

Whittington Parish Council
Minutes for the Annual Parish Council Meeting
Monday 20th May 2019 at 7.00pm
In Whittington Village Hall

Contact: The Clerk Gillian Newton, 14 Marton Drive, Bare, Morecambe, LA4 6RB.
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Present at the meeting were Cllrs Hall, Close, Fell, Morgan, Sutherland, the Clerk Gillian Newton and 2 members of the public.

1435. No apologies for absence were received.

1436. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 21st May 2018 were read & agreed by Cllrs and signed as a true record by Cllr Hall.

1437. No matters arose from the previous minutes.

1438. PACT Annual report – All crimes reported and recorded at www/police.uk Lancashire Constabulary Upper Lune Valley and then your postcode. Crimes are recorded as on or near the postcode required. May to January no crimes were reported. During February 2 crimes were reported. Burglary on or near Docker Lane – includes offences where a person enters a house or other building with the intention of stealing – under investigation. Violence and sexual offences on or near Church Street – includes offences against the person including common assaults, grievous bodily harm and sexual offences – under investigation. A crime reported in March, on or near Docker Lane, criminal damage and arson, includes damage to buildings and vehicles and deliberate damage by fire.

1439. Chair's report –The Chairman gave his report on the activities of the Parish Council over 2018/2019. Following the retirement of our past Chairman, Eric Pelter, and Barbara Atkinson, I am pleased to announce that new members of the Parish Council have been elected. They are Malcolm Fell and Louise Morgan, both from Newton, and Ian Sutherland from Whittington. The Chairman thanked Eric and Barbara for the years of service, and confirmed that Parish Council will continue to draw upon their past experience and knowledge when needed. He sees it as a positive thing that there are new members of the Parish Council but have been able to retain Eric and Barbara, unofficially, and hoped that will apply to Stuart Close and himself when they are replaced. The defibrillator is now installed and training is being given, courtesy of our local first responder coordinator. A training session was organised in the Village Hall and was attended by well in excess of 40 residents. Should anyone be interested in becoming a first responder please advise the Parish Council. The village railings continue to be painted, and special thanks must go to Mike Barr for volunteering to carry out this mammoth task. The Chairman noted that it is interesting to go round and see that the railings in other villages are just absolutely dreadful. The annual litter pick went ahead once again, not incidentally organised by the Parish Council but by local volunteers who deserve a special mention. Parish Council continue to lend its support to such activities. He also thanked Simon Raistrick for his diligence in emptying the dog bin situated at South Lodge, and also for taking responsibility for the admin associated with the defibrillator. The village gardening competition was hotly contested and thanks must go to Peter Crane for his time in judging the competition. The Parish Council have received formal correspondence from the Highways Department, District Lead Officer, apologising for the lack of response in respect of potholes, and promising improved communication in the future. Residents will have noticed that Church St has recently been resurfaced. The Parish Council financial state is quite healthy, and has enabled the PC, this year, to cap the Whittington Precept and keep it at last year's level. The Chairman stated that he would have preferred to put it up a little bit and keep accumulating funds so that if something does happen we would have funds available. We are one of the few Parishes in Lancashire to keep it at zero. The Beacon, held in November of last year and organised jointly by the Parish Council, the Village Hall and the Church, was an outstanding success. Over £1,000 raised. Thank you to those who went to it and it was again proved that when people muck in the events they put on can be quite a success. The PC continues to receive complaints about traffic management and speed through the village. We have been unable to engage satisfactorily with the proper agencies, despite writing to the appropriate people in the County Council

and the City Council. Recently there was an incident on the main road which everyone has said was particularly dangerous, and we are going to use that to try and shame somebody to come here, be it the Police or the Highways. A SPID is no answer because nobody speeds or very few people speed through the village. The issue is managing the traffic. We won't get a bye-pass, we won't get a 20mph limit, but we need something before somebody gets seriously injured. Can I assure everyone that Parish Council will continue to treat this as a priority and we do recognise that there is no easy solution to this problem. The Chairman reported that our City Councillor, Peter Williamson, has been deselected. He thought that the reason is that he probably didn't agree with the Conservative Party ideas for Lancaster and has been replaced. We haven't been told who will replace him, but he was a great help to us. The PC promised, last year, to make progress, with formulating a Parish Plan. We will create a small working party, answerable to a member of the Parish Council in order to produce this plan. Whether the plan will come up with anything we don't know. I must confess, that it's my Parish Council's fault that we haven't pushed this harder.

1440. Clerk's report - The closing balance in the Current Account at the end of March 2018 is 4241.27. The reconciliation shows the true balance to be £4224.37 with un-presented cheque 560 £16.90 J.S.Close. The closing balance in the Bonus Saver account at the end of March 2019 is £143.62 Precept received from Lancaster City Council of £4194.75 as requested. The accounts have been internally audited by Anne Pettifor May 2019. The accounts are due to be audited externally by PK Littlejohn. The Annual Return, cash book, deeds, contracts, bills, vouchers and receipts relating to the accounts will be available for inspection and to make copies, by request, from Monday 17th June to Friday 26th July as required by regulations.

1441. Election of Chair, Vice-Chair, LALC representative and Trustee for Whittington Charity.
Chair : Cllr Hall was nominated by Cllr Close and seconded by Cllr Sutherland. Cllr Hall agreed to remain as Chairperson
Vice Chair : Cllr Close was nominated by Cllr Hall and seconded by Cllr Morgan. Cllr Close agreed to remain as Vice-Chairperson.
Cllrs agreed no LALC representative was required and that Cllrs would attend meetings when available.
Trustee : Cllr Sutherland was nominated by Cllr Hall and seconded by Cllr Fell. Cllr Sutherland agreed to be the parish Council Trustee for Whittington Charity.

1442. Finances:

Annual Grazing Rights - Cllrs agreed to continue at £50 p/a

Annual Shooting Rights – Cllrs proposed an increase from £200 p/a to £250 p/a

Clerk's Salary (currently £1,100 nett) Cllrs agreed to a 5% increase. The Clerk thanked Cllrs.

1443. All members completed Declarations of Acceptance of Office, Notification by Members of Parish Council of Other Interests and the Disclosable Pecuniary Interests forms.

1444. Risk Assessment of street furniture, assets and fidelity guarantee completed.

1445. Proposed dates for the following year were agreed – 3rd Monday of alternate months. July 15th, September 16th, November 18th, January 20th, March 16th, Annual Parish Assembly April 20th, May 18th (APCM & PCM) and July 20th.

1446. No Business introduced by Councillors.