

# CHARNOCK RICHARD PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 7 March 2016 at 7.30 pm in the Parish Rooms, Charter Lane, Charnock Richard.

**Present:** A J Shaw (Chairman), J Hill, M Almond, A Cornwell, Mrs A Bishop, Miss E Walmsley, G Brennand, H Heaton, and L Cheetham. Councillor Taylor will be recorded as being present as he is attending a Meeting to discuss fracking on behalf of the Parish Council.

## **REPORTS, COMPLAINTS AND CONCERNS OF THE PUBLIC, PARISH, BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS PRESENT**

(At this point in the Meeting members of the public present can report, ask questions, raise issues and make observations on parish matters or items appearing on the Agenda. Reports, Complaints and Concerns will also be received from Parish, Borough and County Councillors if attending – Once closed the Chairman will only suspend standing orders to allow further participation if it will aid discussions)

Taylor Wimpey – Representatives, Kate and Jess, from Taylor Wimpey were present to make a short presentation, prior to the public exhibition in the Football Club tomorrow night, on the proposals for the land off Charter Lane. Kate explained that they had assessed the needs of the community to see if they could be incorporated into the proposals. Taylor Wimpey are looking to submit an outline planning application in the next couple of months for up to 90 new homes on the site. The proposals will include additional parking to help alleviate parking problems on Charter Lane and 1 unit, at the start of the development, which could become a Community Shop or Community Space which could be developed as a house if the community shop/space was not required. Kate also asked for input from those present as to whether anything was required in/for the Parish Rooms or for the School. A member of the public present asked what, following the previous consultation, gave Taylor Wimpey the idea to progress this development. Kate confirmed that there will always be residents who do not want any development. It was confirmed that Taylor Wimpey has 2 options on this land and that they have an obligation to the landowners to achieve the best outcome for them. It was explained that the purpose of tomorrow's exhibition/consultation is to see if the proposed planning application can address the needs/requirements of the village. Some residents present reported that they had not received the flyers delivered notifying them of the exhibition. Kate confirmed that Taylor Wimpey had 700 leaflets printed and delivered and that therefore the majority of the parish should have received notification. Those present raised a number of disadvantages to development of this site eg: drainage issues/problems which could lead to increased flooding, inadequate infrastructure to deal with the increased vehicular movements, highway safety issues and parking issues. Kate confirmed that Taylor Wimpey will be required to ensure that the drainage system will be adequate for the site and will not have a detrimental impact on existing properties. It is felt that potentially 180 additional cars and associated vehicular movements will have a huge impact on the roads in the village. Kate confirmed that a transport assessment has been prepared by consultants which, will be reviewed by LCC as the highways authority, when submitted with the planning application and, LCC will determine the impact the proposals will have on the current infrastructure. A full appraisal of the transport assessment will be available to view online once the plans have been submitted. Many present feel that Charter Lane is not wide enough to accommodate a development of this size with only 1 access/exit which will be adjacent to the Scout Hut. Concern was expressed about the safety for children crossing, what will be quite a wide access road to accommodate adequate site lines, to go to school. Kate explained that it may be possible to implement mitigating factors including traffic calming measures to assist with highway safety concerns, and to slow the traffic down to help address these concerns. Kate confirmed that the mix of house types has not been set yet but that they typically build 2-4 bedroom, good quality, affordable homes. Kate was asked if Taylor Wimpey get the impression following the consultation tomorrow, that the development is not wanted in the Parish, will they still go ahead and submit a planning application. Kate confirmed that they have been working on these proposals for approx. 18 months now and, that a consultation usually attracts people who want to object to the proposals, however, it was confirmed that a planning application will still be submitted. Questions were raised as to how social housing will be allocated and Kate confirmed that it is possible for the Parish Council to influence the cascade system for the allocation of social housing by requesting that a "Local Letting Policy" be included as part of the planning permission to

ensure that first priority under all circumstances is given to local people who live in the Parish or who have a connection with the locality. It was impressed upon Taylor Wimpey by those present that they want to retain this village as “a village”. It was confirmed that the planning application will be dealt with by Chorley Council in accordance with current planning regulations.

