

**MINUTES OF THE 974th WHEELTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 7th SEPTEMBER 2015
AT WHEELTON VILLAGE HALL, WEST VIEW, WHEELTON**

PRESENT: Councillors Berry, Dickenson, Fowler, Harper, Scambler and Wheale.
Borough County Councillor's C France and Mrs M France, One member of
the Public.

Clerk: Parish Clerk Joanne Carr.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Hayes.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Dickenson and Wheale declared a non pecuniary interest in item 161/09/15. Councillor Berry and Scambler declared a non pecuniary interest in item 162/09/15 as a relative of one of the payees.

MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING 6 JULY 2015

159/09/15 The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

POLICE REPORT

The Clerk tabled copies of In-Touch" and Councillors noted that there had been a burglary at a farm on Buckholes Lane.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

The Clerk advised that an email had been received from Mrs Walsh reporting weeds and overhanging vegetation on Victoria Street. This had been reported to the Borough Council, who had replied to say the weeds had been removed. Mrs Walsh had also praised the wild flower plantation at the Moss Lane junction. The Clerk advised that the Borough Council had offered to plan and assist with the addition of wild flower areas in the parishes but had advised that they had no funding for projects. Councillor C France reported that the wild flower areas had been planted to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the end of the Second World War.

ENHANCING WHEELTON

1) TRAFFIC ISSUES – SPID Trailer

It was noted that Councillor Hayes and Councillor Dickenson still had to liaise with

John McLoughlin regarding siting the SPiD trailer on Blackburn Road.

2) PLAY AREA – SEATING PROJECT/COBBLES

The Council noted that the cobbles had been successfully re-set and it was agreed that the walkway looked very good. A conduit for lighting had been laid under the middle row of cobbles at the side of the pathway. Borough Councillor France advised that the County Council were being approached to install lighting.

160/09/15

It was RESOLVED that the Clerk should write to the Borough Council to thank him for a good job.

3) PLAY EQUIPMENT

The Clerk advised that the basket on the tower had been repaired with new bolts on the fixing.

PLANNING MATTERS

161/09/15 The Parish Council noted the observations made by the planning group during the August holiday as follows:-

15/00565/FUL Calico Cottage, Lodge Bank, Brinscall
Resubmission of planning application 14/00419/FUL for conversion of existing outbuilding to bungalow with extensions to the front, side and rear, and erection of a detached stable block.

Comments: No objections but should be in keeping with the local area. Councillor Wheale declared an interest in this application.

15/00678/FUL Briers House, Briers Brow, Wheelton
Erection of three Storey front Extension

Comments: Object on the grounds that these exceed the % increase of original ground floor sizes and as such can be considered overdevelopment i.e. outside the guidelines.

15/00710/FUL Heron Wood Cottage, Lodge Bank, Brinscall
Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of detached dwelling

Comments: Object on the grounds that these exceed the % increase of original ground floor sizes and as such can be considered overdevelopment i.e. outside the guidelines.

The Clerk advised the Council that an application had been received by the Borough Council regarding a rehabilitation centre incorporating therapy building and gym, swimming pool and facilities block, 17 Log Cabins, Running Track and associated parking at Land 100M East Of Wheelton House, Brinscall Mill Road, Wheelton and had been classed as a development in Heapey Parish. Councillors noted this information and raised concerns regarding the amount of traffic this development would create and the limited access to the site. The Borough Councillors noted their concerns.

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENTS

162/09/15 All accounts were authorised for payment:
Mrs J Carr – Clerks Salary September - £319.98
Inland Revenue – Salary Deductions - £80.20
Mrs J Carr – Stationery, postage and maintenance/repairs - £94.83
Beardwood Tree Services – works to recreation ground trees - £1070.00
S.Berry – Grounds Maintenance and repairs - £1500.00
BDO – Audit Charges - £120.00
Playsafety – ROSPA Playground Equipment report - £88.80

LALC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

163/09/15 The Parish Council RESOLVED not to send a representative to the LALC Annual General Meeting on 7 November 2015.

POST OFFICE TEMPORARY CLOSURE

The Parish Council noted the letter from the Post Office regarding the temporary closure of the Post Office. The Chairman advised that the Post Office had subsequently assessed the Higher Wheelton Shop for the installation of a post office and a business case had been submitted.

WORK PLACE PENSIONS

The Clerk advised that Wheelton Parish Council had to review their statutory duties with regards to Pensions. The Parish Council had a staging date of 1 February 2016 when all matters were required to be in place. Currently the Parish Council have no employees that were paid at a level where the Parish Council had to provide a pension scheme and pay into one. The Clerk advised that the Council have to provide a pension scheme for the Clerk if the Clerk wishes to but the Council does not have to pay contributions.

It was NOTED that the Clerk did not currently wish to join a pension scheme.

OWNERSHIP OF LAND

The Chairman gave an overview of the area of land in question following a request from a member of the pupil – the strip of land between Meadow Street, the Reading Rooms and the Boundary hedge of the Recreation Ground. The Chairman reported that he had visited the owner of the reading rooms who claimed that he owned the land in question. Councillor discussed the changes to the retaining wall that had been recently made, historical knowledge of the right to access and the 2006 Act regarding right of access. If the resident owns the land, which had not been registered with the land registry, he had intimated that he would be willing to gift the land to the village. This area would then need maintaining at a cost to the village.

164/09/15 It was RESOLVED that the Clerk should write to the owner of the land and request proof of ownership following the offer of the land to the village and advise that the Parish Council would consider the offer in principle but needed to be clear of the ownership before further discussion could take place.

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL CONSULTATION ON THE DRAFT CORPORATION STRATEGY

165/09/15 The Parish Council noted the Lancashire County Council consultation regarding the draft Corporation Strategy and it was RESOLVED that the Council would make no comment.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

The following items were noted for information:

- The Village Hall Committee AGM would take place on 29th September 2015.
- The Borough Councillors advised that Borough Councillor Grants were available for Groups that want to apply for a grant.
- The work to improve the footpaths on the A674 through Higher Wheelton were programmed to start in September 2015.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 5 October 2015 at 8.00pm
The meeting closed at 9.10pm

Minutes approved and accepted as correct

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Chairman

Dated