

# CHARNOCK RICHARD PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 4 July 2016 at 7.30 pm in the Parish Rooms, Charter Lane, Charnock Richard.

**Present:** Councillors: Mel Almond, John Taylor, Harold Heaton, Les Cheetham, Ellen Walmsley, Ann Bishop, Christina Pilling, James Hill, Allan Shaw, Alan Cornwell. Also present Borough Councillor Alan Whittaker.

## **REPORTS, COMPLAINTS AND CONCERNS OF THE PUBLIC, PARISH, BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS PRESENT**

(At this point in the Meeting members of the public present can report, ask questions, raise issues and make observations on parish matters or items appearing on the Agenda. Reports, Complaints and Concerns will also be received from Parish, Borough and County Councillors if attending – Once closed the Chairman will only suspend standing orders to allow further participation if it will aid discussions)

Members of the public present - Mr Pemberton from Coppull attended the Council Meeting to report on a public safety issue. Mr Pemberton reported that his son had been visiting Park Hall last week to renew his gym membership when he was attacked by a Police dog which was undergoing training on the disused Camelot site. It appears the dog escaped through a hole in the fence. Mr Pemberton's son is in hospital with life changing injuries. The Council agreed that Story Homes should ensure the site is secure. It was reported that there are 2 street lights between Town Lane and the Coppull boundary which are on all the time. The Chairman confirmed to some members of the public present that the Parish Council had no plans to examine for the proposed development off Charter Lane and would therefore be deferring any decision until the August Parish Council Meeting. It was reported that LCC have applied for Capital Funding at the Wroughtington Depot to replace damaged drains on Preston Road, in the vicinity of Town Lane, which have been a problem for some considerable time. The residents were told by LCC officials that the money will not come through until next year at the earliest and could realistically take 2 years to come through. In the meantime, resident's gardens and Town Lane continue to flood during periods of heavy rainfall. LCC have agreed to do some root cutting if required but they are looking for funding to replace what is only a 6" drain which is cracked and, which has roots growing through it. The roots only take a matter of months to re-grow when they are removed. During heavy rainfall the drain is over capacity and simply cannot take the volume of water. Residents present reported that the height of the road has increased since the houses were built because of an adverse camber. A member of the public present reported that retrospective planning permission had been granted on Green Belt land opposite 71 Church Lane. It was reported that the applicant is living on the site and running a business from this land, neither of which he has planning permission to do. It was stressed that the Parish Council cannot influence planning officer's decisions however the Parish Council will again report this illegal activity to the enforcement officer. Activity at this site has already been the subject of an enforcement notice which the landowner did not comply with. Chorley Council then took this matter to court and obtained a successful prosecution for breaches of planning law. Parish Councillors believe that the continued illegal activity on the site makes a mockery of planning and enforcement legislation. The Parish Council are exasperated at the length of time this problem has been going on and how planning legislation continues to be ignored. As the activity on the site does not benefit from planning permission there are no working times to comply with and, activity can continue until 2am some days and for 365 days per year. The Parish Council will insist that the site is checked to ensure that the landowner is not living on site, nor that he is running a business from the site.

Borough Councillor Whittaker – reported on the Taylor Wimpey supporting document which he had printed off the Chorley Council website. The document talks about meeting local needs, the advantages of a shop, additional parking, an Orchard and communal gardens plus ecological enhancements as part of the proposals. The document indicates that Charnock Richard is ideally placed for access to shops, schools, hospitals, employment opportunities and has good bus and rail connections. He felt that the photographs in the brochure do not show the extent of existing development in the Parish. The proposals are likely to be for a mixture of 2 and 2 ½ storey homes and the document states there is a real need for a development of up to 90 homes. Councillor Taylor reminded those present that the proposals described refer to the fact that there is "potential for" a shop, links to the school and a green area etc.

