

GOOSNARGH PARISH COUNCIL

A MEETING of Goosnargh Parish Council was held on **Monday, 25th Sept 2023** at Whitechapel Village Hall at 7.30pm.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Cllr John Singleton – Chairman
Cllr Mick Scambler
Cllr Stephen Pike

PUBLIC

Helen Witter (NHW)
Daniel Guise
Mrs Julie Buttle (Parish Clerk)

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Butler, Cllr Hayton, Cllr Robinson and Cllr Platt. As both Cllr Butler (Chairman) and Cllr Hayton (Vice-Chairman) had presented their apologies in advance, it was **resolved** that Cllr Singleton Chair the meeting.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

APPROVAL OF 24th JULY 2023 MINUTES

23/24 MIN 26 It was **resolved** that the July Minutes be signed as a true record by the Chairman.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION INCLUDING POLICE MATTERS

The meeting was adjourned for public participation.

Further to MIN 16a, Helen Witter from Neighbourhood Watch reported that the Give Way signs had been refreshed but the rubble strips on Button Street hadn't. She also advised that County Cllr Sue Whittam had delivered some 'Slow Down – Save Lives' stickers but the larger posters / banners had not been received. The Clerk will contact LCC Highways regarding the rubble strips and will also remind County Cllr Whittam about the banners.

It was stated that litter was building up on the verges outside the 30mph zone which are no longer cleaned by Preston City Council due to safety concerns. The Clerk reminded those present, that all litter picking requests must be submitted to the City Council via their website. Further information and a URL link is included on the Parish Council website.

Those present stated that the SPIDs were encouraging traffic to slow down, but they need to be moved to different locations. The Clerk confirmed that the temporary SPIDs had to be erected on the existing brackets, however, if Members decide to purchase new SPIDs, they can be erected on new brackets / poles following LCC approval and the issue of a Licence.

The Clerk confirmed that Mr Pinder had been invited to present the data from the Speed Indicator Devices to the meeting – but as he was not present, the Clerk will rearrange his attendance in October.

It was stated that the Police mannequin was an effective deterrent, however, it had been removed due to vandalism.

As there were no further issues raised, the meeting was reconvened.

SPEEDING ISSUES

The Clerk confirmed that the website has been updated with links to submit Speed Concerns, register with Community Road Watch and report dangerous driving. The police will also be invited to the October meeting to give some feedback on the use of the speed gun.

Further to MIN 17 LCC Members **noted** that LCC had replied that they can't erect 'do not follow satnav' signs as there are no signs available under the 2016 Traffic Signs Regulation and General Directions.

Further to MIN 22, as stated under public participation, 2 Speed Indicator Devices (SPIDs) were erected on the existing poles at Button Street and Inglewhite Green. As Mr Pinder was not in attendance to present the data, it was **resolved** to defer any decisions regarding the future use of SPIDs to the October meeting. Members requested that the data be emailed in advance of the meeting so that they can prepare any questions.

BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION

Historically, Goosnargh Parish Council has submitted a 'Goosnargh' entry in the Best Kept Village competition. The entry relates to St Mary's Church, Goosnargh Oliverson's School, the Grapes and Bushell House - in addition to Goosnargh Village Hall, Goosnargh Village Green and Goosnargh Playground which are in Whittingham Parish.

Members were informed that a residents' group has been formed in Whittingham to tidy up various areas and submit an entry in to the competition. As this could result in a duplicate entry for the amenities in Whittingham, members of the residents group - which includes 2 Members of Whittingham Parish Council - have asked if the Parishes could work together to submit a joint entry rather than splitting the entry across 2 parishes.

23/24 MIN 27 Due to the lack of Members present who may have views on the matter, it was **resolved** that the item be deferred to the October meeting. Members of the Whittingham Best Kept Village Group will be invited to attend.

ACCOUNTS

The bank account has finally been updated and is operating successfully and all of the July payments were paid by cheque.

23/24 MIN 28 Members **resolved** to approve the following accounts which will be paid by BACs to check that the online services are also functioning properly.

