

MINUTES of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 28 June 2023 at Newburgh School, Back Lane commencing at 7pm.

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

061/22

TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Turner and Borough Cllr Whittington.

062/22

COUNCILLORS TO DECLARE AN INTEREST IN ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

No interests were declared.

063/22

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 17 MAY 2023

It was resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 17 May 2023 should be approved and signed by the Chair.

064/22

ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

The meeting was adjourned for public discussion.

It was confirmed that the Parish Council had been in touch with the landowner of the site bordering Sandy Lane following concerns raised by residents regarding the state of the hedge bordering the road.

The Parish Council had also been contacted by residents regarding the state of grass verges on Tabby's Nook and Cobbs Brow Lane. The Clean and Green department at the Borough Council were contacted and the verges have now been cut.

A resident had been in touch with the Parish Council with a request to put up a temporary sign to advertise a local business close to the Parish Council noticeboard. However, the Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council can't give permission for the erection of signs and the resident had been advised to get in touch with the Planning Department at the Borough Council to find out if planning permission would be required.

The meeting was reconvened.

065/22

PLANNING

a) Applications to be considered:

2023/0385/FUL - single storey rear extension at Walkdene, Ash Brow, Newburgh – No comment.

2023/0425/FUL: Provision of playground area and construction of covered play area with roller shutters to sides at Newburgh C Of E Primary School, Back Lane, Newburgh – No comment.

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, where it was agreed that the Clerk would pass on the details of the latest response from the Environment Agency to the relevant officer at the County Council and also respond to the Environment Agency to acknowledge their email. It is not known when the application will be considered by the Development Control Committee at Lancashire County Council.

066/22

WORKPLAN

a) To receive a verbal update from the Road Investigation Working Group and agree any actions.

It was confirmed that a quote was still awaited with regards to the potential purchase and maintenance of a new speed device. The Clerk was asked to chase up the company for the quote. A quote has been received with regard to hiring a speed device. It is planned that once the outstanding quote has been received, a decision regarding the best course of action will be considered at the July Parish Council meeting.

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

Councillors were informed that there had been no progress since the last Parish Council meeting. Recent good weather has meant that the work carried out by various organisations, residents and Lancashire County Council could not be assessed. 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.

c) To receive a verbal update regarding progress on any tasks required with regard to the village entering the Lancashire Best Kept Village competition and agree any actions. In addition, to consider the recent letter from West Lancashire Borough Council in relation to Community Skip Days.

It was confirmed that a lot of work had been carried out in the village over recent weeks to repair and clean assets such as benches, bus shelters, play area equipment and posts on the village green. The village green had been cut around the start of the judging period at the beginning of June and the War Memorial had also been cleaned by the Borough Council. The Clerk was asked to write to the relevant officers at the Borough Council to pass on the thanks of the Parish Council for the excellent work carried out on the War Memorial.

067/22

TO RECEIVE A VERBAL UPDATE ON APPLETON FIELDS INCLUDING PROGRESS WITH THE LEASE AGREEMENT AND AGREE ANY ACTIONS.

Agreement has been reached on the lease agreement between the Parish Council and the Appleton Fields Association trustees and is in the process of being signed. Once the lease agreement has been signed by both parties, the Clerk will contact the Solicitor to confirm that the matter has been concluded and request a final bill. It was resolved that the balance left on the Appleton Fields reserve following payment of the Solicitor's bill would be paid to the Appleton Fields Association as had been agreed previously. It is hoped that this will be done at the July Parish Council meeting.

068/22

FINANCE

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

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

b) To consider changes to the signatory list for Parish Council accounts following the retirement of Cllr Moore.

It was resolved to take Cllr Moore off the signatory lists for all Parish Council accounts and add Cllr Halliwell as an additional signatory for all Parish Council accounts.

c) To consider options for obtaining the best interest rate with regard to Parish Council savings and agree any actions.

It was confirmed that although the majority of Parish Council funds were held in an account paying interest, investigations had revealed that accounts with other financial institutions were offering better rates following the several increases to the base rate in recent months. Following discussion, it was resolved to move the funds to the CCLA (Churches, Charities and Local Authorities) Public Sector Deposit Fund who were offering the best rate of approximately 4.5% at present. The CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund provides easy access to our funds and is well known within the public sector. It was resolved that the signatories will be the same as the current list and include the recent addition of Cllr Halliwell.

069/22

TO NOTE THE CLERK'S REPORT (INFORMATION ONLY)

The Clerk's report was noted.

070/22

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

Cllr Halliwell is waiting to attend a future Chairmanship training webinar.

The Chair and the Clerk will be meeting Chris Moore to finalise the handover of any outstanding Parish Council issues following his retirement in May.

Cllr Halliwell confirmed that he had found the recent information from West Lancashire Borough Council regarding the Cosy Homes scheme useful. He thought the scheme would be beneficial to some of our residents, who could be issued with a shorter document detailing the main parts of the scheme and how to apply.

071/22

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on 26 July 2023 at 7pm.

The meeting ended at 7.45pm.

Schedule of Accounts for Payment – June 2023

Ref No	Payee	Amount
n/a	1&1 - website charges	£ 11.99 *Direct Debit
n/a	Nest Pension Scheme	£ 70.00 *Direct Debit
n/a	ICO – annual subscription	£ 35.00 *Direct Debit
290623	Mrs S Jones – June salary and expenses	£ 983.79
290623	HMRC – NI payment	£ 33.40
290623	Newburgh School - share of Biodiversity grant	£ 150.00
290623	Appleton Fields Association – share of Biodiversity grant	£ 150.00
290623	SLCC Enterprises Ltd – Planning webinar for 3 Councillors	£ 216.00
290623	Mrs M Turner – spring festival expenses	£ 22.97*S137 exp
290623	Mr P Atty – Coronation Tree expenses	£ 58.98
290623	LALC – Chairmanship webinar fee	£ 30.00
290623	Mr J Horrobin – play area maintenance	£ 26.00
TOTAL		<u>£ 1,788.13</u>