Councillor Whittaker urged Parish Councillors to look at the document online before making a decision. It was confirmed however, that this land has always been earmarked for development, it was just a matter of time until an application was received. With regard to the Story Homes Workshop – their proposals are for up to 275 houses. At the workshop different tables examined different aspects of the proposals, public footpaths, bus services etc. Councillor Whittaker was not impressed by the workshop and asked if the proposals would be Phase I and if further phases would follow. It was confirmed that they did refer to the site as a previously developed site in the Green Belt but there was still no information about the number of, or types of, houses proposed. They did refer to 2 access points off Park Hall Road and an entrance area to the site to make it inviting. Councillor Whittaker did suggest that fewer houses would still realise a good return on the purchase of the land. Information is still unknown about ownership of the rides on the site. It was confirmed that when drainage issues were discussed Story Homes agreed they would have to put in a water attenuation scheme, they did not however comment on how sewage would be dealt with. It became clear that not everyone had received an invitation to attend the workshop. Alternative possibilities for the site were mentioned but Story Homes are only interested in building houses. Many Parish Councillors still believe that this is not a sustainable development.

Parish Councillors – Councillor Ann Bishop reported that many gullies appeared to have been emptied and that during the recent carriageway surface dressing the contractors did cover them but, they will still need to be checked and emptied where required again as there is evidence that some gullies on Chorley Lane to Butterworth Brow and onto Preston Road are blocked again. It was reported that when surface dressing was completed on the A49 Preston Road, the gully sucker did re-visit to empty the gullies again. It is evident that many gullies cannot deal with flash flooding, with some soaking away slowly afterwards but, some do appear to be blocked and compacted whilst others may be damaged e.g.: outside 115 Chorley Lane. Councillor Taylor reported that in December he asked if the routine cleaning which should have been done in September would be completed. He is now of the opinion that LCC have not got back on track yet. County Councillor Holgate was trying to obtain a copy of the gully emptying schedule. Councillor Almond also reported blocked gullies earlier this year but again no action has been taken. Gullies in front of the school are blocked as are those going towards Willow Drive.

**37. Apologies** - Were received and accepted from Councillors: Janet Ogden (holiday), George Brennan (holiday) and Borough Councillor Leadbetter (School Governors Meeting).

**38. Declarations of Interest** – Members were asked to consider any disclosable pecuniary interest they may have to declare in relation to matters on this Agenda in accordance with the Localism Act 2011, Parish Council Standing Orders and the Code of Conduct currently in force – **No declarations were made at this point however Councillors will declare them should they arise in the Meeting.**

**39. To Accept the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 6 June 2016** - The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 6 June 2016 had been circulated in advance of the Meeting. Following an amendment to Minute 27(1) to include the words “an existing” before the word “garage” in the last sentence, it was **Resolved: The Minutes Meeting were accepted as correct records and were signed by the Chairman.**

**40. Update on Matters Arising from previous Meetings for note by the Council:** Report 1 (page 6) – ACCEPTED.

**41. Correspondence and Information items requiring discussion or action:**

- a) LCC response to your request for a further traffic speed survey on Chorley Lane – **Councillors present confirmed that speeding motorists have increased and confirmed that many motorists use this route as a short cut to the motorway, particularly early in the mornings. This soon became clear to the Parish Councillors who recently worked on the new planters at the Mill Lane junction. Councillors agreed that enforcement is a good idea but it only slows motorists down temporarily. Councillors suggested that if the planning proposals currently under discussion in the Parish go ahead, the increased traffic movements will have a huge impact on these roads which could possibly justify the inclusion of traffic calming measures on some of the roads in the Parish. It was confirmed that Story Homes realise that the motorway access is illegal and cannot form part of their infrastructure**

