

NETHER WYRESDALE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes for the PC meeting of 25th November 2021, 7.30PM @ Scorton Chapel

Present: Cllrs Cottle, Drinnan, Kenyon, Hantom and Collinson as well as the clerk

1. Apologies:

Cllr Atkinson

2. Declarations of Interest:

None

3. Minutes from last meeting:

Signed as a correct record.

4. Matters arising (from previous meeting/s):

Village enhancement

The clerk reported the response from Silverdale Parish Council who has confirmed that the lighting was nothing to do with the PC. She thinks it is County Highways responsibility. She stated as it is and area of outstanding natural beauty (AONB), there is a requirement to keep night skies pollution free and the design may be different to facilitate this requirement.

Cllr Drinnan queried the difference between their AONB and this parish's in terms of the amount of contribution expected towards the lighting scheme. He stated that there is still no invoice from LCC. Money is set aside for this.

B4RN

No further progress. It was stated that there is no funding and it is unlikely to be brought into the village due to the cost implication of getting it across roads. Cllr Collinson stated she would have one further attempt.

Millennium Way audit

Cllr Cottle noted that a bench has been replaced by a plastic one. The PC did not know where this had come from.

Cllr Cottle stated that he had heard no more from the member of the public who had wanted to place a new bench on the path, since his last contact with him.

Cllr Cottle suggested leaving the interpretation boards as they are for now and reassess in the future. The PC agreed.

Regarding the ramp and gravel, it was agreed that this should be looked at again in the spring. In the meantime, Cllr Cottle will lash the two posts near the ramp to ensure they are stable.

Parking issues/traffic on the village

Cllr Drinnan confirmed that The Barn entrance is being dealt with by Highways. In regard to the other issues raised previously, Cllr Drinnan has been unable to contact the Highways engineer Mark O'Donnell. He will chase this up.

11/00839/FULMAJ (Wyreside Hall)

Further to David Thow's previous reply requesting further information on conditions not complied with, the PC discussed with Cllr Hantom who confirmed these include highways issues. The PC agreed that the clerk should respond to David Thow (Wyre Council planning) and request that he send a summary of conditions, which the PC will peruse to establish exactly what has not been complied with.

Blocked PRow (off Oakencloough Rd) 2-19 FP 32

The clerk reported the update received from LCC PRow team. See appendix 2. The PC were dissatisfied with the response given the nature of the report as well as a lack of indication in regard to timescale. She was instructed to forward the response to Lancashire County Cllr Shaun Turner for his action.

St Peter's Church burials

Further to discussions at the last meeting, the clerk reported the latest response from the church on 22nd October as follows:

"The church council will not be pursuing any other option as the church yard is now closed to new burials. It will be up to the local community to look at other options. In the meantime the wider Parish of Barnacre, Calder Vale and Scorton has plenty of spaces for burials at Barnacre and Calder Vale whilst at St Peter's the area for the burial of cremated remains will be extended."

5. Open forum:

Blocked drain (Bobbin Mill, Long Lane Scorton)

Cllr Atkinson stated by email that she has received a report from a member of the public that this has been reported 3 times but has not yet been actioned. The clerk was requested to report to Highways.

Speeding issues

Cllr Cottle has been in discussion with a member of the public who had suggested some signage. It was felt that this was not viable especially as one sign has been stolen twice.

6. Playing field:

Cllr Collinson reported that the posts for the hammock swing have arrived and the lengthsman will install in a couple of weeks. (See item 15, Finance.)

Cllr Cottle stated he had made a mistake with the quote received from DCM surfaces which was over £8000 as he had not realised that there is an extra £3000 for removal of the old surface. The PC agreed to the increase.

Inspection report

Cllr Collinson has not gone through this yet. Deferred until the next meeting.

7. Bikes & Barrows:

Cllr Cottle reported that a decision has been made not to continue with the festival this year. It is intended that a meeting will be organized at the village hall for the purpose of discussing village events.

Cllr Cottle has suggested that the money in Bikes and Barrows should be transferred to the PC account and retained for the purpose of community events. Cllr Cottle will make enquiries with the Charity Commission.

8. Correspondence/circulated items:

Refer appendix 1. Items to discuss:

WC – Implementation of partial review policy (Local Plan)

Cllr Drinnan was unable to attend the Planning Ambassador meeting and the clerk stated there were no notes to pass on. She said there will be a consultation regarding the partial review to address housing needs but she has not received this yet.

Police – Crime update. Refer appendix 3.

North West Stages Rally

The PC agreed that Mark Hothersall should be invited to the January meeting.