**Public Present** – asked, now that Wigan Athletic do not need the golf course will the land be open for development? The Parish Council confirmed that this is Green Belt Land and, in accordance with the Chorley Local Plan, development in the Green Belt will not be allowed. It was suggested, the fact that this land had been used for leisure purposes for such a long period of time, may make it easier to be change to development land. It was confirmed that it is possible to apply for planning permission to develop Green Belt Land, however, Chorley Councils Green Belt Policy does not allow this. It was reported that the carriageway surface on Park Hall Road, from Heskin to Charnock Richard, is breaking up and contains a lot of pot holes. There are approx. 5 street lights on Preston Road, opposite Croston Lane, which are out. The Lengthsman will be asked to litter pick Town Lane. Enquiries will be made to see if there is a mobile CCTV camera which could be used to detect when and who is throwing litter out of car windows in Town Lane in the evenings. The legalities of recording on a public highway may need to be explored. Residents present confirmed that the Lengthsman does an excellent job litter picking and it appears that the tidier the village is the more littering takes place. It was reported that Chorley Council have neither the resources nor the manpower to keep rural areas tidy, however, the Neighbourhood Officer will come out to remove fly tipping. It was confirmed that litter is not the same problem in other countries because offenders are subject to instant fines. It was suggested that it may be a good idea to get the local schools involved in highlighting litter problems and encouraging pupils to dispose of litter sensibly, possibly by putting up “take your litter home” signs at school entrances.

**138. Apologies** - Were received and accepted from Councillors Mrs Pilling (treatment), Mrs J Ogden (prior commitment), Borough Councillor Whittaker (a school governors meeting) and County Councillor Holgate (family illness).

**139. Declarations of Interest** – Members were asked to consider any disclosable pecuniary interest they may have to declare in relation to matters on this Agenda in accordance with the Localism Act 2011, Parish Council Standing Orders and the Code of Conduct currently in force – **No declarations made at this point however, Councillors will declare them should they arise in the Meeting.**

**140. To Accept the Minutes of the Budget Meeting and the Parish Council Meeting held on 1 February 2016** - The Minutes of the Budget Meeting and the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 1 February 2016 had been circulated in advance of the Meeting and it was **Resolved: The Minutes were accepted as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.**

**141. Update on Matters Arising from previous Meetings for note by the Council:** Report 1 (page 5) – ACCEPTED.

**142. Correspondence and Information items requiring discussion or action:**

- a) Response to request for Story Homes to attend a future Parish Council Meeting – **Resolved** – **The Clerk will provide the dates for the April, May & June Meetings.**
- b) Reminder about the VIP AGM on Tues. 22 March 2016 at 7pm at Bateman Hall, Eccleston – **Resolved** – **Councillor Heaton will attend this Meeting.**
- c) Reminder, Parish Liaison Meeting on 16 March 2016 – Councillor Taylor is unable to attend – **Resolved** – **Councillor Cornwell will attend this Meeting.**
- d) Invitation to CPRE free training event – 15 March, County Hall, Preston, 10am-2.45pm – **Noted.**
- e) Notification next VIP Network Meeting will take place on Thursday 10 March, 2-4pm, Mere Sands Wood Nature Reserve, Rufford – **Noted.**
- f) Info. on Chorley Councils Digital Inclusion Project – **The Parish Council will suggest that the Football Club could be a suitable venue. Councillors Heaton and Mrs Bishop agreed that they would help with access and supervision if the Football Club is a suitable venue.**
- g) Copy of an email received by Borough Councillor Leadbetter in relation to trees on a bridleway – **Borough Councillor Leadbetter confirmed that he has reported the dead trees on the Mosses footpath.**

