

**MINUTES OF THE WARTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2024 in the Village Hall Warton.**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Mrs J Cody, K Barkley, K Briggs, C Lee, F Senior and Mrs L Simmonds.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr J W Ball – Clerk to Warton Parish Council and District Councillor Mrs S Tyldesley.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillors Hilling and Muckle and County Councillor Mrs Williamson.

**24.130. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:** No declarations of interest were made by members concerning items included in the meeting agenda.

**24.131. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:** RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the meeting held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2024, having been previously circulated, be accepted as a true and accurate record of proceedings at the meeting and be signed as such by the chairman.

**24.132. REPORT FROM THE CLERK CONCERNING MATTERS IN PROGRESS NOT COVERED BY OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA:** The clerk reported that:

i Complaints had been received from residents concerning the overgrown hedges in Borwick Lane. Assurances had been given that restrictions on hedge cutting during the nesting season were responsible and as the restrictions had now ended remedial work should be carried out.

ii. Ian Brodie of the Ramblers Association had requested clarification on the planning status of Warton Stock Car Club facilities. Lancaster City Council Planning Control advised that formal planning had not been requested covering the initial provision of facilities but because of the passage of time the requirement was lapsed.

iii. The transfer of responsibility for the administration on behalf of Leighton Hall of Potts Wood Picnic Site had passed from Carter Jonas to GSC Grays.

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**

No members of the public were in attendance at the meeting and the clerk reported that he had not received notification from residents concerning items they wished to be raised.

**THE CHAIRMAN RECONVENED THE MEETING**

**24.133. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR MRS P WILLIAMSON:** County Councillor Mrs Williamson was unable to attend the meeting and had advised the clerk that she had nothing to report.

County Councillor Mrs Williamson was thanked for her continued support.

**24.134. REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR MRS S TYLDESLEY:** District Councillor Mrs Tyldesley reported that new planning guidance had been received from Central

Government and the provision a requirement that an increased number of residencies were to be provided in the district had been imposed.

Because of the resignation of a Labour Councillor and the transition by another councillor from Labour to Independent status, the District Council was no longer controlled by the Labour Party with control passing to the Green Party until at least the result of the pending bye election was known.

The Old School Brewery planning application had been permitted but on condition that no amplified music be played outside of the building.

Complaints concerning the condition of the Millhead to Warton public footpath had been received.

Concerns had been raised by residents concerning vehicles travelling at what was considered to be excessive speed when using Borwick Lane.

She expressed concern that funding from Lancaster City Council for assistance with meeting the running costs of the Main Street Public Toilets had not been received by the parish council as yet and agreed to take up the matter as a matter of urgency with the appropriate department of Lancaster City Council.

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

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

**24.136. PLANNING MATTERS:** a) The following application had been received for review and comment by members.

24/00787/FUL – Demolition of garage and conservatory, erection of two storey side and rear extensions and first floor extension to the front, raising of roof, construction of dormer extensions to front and rear elevations, installation of rooflight windows for Mr and Mrs Toby Turner, 23 Coach Road, Warton.

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

23/01290/FUL – Reviewed 6<sup>th</sup> February 2024 Meeting – Application Permitted  
 24/00389/VCN – Reviewed 7<sup>th</sup> May 2024 Meeting – Application Refused  
 24/00443/REM – Reviewed 7<sup>th</sup> May 2024 Meeting – Application Refused  
 24/00548/LB – Reviewed 4<sup>th</sup> June 2024 Meeting – Awaiting Decision  
 24/0099/TPO – Reviewed 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2024 Meeting – Application Permitted  
 24/00717/FUL – Reviewed 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2024 Meeting – Awaiting Decision

**24.137. FINANCE:** a) Members noted the financial summary for July and August 2024 as follows:

Opening Balances – All Accounts

|                             |                 |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Current Account             | 39486.54        |
| Village Improvement Account | 12640.11        |
| Investment Account          | 8058.47         |
| E&R Wilson Fund Account     | <u>96.80</u>    |
|                             | <u>60281.92</u> |

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|  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| Opening Balance – Current Account                        | 39486.54             |
| Receipts   | NIL                  |
|  | 39486.54             |
| Payments   |                      |
| 02.07.24 Hughes Renewables Ltd – Bus Shelter Repairs     | 96.00                |
| 02.07.24 T Oliver – Toilet Work - June                   | 150.00               |
| 02.07.24 George Washington – Public Toilet Water Charges | 870.92               |
| 02.07.24 Grant Barrow Tree Services - Tree Felling       | 450.00               |
| 05.07.24 Npower – Toilet Electricity                     | 46.59                |
| 06.07.24 J W Ball – Salary                               | 467.64               |
| 25.07.24 T Oliver – Toilet Work July                     | 137.50               |
| 06.08.24 J W Ball - Salary                               | 467.264              |
| 07.08.24 P.Doey – Toilet Electricity                     | <u>47.49</u> 2733.78 |
| Closing Balance Current Account                          | 36752.76             |

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| Elizabeth & Richard Wilson Fund Account |              |
| Opening Balance 01.08.24                | <u>96.80</u> |
| Receipts                                | 1242.33      |
| Closing Balance                         | 1339.13      |

Closing Balances – All Accounts

|                             |                |                 |
|-----------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Current Account             | 36752.76       |                 |
| Village Improvement Account | 12640.11       |                 |
| Investment Account          | 8058.47        |                 |
| E&R Wilson Fund Account     | <u>1339.13</u> | <u>58790.47</u> |

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

Glasdon UK Ltd – Waste Bin - £498.00 - 2367  
Thomas Oliver – Toilet Work August - £152.50 – 2368  
Pete Doey – Parish Lengthsman - £592.25 – 2369

c) Virgin Money Bank Mandate – Members agreed to continue the signage of cheques on behalf of the parish council with signatures of any two authorised members being required. Members agreed to provide signature examples for inclusion on the mandate as required by Virgin Money.

d) Elizabeth and Richard Wilson Charitable Fund – The clerk reported that £1242.33 had been received from the Trustees of the Fund for distribution by the parish council. Members agreed to publicise the availability of the funding for allocation to residents of the parish undertaking higher level education courses.