9. Borough Council & Lancashire County Council matters:

Wyre Cllr Jonny Leech stated the following:

- ❖ All meetings have now returned to being in person.
- ❖ Wyre Council has been inundated with enforcement issues since Covid (people were at home therefore more likely to do home improvements). There are currently 260 cases outstanding. Staffing has been increased accordingly.
- ❖ There is an increase in anti-social behaviour in the district and 4 more police officers are now stationed at Garstang.

10. Planning:

Application number	Description	Resolved PC comments
21/01263/FUL	Erection of a front dormer and gable extension @ Park Brook Arkmere Lane Scorton	No comments or objections raised.

11. Decision notices(status):

Application number	Description	Decision
21/01070/FUL	Erection of an agricultural building following demolition of existing traditional farm building @ Dolphinholme House Wagon Road Dolphinholme	Permitted
20/00519/DIS	Agreement of details reserved by condition 6 (bird box info), 11 (EVCP) and 12 (visitor information packs). On application 20/00519/FUL (Erection of a detached managers/owners accommodation in connection with Caravan Park, erection of reception and garage/storage building for Caravan Park, works to create additional touring caravan pitches and works to allow siting of shepherd hut holiday accommodation @ Fell View Park Sykes Farm Long Lane)	Accepted

12. Highways:

Hill View site (Gubberford Lane, Cabus)

Cllr Collinson reported that there is still water run off from the site going down the road and into the river. The clerk confirmed Wyre Council enforcement had been informed but no update reported.

Drain (Tithebarn Lane)

Cllr Collinson stated that water is still coming up through the drain. The clerk was requested to contact Highways (Peter Agland) to find out when he is going to contact cadent to arrange repair. Cllr Collinson found the last email on the subject (15/10/20) and forwarded this to the clerk.

13. Lengthsman:

Jobs undertaken

The clerk circulated the latest time sheet via email.

Jobs to be done

The PC stated that the leaves on Wagon Road could do with clearing. Cllr Collinson will let him know.

LCC PRow grant

The clerk reported that the grant of £500 has been received on 22/11/21. Refer item 15.

14. Village Hall:

No update

15. Finance:

Account update

6 month account update (as per Sept minutes)

The clerk re-iterated the figures with the following breakdown with an amendment:

Estimated remaining funds at end of year (March 22) - **£10,731.69.**

There is also the PRow grant of £500 received on 22/11/21 total **£11,231.69.**

Out of this, there is still £3000.00 allocated for the village lighting scheme.

There is also a small amount of PRow money left of £167.20 from the last time the PC was in the scheme and the £500 just received (£667.20).

Savings element would be £7,564.49 less donation to school of £189.11 & hammock swing - £1310.40, not included in previous calculation – £6,064.98.

The PC noted that the previously precepted amount for the donations to the village halls (£1000 and £600) had not been paid this year due to all the assistance the halls had received following Covid. This will be re-assessed next year.

Precept 2022/23

The clerk stated that she had prepared two versions. The second, factored in a wage increase to £11 per hour. She also explained changes from the previous year when the precept was £19,226.

The PC approved the second version and a precept of **£20,375.05** was agreed for 2022-23.

The clerk asked for a letter and change of standing order form to be signed for change to wages.

Items approved for payment:

Lengthsman invoice October - £546.00 cheque given to Cllr Collinson

Lengthman P/F grass cutting October - £80.00 cheque given to Cllr Collinson

4 posts for hammock swing (payable to Cllr Collinson) - £1310.40 cheque given to Cllr Collinson

Scorton School (donation for planting) - £189.11 cheque given to Cllr Collinson

Play Inspection Company (P/F inspection)- £83.40

16. Health & Safety:

No health and safety concerns raised.

17. Points of interest:

Apologies

Cllr Cottle made his apologies for the January meeting as he is away.

18. Date of next meeting: **27th January 2022**

As there was no further business, the meeting concluded at 9.15PM

APPENDIX 1 – CORRESPONDENCE (EMAILED)

NALC – newsletter

WC – Items published 11/10 links

WC – Cabinet agenda & minutes 20/10 link

WC – Licensing agenda & minutes 19/10 link

LALC – Town & parish councils, The Queen's platinum jubilee beacons 2/6 2022

NALC – Chief executives bulletin 15/10, 22/10, 29/10, 5/11

Community Futures - Community connection in Lancashire project

Community Futures – October info bulletin (2)

