

MINUTES OF THE WARTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 7th May 2024 in the Village Hall Warton.

PRESENT: Councillors K Barkley, Mrs J Cody, A Hilling, W Muckle and F Senior.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr J W Ball – Clerk to Warton Parish Council

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillors K Briggs and Mrs L Simmonds, County Councillor, Mrs P Williamson and District Councillor Mrs S Tyldesley.

In the absence of the Chairman and Vice Chairman members agreed that Councillor Mrs Cody act as Chairman for the meeting.

24.063. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the meeting held on the 9th April 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.

24.064. REPORT FROM THE CLERK CONCERNING MATTERS IN PROGRESS NOT COVERED BY OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA: The clerk reported that: i. with immediate affect Carter Jones LLB Kendal office would become a branch of GSC Grays LLB but the tenancy of Potts Wood Picnic Site would remain the responsibility of Carter Jones LLB.

ii. The next meeting of the Lancaster Area Committee was scheduled for 7.00pm on 22nd May 2024 at Morecambe Town Hall.

iii. Footway Weed Spraying would be carried out on behalf of Lancaster City Council in Warton on 20th May 2024 and 16th September 2024 and in Millhead on 27th May 2024 and 23rd September 2024.

iv. The defence documents for the compensation case brought against the parish council by the parents of Master Reid had been signed and returned to the solicitors acting on behalf of Zurich Municipal Insurance.

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 items were raised.

THE CHAIRMAN RECONVENED THE MEETING

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

County Councillor Mrs Williamson was thanked for her continued support.

24.066. REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR MRS S TYLDESLEY: District Councillor Mrs Tyldesley was unable to attend the meeting and had notified the clerk that she had nothing to report.

District Councillor Mrs Tyldesley was thanked for her continued support.

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

24.068. PLANNING MATTERS: a) The following applications had been received for review and comment by members.

24/00389/VCN – Outline planning application for the erection of up to 12 2-storey dwellings and creation of 2 new accesses (pursuant to the variation of conditions 2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,15 and 22 on planning permission 20/00358/OUT to revise the plans and provide further details) for Oakmere Homes, Land Off Sand Lane, Warton – No objection raised.

24/00407/RCN – Retrospective application for the retention of a stable and associated riding paddock and fencing (pursuant to the removal of condition 3 on planning application 18/01257/FUL which restricted the use of stabling to personal use) for Mr Mollart, Clear Water Fisheries, Kellet Lane, Over Kellet – No objection raised.

24/00412/FUL – Erection of detached outbuilding for Mr and Mrs Taylor, 50 Main Street, Warton – No objection raised.

24/00331/FUL – Retrospective application for the erection of a single storey rear outbuilding for Mr Peter Singleton, 19 Hazelmount Drive, Warton – No objection raised.

24/00443/REM – Reserved matters application for the erection of 12 dwellings for Oakmere Homes, Land at Grid Reference E349246N471955, Sand Lane, Warton – No objection raised.

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 6th February 2024 Meeting – Awaiting Decision

24/00177/LB – Reviewed 5th March 2024 Meeting – Application Permitted

24.069. FINANCE: a) Members noted the financial summary for April 2024 as follows:

Opening Balances – All Accounts

Current Account	29856.64
Village Improvement Account	12640.11
Investment Account	8058.47
Playground Account	4540.77
E & R Wilson Fund Account	<u>96.80</u> 55192.79

Opening Balance – Current Account 29856.64

Receipts

09.04.24 Lancaster City Council – Precept 22086.00
51942.64

Payments

06.04.24 JW Ball Salary 385.17
06.04.24 Npower – Toilet Electricity 47.60

1416

06.04.24 T Oliver – Toilet Work – March	152.50	
09.04.24 Lancashire Tables & Chairs – Village Event	645.00	
09.04.24 LALC – Membership Fee	457.08	
09.04.24 Warton Village Hall – Room Rental	<u>128.00</u>	<u>1815.35</u>
		50127.29

Closing Balance Current Account 50127.29

Closing Balances – All Accounts

Current Account	50127.29	
Village Improvement Account	12640.11	
Investment Account	8058.47	
Playground Account	4540.77	
E&R Wilson Fund Account	<u>96.80</u>	<u>75463.44</u>

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

Thomas Oliver – Toilet Work April - £135.00 – 2401
Marmax Products Ltd – Seat & Picnic Tables - £1940.40 – 2402
St Oswald’s Warton PCC – Flagpole Donation - £1000.00 - 2403

c) Playground Account

The clerk reported that the Playground Account was administered through a Pass Book that was required to be closed on Virgin Money instructions. Funding in the account (£4542.25) would be transferred to the current account. Members noted the transfer of funds.

