

Whittington Parish Council
Minutes for the Annual Parish Council Meeting
Monday 16th May 2022
Following the Annual Parish Assembly
In Whittington Village Hall

Contact: The Clerk Gillian Newton, 14 Marton Drive, Bare, Morecambe, LA4 6RB.
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Agenda & Full Minutes of meetings available on the noticeboard, by request from the Clerk & on the Lancaster City Council site <https://committeeadmin.lancaster.gov.uk/ecCatDisplay.aspx?sch=doc&cat=13179&path=13175,13177>

Audit details available by request or Lancaster City Council

<https://committeeadmin.lancaster.gov.uk/ecCatDisplay.aspx?sch=doc&cat=13177>

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

1587 Apologies for absence were received from City Cllr Ross Hunter.

1588. Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting Monday 27th May 2021 were read, agreed by Cllrs and signed as a true record by Cllr Hall.

1589. No matters arose from the previous minutes.

1590. PACT Annual report : May – 2 crimes, both Public Order offences, both on or near The Maltings. June – Violence and Sexual offence on or near Manor Farm. July – Anti-Social Behaviour on or near The Maltings. August – 2 crimes: Anti-Social behaviour on or near Manor Farm and Theft on or near Saddler Nook Lane. September – Burglary on or near The Maltings. October, November, December – none January – Theft on or near Manor Farm. February – none

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.

1591. Chair's report

Once again a challenging year for many of us, however in many ways a semblance of normality has returned therefore I am delighted to be able to present this annual report not via Zoom but in the flesh! Parish Council continue to work diligently, often in conjunction with Village Hall committee and the P.C.C to try and improve services within this small community. This year we have had some small but notable successes. As I mentioned in last years report concern was expressed over the dangerous stretch of footpath adjacent to the River Lune and I am now pleased to report that with the help of an enthusiastic band of volunteers, led by Councillor Fell, a new section has been built. The project will be finally completed this coming weekend with the installation of a set of 'kissing gates' obtained F.O.C by Cllr. Fell from L.C.C . Feedback from users of this popular walk has been extremely positive and thanks must go to all those involved in this project. Many will have noticed that the Dragons Head development at the heart of the village, has now been granted approval and been sold, however the good news is that the 'Pop up event', in many ways replicating the Dragon, and held in the Village Hall has been a resounding success. Originally championed by Mike Redmond and others the last Friday of every month sees the Village Hall transformed into what is essentially the Village Pub! Thanks must be given to all those volunteers involved in the refurbishment and running of the bar. The Dixon Family must be thanked for allowing the Parish Council to erect the village Christmas Tree on their corner plot, another success by all accounts. Whittington News in tandem with Wagtail continues to be an important source of information and Parish Council thanks Pat Close for her efforts publishing this so regularly. As always the Annual village BBQ, gardening competitions and Harvest supper were all major annual events attracting large crowds comprising of

both old and new residents. Sadly this year has seen the passing away of many stalwarts of the village and in particular I have to mention Eric Pelter, former Chairman for many years of both Parish Council and Village Hall Committee. A driving force in Whittington for over 50yrs. Finally I would not only like to thank Parish Council members for all their help but also the dozens of volunteers who have taken part in village activities over the past year. Without them none of the success we have had would have been possible. Colin Hall Chairman

1592. Clerk's report - The closing balance in the Current Account at the end of March 2022 is £7,544.40 Sheet 327 28th March 2022. The reconciliation shows the true balance to be £7,416.02. One unpresented cheque 632 HMRC PAYE £83.38. The closing balance in the Bonus Saver account at the end of March 2022 is £143.97 Precept received from Lancaster City Council of £6,000.00 as requested. The accounts to be internally audited by Anne Pettifor April 2022. The accounts are due to be audited externally by PK Littlejohn July 2022.

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 13th June to Friday 22nd July 2022 as required by regulations.

1593. Election of Chair, Vice-Chair, LALC representative and Trustee for Whittington Charity.

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

Vice Chair : Cllr Sutherland was nominated by Cllr Fell and seconded by Cllr Morgan. Cllr Sutherland agreed to become 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.

Cllr Close tendered his resignation at the meeting, to be confirmed in writing. Cllrs agreed to the resignation and a Notice of Casual Vacancy will be posted in due course. Cllr Close was thanked for his 40 years service to the Parish Council.

1594. 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 £1,667.68 nett) Cllrs agreed to an increase to £1,750.00 nett per annum . The

Clerk thanked Cllrs. Standing order to be updated at the next meeting.

1595. All members signed new Declarations of Acceptance of Office and agreed there are no changes to be made to the Notification by Members of Parish Council of Other Interests and the Disclosable Pecuniary Interests forms.

1596. Risk Assessment of street furniture, assets and fidelity guarantee completed. Cllrs Close and Fell to inspect land used for grazing at Town Quarry.

1597. Proposed dates for the following year were agreed on the 3rd Monday of alternate months.

Dates of Meetings 2022 Mondays 18th July; 19th September and 21st November

Dates 2023 Mondays 23rd January; 20th March ; 17th April Parish Assembly; 22nd May APCM & PC ; 17th July; 18th September and 20th November

1598. No Business introduced by Councillors.