

TRAWDEN FOREST PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday the 7th December 2020

Meeting started 7.10pm

Present

Chairperson Barry Hodgson Clerk Adele Waddington Councillor Beverley Robinson
Councillor Andrea Beswick Councillor Ruth Crompton Councillor Emma Jane MacDonald

Apologies

Borough Councillor Margaret Foxley, Councillor Clare Storey, Councillor David Storey

Also present: Cllr David Whipp (left 7.20pm), Borough Councillor Sarah Cockburn-Price, David and Linda Whitfield

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 2nd November 2020 were approved. Proposed by Cllr Hodgson, seconded by Cllr MacDonald.

Declaration of Interest

Parish Council were reminded of the requirement of the member Code of Conduct concerning the declaration of interests.

This was the first meeting held via Zoom. There were a couple of members who had technical difficulties, but sent their responses by email. Cllr Hodgson asked that all present members ensured that they mute their cameras when not speaking.

County Councillors

Cllr Whipp advised that Lancashire County Council have been consumed with Covid response since March and a lot of officers and staff have been working from home. They have generally had issues with some of the Services, but departments have been trying to carry on as normal as possible. Cllr Whipp has been campaigning regarding flooding and pressing for more flood response budget to carry out improved drainage works.

Cllr Hodgson raised an issue on behalf of the residents of Wycoller. The gritter only appears to grit to the car park, and not into the village. Cllr Whipp advised that they may be on the secondary route programme and may only get gritted later in the day when there are expected periods of snow and ice. Cllr Whipp to ask what the provision in for Wycoller.

Cllr Hodgson raised a concern regarding correspondence about the roads/footpaths within our area. The Council are aware that a meeting took place recently regarding potential alterations to the road near to the playground, but the Parish Council have not been informed about this. Cllr Whipp feels that there are some gaps in the way that LCC report to local parish councils. The Clerk to advise Cllr Whipp when this meeting took place and see if he can find out what the discussions were around.

Conversations around the issues with Burnley Road are still ongoing. Cllr Whipp advised that there is currently £500,000 in the budget, but this doesn't go very far in Lancashire. Cllr Whipp has done a flooding hotspots report on the most problem areas, and knows that more money is needed to deal with these issues. Cllr Whipp will continue to press LCC to rectify outstanding issues. Cllr Whipp thanked the Parish Council for including him on the first Zoom meeting and congratulated us for the way it was working.

Borough Councillors Update

Cllr Cockburn-Price reported that she had received a concern from a resident at Cotton Tree where the river is undermining the banking near to the access bridge to ELE. This went before the Colne and District Committee meeting and they have agreed to spend 330,000 on temporary rectification of the issues, and a further £20,000 to write a report for further, more permanent works. Cadent will not take responsibility for this problem. Cllr Beswick asked who the survey had been carried out by, as the crossed private land, without permission to undertake the survey. Cllr Cockburn-Price to investigate.

Cllr Hodgson updated Councillors on issues of the sewage pipe that runs from Floats Mill down the beck side. United Utilities have been trying to rectify the problems with the damage to the pipe, but appear to only be doing minimum repairs. Cllr Cockburn-Price to do a site visit with Cllr Hodgson.

Cllr Cockburn-Price has successfully set up a new group called Colne Youth action Group, which is aimed at tackling the problems of the youth over the extended period of absence from school and subsequent school

holidays. There have been issues in Colne, and the surrounding areas with youths causing problems and vandalism. Cllr Cockburn-Price and Cllr Foxley have been to Park High School to see if staff are interested in rectifying the problems caused, some by pupils from this school. They admit there has been a huge change to the structure of pupils lives for so long. The area is now the biggest reporting area of anti-social behaviour issues in the County. There is a core group of around 8 young people but they have around 40 followers who are all contributing to the problems. Cllr Cockburn-Price managed to get vouchers and other free activity vouchers to keep them occupied, but it appears that this hasn't worked. Cllr Cockburn-Price and Cllr Foxley have managed to get support from Burnley Football Club in the Community who currently have a worked employed to replicate a scheme that has been put in place in Salford to tackle very similar issues. They have managed to start talks to try and secure a building and have promised funding from the Premiership. They would like to outsource the youth work for Youth Hubs, but need commitment for funding from local councils and businesses. The group are also applying for funding to get this project off the ground and have registered as a CIO group. Cllr Cockburn-Price asked for an initial amount of £5000 . Cllr Hodgson applauds the idea and hopes that this would solve a lot of the issues. The new group have already had meetings with the Police who are onboard for this to get up and running. Cllr Macdonald thinks that this is what has been needed for some time. Young people have changed and they know that the Police have limited powers now. Cllr MacDonald would like to support this project as she feels it will help all of the area, not just Colne. Cllr Crompton approves of the funding and agrees and stated that, although we are not in Colne, our young people would benefit from this and that it's a good idea. CYAG have also explored other avenues for any work that could not be carried out in the new building, with agreements from both Park High School and Fisher Moore. Councillors discussed the amount of funding and it was proposed by Cllr Robinson, seconded by Cllr Crompton. Put to vote – all in favour of giving £5000.

