

**MINUTES OF THE 963rd WHEELTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 2 SEPTEMBER 2014
AT WHEELTON VILLAGE HALL, WEST VIEW, WHEELTON**

PRESENT:

Councillors Dickenson, Berry, Fowler, Scambler and Stewart.

Chief Inspector O'Gara, PC Harrison, PCSO Short, IPCC Representative and Police Commissioner Mr Grunshaw. Borough Councillors Mrs M France and Mr G France, Mrs N Holt – Chorley Borough Council and three members of the public.

Clerk: Parish Clerk Joanne Carr.

The Chairman welcomed Councillors back from the summer break and everyone to the meeting. Parish Councillors introduced themselves and the Chairman explained the procedure that the meeting would take.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Wheale.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

37/09/14 Councillors Berry and Scambler declared an interest item 41/09/14 Payment to S Berry.

MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING 7 JULY 2014

38/10/14 The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

POLICE COMMISSIONER

The meeting was suspended for a presentation from Police Commissioner Clive Grunshaw. Mr Grunshaw gave an overview of his role including;

- The election process
- The role and responsibilities of the Police Commissioner
- Priorities and Service Provision
- Budgets and Staffing impact

Mr Grunshaw answered questions from Councillors and the public as follows;

- Approximately 500 posts have been lost and it was expected

that within the next 18 months this would rise to approximately 700 front line and backroom staff. Mr Grunshaw explained methods being undertaken to make savings and keep within budgets.

- A large number of long serving Police Officers (PC) will be retiring and replaced by new PC's and both full time and part time Police Constable Support Officers (PCSO).
- It was hoped to continue to offer the same service by changing the way services are offered and changing the way and times that both PC's and PCSO's work.
- Budgets have been set up to 2018 and are continuing to reduce although Mr Grunshaw felt that budgets have now been cut as much as they can be to enable services to be provided. The Police Commissioners were currently lobbying politicians with regard to cuts and feel that more crime could be expected as austerity measures come into force.

The Chairman thanked Mr Grunshaw for attending the meeting and advised that the Parish Council would continue to support the Police wherever it was possible.

POLICE REPORT

Chief Inspector O'Gara reported that there had been an increase in cross boarder crime in the area, mainly involving criminals from the Bolton Area and highlighted that the majority of crime was due to lack of security. Cars left running while owners popped back inside or left their cars to defrost, burglaries due to houses and outbuildings being left unsecure. Chief Inspector O'Gara encouraged residents to re-establish a Neighbourhood Watch and to report all issues as the police may not be able to attend immediately but may be able to add reported areas to their local patrols or tailor their shifts around certain times. If the Police are not aware of issues then they can not be expected to work towards a solution.

Mr Grunshaw, Chief Inspector O'Gara and the IPCC Representative left the meeting.

PC Harrison circulated copies of "Intouch" and highlighted that there had been 20 crimes reported in the Rural East division which was double the normal quantity. It was thought that the increase was due to travelling criminals and cross border initiatives were being put in place.

PC Harrison and PCSO Short re-iterated the importance of residents reporting all issues including anti social behaviour and PCSO Short supplied copies of cards showing contact numbers. The Chairman thanked PC Harrison and PCSO Short for their attendance.

PC Harrison and PCSO Short left the meeting.

CHORLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL – PLAY AREA SEATING

Natalie Holt reported that a number of residents had attended the consultation before the meeting and that the contractor had marked out the proposed area. The Police had advised that the idea was not likely to be an issue and that on the whole the idea had received positive feedback. Concerns had been raised that a Youth Shelter was being proposed and Mrs Holt had confirmed that under no circumstances would a covered shelter be considered, the suggestion was that a small pathway would be installed to a circular table to enable parents to observe their children on the play area whilst still giving them some independence. In reply to questions, Mrs Holt advised that the original proposal had come from Borough Councillor Hansford following walk rounds in the village, and had been to provide two seating areas and wheelchair access from the top of the field to the play equipment but that this had not been suitable and had been reduced to the current project. Councillor Dickenson had reminded the meeting that the Parish Plan had requested that enhanced recreation facilities be installed on the site.

Borough Councillor Mrs M France and Mr G France joined the meeting.

Members of the public advised that they had no issue with day time use but had concerns regarding late night use by youths. The Clerk reported that every house on the boundary of the field had been invited to the consultation – 40 houses and it was noted that only 15% had attended or sent representation.

Mrs Holt was thanked for her consultation and attendance at the meeting as were the residents. It was noted that Chorley Borough Council would undertake further consultation and it was noted that problems affecting Wheelton tended to be cyclical and that any bench provided would need to have funds budgeted for repairs. Borough Councillors Mrs and Mr France both advised that no problems had been reported due to the placement of benches in the Brinscall play area at Lodge Bank.

Mrs Holt and the Residents left the meeting.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

The following matters were reported:

- Councillor Berry advised that a mobile home had been installed on land on Buckholes Lane and the Clerk was requested to report this to the Borough Council.

- Councillor Berry reported that there was graffiti on the road on Dark Lane following the Iron Man competition and the Clerk was requested to advise the organisers.

ENHANCING WHEELTON

1) PARKING

- Councillor Dickenson advised that he had attended the recent PACT meeting where he had been provided with leaflets that could be placed on vehicles that were parking on yellow lines or blocking pavements. The police had confirmed that the parish council could legally use the leaflets to advise motorists that they could receive fines should they continue to park in that manner. It was RESOLVED that the Parish Council would place the leaflets on vehicles that were parking in a way that could endanger residents safety.

39/09/14

2) SPID TRAILER

It was agreed to defer this item to the October meeting of the Parish Council.

3) PLAY EQUIPMENT REPAIRS

The Clerk advised that the repairs to the play equipment had been booked in for the first week of the school holidays but that the work had not been undertaken. The contractor had promised that the work would be completed within the next two weeks.

PLANNING MATTERS

14/00899/AGR – Bancroft Cottage, Higher Simpson Fold, Higher Wheelton

Agricultural prior notification application for the erection of a cover for the existing hard surface yard area.

40/09/14 It was RESOLVED that the Parish Council should raise concerns about any development on this property due to concerns about the access road.

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENTS

41/09/14 All accounts were authorised for payment:
Mrs J Carr – Clerks Salary September - £313.16
Inland Revenue – Salary Deductions - £78.40
S Berry – Grounds Maintenance - £910.00

NEIGHBORHOOD AREA MEETING

42/09/14 The Parish Council noted the minutes of the Neighbourhood Area

Meeting and deferred this item to the next Parish Council meeting.

WHEELTON POST OFFICE

The Parish Council noted the letter from the Post Office regarding the closure of the Wheelton Post Office and the search for new premises. The Chairman highlighted the problems that the current Post Mistress had encountered trying to get someone to take on running the post office but that she had not been able to find anyone that was prepared to provide the village with a post office and comply with the strict Post Office requirements.

43/09/14 It was RESOLVED that the Clerk should write to the Post Office to enquire what had been done to find a replacement post office and what the proposals would be should a suitable location not be found.

VETERANS IN COMMUNITIES

44/09/14 It was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting of the Parish Council.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

- The examination and hearing on the Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Show people preferred options document.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 6 October 2014 at 8.00pm

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

Minutes approved and accepted as correct

.....
Chairman

Dated