**24.138. LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL MAIN STREET TRAFFIC PROPOSALS:**

Nothing further to report – formal consultation awaited.

**24.139. EVOLIS SPEED RECORDING EQUIPMENT:** The clerk reported that 3 units had been ordered and delivery was awaited. Agreement had been given by Zurick Municipal to extend the parish council insurance cover to include the period of storage of the units whilst in the village hall.

**24.140. HERITAGE PLAQUES:** The clerk reported that he had contacted Carnforth Town Council and had been advised that the plaques displayed in the town had been purchased from Signs of the Time 1919 at a cost of £179.00 for 300mm plaques and £214.75 for 350mm plaques. As the plaques were bought some time ago it was thought likely that the purchase price would be increased. Members agreed to defer further discussions until the October meeting.

**24.141. GARDNER ROAD CATCHPIT REPAIRS:** Councillor Barkley reported that Lancashire County Council had not yet started work to repair the catch pit but some work had been carried out on the drainage pipe carrying surface water from the Sand Lane area of the village. It was hoped that work on the clearance of the catch pit and pipe would commence soon as the period of delay requested by RSPB had now passed.

**24.142. WEIR PLAYGROUND SAFETY REPORT & RISK ASSESSMENT:** Councillor Lee reported that he had inspected the play equipment on site as detailed in the report received from safety inspectors and had selected these items that required attention. Members agreed to defer further discussion to the October meeting.

**24.143. HAGS CAROUSEL INSTALLATION:** The clerk reported that the clearance of the sand pit material was scheduled for the 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> September with erection of the carousel scheduled for week commencing 9<sup>th</sup> September.

**24.144. MAIN STREET TRAFFIC PROBLEMS:** The clerk reported that as asked by residents he had contacted County Councillor Mrs Williamson and Stagecoach for comment concerning the complaint about parked cars being damaged by passing traffic, particularly buses and other large vehicles. County Councillor Mrs Williamson had raised the matter with Lancashire County Council Highways and Bus Transport teams and had received responses as follows:

Highways – i there was insufficient room and forward visibility to provide kerbed buildouts to try to protect parking and priority traffic give ways etc and these would equally lead to a reduction in the unrestricted carriageway.

ii the introduction of traffic lights would also potentially need to introduce parking restrictions, widened footways to provide storage for oncoming traffic passing stationary vehicles at the stop lines which would be disproportionate to the problem they were meant to resolve.

Bus Transport Team – the larger buses were required at peak times for general passenger and student movement and it was not possible to then switch to smaller buses during off peak times, even if Stagecoach had them available. Service 49 extended to Warton from Carnforth within the resources deployed for the whole route, whereas enhancement of Service 51 to increase the frequency would require significant additional funding, currently not available. However the Transport Team were in discussion with Stagecoach on their general service in the Carnforth area and the comments raised in the complaint would be included in the discussions to see if Stagecoach could help in any way.

In addition to the above comments the clerk reported that during his discussions with a Stagecoach representative he was informed that a major problem concerning the availability of smaller buses was that such vehicles were no longer manufactured because the

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manufacturer (Optare) had ceased trading and efforts to source alternatives had proved to be very difficult.

Members requested that the clerk advise the residents concerned.

**24.145. SMALL QUARRY WOODLAND-DISEASED TREES:** Councillor Briggs reported that he had surveyed the woodland and found twenty plus elm trees were so severely diseased that they could fall with possible serious consequences. Councillor Mrs Simmonds reported she had discussed the problem with the Leighton Hall Foreman who was qualified to undertake the felling and was prepared to fell the diseased trees if the relevant insurance cover was provided through the parish council.

Members requested the clerk to contact Zurich Municipal to enquire if insurance could be provided under the parish council insurance policy.

**24.146. OLD SCHOOL BREWERY:** Members discussed the review of the rental of parish council land incorporated in the current building and agreed that the owner of the brewery be advised that the parish council was undertaking a review of future rental charges.

**24.147. ARCHBISHOP HUTTON'S PRIMARY SCHOOL DONATION REQUEST:** Members considered a request from the Headteacher of the school for a donation towards the cost of the installation of a CCTV system covering the school and grounds. The CCTV system was necessary to monitor the area and act as a deterrent to future unsocial behaviour.

Members requested the clerk to contact the Head teacher to request details of the costs involved in the purchase and installation of a suitable CCTV system.

**24.148. ITEMS OF INFORMATION FROM MEMBERS:** i Councillor Briggs reported that the conversion of Croftland grassland to a wild flower area had not been successful and a return to regular mowing was necessary.

ii. Councillor Barkley reported that the current Parish Council Asset Register was not available on the Parish Council Website.

iii. Councillor Mrs Simmonds reported that emergency supplies required as part of the Village Emergency Plan were depleted and needed replacement.

**24.149. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING:** There being no further business the Chairman thanked Members and District Councillor Mrs Tyldesley for their attendance and participation and closed the meeting at 9.20pm. Members agreed that the next meeting of Warton Parish Council will be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024 in the Village Hall, Warton. Items for inclusion in the meeting agenda should be notified to the clerk by Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2024.

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

Minutes subject to agreement at the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024 meeting of the Warton Parish Council and until then are considered to be draft only.