- h) Copy of an email received by Borough Councillor Leadbetter in relation to the public rights of way on the site of the extinct Golf Course and accessing these from the football club car park – **It was confirmed, this footpath is in the worst state it has ever been in. The weed killer put on by the farmer a couple of years ago killed everything, including the grass and therefore, as soon as there is any rain it becomes very muddy. It was confirmed that the footpath is on private land and whilst it is accessible it is not walkable. Councillor Mrs Bishop confirmed that she has walked this path for years and it is less than 1m wide in places. Resolved – A copy of the email received will be forwarded to LCC with a request that they make this route walkable. The Council will inform Mrs Tootell of their course of action.**
- i) Notification from the Diocese of tree work on Orchard Gardens and correspondence from the Tree Officer at Chorley Council expressing concern about some of the trees on the site – **Noted.**
- j) Request for nominations for the Chorley Civic Society Bi-Annual Awards 2016 – **Resolved – The Parish Council will nominate the Memorial Garden adjacent to the Parish Rooms.**
- k) Commemorative Medal for Schools/Councils to celebrate the Queens 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday – **Noted.**
- l) Suggested date from the Community Centre Trust for the next Cross-Committee Meeting of Tuesday 15 March 2016 at 7.30pm – **It was agreed that this date is suitable. GD Funding will be invited to attend to make a presentation on the services they may be able to offer.**
- m) Press Release from Chorley Council confirming Council Tax frozen for the 4<sup>th</sup> year & reminder of the Play Area & Risk Assessment workshop – **Noted.**
- n) Info. from LALC – Minutes of Chorley Area Committee Meeting held on 4 February – **Noted.**
- o) Details of late items of correspondence received – i) Chorley Councils Rural Community Action Plan – **The Council will liaise with Borough Councillor Whittaker on this matter.**

**143. Reports, Complaints, Concerns from Councillors** – not addressed at the start of the Meeting:

- 1) The road grid opposite 129 Church Lane is collapsing. Reported previously ref: 1430260.
- 2) A flyer has recently been pushed through the door from the Dog & Partridge advertising food, however, they are now no longer serving food.
- 3) 340 mixed bulbs have been donated to the Parish Council for planting in the Parish. Councillor Almond will liaise with the Lengthsman who will be asked to plant them.
- 4) It was also reported that Birkacre Garden Centre has donated bulbs to the Church.
- 5) The holly hedge outside school has recently been cut but the debris has been thrown in to the field opposite. The School will be contacted about this matter.
- 6) There are 4 street lights out on the A49 Preston Road, opposite Croston Lane.
- 7) Councillor Taylor asked about access to the footpath through the extinct golf course now that the access from the Footpath Club car park has been closed. Having looked at the route he suggested a possible diversion of the route which would come out onto Charter Lane, where an old gate already exists which could be cleared and used as an access. Councillor Taylor explained that applying for a footpath diversion order can be a long, protracted and expensive process and, once the route has been created, it is there for ever. Having spoken to a Footpaths Officer from LCC it has been suggested that the Parish Council try to obtain a “permissive” or “concessionary” route with the agreement of the landowner (Wigan Athletic). If a permissive/concessionary route is agreed the landowner can withdraw permission for use at any time. It was also confirmed that if such a route could be agreed it will be possible to empty the litter bins which are well used by dog walkers.
- 8) Copies of Consultation Letters on proposals to raise the Precept to cover loan repayments over a 10 year period, were distributed for delivery to every household by the end of this week.
- 9) It was reported that speed monitoring on Chorley Lane by LCC was undertaken during school half-term when there was less traffic on the road. Further monitoring will be requested earlier in the morning eg: 7.30am-9am or from school closing time until about 5.30pm and, definitely not in the school holidays.

**144. Reports from Committees and Representatives on Outside Bodies** – Wheelton PC – presentation on Fracking – attended by Councillor Taylor – who reported that a presentation was given by a geologist and by Jill Cavanagh who is petitioning against fracking. It was reported that licences have been granted in Chorley Borough to investigate whether there is enough gas in the shale to warrant a planning application for fracking. Councillor Taylor reported that planning permission will be required to undertake test drilling. He felt that discussions were rather one-sided.