DETAILS	PAYEE	AMOUNT
Nurture Landscapes	Nurture Landscapes	£273.67
Clerk Salary Jul – Sept	Mrs J Buttle	£815.28
PAYE	HMRC	£203.60
Office use Jul - Sept	Mrs J Buttle	£97.50
2 uncontested elections	Preston City Council	£200.00

Under 23/24 MIN 10, it was resolved that the Clerk would be employed under the same terms and conditions afforded to the previous Clerk, however, due to other employments, the Clerk's income is subject to PAYE. The previous Clerk claimed 65p per mile but as this incurs additional tax, the Clerk wishes to reduce the amount to the tax-free allowance of 45p per mile payable from Chorley which is the registered place of employment.

23/24 MIN 29 Members **resolved** to approve the above arrangements.

2022/23 ANNUAL RETURN

Following the sudden passing of the Clerk in March, the Council was unable to complete the 2022/23 end of year audit because the bank account could not be accessed. In addition, the internal audit could not be carried out because the cheque books could not be located. The Clerk advised the External Auditors of the above, however they have stated that the Council must still approve and sign the Annual Governance and Accountability Return. (AGAR)

The deadline for returning the AGAR was the 31st July however, the Bank Account containing the information to complete the forms could not be accessed until the 10th August. Members **noted** that in addition to the audit fee, the External Auditors may charge a penalty fee for the late return of the form.

The Clerk presented the end of year financial report which included the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) As the Clerk does not have access to the Council's previous records or PAYE information, the Clerk advised that Members should complete the form by stating that the Council had not complied with the audit provisions.

23/24 MIN 30 Members **resolved** to complete and approve the Annual Governance Statement which was signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

23/24 MIN 31 Members considered the end of year financial report and **resolved** to approve the Accounting Statement which was signed and dated by the Chairman and Clerk / RFO.

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY (PROW) LOCAL DELIVERY SCHEME 2023/24.

Members were informed that LCC operate a PROW Local Delivery scheme which permits Councils to apply for a grant of £500 to assist with the maintenance of public rights of way. As the Council has commissioned a project which will increase the use of the public rights of way, the Clerk submitted an expression of interest to apply for the grant which had a closing date of the 15th Sept 2023.

23/24 MIN 32 Members **resolved** that the expression of interest be endorsed.

Cllr Singleton also referred to LCC's grant scheme – crowdfund-lancashire – also known as Spacehive. A project to provide information boards in Fulwood has been funded through the scheme and the Clerk will check if the CIL project which Jess Wight is working on will be eligible for funding.

In addition to the PROW grant, LCC also offer a Biodiversity grant whereby Councils can apply for funding to build and erect bat or bird boxes, build hedgehog houses etc which would need to be erected in public open spaces. It was stated that the Council may be able to work with the Scouts to build the boxes which could be erected around Whitechapel Village Hall.

It was **noted** that the closing date had passed but the Clerk will see if a late application can be submitted.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

23/24 MIN 33 Members **resolved** that they had no objections to the following summarised applications

[06/2023/0884](#) Single storey rear extension at The Old Haystack, Syke House Lane,

[06/2023/0917](#) Change of use of domestic garage to 1no. holiday accommodation, and 2no. rear dormers at Daisy Barn Farm, Inglewhite Road.

NEW CORRESPONDENCE

Members **noted** the following updates

31st July - LCC have advised that it is likely to be 2-3 months before they can replace the chevrons at Carron Lane and although they will prioritise the drainage issues, they have a backlog of issues due to the recent severe weather.

7th Aug - LCC have confirmed that they are committed to undertaking the repairs at Walmsley Bridge and they have apologised about the length of time it is taking. Their reply states it is a complex issue requiring different assessments to be carried out on site, one of which requires that a number of ecological issues are addressed. The time required to resolve the issues is unknown.

Oakenclough Road, Beacon Fell, will be closed on 27/09/23 to enable Morrisons Telecom Services on behalf of British Telecom to carry out pole maintenance works.

MATTERS OF CONCERN TO MEMBERS

Members had no new matters arising.

The Clerk noted that the bushes around the Goosnargh Noticeboard had been clipped back however, new Noticeboards were required as the current boards are exposed to the elements. The Clerk will bring some quotes to the next meeting and will also seek permission from the resident of the Inglewhite building where the notice board is attached.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING The next meeting was confirmed as **Monday 23rd October 2023** at 7.30pm in Whitechapel Village Hall.

END