



Altham Parish Council

Minutes

Minutes of the Altham Parish Council Meeting held on: Tuesday, 19th January 2021, at 2.00pm, No venue- Virtual Meeting via Zoom.

Present: Parish Councillor Rennie Pinder (in the Chair) & Parish Councillors; Christine Lingard, John Halstead, Gary Monk and Joe Threlfall*.

In attendance: APC Clerk.

Other: Mr Joshua Haworth.

A001: Housekeeping

The Chair welcomed everybody to the first meeting of 2021 and checked on housekeeping arrangements for the virtual meeting so all present online could hear and view the meeting remotely.

A002: Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been submitted in advance of the meeting from Parish Councillor Tom Fearon and local resident Fleur Pilkington.

A003: Declarations of Interest

The Chair declared an interest in any discussions on Hawthorn Bank which would be mentioned at some stage of the meeting as he was a resident of that location. The Chair also declared an interest in any matters relating to Altham Primary School as he was a Governor.

No other declarations of interest were submitted.

A004: Minutes from the Last Meeting

The minutes of the APC virtual meeting held on the 9th December 2020 were attached to the agenda and submitted for approval.

Resolved - (1) That the minutes of the virtual APC meeting held on the 9th December 2020 be approved as a correct record.
Proposed by Councillor Halstead and seconded by Councillor Monk

A005. Matters arising from the Last Minutes (Not listed on the agenda)

The Chair reported that the agenda under the relevant heading listed most matters arising since the last meeting.

A006: Public Participation

Local resident Josh Haworth was in virtual attendance at the meeting and the Chair stated he would provide a report in his update in relation to the problems of seagulls which was reported under public participation at the last meeting.

An issue which had caused concerns for the public would also be updated under Chairman's action was the junction of Haworth Street at Whalley Road in Altham West.

A007: Chairman's Action

The Chair provided a report on items which had been undertaken by himself and the management committee over the last few weeks.

The Leader of HBC, Councillor Miles Parkinson had been contacted in relation to business rate collections and a small amount possibly being allocated to the Parish Council. The lack of communication received following correspondence sent by Councillor Halstead on this matter was being highlighted and this issue had been raised with the local MP, Sara Britcliffe. The concerns would be investigated and feedback was due by the end of the month.

A small Christmas celebration event was held and Councillor Halstead provided background details as to why the traditional event had not gone ahead. It was felt that the parish deserved some festive cheers and a mini road show type format had been arranged at short notice with a lorry used on the night donated by Fagan and Whalley. A video wall was provided by Neil at Bright Lights for the lorry, Anita provided some singing and there was an appearance by Father Christmas in his sleigh.

The route taken was from the Walton Arms to Champs funeral parlour then along Whalley Road and back over Whinney Hill. Whilst crowds were not encouraged due to social distancing and Covid 19 restrictions, public donations raised over £85 in collection buckets. The convoy was forced to slowdown and stop in places such as the Memorial and along Whalley Road due to the popularity of the evening.

The Chair thanked Josh Haworth and his sister for their help on the evening along with other Members of the Council who assisted. The planning of the event was conducted under a tight timescale and due to the Coke-Cola truck pulling out of the original planned date it had not been possible to keep all Members and stakeholders informed of the ever-changing plans at short notice.

Resolved - (2) That a donation of £100 be made to the East Lancs Hospice using £85 of public money raised at the Christmas celebration and the Parish Council adding £15 to the total.
Proposed by Councillor Monk and seconded by Councillor Lingard.

Problems with drains along the A678 had been reported to LCC in October but no action had been taken. A follow up with the Senior Highways Officer for East Lancs was held and they are looking into why this had not been conducted.

The recent wet and icy weather had highlighted the problem of water running off nearby farmland and covering the highway at the start of Haworth Bank. Two people had fallen on the ice and discussions confirmed the problems had been getting worst over the last few years. There was also an issue further down Burnley Road towards the village in relation to flooding and this would also be looked at.

The Parish Council had in the past spread grit on footways along Whalley Road when the weather was bad in Altham West. This involved both sides of the road from the Greyhound to the Crown pub on the footpaths only. Lancashire County Council had delivered some grit last week and it will be laid by the parish lengthsman when the weather conditions required. It will also be spread along the well-used footpaths along Burnley Road near the canal bridge.

The Chair also commented about a sinkhole that had been repaired after appeared two years ago near the bungalows past Martholme Grange.

The road surface along Burnley Road from the Clayton end to the first roundabout and along onto the canal bridge had seen the middle section of the road worn away. The white road markings had also faded away and this would also be looked at by LCC.

The entrance to Accrington Stanley FC via Haworth Street was requested to be investigated with a solution proposed as the sightlines to enter Whalley Road were deemed dangerous for vehicles using that junction.

Councillor Miles Parkinson had been communicated with in relation to the HBC local plan and it was stated by the Chair that nothing would be supported by the Parish Council unless the relevant infrastructure was put in place. Having spoken to Lancashire County Council officers they agree that any additional industry or new housing developments would cause major problems on the existing transport network in place.

The problem of Seagulls at Whinney Hill tip still needed attention as the measures in place don't seem to be working since around July last year. The Chair had spoken to the site manager, regional representative along with the Chief Executive and they were happy to allocate finance towards a scheme to tackle the problem. This could not be arranged until Defra agreed to a meeting with the landfill committee. It was hoped this would take place before the spring or summer arrived and the problem got worse again.

As seen in the local media there had been several unlawful gatherings on Altham Business Park with around 60 vehicles meeting on there over the Christmas period. A planned rave/party had also been arranged in one of the underpasses along the M65 motorway. The police are continuing to monitor the situation whilst under Covid lockdown restrictions.

