

MINUTES OF THE WARTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 6th June 2023 in the Village Hall Warton.

PRESENT: Councillors D Clough, Mrs J Cody, A Hilling, W Muckle and F Senior.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr J W Ball – Clerk to Warton Parish Council, District Councillor Mrs S Tyldesley and 2 Members of the public.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillors Briggs, Lee and Mrs L Simmonds and County Councillor Mrs Williamson.

In the absence of Councillor Briggs, Councillor Clough acted as Chairman for the meeting.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: There were no declarations of interest in relation to items covered by the agenda.

23.111. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the meeting held on the 2nd May 2023 having been previously circulated be accepted as a true and accurate record of proceedings at the meeting and be signed as such by the acting chairman.

23.112. REPORT FROM THE CLERK CONCERNING MATTERS IN PROGRESS NOT COVERED BY OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA: The clerk reported that: i. Agreed with Lancaster City Council that grass cutting on the Weir, Little Weir and Small Quarry be carried out every 8 working days, 8 cuts during the grass growing season at an annual charge of £1133.82 plus VAT. ii. Confirmation received from Zurich Municipal that insurance cover for the coming year from June 2023 be provided by the company at a cost of £1,712.95. iii. Lancaster City Council contacted requesting a contribution to the running costs of the Main Street Public Toilets. iv. The resident of 188 Main Street, Warton had been contacted and requested he make arrangements for the removal of stones and rubble left in the public footpath bordering the property after repairs to the boundary wall.

Other items had been reported to members as received.

The clerk was thanked for his report.

THE CHAIRMAN ADJOURNED THE MEETING FOR A PERIOD OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Matters were raised by members of the public as follows:

1. A complaint had been received from Shimon Littlefair concerning her concern for the safety of the Weir Play park after her son was injured by a shard of glass whilst playing around the sandpit. The injury required hospital treatment. Miss Littlefair had been contacted and our concern about the incident and our undertaking of a full investigation and study of possible solutions for the future safeguarding of the play area expressed. The Shovel Public House visited and the incident discussed with the licensee and wife. Both expressed their concerns and gave assurances that staff collected glasses left on the car park at the end of each trading session. The use of plastic glasses as a safety precaution had been tried and rejected by customers. Checks of the play area will continue to be carried out by the Parish Lengthsman whenever he is at the play area but it was felt that the only certain solution to the problem would be the removal of the sand pit.

Members agreed to give further consideration to the problem and District Councillor Mrs Tyldesley agreed to enquire of other parish councils and District Council Officers if an acceptable solution had been found to similar incidents in other parts of the district.

2. A complaint concerning behaviour in part of the village had been received with a request for the complaint to be discussed as confidential at the current time. The clerk informed members that such a request could be considered covered by Standing Order 28. Members discussed the complaint and agreed that further enquiries be carried out by District Councillor Tyldesley seeking clarification on possible planning issues relative to the complaint.

THE CHAIRMAN RECONVENED THE MEETING

23.113. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR MRS P WILLIAMSON: County Councillor Mrs Williamson was unable to attend the meeting but a written report covering the events of the 2022-2023 year was issued. The report covered the Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebrations, the County Council's responsibilities for enactment of the Country's Refugee Integration Team leading the work needed as a result of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The delivery of better services, care for the vulnerable, protection of the environment and supporting economic growth were also covered in the report. Cards for issue to residents for use when reporting highways issues using the Love Clean Streets app were included with the report.

County Councillor Mrs Williamson was thanked for her report and continued support.

23.114. REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR MRS S TYLDESLEY: District Councillor Mrs Tyldesley reported that the structure of the District Council had changed with increases in the number of green and labour councillors and corresponding independent and conservative reductions. Leadership of the district council would be by a Labour Councillor with Deputy Leadership by a Green Councillor. Mayor decisions on council business lay ahead.

District Councillor Mrs Tyldesley was thanked for her report and continued support.

23.115 STANDING ORDER 25: The clerk reported that no action under Standing Order 25 had been necessary since the last meeting of the parish council.

23.116. PLANNING MATTERS: a) Planning applications received for review since the last meeting of the parish council were considered as follows:

23/0054/TPO – T1 – Horse Chestnut reduce for Mr Gary Clake, 15 Gardner Road, Warton – No objection raised.

23/0061/TPO – Excavate hole within five meters of main stem for Arthur West, 5 Roberts Court, Warton – No objection raised.

23/00590/FUL – Erection of a single storey wrap around extension to side and rear for Mr and Mrs Tom Carling, Hill Crest, Grange View, Warton – No objection raised.

Scotland Road Development Update. The clerk reported that a complaint from a Millhead resident concerning the development to the east of Scotland Road had been referred to Lancaster City Council Planning Control. An officer had visited the site and had been

assured that any drainage work on site related to an earlier planning permission and no work had been carried out recently despite varied diameter drainage pipes and a large tank being seen on site prior to the complaint being raised. As a result of the visit by the Planning Control Officer some issues had been raised with the site owners that required further investigation. Consulting with Environment Agency and Network Rail because of the site proximity to the railway and river were also in process. Further contact by Planning Control was awaited.

b) Members noted the current status of planning applications reviewed by members at previous meetings of the parish council as follows:

22/0115/TCA – Reviewed 6th September 2022 Meeting – Awaiting Decision
 22/00064/REF – Appeal against the refusal of Planning Application 19/00113/FUL
 Reviewed March 2019 meeting – Awaiting Decision
 23/00087/FUL – Reviewed 4th April 2023 Meeting – Application Permitted
 23/00165/FUL – Reviewed 4th April 2023 Meeting – Awaiting Decision
 23/00421/FUL - Reviewed 2nd May 2023 Meeting – Application Permitted
 23/00487/FUL – Reviewed 2nd May 2023 Meeting – Awaiting Decision

