

Whittington Parish Council
Minutes for the Annual Parish Council Meeting
Friday 26th June 2020 at 7.00pm
Via ZOOM due to Covid19 restrictions.

Contact: The Clerk Gillian Newton, 14 Marton Drive, Bare, Morecambe, LA4 6RB.
Tel: 0777 3678608 Email: gillianhodgson6@gmail.com

Present at the meeting were Cllrs Hall, Close, Fell, Morgan, Sutherland, the Clerk Gillian Newton and no members of the public.

1511. No apologies for absence were received.

1512. Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting 20th May 2019 were read electronically & agreed by Cllrs and signed as a true record by Cllr Hall.

1513. No matters arose from the previous minutes.

1514. PACT Annual report – May, July, August, October and December 2019 no crimes were reported. June – Public Order offence on or near Docker Lane. September – Burglary on or near Keer Holme Lane. November – Public Order on or near The Maltings; the offender received a caution. January - Criminal damage & arson on or near Keer Holme Lane. February – Burglary on or near Docker Lane. March – 3 crimes were reported; Violence or sexual offence on or near Church Street and 2 vehicle crimes on or near Manor Farm.

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.

1515. Chair's report – I would like to begin this report by thanking all those villagers, Parish Councillors, PCC and so many more volunteers who have contributed so much effort and hard work within the community during this trying time. None of us could have envisaged such circumstances at the beginning of the year and I am genuinely proud of all those who have and continue to contribute towards our small community. Many of you already know that Parish Council meetings are now carried out via Zoom however do not hesitate to contact a member of the P.C. directly if a concern does arise.

Highlights of the year must be noted so in no particular order here goes!!

Thanks must go to Caroline Raistrick for organising Whittington in Bloom where in excess of 11,000 daffodil bulbs were planted throughout the Village, ably aided by numerous volunteers and funded jointly by the Village Hall and the Parish Council.

Special thanks must go to Mike Barr for painting the village railings, a mammoth task completed this year. Simon Raistrick and Iain Sutherland continue to be responsible for the dog waste bins and the defibrillator situated at the Village Hall one getting used more often than the other, thank goodness.

The main social event of the year must have been the Village BBQ held at the Village Hall. Clement weather and a massive turn out with all involved hoping the event can be repeated later in this year. As a matter of interest Lord Reay has kindly agreed to let us use the large field off Main Street for the next event. Many of you will now receive electronically editions of Whittington News, currently edited with some accomplishment, by Pat Close giving news and updates concerning all village matters in particular those relating to any Covid 19 issues

At the beginning of the pandemic measures were immediately put in place to make sure all those in need had access to prescription and shopping collection. The Parish Council were immediately inundated with over 25 volunteers willing to help where necessary. Our thanks must go to Rev. Michael Hampson and in particular to Georgie North who kindly coordinated all the volunteers organising a rota where no one was without support.

With significant lack of success the Parish Council have, despite best efforts, been unable to resolve a couple of perennial issues that blight the village. Despite support from our new City Councillor Stewart Scothern the flooding on the corner at Low Hall has still not been resolved. The authorities have been particularly negative with constant obfuscation however the Parish Council have been promised that the

problem will be resolved within 3 months. Singular lack of support from the appropriate agencies has also affected any significant progress regarding traffic issues here in the village.

Last year the Parish Council commissioned an independent traffic survey to establish what, if anything, could be done to alleviate residents concerns. However as no serious accidents have occurred on Main Street the police and Highways argue there is no reason to introduce traffic calming measures. Can I assure everyone that the Parish Council continue to address this issue.

Finally I would like to thank again Parish Council, Village Hall Committee and P.C.C. for all the efforts and collaboration, especially over the last 3 months, that has palpably strengthened this small community.

1516. Clerk's report - The closing balance in the Current Account at the end of March 2020 is £5,358.27 Sheet 307 24th March 2020. The reconciliation shows the true balance to be £5176.40 with unpresented cheque 586 £190.80 . The closing balance in the Bonus Saver account at the end of March 2020 is £143.90 . Precept received from Lancaster City Council of £4194.75 as requested. The accounts have been internally audited by Anne Pettifor June 2020. 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 Tuesday 1st September to Monday 5th October 2020 as required by regulations.

1517. Election of Chair, Vice-Chair, LALC representative and Trustee for Whittington Charity.

Chair : Cllr Hall was nominated by Cllr Sutherland and seconded by Cllr Close. Cllr Hall agreed to remain as Chairperson.

Vice Chair : Cllr Close was nominated by Cllr Morgan and seconded by Cllr Sutherland. 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 agreed to remain as Trustee representative, Cllrs unanimously agreed.

1518. Finances:

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

Annual Shooting Rights – Cllrs agreed the £200 p/a remain the same with the proviso that land opposite the Chestnuts be used by the parish Council and the community for an annual event.

Clerk's Salary (currently £1,210.12 nett) Cllrs agreed for this to continue. The Clerk thanked Cllrs.

1519. All members agreed there are no changes to be made to the Declarations of Acceptance of Office, Notification by Members of Parish Council of Other Interests and the Disclosable Pecuniary Interests forms.

1520. Risk Assessment of street furniture, assets and fidelity guarantee completed.

1521. Proposed dates for the following year were agreed, with proviso for ZOOM meetings where appropriate to meet Government guidelines due to COVID19 – 3rd Monday of alternate months. July 20th (to be confirmed), September 21st , November 16th, January 18th , March 15th, Annual Parish Assembly April 19th, May 17th (APCM & PCM) and July 19th.

1522. No Business introduced by Councillors.