Counsellor Halstead asked for an update on the cleaning of roundabouts, it was reported cleaning would be going ahead and it was originally hoped this would have been conducted before the end of January. No date had yet been agreed so it was likely this would be nearer to springtime and it was subject to Lancashire County Council providing traffic management which they had agree. The parish council would have to give around three weeks in notice to the contractors for the power washing to take place.

A008: Parish Councillor Updates

No individual Member updates were provided at the meeting.

A009: Correspondence

The Chair mentioned a payment request from Bright Lights which helped with the small Christmas celebration in December and the Clerk would undertake the relevant processes.

A010: Finance

The proposed budget for the Municipal Year 2021-2022 was attached to the agenda for Members information in relation to setting the precept amount for 2021-2022.

The precept figure provided by HBC had reduced due to a reduction in the Council Tax base numbers. No changes were made to the draft budget paper and it would balance against the figure provided by HBC.

Members present at the meeting agreed that the budget would remain with a zero percent increase on the precept.

Resolved - (3) That the 2021-2022 budget be accepted with a 0% increase on the precept charge and the details provided to the financial officers at HBC.
Proposed by Councillor Halstead and seconded by Councillor Lingard.

A011: Planning Applications

The Chair handed over to Councillor Monk who reported on the following applications that had been submitted to HBC.

-11/20/04441 Update on system layout at Martholme Water Treatment Works.

The application detailed above and included on the agenda pack was for a minor amendment in relation to solar panels and how they were laid out at the site and no objections were raised to this matter.

Councillor Monk provided an update on the Moorside View application and concerns which had been raised with HBC. It had been observed that work had started to place a stone façade on the front elevation although the sides of the building were still exposed as breeze block so it would remain to be seen if these would be covered in natural stone.

The issues relating to the agricultural building development off Burnley Road were still ongoing in relation to the old and new access to the site. The planning Department at HBC had been contacted in relation to these concerns which focussed on the dangerous road and the speed of traffic at that location. The Chair reported that work had started on the new entrance with cones placed in the road and he would update Councillor Monk on how the development was progressing.

Barn Croft Bungalow which was further down Burnley Road on the right-hand side, the fence that had been erected was too high and following a site visit by HBC planning enforcement they stated that planning permission was required, or it needed to be relocated. The HBC enforcement officer had sent a letter but not received any communication from the resident. A second letter had been sent today and if no reply was received within 28 days then enforcement action would start. The Chair enquired if HBC could copy the Parish Council into written communications and Councillor Monk would ask the planning department and report back.

**= At this stage of the meeting, Councillor Threlfall gained attendance virtually.*

A012: Updates on:

A- Road Safety (Spids)

The Chair stated again that had been problems on business park with boy races in their vehicles. No speed signs had been erected in the local area as due to the Covid lockdown, traffic was lower than usual, and the police were dealing with traffic issues around the local area at this moment in time.

B- Moorfield Industrial Estate

It was reported that the estate continued to be a mess and the environmental agency had not been forthcoming with any actions, as a result the Chair would still press them for some form of action as they operate licences on the site.

C- Parish Lengthsman

A copy of the service level agreement had been produced which would start from the beginning of the year. The allotment officer and gardener had been sent their contract and this needed to be returned. When this was done, they would be handed a hard copy file which contained a schedule of works and a tick list of jobs including when they needed to be completed.

The mowing machine purchased before Christmas had been insured as an asset and it was also covered under public liability responsibilities. There was a small issue to resolve around road tax which was free, and the vehicle did not require an MOT.

A discussion took place around the delivery of the mowing machine and no invoice had been submitted for the delivery costs involved in collecting it from Shropshire. The Clerk advised that either an invoice was submitted or to reclaim the costs of petrol, a fuel receipt be provided so reimbursement could be processed.

D- Crime Figures

Anti-social behaviour had risen in the local area due to Covid restrictions set in place and figures related to vehicles on the business park and people having parties as mentioned earlier in the meeting. There had been a spate of car thefts although no significant crime had occurred, however there had been a shed break in. Across Hyndburn there had been several raids in relation to cannabis farms located inside properties.

E- Allotments

The Clerk updated the meeting on how many renewal payments had been received for 2021 allotment tenancies.

Whilst payments may have been received a signed tenancy agreement was still required and the deadline for completion of this was the end of January. The Clerk would meet the Chair at the very start of February to collect any payments or paperwork which had been sent in via the post.

A013: Clerks Report

Access had been granted to edit the website from the graphic designer and whilst an initial handover had been made, editing the site was not an easy task. The software used was WordPress and it would be a learning experience when placing information or photos online to match the style of the site which had been created.

A014: Christmas Review

The Christmas event review had been reported earlier in the meeting and a discussion took place to decide if the Council wanted to run the school Christmas choir competition in December. Enquiries would have to be made by March to gauge the interest from schools and to book the event in their diaries.

There may be other options to explore later in the year in relation to festive events and this could include a concert in a similar theme to the one due to go ahead at Accrington town Hall before lockdown restrictions meant the postponement of it.

Member noted it may be difficult to attract sponsorship due to several companies suffering financial loss in the past year. However, there was a need to know for planning purposes if the Council wanted to make initial enquiries into holding an event in December. This would be subject to any future government restrictions next winter.

Resolved - (4) That Members of the Council approved in principle to make early planning arrangements to host the Christmas Concert in December 2021, if permitted.
Proposed by Councillor Threlfall and seconded by Councillor Lingard.

A015: Any Other Late Business

No other late business was reported at the

Date(s) and Time of Next Meeting

The date of the next APC council meeting was set virtually for 2.00pm, Tuesday the 2nd March 2021.

Signed:

Date:

Chair of the meeting
at which the minutes were confirmed.