Residents Issues

David and Linda Whitfield joined the meeting to represent residents of Carr View and Boulsworth Drive with their concerns over the proposed alterations to the playground at Lane House Lane. They have been approached and advised that a group has been set up to make alterations to the playground, but have since discovered that there are also plans to create a wheel park and multi-use games area in the field adjacent to the playground. They feel that they have been misled with the information that they have been given and have big concerns about the impact on their lives, especially during the summer months when the areas would attract more young people, who are currently causing issues just on the playground. There are concerns from the residents in the bungalows at the bottom of Boulsworth Drive, who properties would back directly onto the proposed new areas. There are already issues with parking, cross the road, anti-social behaviour and they feel very strongly about the whole project. The Clerk has also received concerns from other residents, but cannot give answers as we have limited information on the project. The Councillors agreed that the Clerk would gather all of the queries, concerns and comments received, and put them into an official letter to the playground group and send this on for a formal response from this group. This will then be fed back to the concerned residents, and hopefully, they will be able to contact the organisers with any future issues.

Matters Arising Lengthsman

The Lengthsman has spent his time cutting back bushes over the past month. The general feeling from the Councillors is that he is still doing a good job and completing jobs in a timely manner.

NWIB

The vinyls on some of the planters are faulty and have been reissued. These will need to be stuck on when the weather is half decent in order to ensure the best possible chance of them sticking. Glenn at Innova Solutions has offered some cleaner for the containers to ensure that they are not contaminated.

Cllr Robinson advised that the wild flower areas have been prepared and seeds have been sewn.

Cllr Robinson reported that Michael Holt has created a shepherd to go to Trawden Road to 'look after' the sheep. Cllr Hodgson will arrange to fix him in place.

Councillor vacancy

Interest has been shown for this vacancy, but until the issues with the ex-Councillor are rectified, Parish Councillors feel it would be unfair to appoint someone to this post. The Clerk thanked all of the Councillors for checking in with her to make sure she was OK.

Allotments/Garages

Dogs on allotments. I have added 'dogs should not be left unattended on allotments at any time' to the terms and conditions for April 2021. Cllr Hodgson warned not to include too many bits on the terms and conditions.

Wild Camping

The sites at Rock Lane and Wycoller still have equipment on them relating to camping, so it is assumed that they are still operating. An email has been sent to the Planning department to inform them that they have now exceeded their 42 continuous operating days, and asked whether planning permission has been granted for the extension to the allowed 56 continuous days of operating. The Clerk to chase for comments from the Planning Department.

Remembrance Day Arrangements

The Clerk, in association with St Mary's Church recorded the Service in Church and broadcast on social media and the website on Sunday 8th November. A short Service was held outdoors on Remembrance Day and this was also recorded and has been uploaded to the same platforms. There was a small turn-out at the War Memorial but everyone was socially distanced and appreciated the measures put in place by the organisers. Cllr Hodgson thanked all those involved.

A resident has raised the issue of the Recreation Ground with the Clerk. She believes that it should be registered as a War Memorial as it states on the plaque that it was left to the people of Trawden to remember those who lost their lives in the first World War. The Clerk is investigating this.

Ball Grove

Cllr Cockburn Price Cllr M Foxley are continuing with their efforts to get a resolution to the anti social behaviour problems.

Several people met at Ball Grove to try and work out the best option for the grassed area outside of the café as it is very water logged. It has had increased usage this year due to the Covid rules of takeaway service only. Costs for the project have been received, but there is a query as to whether flagging the area is the best option. Councillors agreed that the Parish Council would contribute a maximum of £400 to the repairs once they have been agreed. Proposed Cllr MacDonald, seconded by Cllr Crompton. Put to vote – all in favour.

Map of Interesting Places

Craig McBeth had made no progress with this, so Cllr MacDonald suggested that a post be put out on Facebook and the website to see if there would be anyone interested in taking on the project. The Clerk to do the necessary.

Tree at Cotton Tree Lane

The Clerk has written to all concerned regarding the silver birch tree. The response was agreed with Lee Johnson, the Tree Officer at Pendle Council before sending. Thanks received from those who want to see the tree staying. I have received information that 'one of the residents have mentioned that he may apply for a felling license and then pay for a tree surgeon himself to fell this tree.' Councillors agreed to ask for Tree Preservation Order to be put on this tree. Proposed by Cllr Robinson, seconded by Cllr Beswick. Put to vote – all in favour.

