

## NETHER WYRESDALE PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes for the PC meeting of 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2024, 7.45PM @ Scorton Chapel

**Present: Cllr Elliott, Thompson and Collinson, Cllr Stephen (from item 5 onwards), Wyre Cllr Charlotte Walker, the clerk and a member of the public**

1. Apologies:

**Cllr Gledhill**

**Cllr Atkinson**

**Lancashire County Cllr Shaun Turner**

2. Declarations of Interest:

**None**

3. Minutes from last meeting:

**Signed as a correct record.**

4. Police report:

**Email from new Sgt Elliot Jones**

The clerk reported the email from him which states that he is not in post yet as he has not been released from his current Risk & Threat role. He has assured the PC that when he is in post, he will be attending and holding himself to account. He asked if there is anything he can help with currently.

The clerk stated that she had supplied him with all the PC meeting dates.

The PC requested the clerk to invite him to the next meeting and to provide a police report for the last 12 months as well as request an increased police presence due to it being the time of year that the traveller community come through the village.

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

**Tree planting (Church field)**

Cllr Gledhill absent, deferred until next meeting.

**SpID & speeding issues**

The clerk reported Cllr Gledhill's email on 4<sup>th</sup> May which requests board material for creating signage for the "Slow Down, Save Lives" stickers he has sourced. The PC discussed and decided that he could purchase material up to a sum of £200. It was suggested he could get the supplies from C & C or Halden Fisher.

### **Bin (top of Snowhill Lane)**

Cllr Collinson stated that the lengthsman had informed her that only he is emptying this bin. The clerk was asked to contact the countryside rangers at Wyre Council to check what the arrangements are. The clerk will email Alison Boden.

### **20/00182/FUL WC Planning Enforcement**

The clerk reported the further response in relation to misleading signage, signage directing traffic to the left when it is two way as well as the proposed footpath which has not been done yet (land east of Ghyll Wood and North of Snowhill Lane).

She has received a response from Roger Longden (Wyre Council enforcement) on 14<sup>th</sup> May to say that implementation of the permission stops the three year commencement time clock but there is no time in which the permission / construction must be completed. Therefore, there is nothing that he can do under planning legislation to assist the PC. It is his understanding that funding for the footpath is being sought/applied for.

Regarding the signage displayed within the carpark, he has confirmed that this isn't really a matter for them to deal although similar to the PC, they might be able to raise the question with the land owner. He has said that he doesn't come to Scorton that often although he does have to serve some paperwork in the area and he will have a look next time he is in the parish.

The PC asked the clerk to reply to request him to contact Highways.

### **21/00757/FUL WC Planning Enforcement**

The clerk reported the response from Wyre Council's enforcement team (8<sup>th</sup> May) which states that an enforcement file has been sent to their legal team for further action to be taken (Snowhill House).

The clerk has also received a further update from Roger Longden (20<sup>th</sup> May) confirming that a "Breach of Condition" notice was recently served against Johela Heights (AKA Snowhill House). It is planned that a new application will be submitted shortly to regularize the situation existing.

The PC commented that the use had stopped and restarted again and stated that they would have expected a retrospective plan to have been submitted prior to it recommencing. The clerk was asked to notify him accordingly.

### **Poor repair Tithebarn Lane bridge**

The clerk reported the further response from Lancashire County (5<sup>th</sup> April) to Cllr Shaun Turner (forwarded on 15<sup>th</sup> April). See appendix 2.

The PC Acknowledge that Highways won't re-build but requested the clerk to respond to request that if there is another accident that affects the bridge, that the rebuild is straight.

### **Love clean street reporting APP issues**

The clerk reported the response from Lancashire County Cllr Shaun Turner as above. See appendix 2.

The clerk confirmed that one of her other parishes has also reported this to another district cllr who is looking into it.

### **Flooding Long Lane (near junction of Cleveley Bank Lane)**

The clerk reported the response from Lancashire County Cllr Shaun Turner as above, due to a report of persistent flooding. See appendix 2.

It was confirmed that Highways are looking on the wrong side of the road (the stream is on the other side).

### **Gubberford Lane and Station Lane request for resurface**

Further to reports submitted by Cllr Collinson, the clerk reported the response from Lancashire County Cllr Shaun Turner as above. See appendix 2.

