

STALMINE-WITH-STAYNALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 2 February 2016 at 7.00pm at the Village Hall, Stalmine

Present: Cllrs J Jackson (Chairman), K Jenkinson, S Pelham, and D Walmsley

In Attendance: Jan Finch, Clerk to the Council and 2 members of the public.

101(2015-16) Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr A Wallace and the reason accepted.

102(2015-16) Declaration of Interests and Dispensations

None.

103(2015-16) Minutes of the Last Meeting

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting held on 12 January 2016 be agreed as a true record.

104(2015-16) 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.

Councillors noted that the police report and summary of crime and anti social behaviour in the parish had not yet been received as it was too early in the month.

Two members of the public raised significant concerns about planning application 16/00016/OUT, highlighting the long standing flooding problems affecting the area. They also raised concerns that the proposed development was outside the settlement boundary and that bats had returned to the area.

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

105(2015-16) Appointment of Internal Auditor for Year Ending 31.3.16 and Approval of Internal Audit Terms of Reference

Councillors **resolved** to appoint Edwina Parry as the Internal Auditor for year ending 31.3.16 at a fee of £100 and further **resolved** to agree the terms of reference for the internal audit.

106(2015-16) Use of Playing Field for Gala

Councillors considered a request from the Gala Committee to use the playing field again for this year's event on 25 June and to install a funfair on the field which they would protect from damage.

Councillors **resolved** to agree to the request on the condition that all litter was removed and that any damage to the field repaired. The Council also **resolved** that the Gala Committee be required to complete and sign a form indemnifying the Council against any claims.

107(2015-16) Pensions Auto Enrolment

Councillors noted that, further to their deliberations and decisions in principle at the December 2015 meeting, advice had now been received from NALC on the possible equal pay implications.

Councillors noted that, if the Local Government Pension Scheme was used, the parish council would have no choice in whether it made an employer contribution or what level of contribution it would make as the Scheme did not allow employee only contributions and it is the Scheme Actuary who decides on the level of employer contributions required to fund the pension scheme for a particular employer.

On that basis councillors **resolved** to rescind its previous decision to use the Local Government Pension Scheme on the grounds that it provides no flexibility and could prove expensive for such a

small parish council with limited funds. Councillors **resolved**, instead, to use the Government NEST scheme and further **resolved** to consider the policy options required at the next meeting.

108(2015-16) Play Facilities for Older Children

Councillors noted that Wyre Council had confirmed that the parish council owns the narrow piece of land at the bottom of the playing field adjacent to the wood but that there are restrictive covenants which were included when the land was transferred which prevent certain activities such as building taking place or not doing anything that would cause nuisance to other neighbouring properties. Wyre Council's Estates Officer agreed to check with the Council's solicitors to ensure that developing play facilities in this location would not breach any of the restrictive covenants. In the absence of a response from Wyre councillors **resolved** to defer the item to the next meeting.

109(2015-16) Casual Vacancy Update

Councillors noted that there had been no response to the advertisement for a volunteer to fill the casual vacancy and **resolved** to advertise again in the Over Wyre Focus with a closing date of the end of March.

110(2015-16) Planning Applications

15/01018/FUL

Proposal: Erection of four stables and creation of 20x40m sand paddock

Location: Seven Acres Stables, Highgate Lane, Stalmine

It was agreed that the Council objects to the proposal on the grounds that there are already a number of stables in the area, the land in question was already up for sale when the applicant had stated that the stables were for personal use and there is no environmental impact study when there is a pond on the land and the likelihood of great crested newts being present.

16/00016/OUT

Proposal: Outline application for a residential development with access off Carr End Lane (all other matters reserved)

Location: Land Adjacent Ash Lea Farm Carr End Lane, Stalmine

It was agreed that the Council objects to the proposal on the grounds that the area has been prone to both surface and foul water flooding for some time and, although somewhat improved by recent works, the problem is still present and any further development will have a significant negative impact on the drainage infrastructure. Councillors also questioned whether the proposed development was outside the settlement area and whether the presence of bats had been taken into account.

16/00017/FUL

Proposal: Erection of one detached dwelling

Location: Taye House, Moss Side Lane, Stalmine

It was agreed that the Council objects to the proposal on the grounds that the area suffers from regular surface water flooding and there has been foul water flooding in the vicinity all caused by the inappropriate drainage infrastructure.

111(2015-16) Finance

a) Receipts this month

LCC PROW 107932	£15.00
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b) Payments to be approved:

1287/88/89 Staff costs	£769.92
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1287	Staff expenses on behalf of the Council	£10.00
1290	Preesall Town Council (Inv 15/014)	£22.19
1291	Wyre Building Supplies (Inv 72745)	£35.40

Payments by Standing Order for Noting:

Easy Websites (monthly hosting fee)	£24.00
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c) Statement of Accounts – January 2016

The statement of accounts for the month ending 31 January has not yet been prepared as the bank statements had not been received in time.

d) Budget Monitoring – Quarter 3

Councillors noted the Q3 Budget Monitoring statement and further noted the potential underspends on travel, postage/printing etc, petrol/oil, community facilities/services and parish maintenance and the reasons for them.

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

112(2015-16) Reports from Outside Bodies (for information)

Cllr Jackson had circulated a short report on consultation on the Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary proposed Special Protection Area which amalgamates the existing Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPAs and includes extensions to both sea and landward boundaries. The Wyre Estuary is unaffected. It recommends six additional bird species for inclusion including foraging Sandwich and Little Tern. The Habitats and Birds Directives do not permit socio-economic considerations to influence the choice of SPAs and Special Areas of Conservation or their boundaries as they must be based on scientific evidence. It has not been considered necessary to propose measures to offset social and economic impact.

113(2015-16) Clerk's Report (for information)

Councillors noted the Clerk's report in respect of:

Auto-enrolment earnings thresholds

The Government has announced that the earnings thresholds for pensions automatic enrolment will be frozen for 2016/17. So the earnings threshold for 'eligible jobholders' to be automatically enrolled into a qualifying pension scheme remains at £10,000 per annum and the earnings threshold for 'non-eligible jobholders' to have a right to require their employer to enrol them into a qualifying pension scheme remains at £5,824 per

Parish Councils Urged to Become Freeze Fighters

United Utilities has launched its WinterWise campaign which aims to help householders avoid the misery of a burst frozen pipe. They are encouraging everyone to protect the pipes in their homes from freezing up and bursting as temperatures drop. For Winter Wise 2016 we have produced a Winter advice pack which can be downloaded from the United Utilities website <http://www.unitedutilities.com/winterwise> and includes lots of information about keeping yourself and your home safe and warm during the cold snap. There is advice on how to find your stop-tap, how to lag your pipes and some lovely winter warming recipes too.

114(2015-16) Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Tuesday 8 March 2016 at 7pm**

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.45pm.