

STALMINE-WITH-STAYNALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 22 April 2014 at 7pm at the Village Hall, Stalmine

Present: Cllrs D Anderson (Chairman), S Carrington, J Jackson, K Jenkinson and A Wallace.

In Attendance: Jan Finch, Clerk to the Council, and five members of the public.

198(2013-14) Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr D Walmsley and the reason accepted.

199(2013-14) Declaration of Interests and Dispensations

Councillors noted that Cllr Wallace has a pecuniary interest in the planning application relating to Long Acres Business Park and would therefore be prevented from reporting on planning enforcement matters (Item 5) unless she receives a dispensation from the council. Councillors **resolved** to grant Cllr Wallace such a dispensation for the duration of the meeting.

Cllr Carrington declared a pecuniary interest in planning application 14/00226/OUTMAJ as she believes that the application, if approved, could have an effect on the value of her property.

200(2013-14) Minutes of the Last Meeting

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting held on 17 March 2014 be agreed as a true record.

201(2013-14) Public Participation (Including Police Report)

Councillors **resolved** to adjourn the meeting to allow members of the public to bring matters relating to the agenda to the attention of the council.

Two members of the public provided information on planning application 14/00226/OUTMAJ and answered questions from councillors and other members of the public.

A member of the public informed councillors that he had not yet had a response to his letter to the Chief Executive of United Utilities. He said that work promised by LCC in the 2013/14 financial year relating to the replacement of a 9" section of surface water sewer had not taken place and he had therefore written to Paul Long at Wyre Council about it.

In the absence of a Police representative the Clerk provided an update on the small level of antisocial behaviour in the parish.

On the conclusion of public participation councillors **resolved** to reconvene the meeting.

202(2013-14) Planning Enforcement Matters

Cllr Wallace reported that, eight weeks after a meeting with Michael Ryan at Wyre Council she had still not heard from him on the planning enforcement matters raised with him. She is to meet Ben Wallace MP on Friday to provide him with an update and had received an update from Cllr Bowen on what action Wyre planned to take. Councillors **resolved** to keep this item on the agenda until the appropriate action was taken by Wyre Council.

203(2013-14) Public Rights of Way Local Delivery Scheme

Councillors **resolved** to accept LCC's invitation to undertake public rights of way maintenance work for a further year.

204(2013-14) Spring Newsletter

Councillors **resolved** that the next newsletter include articles on the path through the parish wood, the new plough feature and on urging residents to pick up litter around the village. Councillors agreed to provide ideas for further articles.

205(2013-14) Draft Transparency Code

Councillors considered a briefing paper on the government's proposal to introduce a new transparency code which will apply to parish councils with a turnover of £25,000 or less. Councillors **resolved** to approve the draft responses to the consultation questions.

206(2013-14) Authorisation to Access Bank Statements

Councillors learned that there had been some problems with Royal Bank of Scotland releasing mini statements to the Clerk on 1 April which were required for her to complete the Annual Return. Councillors **resolved** that two authorised signatories sign a letter to the bank giving the Clerk to ask for mini statements at any given time.

207(2013-14) Parish Action Plan

Councillors noted progress against the action plan and **resolved** that the latest version be put on the website.

208(2013-14) Preesall underground Gas Storage Facility

Councillors learned that, following the High Court Order overturning the Secretary of State's decision, the Department for Energy and Climate Change has written to interested parties setting out five matters on which the Secretary of State considers further representations are needed in order to re-determine the application. Councillors **resolved** that the Clerk write to the Secretary of State using, as a basis, a document prepared by Cllr Jackson working with the Protect Wyre Group.

209(2013-14) Localised Council Tax Support

Councillors noted a response from the Minister, Brandon Lewis on the subject of Wyre Council not passporting the money provided by government to support reductions in council tax base despite his expectations. Councillors **resolved** to take no further action on this matter.

210(2013-14) Path – Parish Wood

Councillors noted that the Big Lottery provides grant recipients with a free plaque and other free publicity materials and resolved to ask for two stainless steel plaques to be placed at either end of the new path. Councillors further **resolved** to organise an opening ceremony and to ask Ben Wallace MP to officiate.