The clerk was requested to contact Highways to ascertain what priority road they are calling them and when these are likely to be done. The PC were concerned about the delay as cyclists use these routes and the condition constitutes a risk to life.

### **Parish tax base**

The clerk reported the further response from Wyre Council on 22<sup>nd</sup> March further to a query as to why this is diverse across different areas and their methodology of calculation. Refer appendix 3 for their full response.

### **Feedback on refusal of funding request (Lancashire Environment Fund)**

The clerk to report the clarification provided by Lancashire County Cllr Shaun Turner to why the PC's application was unsuccessful. Response as follows:

*"I was really sorry to see the Scorton LEF bid being unsuccessful - not least because I have been encouraging bids locally and advising that the fund needed to spend money.*

*However, this situation has rapidly turned around and an unprecedented numbers of applications have come forward meaning too many bids for too little money.*

*Therefore, the eligibility criteria which had been relaxed since Covid, has now kicked back in. Whilst the bid was acceptable, it just failed to make the cut when things such as disadvantaged areas or has the bid got a broad mix of other financial support in terms of match funding.*

*Unfortunately, it seems the next round will likely be heavily oversubscribed too and means for the foreseeable - the bar for applications will remain high - effectively scoring areas of the least disadvantaged lower.*

*I understand all involved will be bitterly disappointed, as I am, especially knowing if this had come forward just one or two rounds earlier it would likely have been successful."*

Funding to be discussed at next meeting.

### **Noticeboard**

Cllr Thompson stated that this is in progress. This will be put on a future agenda (he is absent for June meeting).

6. Open forum:

**Traffic management (Scorton)**

The PC discussed an email from a member of the public and approved the response Cllr Collinson has drafted. The clerk will send this to her.

The issue was discussed further and ideas suggested including use of the tennis court (Cllr Elliott will liaise with the church) and removal of the hedge near Springfield Gardens. It is thought that provision needs to be considered for 30-40 cars. This will be monitored and kept on the agenda.

**Flower beds village near gateway signs**

The PC discussed an email from a member of the public requesting these beds to be maintained by the lengthsman. It was confirmed that this is in hand and that next year something more permanent will be planted.

**Lea Green Farm request for update**

It was confirmed that this is currently with planning enforcement.

7. Playing field:

**None**

8. Correspondence/circulated items:

Refer appendix 1. Item discussed:

**LCC - Lancashire Community Orchard Grant (17/5)** The clerk was asked to apply for apple trees.

9. Borough Council & Lancashire County Council matters:

Wyre Cllr Charlotte Walker reported that elections are coming up and that the Local Plan options will be put forward for consultation as this is being reviewed during the next year.

10. Planning:

<b>Application number</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Resolved PC comments</b>
<b>24/00257/FUL</b>	Proposed conversion of existing domestic outbuilding to ancillary Annex @ Ashcroft Gubberford Lane Scorton	<b>No objection sent 3/4.</b>
<b>24/00159/LMAJ</b>	Proposed erection of a building for private stables with parking and hardstanding, following demolition of existing agricultural buildings @ Broadfall Gubberford Lane Scorton	<b>No comments/objections</b>

<b>24/00293/FUL</b>	Proposed extension to existing garage @ Ash Lea Station Lane Scorton	<b>No comments/objections</b>
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11. Decision notices(status):

<b>Application number</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Decision</b>
<b>24/00130/FUL</b>	Erection of single storey, rear and side extension following demolition of existing side extension @ 4 Brook Avenue Scorton	<b>Permitted</b>

12. Highways:

**Highways work (The Square)**

The clerk reported the response from Highways on 8<sup>th</sup> May, following an email sent by Cllr Collinson on 8<sup>th</sup> April. Simon Littler confirmed that all works have been completed and the reinstated to the required standard. He said that following further discussions, it was accepted that the works were within the adopted highway and the appropriate financial penalties applied and were accepted by ENWL. No further action is required.

The clerk was asked to respond to ask him if he wanted to be the contact point for the parish council or if not, the name of someone who can be approached for this purpose.

The clerk was requested to put on the next agenda accessible charitable funds which will be researched.

**Road closure**

In view of the recent road closure on Tithebarn Lane 7/5 which was due to a leak which is the latest episode of leaks and burst pipes, the PC feel Highways should look into in terms of planned maintenance rather than repairing bursts as they happen. The clerk was requested to contact Highways to get a point of contact for United Utilities so that a report can be requested in view of the number of bursts which have also happened on Snowhill Lane and The Square.