NALC – New publication website accessibility

Rural Services Network (RSN) – Rural bulletin 19/10, 26/10, 2/11, 9/11

NALC – Newsletter x 2

WC – Item published 14/10 link

WC – Portfolio holder decision agenda 21/10 link

WC – Council agenda & minutes 28/10 link

WC – Portfolio holder decision x 2 21/10 link

WC – Portfolio holder decision agenda 28/10 link

WC – Investment in planning enforcement

LALC – October newsletter

LCC – Winter service briefing note 2021-22 severe weather conditions

WC – Employment & appeals agenda & minutes 1/11 link

WC – Have your say about flood and water environment

LALC – Policy consultation briefing environmental permitting regulations

WC – Implementing of partial review policy consultation see correspondence

WC – Mayor of Wyre charity ball 1/12

NALC – New publication

WC – Planning agenda, supplement and minutes 3/11 link

WC - Portfolio holder decisions x 2 28/10 links

WC – Public consultations UU and EA

LCC – Winter stakeholder bulletin 29/10, 5/11

LALC – Wyre Area LALC & police report

Community Futures – Information bulletin Nov

LCC – Closure of Tithebarn Lane 23/11 x 2

LCC – Trading Standards consumer alerts Nov

Rural Services Network (RSN) – Rural funding digest Nov

WC press release: Free parking across Wyre every Friday and Saturday in December

WC – Items published 29/10 links

WC – Schedule of executive decision 29/10 link

WC press release: have your say on Wyre’s urban woodlands

WC – Remembrance Sunday services 14/11

WC – Planning policy newsletter Nov 2021

WC – Employment and appeals minutes 1/11 link

WC – Standards agenda 11/11 link

WC – Item published 4/11 link

WC – Portfolio holder decisions agenda 11/11 link

NALC – Chief executive bulletin 5/11

War Memorials Trust bulletin

LALC Wyre Area – Code of Conduct petition to introduce sanctions

WC – Audit agenda 16/11 link

WC – Flood Forum 9/12

Clerks & Councils Direct magazine

Community Futures – November information bulletin

LCC – Rd closure Station Lane, Scorton 29/12

APPENDIX 2

Response from PRoW team 01/11/21

Public Right Of Way No.: FP32
District: WYRE
Parish: NETHER WYRESDALE
PRW Ref: 138500

Thank you for taking the time to report the defect or obstruction on the public right of way referenced above. We have recorded your report as:

Nature of Report: 3 councillors have been up to have a look and it is clear that the footpath concerned which is 2-19-FP32 (as I understand the public rights of way map online) and adjacent to the Old Forge where it joins Chipping Road, does appear to be obstructed. There is no signage on the road regarding access to the path and there is also a big gate which is apparently padlocked and indeed there is also a large, noisy and fierce dog tied up there as reported. Please bring this to the attention of the relevant officers at LCC since it is self-evident that no one would be comfortable trying to use this PROW.

All reports relating to the public rights of way network are important and as Highway Authority we take this duty seriously. Lancashire County Council receives many reports of issues discovered by landowners, residents and other members of the public every year. In order to address these issues to the best effect within available resources it is necessary for us to prioritise all the reports we receive. This is done according to the actual effect on members of the public wanting to use the paths, how many people are affected, whether they can bypass the problem, etc.

We do not take into account how long the problem has been outstanding (quite simply, a dangerous defect reported today will always be higher priority than an inconvenient one reported 6 months ago) and hence some reports may take several months for us to address. We apologise if we are unable to resolve the issue which you have reported as quickly as you, and indeed we, would wish and we hope the following facts may help explain it.

The small Public Rights of Way team manages over 5500km of public rights of way in Lancashire. We do not inspect them, it would take someone a few years just to walk round them all taking notes and not actually resolving any issues. Furthermore we do not go out to inspect a path which a member of the public has reported. We take the approach that if you have taken the trouble to report something then there IS a problem so there is no point in someone from the Council going to take a look and find there is a problem – you have already told us that. So we only make a site visit when we have the resources to fix the problem not just look at it. We understand this can be frustrating but we are working through the reported issues according to their priority.

If however, you have reported an issue with signage this will be dealt with in a different way. We do not generally address missing, broken or faded signposts when they are reported because that would be an inefficient way of working but we renew them on a project basis, an area (often a borough or city) at a time so that our contractors can do the work more cheaply.

If we have your email address we will contact you again when your report has been resolved or closed. If you need to discuss your report at any stage please contact the Public Rights of Way Team on 01772 530317 or ProwReports@lancashire.gov.uk. It would be helpful if you could quote the above PRW reference number in any communication with us.

APPENDIX 3

As per email from LALC Wyre Area on 31/10

Chief Officer Changes

Lancashire Constabulary now has a new Chief Constable (CC Chris Rowley) and new Deputy Chief Constable (DCC Sacha Hatchett), following the retirement of CC Andy Rhodes and departure of previous DCC Terry Woods, who left the force recently to join Greater Manchester Police.