211(2013-14) Planning Applications**14/00253/FUL**

Proposal: Erection of a replacement agricultural storage building (Phase 1 of 4)

Location: Hankinsons Farm, Moss Side Lane, Stalmine

It was unanimously agreed that the Council has no objections to the proposal.

14/00206/FUL

Proposal: Erection of a replacement agricultural livestock building (Phase 2 of 4)

Location: Hankinsons Farm, Moss Side Lane, Stalmine

It was unanimously agreed that the Council has no objections to the proposal.

14/00207/FUL**Proposal:** Erection of a replacement agricultural storage building (Phase 3 of 4)**Location:** Hankinsons Farm, Moss Side Lane, Stalmine

It was unanimously agreed that the Council has no objections to the proposal.

14/00208/FUL**Proposal:** Erection of a replacement agricultural storage building (Phase 4 of 4)**Location:** Hankinsons Farm, Moss Side Lane, Stalmine

It was unanimously agreed that the Council has no objections to the proposal.

14/00146FUL**Proposal:** Two storey front and single storey rear extension to main dwelling, roof lift to outbuilding and new access road**Location:** Brick House Farm, Brick House Lane, Stalmine

It was unanimously agreed that the Council has no objections to the proposal.

14/00228/OUT**Proposal:** Outline application for the erection of one detached dwelling**Location:** Land adjacent to Meadowcroft, Moss Side Lane, Stalmine

It was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council objects to the proposal on the grounds the area is already prone to flooding owing to infrastructure problems.

14/00226/OUTMAJ**Proposal:** Outline application for erection of up to 77 dwellings, associated parking and footpath link for Stalmine Primary School**Location:** Land south and west Birch Grove, Off Stricklands Lane, Stalmine

Cllr Carrington left the room while this application was discussed. Councillors asked that their concerns relating to access onto the already busy main road, the current flooding in the area owing to infrastructure problems and the size of the development in relation to the size of the village be passed to Wyre Council.

14/00285/FUL**Proposal:** Erection of a single storey rear extension**Location:** New Hall Farm, Moss Side Lane, Stalmine

It was unanimously agreed that the Council has no objections to the proposal.

Councillors noted an application for the erection of a single 37m high vertical axis wind turbine by Carr Royd Leisure Ltd, Sower Carr Lane, Hambleton

212(2013-14) Finance**a) Receipts this month**

General Reserve a/c interest	£0.90
High Interest a/c interest	£4.03
Wyre Council (Precept)	£16,131.00
VAT reclaim	£1,698.26

b) Payments to be approved:

Staff costs	£875.01
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Staff expenses on behalf of the Council	£32.01
HMRC	£637.00
Cllr Jackson (reimbursement)	£152.97
Lancashire Association of Local Councils	£262.92
Autocross Euroshel Ltd	£1506.00
Preesall Town Council	£92.00
Myerscough College	£195.00
E Parry (internal audit)	£100.00

Payments by Standing Order for Noting:

Easy Websites (monthly hosting fee)	£36.00
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c) Statement of Accounts – March 2014

The statement of accounts for the month ending March 2014 shows

Business Current Account	£2688.37
Business High Interest Account	£6420.28
General Reserve Account	£3343.89

d) Budget Monitoring – Quarter 4

Councillors noted the Q4 Budget Monitoring statement.

Councillors **resolved** to approve the accounts for and noted the receipts, the payment by standing order, the statement of accounts and the Q4 budget monitoring report.

213(2013-14) Reports from Outside Bodies (for information)

Cllr Jackson had attended the Wyre Flood Forum on 20th March 2014 and provided a short report. United Utilities reported on the meeting with Stalmine residents and thanked the parish council for arranging the meeting to enable them to explain to residents the current situation in regard to the proposed flood relief measures. UU gave the assurance that though the scheme would not go ahead in the current financial period 2010 to 2015, it would be re-assessed in the next financial period and that if the Porter's Row residents felt that any further mitigating measures could be undertaken, they would be happy to discuss what actions might be taken. Mike Tucker informed them that he had written to the UU Chief Executive.