13. Lengthsman:

**Jobs undertaken**

The clerk circulated the latest time sheet etc via email prior to meeting.

**Jobs to be done**

None raised.

**PRoW Scheme 2024-25**

Pc decided to opt in to both PrOW (£500) and Biodiversity (£300) grants.

14. Village Hall:

**No Update**

15. Finance:

**account update**

Refer AGM.

Items approved for payment:

**PC insurance (BHIB)/ Clear - £645.21 LTA**

**Lengthsman invoice April - £850.00** cheque given to Cllr Collinson

**Lengthsman grass cutting P/F April - £80.00** cheque given to Cllr Collinson

Items paid:

**Lengthsman invoice March - £391.00** (paid 09/04/24)

**TEEC (website) - £259.20** (paid 07/04/24)

**LALC sub - £153.17** (paid 09/04/24)

Items discussed:

**Bikes and Barrows amount**

The clerk has received confirmation that the balance is £1036.95 as at 12<sup>th</sup> April.

**Litter picking**

The PC approved giving a small gift to someone who regularly litter picks around the village.

16. Health & Safety:

**No health and safety concerns.**

17. Points of interest:

**Apologies for next meeting**

Cllr Thompson will be absent.

18. Date of next meeting: **27<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

**As there was no further business, the meeting concluded @ 9.10PM**

## **APPENDIX 1 – CORRESPONDENCE (EMAILED)**

**WC – Items published 1/3 links**

**WC – Schedule of executive decisions 1/3, 1/5**

**North West Stages – Legend Fires North West Stages Rally invite**

**Rural Services Network (RSN) – Rural bulletin 5/3, 12/3, 19/3, 26/3, 3/4, 9/4, 16/4,  
23/4, 30/4**

**LCC – Trading Standards Consumer Alerts March & April**

**Elancity – SpID info**

**RSN – Rural Funding Digest March & April**

**WC – Portfolio holder decisions agenda 14/3 link**

**LALC Wyre Area committee – New Sgt for Garstang, Poulton & Over Wyre**

**WC – Press release: Wyre’s budget for the year ahead**

**WC – Overview & Scrutiny minutes 26/2 link**

**WC - Overview & Scrutiny minutes 6/3 link**

**WC – Planning minutes 6/3 link**

**WC – Flood Forum reminder for 21/3**

**LCC – Bus service changes April & May**

**WC – Council minutes 7/3 link**

**WC - Portfolio holder decisions x 2 14/3 link**

**WC – Flood Forum supporting documents**

**WC – Licensing agenda & minutes 26/3 link**

**WC – Flood Forum agenda & minutes 24/3**

**WC – Audit and Standards minutes 27/2 link**

**LCC – Local nature recovery strategy consultation**

**WC – Code of Conduct training 30<sup>th</sup> May**

**LALC Wyre Area – reporting Highways emergencies**

**WC – Portfolio holder decisions agenda 28/3 link**

**WC- Invite to Mayor’s service of thanksgiving 12/5**

**WC - Planning agenda, supplement and minutes 3/4 links**

**WC – Funding (rural circular economy) x 2**

**WC – Portfolio holder decisions x 2 28/3 links**

**WC – Items published 3/4 links**

**WC – Portfolio holder decisions agenda 11/4 link**

**LALC – Wyre Area last minutes and next agenda 24/4**

**WC – Cabinet agenda & minutes 17/4 link**

**WC – Council agenda & minutes 15/4 link**

**WC – Portfolio holder decisions x 4 11/4 links**

**WC - Overview & Scrutiny agenda 22/4 link**

**WC – Planning policy self build and custom build register consultation**

**WC – Press release: business support events April**

**WC - Portfolio holder decisions agenda 25/4 link**

**WC – Planning agenda & supplement 1/5 link**

**LCC – A6 Galgate 50mph speed limit consultation**

**Lancs Fire & Rescue – Hot topics**

**WC – Portfolio holder decisions 25/4 x 5 links**

**WC – Press release: Garstang Walking Festival birthday bash**

**WC – Items published 1/5 links**



## **APPENDIX 2**

### **Highways response 5<sup>th</sup> April to Lancashire County Cllr Shaun Turner forwarded 15<sup>th</sup> April:**

#### ***79110 Tithebarn Lane bridge repair***

*Please see response below. The PC remain unsatisfied with the quality of repairs to the bridge.*

There is nothing more I can add to Laura Barlow's reply.

