

MINUTES of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 26 July 2023 at Newburgh School, Back Lane commencing at 7pm.

PRESENT: Cllrs Roughneen (chair), O'Keefe, Halliwell, Turner, Atty, Pennington and Clerk Sandra Jones. No members of the public were present.

072/23

TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Borough Cllr Whittington and Borough Cllr Pope.

073/23

COUNCILLORS TO DECLARE AN INTEREST IN ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

Cllr O'Keefe declared an interest in the planning application for Ellewood. Cllr Roughneen and Cllr Atty declared an interest in the July payments list.

074/23

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 28 JUNE 2023

It was resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 28 June 2023 should be approved and signed by the Chair.

075/23

ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

The meeting was adjourned for public discussion.

The Parish Council had been contacted by residents to enquire whether it would be possible for a mirror to be put on a lamp post near their property to improve traffic safety. It was confirmed that the Parish Council had been in touch with Lancashire County Council Highways department and had received a response stating that each case would be considered on its own merits. However, in general, mirrors should only be put up on a resident's own property and should not be in a position where it could impede traffic safety, such as glares caused by the sun. The response will be passed onto the residents.

The Parish Council had also used the Love Clean Streets app to report the overgrown hedge on Sandy Lane and were pleased to see that it had recently been cut.

The meeting was reconvened.

076/23

PLANNING

a) Applications to be considered:

Cllr O' Keefe left the room at this point.

2023/0424/FUL- single storey extension at Ellewood, 4 Chestnut Close, Newburgh – no comment.

Cllr O' Keefe returned to the room at this point.

b) To consider a response to planning application LCC/2022/0014 Round O Quarry, following information received from the Environment Agency since last Parish Council meeting and agree any actions.

It was confirmed that there had been no progress since the last Parish Council meeting. However, the Clerk was asked to email the Environment Agency to request that additional monitoring be undertaken following the recent heavy rainfall, which the Environment Agency had promised in their last response. It is not known when the application will be considered by the Development Control Committee at Lancashire County Council.

077/23

WORKPLAN

a) To receive a verbal update regarding village roads, including a replacement speed device and agree any actions.

It was confirmed that quotes had now been received regarding the potential purchase and maintenance of a new speed device as well as a quote to rent a speed device. A new speed device would cost approximately £4,000 and the cost to move, recharge and download data from the device on a monthly basis had been quoted at £110 per month. The cost would be financed by grants from the Parish Champion at Lancashire County Council, West Lancashire Borough Council and Community Infrastructure levy.

The option to rent was also considered and the cost for this had been quoted at approximately £180 per month. Although the cost per month was higher to rent a device, the Parish Council would not have to purchase a new device, pay for it to be insured every year or pay for any repair costs in future. The organisation who would be supplying the device to the Parish Council would take care of any issues including replacing any device not working properly or needing repair.

The Clerk informed Councillors that choosing to rent a device would mean that the cost could not be met with Community Infrastructure Levy monies and the capital grant from West Lancashire Borough Council would likely be withdrawn as it had been provided for the purchase of a speed device. Following discussion, it was resolved to rent a replacement speed device and to consider whether to put up the current speed device periodically on Back Lane while it continued to function. The Clerk was asked to confirm the decision to Yates Playgrounds (our current contractor for maintenance of the speed device) and give adequate notice to cease the current contract, which should tie in with the date when the Parish Council could commence renting a new speed device. West Lancashire Borough Council will be contacted to confirm that the purchase of a speed device will no longer go ahead and enquire whether the capital grant may be used for an alternative purpose, such as improvements to the play area on Back Lane. The Clerk also confirmed to Councillors that the new arrangements for the speed device would result in a higher cost per annum and budgets for future years will have to take this into account.

b) To receive a verbal update on flooding issues in the village and consider a response to the two Lancashire County Council consultations regarding the approach to flood investigations and regulation of ordinary watercourses. Councillors are asked to agree any actions required.

It was confirmed that recent heavy rainfall had resulted in Back Lane and Tabby's Nook flooding, some parts being barely passable. However, Course Lane was not as bad as in previous years, so it would appear that works carried out by Lancashire County Council had been successful. Councillors were asked to check the condition of Back Lane and Tabby's Nook and if there was still evidence of flooding to report the affected areas by using the Love Clean Streets app. A response is also still awaited from Lancashire County Council with regards to organising a meeting with the relevant officers to discuss the work carried out to date and any plans for the future.

The Clerk informed the meeting that she had only been made aware of the two current flooding consultations being carried out by Lancashire County Council after reading the latest edition of Local Life magazine the previous week. After checking with other Parish Councils, it revealed that no emails had been sent to the Parish Councils by Lancashire County Council to highlight the consultations and ask that the details be publicised to encourage residents to respond. The Clerk was asked to contact our County Council representative to highlight the Parish Council's concerns with not being told about the two flooding consultations, especially given the impact on Parishes across the Borough due to flooding. The lack of consultations with Parishes in West Lancashire had also meant that there was a missed opportunity to publicise the consultations to our residents over the past few weeks.

078/23

FINANCE

a) To agree Accounts for Payment for July 2023, schedule attached.

Cllrs Roughneen and Atty left the meeting at this point.

It was resolved to approve the Accounts for payment for July 2023, payments will be electronic wherever possible.

Cllrs Roughneen and Atty returned to the meeting at this point.

079/23

TO NOTE THE CLERK'S REPORT (INFORMATION ONLY)

The Clerk's report was noted.

080/23

COUNCILLORS TO RAISE ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION ONLY (10 MINUTES TOTAL TIME)

A resident had recently complained about the overgrown hedges on Back Lane and Course Lane, which resulted in sightline issues for vehicles using those junctions. Councillors were asked to consider whether reporting the issue via the Love Clean Streets app might be the best way to resolve the problem, given the prompt response when using the app previously.

The issue of cold caller notices was raised and Councillors discussed whether putting such notices at entrances to the village would be of benefit to residents. Cllr Atty mentioned that he knew an area where cold caller notices had been put up so he would contact them for further information and requested that the issue be put on the September agenda for consideration.

Cllr Halliwell confirmed that he had attended the recent Appleton Fields Association meeting to observe and had been impressed with the organisation's plans for the future as well as finding the information discussed as very informative. The Clerk raised the issue of the Appleton Fields masterplan and how to publicise the details for residents. The masterplan is a lengthy document and there were concerns that a text only version for the website may not be the best way to circulate the information.

Cllr Roughneen raised the issue of a village lollypop lady following the retirement of the lollypop lady who had been in the role for decades. Councillors voiced their concerns for residents getting to and from school across the busy main road if the role is not replaced and asked for the issue to be placed on the September agenda. This would also give time to ask if anyone at the school had been contacted by Lancashire County Council to confirm their plans regarding the issue.

081/23

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on 20 September 2023 at 7pm.

The meeting ended at 8.05pm.

Schedule of Accounts for Payment – July 2023

Ref No	Payee	Amount
n/a	1&1 - website charges	£ 11.99 *Direct Debit
n/a	Nest Pension Scheme	£ 70.00 *Direct Debit
270723	Mrs S Jones – July salary and expenses	£ 980.58
270723	HMRC – NI payment	£ 34.37
270723	Cockshott Peck Lewis – Appleton Fields lease agreement fee	£ 600.00
270723	Yates Playgrounds – speed device maintenance April – June 2023	£ 561.60
270723	Appleton Fields Association – reserve balance for Appleton Fields	£ 850.00
270723	Mr M Roughneen – printing expenses	£ 19.00
270723	Mr J Horrobin – play area maintenance	£ 26.00
TOTAL		<u>£ 3,153.53</u>