145. **Mossie Close Play Area Phase III** – The Parish Council are awaiting information on the formulation of a meaningful consultation on differing proposals for Phase III enhancements – **Noted.**
146. **Orchard Gardens Project** – The Clerk confirmed that plans and proposals are being drawn together in preparation for the submission of a planning application.
147. **Gateway Planting – Mill Lane** – The Clerk will forward the requests to Councillor Taylor who will address the issues and respond accordingly. Utility drawings have been checked however, Councillor Hill agreed to meet with Councillor Taylor on site to do final checks.
148. **Action to Satisfy Audit Requirements - Resolved: The Parish Council confirmed the following action has been taken throughout the year to satisfy Audit Requirements:** i) The Parish Council Risk Assessment – was reviewed and confirmed at the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council in May 2015. Risk review and health and safety implications associated with the work of the Lengthsman remain on-going. ii) The effectiveness of the Internal Audit was confirmed – the Internal Auditor is both competent and independent, has no relationship with the Clerk or Councillors. The Audit trail is detailed, planned and the broad scope of the internal audit covers all aspects of the Councils business including financial, administrative, practical and procedural matters. Any issues arising from both the internal and external auditors are reported to the Parish Council at the earliest opportunity and appropriate action taken. **The Council confirmed the continued appointment of Mrs Stewart as the Parish Councils Internal Auditor.**
149. **Planning** – The Council were required to make observations on the following applications:  
 1) 16/00102/FUL – Retrospective application for retention of Wendy House as a stable, canopy forming tractor storage, boundary fence and gates and access and hard standing. Land opposite 71 Church Lane, Charnock Richard – **Resolved** – **A decision on this application will be left to the professional officers who will make an informed decision on these proposals.**  
 2) 16/00166/FULHH – Erection of a single storey rear extension. 13 Chorley Lane, Charnock Richard. **Resolved** – **No Objections.**

**150. Accounts**

Accounts for Payment:

CPRE – Annual Subscriptions		£36.00	
LALC _ Annual Subscriptions		£449.52	
Mrs C A Cross – Reimburse Expenses Already Paid by the Clerk, to 6 March 2016			
– Internet Charges 50% (Shared with Wrightington)	£60.00		
– Mobile Tel. Charges 50% (Shared with Wrightington)	£126.00		
– Stationery/Copying/Postage and Mileage	£228.72	£414.72	
Mrs C A Cross	Salary – (Net)		£511.57
HM Revenue & Customs	Tax due by Clerk		£57.40

Receipts:

HM Revenue & Customs – VAT Refund	£617.85
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**Resolved: That the aforementioned Accounts are approved payments and receipts.**

151. **Lengthsman's Payment** - 125 Hours @ the hourly rate of £7.88 per hour = £985.00. **Resolved:** **Total Paid £985.00.** The Chairman reported that the Hinds Head Public House is happy to sponsor planting at Welch Whittle Gardens. It was agreed that the Lengthsman will be asked to cut down some of the taller perennials at the back of the raised beds and, to plant a variety of colourful bedding plants in the beds.

Next Meeting: Monday 4 April 2016

Members of the Public and Press are Welcome to Attend

Meeting Closed: 9.40pm

Chairman:

Date:

## **REPORT 1**

### **Matters Arising from the Minutes to be noted by the Parish Council:**

- a) Notification, via a press release, that Councillors across Lancashire will shortly be deciding whether to press ahead with plans for a Combined Authority for Lancashire.
- b) Copy Chorley Ramblers programme of walks.

#### **DECLARATION OF INTEREST:**

If the interest to be declared arises only as a result of your membership of another public body or one to which you have been appointed by the Council, then you only need to declare it if you intend to speak. If the personal interest is a prejudicial interest, you must withdraw from the meeting. You should leave the room before the business starts to be discussed. You do however, have the same right to speak as a member of the public and may remain in the room to enable you to exercise that right and then leave immediately. In either case you must not seek to improperly influence a decision of the matter.