Matthew Connor, Environment Agency, explained that they were encouraging land owners to clean out ditches themselves. Due to reductions in their budget and manpower on the ground, the EA were giving priority to work that would alleviate residential property flooding. The Making Space for Water Technical Group has been looking into the possibility of re-introducing local drainage boards. Lancashire County Council said that they did have the powers to ensure that land owners cleared ditches but would only take out enforcement action as a last resort due to the cost, as it could result in a court case.

Sam Beaumont (Environment Agency) gave a presentation on Flood Incident Management which included setting up Flood Groups, giving examples at Preesall and Hambleton. He confirmed that he would be contacting the Clerk, as we wished to set up a similar group in our Parish.

214(2013-14) Clerk's Report

Councillors noted the Clerk's report in respect of:

Grants Available

Two grant sources are available:

People's Postcode Trust Small Grants Programme provides grants for not for profit organisations of between £500 and £20,000. There are four funding rounds in 2014 and eligible projects are as follows: prevention of poverty, improvement of health, promotion of community development, advance participation in sport, promotion of human rights and promotion of environmental protection.

The Moon Charitable Trust provides grants in the Pilling, Stalmine, Preesall, Hambleton and surrounding areas to local charitable groups. Grants are generally between £500 and £1000 although larger sums may be awarded. Applications should be made by 1 May 2014. An application has already been made to the Trust for a grant towards the cost of the plough feature.

Updated Street Party Guidance

An interactive "Can Do" guide is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/can-do-guide-for-organisers-of-voluntary-events>

Local Audit and Accountability

The Local Audit and Accountability Act is now law. It will bring about the abolition of the Audit Commission and introduce a new framework for local audit. This means that town and parish councils will be able to secure their own audit services from 2017. Smaller authorities with a turnover not exceeding £25,000 will be exempt from the annual audit but will be asked to introduce a new transparency code which government is currently consulting on (see agenda item). The new act also introduces changes to parish polls. Introduces new transparency measures including giving the right to local people and the press to film and tweet using social media from any local authority meeting and strengthens the legal status of the Local Authority Publicity Code. More detail on what this means for town and parish councils will follow.

Repeal of Two Signature Rule

S150 (5) of the Local Government Act 1972 required town and parish councils to have all payments authorised by two signatures and this has made internet banking difficult. This provision was repealed on 13 March 2014 and opens the way for town and parish council banking to be modernised. Audit requirements require that any council wishing to take advantage of this change "must formally put in place effective systems and arrangements compliant with proper practices" before removing the two signature requirement. Once the end of year work is completed the Clerk will investigate the issues and report to the Council.

Wyre Together Awards

The Wyre Together Awards have been developed to acknowledge contributions and achievements made by local people and are open to all individuals and groups in Wyre. There are 4 categories of Awards and an individual nominee can be put forward for one category only. The categories are Best Adult Volunteer, Best Young Volunteer (Under 18), Best Community Group and Best Environmental Group. The closing date for nominations is 9 May and forms are available from Jane Williams, Wyre Together Manager e/mail – jane.williams@cvsbwf.org.uk or Telephone – 01253 887437, 07932 335268

Wyre's I-Bus

Anyone wishing to learn more about volunteering can visit Wyre Council's i-bus which will be on the Quailholme Road Car Park on Monday 14 April AM and Monday 28 April AM. It will also be on the Shovel's Car Park at Hambleton on Tuesday 15 April PM and Tuesday 22 April PM and Tuesday 29 April PM and Lancaster Road opposite the Elletson Arms, Pilling on Wednesday 30 April AM.

LCC Commissioning Plan for Wyre 2014-15

The Commissioning Plan has now been published and has forwarded to councillors by email. If anyone would like a hard copy please contact the Clerk.

Parish Champion

An application has been made to LCC's Parish Champion for a grant towards the cost of the new plough feature.

Hambleton Road Closure

Kiln Lane from the junction with Broadpool Lane and the junction of Sherbourne Road will be closed to all vehicular traffic, including pedal cycles, between the hours of 10.30am and 11.15 am on Sunday 4th May for THE HAMBLETON SHOVELS CHARITY FUN RUN/WALK. There is a diversion Routes will be via Birchwood Drive, Coniston Avenue

Moss Side Lane Verge

LCC has confirmed that it has inspected the verge and is not concerned at the recent planting.