#### ***Request for Gubberford Lane resurface***

*Over the years, the PC has repeatedly requested that this road is included in a resurfacing programme (similar with Station Lane). Cllr Collinson has recently reported several potholes and the PC is very concerned that traffic is swerving to avoid these, creating a health and safety issue particularly with cyclists. When will this be included in a resurfacing programme?*

Please pass on our thanks to Councillor Collinson for her reports. We assessed Gubberford Lane and all the potholes that met investigatory level (40mm deep and 150mm in diameter) have now been repaired.

We assess all the county's roads and footways in our care regularly to help prepare the capital resurfacing programme for the following year. We use data to inform our actions. This helps ensure we make accountable, transparent, and fully justifiable decisions. We conduct full condition surveys every year on the whole classified road network. By this we mean any ABC and urban roads, which carry the majority of traffic and heavy goods vehicles. We only survey rural roads and footways every other year, as these do not deteriorate as quickly. We use geographic information software when deciding which assets to prioritise. We consider their strategic importance and proximity to major utilities (such as hospitals). We also consider the number of accepted safety defects, the number of properties served and the volume and speed of traffic.

Our resurfacing programme also aligns with our long-term Transport Asset Management Plan (TAMP). This takes a proactive approach to help ensure we carry out preventative maintenance at the most appropriate time, using the most cost-effective solution. This in turn reduces the rate of deterioration, preventing the need for more costly maintenance sooner than would normally be required. You can find more information via our website link: [TAMP Phase 2 \(2019/20 – 2024/25\) - Lancashire County Council](#).

Unfortunately, Gubberford Lane has not been included in our current resurfacing programme. We will continue to assess the road and ensure that it is safe and serviceable.

#### ***Issues with the Love Clean Streets APP***

*Cllr Collinson has noted that reports show they have been closed when no action has been taken. Thurnham with Glasson PC has also raised issues concerning the APP. There needs to be more clarification regarding the type of action taken.*

Your comments are generally in relation to the workmanship and not the LCS App. However, you made comments in relation to the word 'Closed' or 'Completed' which is something that we are currently addressing. The word 'Completed' means the report submitted was completed, not the works. If parish members view in 'my reports' on the app, they can see what action has been taken in relation to the defect and they should have received a message about it.

***Flooding, Long Lane (near the junction of Cleveley Bank Lane)***

*The PC discussed the fact that there has been a recent road closure to undertake work but that there is a flooding issue at this location that is still persistent.*

We attended this location yesterday and, unfortunately, we could not locate a nearby gully, even by using a metal detector. We have put a track into a verge to let the standing water drain into an adjacent field. It appears that the cause of this flooding was from large vehicles or tractors destroying the natural verge, causing a depression from where the water was gathering.

### **APPENDIX 3**

#### **Wyre Council response to tax base query 22/3/24:**

Every settlement is comprised of a different number and type of dwellings, making each calculation unique. Not all properties are Banded at the same level which adds to the complexity. In order to standardise the tax base, we have to convert all the different A to H banded properties into a Band D equivalent. This means that depending on the make-up of a settlement's dwellings, even if there are more properties in one settlement, if they are mostly Band A, they may end up with a lower tax base than a settlement with mostly Band D properties, as a Band A is worth two thirds of a Band D (see table).

	<b>£</b>	<b>% of Band D</b>
BAND A	1,485.15	66.6667
B	1,732.68	77.7778
C	1,980.20	88.8889
<b>D</b>	<b>2,227.73</b>	<b>100</b>
E	2,722.78	122.2222
F	3,217.84	144.4444
G	3,712.88	166.6667
H	4,455.46	200

To add to this complexity, there are council tax discounts, the most common of which is the Single Person Discount (SPD) which is worth 25% of a person's council tax bill. Depending on the number of people claiming SPD, this too will reduce the equated number of Band D properties in a settlement. Other discounts for disability and hardship etc., will similarly distort the picture, depending on the number of claimants, thus reducing the Band D equivalent figure.

Further details can be found in the report here:

<https://www.wyre.gov.uk/downloads/download/324/calculation-of-the-202425-council-tax-base>