Tearoom and Galleries and agree any actions.**

There was nothing to report on this occasion.

**c) LCC/2022/0014 - County Matter - Amendment of Condition 6 of planning permission 8/10/0241 to allow approval of amended restoration contours together with the submission of a restoration and aftercare scheme to comply with conditions 29 and 31 of planning permission 8/10/0241 at Round O Quarry, Cobbs Brow Lane, Newburgh**

It was confirmed that a response had been received from the Environment Agency in relation to the last Freedom of Information request the Parish Council had submitted. However, it had only been received the same day as the meeting so there had been no chance for Councillors to read and understand the content. It is thought that the application will now be considered at the Lancashire County Council Development Committee meeting sometime in the new year and the Parish Council will consider sending a representative to speak at the meeting.

121/22

WORKPLAN

**a) To receive a verbal update regarding village road issues including the speed device and agree any actions.**

It was confirmed that the contractor had been in touch with the Parish Council to advise that the speed indication device needed new batteries which could be provided at a cost of £54. It was resolved to approve the cost of the new batteries. In addition, Councillors were asked to consider whether in principle to agree to the purchase of a new speed device to replace the current one which is over 12 years old and does not provide traffic data. Following discussion, it was resolved to agree that the purchase of a new speed device would go ahead, pending the cost and whether any additional funding can be found. The Clerk will be asked to obtain quotations including specifications of the different types of speed device in time for the budget setting process in January.

**b) To receive an update on flooding issues in the village and agree any actions.**

It was confirmed that the work undertaken by various parties including Lancashire County Council Highways department appeared to be largely successful following the recent rainfall. The main road covering Ash Brow and Course Lane did not flood, however, flooding did occur on Back Lane and Tears Lane which indicates that there is still more work to do.

**c) To note the response from Lancashire County Council Public Rights of Way team regarding Bluebell Wood footpath and agree any actions.**

Councillors were informed that the Clerk had reported two issues in relation to the footpath going through Bluebell Wood over twelve months ago and a response had finally been received from the Public Rights of Way team. It was confirmed that an officer had visited the site and confirmed that she would contact the landowner to arrange for the fallen tree to be removed. There is also an issue over the steps which need repair and it is not clear who is responsible for this work. It was agreed that the Parish Council would try to make some local enquiries to try to find out who may be responsible.

**d) To note the website content review and agree any actions.**

Cllr Moore confirmed that various sections of the website had been updated following the website content review. As reported at a previous Parish Council meeting, Councillors are being asked to consider taking on the role of updating the website alongside the Parish Clerk. Cllr Moore needed to hand over the task due to taking on an increased workload in his position as Chair. Training will be provided to any Councillors who would like to consider taking on the role.

122/22

**TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON APPLETON FIELDS AND AGREE ANY ACTIONS.**

There have been no meetings of the Appleton Fields Association since the last Parish Council meeting. The latest version of the lease agreement between the Parish Council and the Trustees of the Association has been submitted to the Solicitor along with the relevant documentation and both parties are now awaiting his response regarding the next stage of the process. No decisions were required at this meeting so Cllr Moore did not leave the meeting.

123/22

**FINANCE**

**a) To agree Accounts for Payment for December 2022 (schedule attached).**

It was resolved to approve the Accounts for payment for December 2022. Payments will be electronic wherever possible.

**b) To consider submitting a grant application to the West Lancashire Borough Council Capital Scheme 2023/24 and agree any actions.**

It was confirmed that the deadline for any submissions is the beginning of February, so Councillors were asked to consider any options as part of the budget setting process, so that any potential costs can be included when budgets are being discussed.

**c) To consider submitting a grant application to the Lancashire County Council Parish Champion West and agree any actions.**

The Clerk had confirmed that she had been in contact with the Parish Champion's assistant to find out if there was any money left in the scheme for this financial year and had received a response confirming that there was. It was proposed to Councillors that any potential schemes would need to be confirmed at this meeting as our next meeting is not until the end of January and by that time the remaining funds may have been allocated elsewhere. Following discussion and taking into account that the Councillors had already decided in principle to look into the possibility of purchasing a new speed device, it was resolved to submit an application for funding towards the cost of purchasing a new speed device.

**d) To agree the date of the Finance Committee due to be held in January 2023.**

Following discussion, it was resolved to hold the Finance Committee meeting on 11 January 2023 at the Red Lion,

124/22

**DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on 25 January 2022 at 7pm.

The meeting ended at 8pm.

## Schedule of Accounts for Payment – December 2022

| Ref No | Payee                                            | Amount               |
|--------|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| N/A    | 1&1 - website charges                            | £ 11.99 Direct Debit |
| N/A    | Nest Pension Scheme                              | £ 66.08 Direct Debit |
| 081222 | HMRC – NI payment                                | £ 26.66              |
| 081222 | Mrs S Jones – December salary and expenses       | £ 923.83             |
| 121222 | Skelmersdale Prize Band – Village Carols service | £ 100.00             |
| 081222 | Mr J Horrobin – play area maintenance            | £ 24.00              |
| 081222 | P&R Electrical – decoration of Christmas tree    | <u>£ 360.00</u>      |
|        | TOTAL                                            | <u>£ 1,516.48</u>    |