Stalmine Post Office

The Post Office has acknowledged receipt of the parish council's consultation response as follows:

"Thank you for your emailed submission of 18 March in response to the proposed move of Stalmine Post Office. I am very aware of the importance a Post Office branch has in local communities, particularly to our elderly and disabled customers. I also acknowledge that any such change may cause inconvenience to some. However, as you are aware the reason behind this proposal is how to best sustain Post Office services in the area in the longer term. Our priority is to safeguard Post Office services to the local community and our proposal to move the branch to new premises is designed to create a more sustainable service. Consultation on our proposal for the branch has ended and, following this, all feedback received will be reviewed before making a final decision on the proposal in hand. Please be assured the comments you have forwarded will be considered as part of our decision making process. The final plans for the new service will be communicated to our customers by means of posters within the branch itself."

In a further letter dated 8 April the Post Office has confirmed that the current branch will close at 12.30 on 26 April and will re-open in St James' church Hall on 28 April.

Wyre Villager Bus Services 86 & 89

These services continue to experience regular reliability issues, due to the unpredictability of traffic levels in the Poulton area and the rural communities through which the services operate.

The subsidised Wyre Villager bus services are to be merged and revised to restore a regular, reliable and sustainable local bus service linking Lancaster and Fleetwood via Over Wyre within the existing level of resources. The subsidised bus services will be revised as follows:-

Service 86 Fleetwood – Cleveleys – Thornton – Hambleton – Knott End

From **8 June 2014** Lancashire County Council will revise the route and timetable, amending the route in the Thornton area to reinstate the route via Little Thornton and Thornton Centre.

Service 86 will operate between Fleetwood and Knott End via Cleveleys, Thornton, Little Thornton, Hambleton, Stalmine and Pressall. In order to improve the safety of the route, and accommodate the restoration of the service back into Thornton Centre, the morning and afternoon journey diversion via Stalmine Country Park will be withdrawn. This section of road is too narrow and is not suitable for the mainstream bus service. According to on-bus surveys and electronic ticket machine data, there are no regular customers from Stalmine Country Park where approximately 300 passenger trips are made per annum to and from the Park. This is an average 6 weekly passenger trips made, broken down to less than 1 passenger trip per day across both journeys. These passengers would be required to walk a maximum distance of 450m, from the Country Park to the bus stops on Carr Lane at the junction with Ned's Lane. This already occurs with Country Park residents/visitors accessing the other Service 86 journeys or the more frequent Service 2C through to Poulton and Blackpool. The service frequency will be increased to run every 90 minutes in each direction on a Monday to Saturday daytime basis between Fleetwood and Knott End. There will also be a two hourly evening and Sunday service

between Fleetwood and Knott End. The service will continue to link through Knott End onto Service 89/89H to and from Lancaster.

Service 89/89H – Lancaster – Glasson Dock – Cockerham – Pilling – Knott End

From **8 June 2014** Lancashire County Council will revise the route and timetable, amending the route in the Lancaster area to operate all Monday to Saturday daytime journeys to additionally serve Royal Lancaster Infirmary, incorporating the route of existing Service 89A. Service 89 will operate between Lancaster and Knott End via Glasson Dock, Cockerham, Pilling, Stalmine and Pressall. Those journeys additionally operating via Royal Lancaster Infirmary grounds, serving both the Main Entrance and Medical Unit 2 to the rear, will be numbered 89H. The service frequency will be increased to run every 90 minutes in each direction on a Monday to Saturday daytime basis between Lancaster and Knott End. There will also be a two hourly evening and Sunday service between Lancaster and Knott End. The service will continue to link through Knott End onto Service 86 to and from Cleveleys and Fleetwood.

Service 89A Lancaster – Royal Lancaster Infirmary – Ashton Road

From **8 June 2014** Lancashire County Council will withdraw this service as it will be incorporated within the revised Service 89H – see above for details.

215(2013-14) Date and Time of Next Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 19 May 2014 at 7.00pm followed by the ordinary meeting at 7.15pm. The Annual Parish Meeting will take place at 6.30pm.

216(2013-14) Exclusion of the Press and Public

Pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act, councillors **resolved** to exclude the press and public to discuss items relating to the employment of staff.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.20pm.