23.117. FINANCE: a) Members noted the financial summary for May 2023 as follows:

Opening Balances – All Accounts

Current Account	45676.20
Village Improvement Account	12481.19
Investment Account	8058.47
Playground Account	4536.23
E & R Wilson Fund Account	<u>96.80</u> 70848.89

Opening Balance – Current Account 45676.20

Receipts NIL

Payments

02.05.23 J W Ball – aql domain reg reimbursement	132.00
02.05.23 LALC – Membership Fee	459.95
02.05.23 Zurich Municipal - Insurance	1712.95
02.05.23 Tom Oliver – Toilet Work April	175.00
02.05.23 K Briggs – Presentation Reimbursement	51.75
06.05.23 J W Ball – Salary	385.17
06.05.23 Npower – Toilet Electricity	35.94
	<u>2952.76</u>
	42723.44

Closing Balance Current Account 42723.44

Closing Balances – All Accounts

Current Account	42723.44
Village Improvement Account	12481.19
Investment Account	8058.47
Playground Account	4536.23
E&R Wilson Fund Account	<u>96.80</u> 67896.13

b) Members authorised and signed cheques for the following payments:-

Thomas Oliver – Toilet Work May - £137.00 – 2341
Willacy Contractors Ltd – Playground Sand - £227.76 – 2342
Open Spaces Society – membership Fee - £45.00 – 2343
P.Doey – Parish Lenghtman - £809.20 – 2344

c) Review of Internet Business Banking System
Nothing further to report.

d) Arrangements for Internal Audit of the 2022/2023 Account & Preparation of the 2022/2023 Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR).

The clerk reported that the return was with the Internal Auditor and would be presented for members review at the 4th July 2023 meeting of the parish council.

23.118: LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL MAIN STREET TRAFFIC PROPOSALS: No further developments since the last meeting of the parish council.

23.119. EVOLIS SPEED RECORDING EQUIPMENT: The clerk reported that ordering of the units had been delayed pending the erection of the unit support posts by Lancashire County Council.

23.120.OPEN SPACES SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP: Members agreed that the parish council continue membership of the Society for the coming year at a cost of £45.00.

23.121. WARTON STOCK CAR CLUB: The clerk reported that he had not received a response from the Stock Car Club.

23.122. WARTON MIRES PROJECT: The clerk reported that Councillor Hilling had represented the parish council at the project meeting held on 5th June 2023. Mr Horner and Mr Sneyd reported that the RSPB intended to continue with the project to provide suitable conditions for lapwings (currently 5 pairs, 13 chicks) on the site with minimal excavation taking place, although some capital works were involved. The Environment Agency had agreed continued support for the project although not considered a priority at the present time.

Lancashire County Council was seeking the necessary funding (£40,000 to £100,000) to carry out the work needed to clear the blockages in the catch pit and drainage system. Warton Flood Action Group reported that the installation of an additional drainage pipe to carry flood water from the village into the River Keer was under consideration and estimates of the likely cost were being sought.

Agreed that with the Mires Project delayed the Warton Flood Action Group needed to be supported with urgent action to be directed to the successful completion of the catch pit and drain blockage clearance. Agreed that Warton Parish Council be invited to nominate two members to serve on the Flood Action Group. Mike Cooper and Phillip Hardcastle offered to give a presentation on the work of Warton Flood Action group to the next meeting of the parish council.

Agreed that the next meeting of the Warton Mires Sub Group be held on Monday 7th August 2023 at 2.30pm in the Village Hall.

23.123. BORWICK CLOSE AND WELL LANE GRASS CUTTING CONTRACT: Members discussed the decision made at the last meeting of the parish council not to include the two parcels of land as part of the grasscutting contract with Lancaster City Council and agreed that because of the parish council responsibility to support residents, the decision be

reversed. It was felt that the alternatives would be either to let the grass grow without control or continue a dispute with Lancashire County Council and Lancaster City Council over responsibility for the parcels of land. Representatives of the residents of Borwick Close and Well Lane were advised of the revised decision. The clerk was instructed to contact Steve Shaw at Lancaster City Council to advise that the additional areas be included as part of the Warton Parish Council grass cutting contract at an additional charge of £497.00 plus VAT per annum.

23.124. WARTON FLOOD ACTION GROUP DONATION: Members agreed that the item be deferred to the next meeting of the parish council.

23.125. COMMEMORATION OF THE CORONATION OF KING CHARLES III: Members agreed that parish council aspects of the commemoration had been completed successfully and no further action was required. The item not to be included in future meeting agendas.

23.126. UNCONTESTED ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE PARISH COUNCIL: Members agreed that completion of procedures required all members to complete Acceptance of Office and Financial Returns covering any elections expenses and Councillor Lee would be required to complete a Personal and Pecuniary Interests Form Pecuniary. It would also be necessary for all members wishing to be authorised as cheque signatories to complete a Bank Mandate Form.

23.127. ITEMS OF INFORMATION FROM MEMBERS: No items of information were raised by members.

23.128. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING: There being no further business the Acting Chairman thanked Members and District Councillor Mrs Tyldesley for their attendance and participation and closed the meeting at 8.30 pm. The next meeting of Warton Parish Council was arranged for Tuesday 4th July 2023 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, Warton proceeded at 7.00pm by a presentation on the work of Warton Flood Action Group.

Chairman..... Date.....

Minutes subject to agreement at the 4th July 2023 meeting of the Warton Parish Council.