- proposals. It was suggested that Welcome Break should have a manned barrier to prevent illegal use however, this will only happen if they are pressurised by the Highways Agency.**
- b) Notification a temporary event notice has been granted at Baku Lounge, Preston Road, from 9/7/2016 to 10/7/16 between 15.00 and 21.00 – **Noted.**
  - c) Current position with regard to the blocked drains causing flooding on Chorley Lane – **It was reported that Lancashire County Council contractors have been excavating on Chorley Lane today near the terraced houses and the S-bends. The County Council will be asked to check the drains near 115 Chorley Lane following flooding which has damaged the driveway of this property.**
  - d) Info. from BC Leadbetter regarding the shift of parked cars from Mill Lane to The Foxwood – **Councillor Ann Bishop has visited The Foxwood randomly and it would appear that the residents have dealt with this problem themselves. It was reported however, that there is a possibility that 2 of the vehicles in question are now parking on Chorley Lane, near the telephone box, and possibly 1 in the lay-by on Chorley Lane.**
  - e) Terms and Conditions attached to the use of s106 money from Arley Homes for enhancement of the play area at Mossie Close – **The Clerk read aloud the Terms & Conditions for the use of the s106 money allocated for Mossie Close and the process involved and it was Resolved – That the Parish Council accept the Terms & Conditions. It was further suggested that a bid for an extra £10,000 could be made to Awards for All to support this project.**
  - f) Response to a request for brown directional signs for Charnock Richard Football Club – **The Clerk reported the application process and costs involved. It was agreed that the Football Club should pursue this matter. Details will be forwarded to Councillor Heaton.**
  - g) Notification VIP Community Grants for summer 2016 are now open for applications – **Noted.**
  - h) Info. from LALC – Notification of 72<sup>nd</sup> AGM on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2016 at 10am at County Hall, Preston. Minutes of the Chorley Area Committee Meeting 9/6/16 – **Noted.**
  - i) Details of late items of correspondence received – i) Notification of a temporary road closure order on Chorley Lane, Dob Brow and Butterworth Brow between 20 June and 29 July, or until essential carriageway resurfacing works are complete – **Noted.** ii) Email from a motorist who drove through Charnock Richard over the weekend when carriageway resurfacing work was being undertaken and is concerned about damage to her car from tar picked up when driving through – **The Clerk will advise that specialist cleaning materials can be purchased to remove the tar and, that any further contact should be with Lancashire County Council.**
42. **Reports, Complaints, Concerns from Councillors** - not addressed at the beginning of the Meeting
- 1) It was reported - when Councillors email Chorley Council with a request for watering at Welch Whittle Gardens they do not receive a reply and are not sure if the request has been actioned.
  - 2) It was reported that 2 scrambling bikes have been stolen from a garage on Chorley Lane.
  - 3) Councillor Cornwell confirmed that it was good to see Councillor Christina Pilling back at Council Meetings following her diagnosis and treatment and also, Councillor James Hill following his recent sudden illness.
  - 4) The Lengthsman will be asked to trim the grass around the new planters and cut the hedges at the rear of the new planters at Mill Lane.
  - 5) Wildflowers are not visible yet on Mill Lane however, it was reported that they are only just starting to be come through at Birkacre. It was suggested that the area on Mill Lane should have been rotivated, planted and rolled to produce the best results. This will be re-assessed at the end of this year's growing season to produce better results next year.
  - 6) It was reported that Walking Day this year was not as it has been in the past as there were cost implications of around £700 to close the road for the day. Councillors felt that parishioners are paying to support PCSO's who have limited powers but, assisting with parades and walking days is something they could do.
  - 7) It was reported that young people using the play area may be vandalising the fence and frightening horses in an adjacent field. A request for Police patrols will be submitted.
  - 8) The Ironman event on Sunday 17 July should not impact on the Parish again this year.