d) Financial Overview

The clerk expressed concern at the level of oversight in financial matters currently undertaken by members if the requirements of the Annual Governance Statement were to be satisfied. Members agreed that responsibility for financial overview be allocated to a Financial Overview Committee, Councillors Barkley and Mrs Simmonds to act as members of the committee.

e) Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2023/2024

The clerk reported that the 2023/24 accounts and minutes were currently with Garry Marsh, Parish Council Internal Auditor for review. The Annual Audit Report 2023/24 together with other sections of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2023/24 will be presented for members review at the parish council meeting scheduled for 4th June 2024.

f) Review of 2023/24 Budget

The clerk presented the 2023/24 Budget Statement and members discussed the variances by budget heading of budget allocation to actual spend with the resultant increased carry over figure of £29856.64 (2022/23 figure £24788.34). Members reviewed and accepted the variances.

g) Review of 2024/25 Budget

The clerk presented the 2024/25 Budget Statement prepared with due regard to variances discussed in the previous minute. Members agreed the budget but some concern was expressed concerning the exclusion from the budget calculations of funding allocated to the Investment and Village Improvement Accounts. The clerk was instructed to discuss with the Internal Auditor and report back to members at the meeting scheduled for 4th June 2024.

24.070. LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL MAIN STREET TRAFFIC PROPOSALS:

Nothing further to report – formal consultation awaited.

24.071. EVOLIS SPEED RECORDING EQUIPMENT: Arrangements for the installation of street poles in process, prior to purchase of 3 units.

24.072. COMMUNITY ROADWATCH SCHEME: Nothing further to report – no interest to date from residents.

24.073. GARDNER ROAD CATCHPIT REPAIRS: Project agreed and funding sourced, actual repairs dependant on accessibility for heavy machinery with suitable ground conditions.

24.074. ROODS PLAY AREA: Picnic tables and bench now on site, waste bin to be installed as soon as available from Lancaster City Council.

24.075. HAGS CAROUSEL INSTALLATION: The clerk reported that information had been requested from HAGS covering the extent of welfare facilities required by the contractors during the installation period.

24.076. WEIR PLAY AREA REFURBISHMENT: The clerk reported that the Parish Lengthsman had agreed to carry out the replacement of membranes and wood chip on the play area at an estimated cost of £6500. Members agreed that the work was required and the cost be authorised subject to a maximum of £6500.00.

24.077. WARTON EMERGENCY PLAN: Councillor Barkley reported that the plan had been updated and drafted. Lancaster City Council had been advised and had received a copy of the plan for their review. 5 additional volunteers had agreed to be listed as a volunteer action respondents should an emergency situation arise. Additional buildings in the village to the Village Hall had been identified as emergency hubs. Members agreed that they review the plan at their June 2024 meeting.

24.078. 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY CELEBRATIONS: Planning for the ceremonial lighting of the beacon at 9.15pm on 6th June 2024 was in hand.

24.079. PROVISION OF VILLAGE HERITAGE PLAQUES: Members agreed that Mr Alan Bird be invited to make a presentation at the next meeting of the parish council scheduled for 4th June 2024.

24.080. CIVILITY AND RESPECT PLEDGE: Members agreed to delay consideration of the pledge requirements pending the receipt of further information and guidance from District Councillor Mrs Tyldesley and consideration of an alternative statement prepared by Councillor Barkley.

24.081. UPGRADE OF WARTON CRAG PERMISSIVE PATH: Members considered the Arnside and Silverdale National Landscape proposals to improve the permissive path from the Main Quarry car park to Jed's Gate by re-surfacing and widening. Members agreed to the proposals and requested that the clerk enquire if such improvements could be considered for Occupation Lane.

24.082. ITEMS OF INFORMATION FROM MEMBERS: Councillor Muckle reported that the fence and hedge leading from the Millhead bus stop had been tidied.

24.083. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING: There being no further business the Chairman thanked Members for their attendance and participation and closed the meeting at 8.55pm. Members agreed that the next meeting of Warton Parish Council will be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 4th June 2024 in the Village Hall, Warton. Items for inclusion in the meeting agenda should be notified to the clerk by Monday 27th May 2024.

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

Minutes subject to agreement at the 4th June 2024 meeting of the Warton Parish Council.