CC Rowley was previously the Deputy Chief Constable of Humberside Police, overseeing a broad portfolio including performance, strategic change and communications. Prior to this, he worked in West Yorkshire Police for some 25 years, including as Temporary Assistant Chief Constable with responsibilities for crime and operations.

DCC Hatchett previously served as Assistant Chief Constable where she had overall responsibility for the Force's Crime Operations portfolio.

Wyre Neighbourhood Policing Staff Changes

Poulton & surrounding area, inc Hambleton/Knott End – PCSO 7297 Sarah Didsbury will imminently join Lancashire Constabulary as a Police Constable, after successfully navigating the recruitment process. PCSO 7315 Chrissie Grimshaw will also be moving on, albeit she will still be part of the Neighbourhood team, but covering the Thornton Cleveleys area. Insp Wyatt, in consultation with the Wyre Neighbourhood Sergeants, is currently finalising the selection of their replacements.

Police Demand

As I reported to the previous LALC meeting, crime is still generally lower now than it was at this time in 2019. However, the demand on the Police has increased

significantly in recent months, in line with the county (and country) emerging from the effects of the Covid19 pandemic. This has seen more traditional elements of policing come to the fore, such as anti-social behaviour, crime pattern spikes and organised crime. The Police (in collaboration with partners) are working hard to combat these issues and keep the public safe by (for example):

- Operation Teasel – multifaceted operation to disrupt and dismantle organised crime groups operating in Fleetwood, but having a much wider effect across the Wyre district, including drug supply and serious violent crime. Multiple arrests have already been made, with drugs and other crime related paraphernalia being taken off the streets. Wide ranging police powers have also been utilized, including Section 60 orders, which allowed the Police to stop and search people without suspicion. Whilst these powers are only used when we believe that violent incidents will take place or weapons will be used, they have enabled us to keep the public safe through person/vehicle searches, which led to arrests and the disruption of criminal behaviour.
- Garstang Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) – the town has experienced a recent spike in reports of ASB, which has caused some community unrest and real concern. The Wyre & Fylde Rural Task Force, under my direction, have been tasked with identifying the persons responsible and with taking action to address their behaviour. This has resulted in them arresting and interviewing a suspect. In addition, they have identified further suspects and are currently in the process of investigating several linked incidents/crimes. The Rural Task Force are being supported by the wider Neighbourhood Policing and Response teams regarding high visibility hot spot and reassurance patrolling, together with engagement activity with the public at large.
- Poulton Vehicle Crime – there has been a recent spike in theft from vehicles in the town, with offences predominantly occurring overnight. Crime pattern analysis suggested the a proportion of the targeted vehicles were left unlocked, with thieves simply trying door handles in the targeted areas. A coordinated plan was generated, involving Response Officers, the Neighbourhood Policing Team and Urban Task Force Officers. This involved hotspot areas being patrolled at key times, with officers utilizing powers such as stop search to disrupt criminal activity. In addition, the Neighbourhood Policing Team have used social media, our free messaging service (In The Know), as well as face to face visits, to engage with residents in the targeted areas for both awareness and to ensure that they take every precaution to keep their vehicles/property safe (target hardening). This coordinated approach has produced a significant reduction in reported thefts from vehicles in the area.

In addition, Lancashire Constabulary (including officers based in the Wyre area) have recently provided mutual aid support to the policing operation for G7 Summit in Cornwall and will also be doing the same for the forthcoming COP26 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Glasgow.

Wyre & Fylde Rural Task Force

The Rural Task Force (in addition to the above) is continuing to work hard to support our rural communities through targeting, problem solving and engagement. That work includes:

- Disrupting/tackling drugs supply/county lines – e.g. drugs warrant executed in Catterall in August with two males arrested (see attached pictures);
- Poaching – the RTF are currently working on an operation to tackle poaching (predominantly hare coursing that is affecting farmers across Wyre & Fylde). Just tonight, they responded rapidly to a report and arrested two males. They also seized their vehicle which is believed to be stolen, thus denying them the ability to commit further crime (and meaning a long walk home!);
- Engagement – the RTF are working on an engagement program to reach out to all farmers across Wyre and Fylde and with developing networks to share information. That includes them visiting auctions (such as Brock) where they will be able to engage with farmers, showcase what they do, and offer advice/support.

Finally, in relation to RTF, here are some result statistics March – August 2021:

Arrests: 29

Seizure/recovery of vehicles: 8

Animal seizures: 1

Warrants: 2

PND's/covid tickets: 5

Searches: 53

Joint operation/Community engagement days: 4

Value recovered cash/vehicles/drugs: £190,000 (approximately)

Investigations: 56

Cases: 21