- 9) Councillor Ellen Walmsley confirmed that she had updated the facebook page and the website with information about the Balsam Bashing, road surfacing in the Parish, the planters at Mill Lane and the Football Club Beer Festival over the August Bank Holiday weekend.
- 10) It was suggested that the plants in the hanging baskets on Preston Road, near German Lane, be replaced with artificial plants as they never do well due to shading from the trees.
- 11) Councillor Taylor raised the issue of the benefits of producing a Newsletter now that most, if not all, the information contained in it can be accessed online or by contacting the Clerk. Councillor Taylor accepted that when it was introduced thirteen years ago, the means of getting this information out were much more limited than they are now. It was therefore suggested that Issue 13, July 2016, should be the last edition. Councillor Cornwell reported that he is always thanked when he delivers his Newsletters. It was agreed that Councillor Ann Bishop would report in the Chronicle that it is proposed to be the last edition and the Council will wait for feedback from this report before deciding on next year's issue.
- 12) It was reported that a retrospective planning application which was approved for a pitched roof instead of the flat roof for which permission was granted on a property on Church Lane, caused similar upset to that being caused by potential breaches of planning control on land opposite 71 Church Lane. The builders responsible for the mess left behind after this work did in fact put things right, however, if the original application had been for a pitched roof the neighbour would have objected.
- 13) Street light 12 or 13 on Dob Brow is on all the time, similarly there is a street light on Lichen Close which is on all the time.
- 14) Drainage problems at the top of Sibberings Brow have been ongoing for over 2 years now.
- 15) Lorries are once again parking overnight in the lay-by on Sibberings Brow.
- 16) The chevrons on the S-bends on Chorley Lane are damaged and require attention.
- 17) The Lengthsman will be asked to repaint the cycle racks at the Hinds Head with red lead paint.
- 18) Hedges at the front of Elldene, Preston Road, are overgrown and require cutting back and, the large containers which have been there some considerable time need removing.
- 19) It was confirmed that grass verge cutting has not been undertaken and, when it was last completed it was only a 1 metre cut in places. The changeable weather has provided excellent growing conditions however, Councillors still believe the first grass verge cut was undertaken too early in the year.
- 20) It is necessary to check the battery in the defibrillator in the telephone box as it may need replacing. It was also suggested that the defibrillators at the school and football club be checked.
- 21) Councillor Shaw confirmed that new sponsorship signs are ready for erecting at Welch Whittle Gardens, however, additional colour in the form of bedding plants needs to be added. The Clerk will then send an invoice to the Hinds Head for £400.00.
- 22) The Chairman confirmed that the Lengthsman had reported fly tipping on Chorley Lane.
- 23) The hedges at the rear of the planters at Welch Whittle Gardens are too high for the Lengthsman to reach. It was confirmed that the farmer usually cuts them later in the summer.
- 24) Councillor Almond agreed to assess and if possible repair damage to the wooden boat on Mossie Close Play Area.
- 25) There is a pot-hole in the carriageway on Leeson Avenue, adjacent to the bungalows.
- 26) There is a pot-hole in the carriageway on Southgates approx. 10m from the junction with Chorley Lane.
- 27) It was reported that the static caravan recently sited in the garden of 7 Southgates could be being used as ancillary accommodation.
- 28) There is still a hole in the steel work on the railway bridge on Chorley Lane.
- 29) The Clerk thanked Parish Councillors for their support with the Big Gig 5 which raised £3955.00 for Cancer Research UK.

**43. Reports from Committees and Representatives on Outside Bodies – Story Homes Workshop – details reported earlier in the Meeting.**

**44. Best Kept Village Competition and Best Kept Garden Competition – Action required – The Lengthsman will be asked to tidy the sub-stations on Chorley Lane and Preston Road.**

**45. Gateway Planting** – Mill Lane/Preston Road junction – It was reported that Councillors hope to put a wooden barrier/bench on the remaining section of verge at this location. There are now 4 planters on Mill Lane which could potentially attract 4 sponsors.