Bus Shelter at Hopkinson Road

The glass was smashed in August, and has not been replaced. I've had a call from a resident who wonders why nothing has been done. I asked for a quote from Marlyn Engineering so that it could be replaced with a metal panel rather than glass. Cllr Hodgson proposed that, as other shelters in the Parish are open sided, it would not be beneficial to replace this panel. Seconded by Cllr Robinson. Put to vote – all in favour.

56/2020

Footpaths

Cllr MacDonald has now walked all of the mapped footpaths in Trawden and reported all of the issues to Lancashire County Council. They have acknowledged her reports. Thank you to Cllr MacDonald for doing this and reporting where necessary.

Colne and District Committee meeting

Nobody could attend the meeting. Item discussed was the flagging outside of the café at Ball Grove. See above.

Swim Passes

The Parish Council budgeted £750 to pay for recreational swimming for the children at Trawden School. As the pool has been closed for the majority of the year, this money has been spent. Cllr Crompton has spoken to the Head at school and wondered whether it would be possible to divert this funding to another project for school. The idea that school has would be to enhance the children's outdoor learning for Forest School. Cllr Crompton to go back to school and ask for a proposal and request for funds for the project they have in mind.

Budget

Councillors were given a copy of the agreed budget, amount spent so far, and the proposed spend by the end of the year to give an indication of the amount that the Parish Council would have by the end of March 2021. The Clerk and Cllr Hodgson met to discuss the budget for next year and an idea of these amounts was given to all Councillors before the meeting. Cllr Cockburn-Price feels that a cap on the precept increase will be coming very soon, so we must ensure that we have money to carry out required services to cover any additional assets or acquisitions in the near future. Cllr MacDonald feels that we should ensure we have a healthy balance to cover all eventualities. Cllr MacDonald asked that, for the sign off meeting, figures were included in the proposals of an additional 5% and 10%. Councillors agreed that we should look at how this would affect the precept. The Clerk to produce and distribute this document before the next meeting on 11th January 2021. Cllr's C&D Storey commented that they think that the Clerks salary should be increased by another pay point. This will be discussed at the January budget meeting.

Parish Matters

Cllr Hodgson and the Clerk have discussed the possibilities of a card to acknowledge the kind support people give to the Parish Council. The Clerk has drawn up an idea of a small card and presented it to Councillors. Cllr Robinson thinks this is a lovely idea and proposed that we get these printed. Seconded by Cllr Beswick. Pt to vote – all in favour. The Clerk to sort these out.

There have been comments that there are not enough lights on the Christmas Tree outside the Community Centre. Ryan Waine has offered £100 to buy additional sets. Councillors think that we should get these 2 extra sets and see what improvement there is, and maybe purchase more next year if we need to.

The Clerk has seen some old Trawden photo's that have appeared on a Trawden Facebook page. She has sought permission from the person who has done these and uploaded them to the website.

Email received from Pendle Borough Council regarding coverage of the Coronavirus information, and whether there is anything that the Parish Council can do to help spread the word. Cllr MacDonald feels that the coverage by Pendle Council on our social media is appropriate and regular enough to reinforce the messages.

Planning Applications

APPLICATION: 20/0696/HHO, PROPOSAL: Full: Erection of a first floor front extension, ground floor front porch extension and cladding of the existing front dormers. AT: 31 Hollin Hall Trawden Colne. Response sent : The Parish Council have no objections or concerns regarding the proposals.

APPLICATION: 20/0688/HHO, PROPOSAL: Full: Erection of a single storey rear extension. AT: 40 Church Street Trawden Colne. Response sent : The Parish Council have no objections or concerns regarding the proposals.

APPLICATION: 20/0771/FUL PROPOSAL: Full: Erection of an agricultural storage building 3.4m x 3.8m. AT: Land At Field 0620 Lane Top Winewall. Councillors have no objections or concerns regarding the proposals

Finance

The audit has come back and has now been approved. There have been some queries on the asset register that have now been ironed out and I'm clear as to what exactly needs to be included in the register.

Parish Council

£130 to Leo Brightley for cleaning bus shelters and Victorian Toilet

£71.40 to Pendle Borough Council for the playground inspection agreed in August

£200 to Lancashire Association of Local Councils for the CiLCA Course to be done by the Clerk

£17.50 to Royal British Legion for Poppy Wreath

£125 to Mountain Rescue – the original cheque sent has not been received by the charity. I have cancelled the original cheque and need to re-issue.

Cllr Hodgson read out the finances for this month. All Councillors present agreed to pay.

The Clerk proposed that, as there is still money left in our donations budget for this year, and voluntary groups are struggling, would Councillors like to donate an extra £100 to Church, £150 to Brownies, £150 to Guides, £150 to Cubs. Councillors thought that this was a great idea. Proposed by Cllr Robinson, seconded by Cllr Beswick. Put to vote – all in favour.

Meeting closed 10.10pm – next meeting Monday 6th April

58/2020