**46. Orchard Gardens & Mossie Close Projects** – Update – The Clerk reported on a site visit at Orchard Gardens with Simon Forster from Chorley BC who has suggested that part of this project could be delivered without the need for planning permission using Parish Council budgeted funds of £5000 and a possible £2000 + from the Neighbourhood Team. This would allow the site of the car park to be cleared, the access relocated and created to the car park, the creation of paths, planted areas and grassed areas together with bins and benches and, the creation of a paved area in the corner in place of a bandstand. The Parish Council agree that this could be deliverable in this financial year and would be progress with this project. The completion of the car park could possibly be the subject of a funding bid in the future. It was suggested that if the car park area could be levelled at the same time as being cleared, some of the soil from this could be used to level out the surface of the proposed garden area adjacent. Discussions on Phase III of Mossie Close play area enhancements cannot realistically be delivered for summer 2016. Simon Forster suggested that he use some already existing play equipment display boards from Chorley Council which show different ideas, types and pieces of play equipment which could form the basis of Phase III. It was suggested that the display boards be taken in to school, the scouts, the football club and exhibited in the Parish Rooms for children and adults to choose which pieces of equipment they would prefer. Once equipment has been identified, a scheme will be drawn up and quotations obtained to the value of the funding available. Residents in the locality of the play area will be directly consulted with a more general consultation being reported via the Chronicle. Once responses have been collated it is hoped Phase III can be delivered in spring 2017. The Clerk will look at the possibility of obtaining additional Awards for All funding to allow an enhanced scheme to be delivered.

**47. Parish Council Newsletter** – Distributed for delivery.

**48. Planning** – The Council will be required to make observations on the following applications:

- 1) 16/00510/OUTMAJ – The erection of up to 90 dwellings, a village shop, community parking, landscaping, provision of public open space, access and associated infrastructure. Land 120m east of 27 Charter Lane, Charnock Richard – **The Clerk reported that no plans had been received for this application either from Chorley Council or Taylor Wimpey. The Clerk has requested copies of the plans from Taylor Wimpey and spoken to the Planning Officer at Chorley Council with a view to deferring a decision on this matter until the August Meeting. Resolved – A decision will be deferred until the August Meeting.**

#### **49. Accounts**

##### Accounts for Payment:

DS Signs & Graphics Ltd	Sponsors signs for Welch Whittle Gardens		£43.20
Collins & Darwell Ltd	Printing of Newsletters		£145.00
Mrs C A Cross	Salary – (Net)		£621.68
HM Revenue & Customs	Tax & NI due by Clerk	£106.32	
	NI due by Parish Council	£7.18	£113.50

**Resolved:** That the aforementioned Accounts are approved payments.

**50. Lengthsman's Payment** - Work undertaken this month totals 101 ½ Hours @ £8.00 per hour = £812.00. **Resolved: Total Paid £812.00.**

Next Meeting: Monday 1 August 2016

Members of the Public and Press are Welcome to Attend

Meeting Closed: 10.00 pm

Chairman:

Date:

## **REPORT 1**

### **Matters Arising from the Minutes to be noted by the Parish Council:**

- a) Copy Chorley Ramblers programme of Walks – for display in Notice Boards.
- b) Notification planning permission has been granted for the retrospective application for the retention of Wendy House as a stable, canopy forming tractor storage, boundary fence and gates and access and hard standing. Land opposite 71 Church Lane, Charnock Richard.
- c) Information requested on Chorley Councils £12m invested over the last 4 years.
- d) Notification of a vacancy for a Project Officer at Villages in Partnership.
- e) Copy of LCC new Foster Carer Recruitment campaign posters.
- f) Notification that carriageway surface dressing is planned to take place on Butterworth Brow, Dob Brow and Chorley Lane on 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> June.
- g) Notification Borough Clerks Liaison Meeting, 5 July at Chorley Town Hall, has been cancelled.

#### **DECLARATION OF INTEREST:**

If the interest to be declared arises only as a result of your membership of another public body or one to which you have been appointed by the Council, then you only need to declare it if you intend to speak. If the personal interest is a prejudicial interest, you must withdraw from the meeting. You should leave the room before the business starts to be discussed. You do however, have the same right to speak as a member of the public and may remain in the room to enable you to exercise that right and then leave immediately. In either case you must not seek to improperly influence a decision of the matter.