

Barnacre-with-Bonds Parish Council

MINUTES

Of the Parish Council Meeting which took place virtually, via Microsoft Teams on Wednesday 18th November 2020. 7.30pm.

Draft version for approval at the next Parish Council meeting scheduled for Wednesday 13th January 2021.

1. Present: Parish Councillors Commander, Howell (Chair), Fennel, Forshaw, Ibson, Marsh & 2 members of the public.
Apologies received from Councillor Gorst who has no access to the technology required.
2. Minutes from the meeting held on 16th September were discussed. **It was resolved that the Chair would sign the minutes when able to do so. Covid19.**
3. **Declarations of interest** – There were no declarations of interest declared.
4. **Period of public discussion / chance to review Clerk’s report / receive updates from Police, Borough & Parish Councillors re meetings, groups, visits, training courses etc** - The meeting was adjourned at 7:35pm:
Councillor Roger Brooks had been invited to the meeting by the Chair to explain his thoughts and the thoughts of the Garstang TC Neighbourhood Plan Working Group over inclusion of the field adjacent to Castle Lane & the River Wyre into the Plan. Previously, discussions had taken place and the Parish Council did not agree that the field should be included in the Garstang TC Neighbourhood Plan but would look into the appetite for its own Plan going forward. Following consultation with various businesses, schools, etc within the Parish there was very little response/interest so the PC put it on hold with a view to revisit in the future. Item 5 on the agenda is to revisit the original decision made by the PC. Councillor Brooks gave development figures in Garstang and surrounding areas quoted in the Wyre Local Plan and explained that by 2031 Garstang would be a bursting Town and therefore the Working Group have aspirations to develop our Market Town in the interim period. Population will increase along with visitors to the town. Due to this, part of the vision statement is that a public car park had been created to cope with the increase. However, there is currently no car park and in the Local plan there is no room for one so the Group want to find room. There is room on the Barnacre-with-Bonds side of the river (field in question, although in flood zone 3). When 2031 comes along the vision is that the thriving town will be ready for the increase in cars requiring parking. This is essential if Garstang is to reach its potential. There is also the opportunity for more of the Barnacre-with-Bonds Parish to be included within the Plan if the PC wished. Councillor Brooks acknowledged that it would be hard work & explained that there are grants available to assist financially.

Signed Date

It was suggested that some analysis should be done to provide the necessary proof that there was / would be the need for the additional car parking. It was pointed out the growth of the town as a “festival town” and have begun to host a number of festivals (ice cream & scarecrow, Arts festival, Victorian evening) and when these events are on; there are cars parking everywhere and anywhere. If there is any event in Garstang currently there is no surplus car parking and fields are currently used; some of which are due to be developed. It was suggested that a feasibility study may be appropriate. Although the argument was highlighted that if a feasibility study was completed now on the High Street it would soon be out of date and inaccurate as residents of the new apartments built by Key Worker Homes have yet to move in and also who / what will take up the retail units on the development has yet to be confirmed. The effects of these have to be seen first.

Practicalities of the field in question being developed were discussed; vehicle access & pedestrian access into the town from there also and the flood zone issue.

The question was asked about what alternatives there are; suggestion to open up down the old railway track and bridge over to the original car park. If Garstang was to eventually look at being traffic free it would make sense that any new additional parking area is at the other end of Garstang, with easy access to the Town.

Councillor Howell suggested it be considered that Barnacre-with-Bonds incorporate some / all the Parish into the Garstang Plan. It was confirmed by Councillor Brooks that this was absolutely possible.

Councillor Brooks reminded all that this is looking ahead to 2031.

Councillor Liz Webster spoke on behalf of the Christmas tree lights committee (of which she has been recently appointed) – they have asked all surrounding Parishes for donations towards the cost. Usually local businesses would be asked to contribute but given the current situation with the Covid restrictions / shop closures etc a fundraising page has been set up and local businesses are making donations that way. The shortfall this year at the moment is approx £1376 and any donation would be gratefully received by the Garstang Christmas Lights Committee (item 7 on the agenda). Councillor Webster mentioned the Toppings surfacing – a good job has been done and the workers courteous. However a resident has mentioned to Councillor Webster this morning that some of the “finishing” could have been done to a better standard. The resident was advised to contact the Parish Council if he wished to complain. The Chair mentioned a couple of areas which still needed to be completed and these were in hand and would be discussed at item 13 on the agenda.

Councillor Webster wanted to mention the idea to set up a “Barnacre-with-Bonds in Bloom. Funding would need to be sourced from local residents and businesses and there are certain grants from bloom groups. It needs a group of people who like gardening and would like to see the Parish looking nice and make a difference. If she was to try and set something up she would want the support of the Parish Council; to look at a constitution, look for volunteers, get sponsors and funding and identify areas within the Parish that would benefit from planters etc.....and suggested that Parish Councillors could get involved too (agenda item 11).

Signed Date

Councillor Howell reported that he had attended the Wyre Area Committee meeting – there was a presentation from the Finance Officer of Wyre and also had attended the LALC AGM. The reason for the large increase in the LALC subscription fee this year – it wasn't an increase - it is the base fee. Last year refunds were given as they had monies left over so the fee this year appears to be increased significantly.

Meeting reconvened 8:26pm.

5. Review of Neighbourhood Plan development discussed in 2017 and the request from Gasstang Town Council to consider the inclusion of land adjacent to Castle Lane within Barnacre-with-Bonds.

This was discussed in the adjournment where information was received from Councillor Brooks from Garstang TC. The chair reiterated the fact that there wasn't much appetite for this within the Parish when consulted and this is required when producing any Neighbourhood Plan. Joining with Garstang TC Plan and having representation on the working group was an option or producing Barnacre-with-Bonds' own Plan. There are 3 distinct areas within the Parish so a plan for the whole Parish may not be appropriate. There were reservations raised again about the land in question being incorporated into the plan because of the practicalities of the field being made into a car park. Another view was that joining with Garstang TC in some way it would enable the Parish Council to have input into the shape of the future Garstang area in the area; would it be better suited at the . The feasibility study (if and when completed) should ask the questions to get the answers of where would be best for additional car parking. **It was resolved that to work together to get the best possible outcome and have a voice for the whole of the Parish was the way forward. The Parish Council would start by having representation on the Garstang TC Neighbourhood Plan Working Group to get some answers and bring back to the Parish Council where further decisions in relation to involving the Parish within the Plan. The inclusion of the land at this point is still not agreed. The representatives from Barnacre-with-Bonds were confirmed as Councillor Howell and Fennell who will take this forward and report back to the Parish Council in future meetings.**

6. Community event

This was discussed. **It was resolved that given the current pandemic situation that this be carried forward to the next meeting to be reviewed again at that time.**

7. Garstang Christmas Lights

A letter had been received from the Garstang lights committee asking for a donation towards the Christmas lights this year. More important maybe this year – the lights are important. Also discussed was the Christmas tree and lights in Calder Vale village which has never had any contribution from the Parish Council. It was resolved that a donation of £300 would be appropriate to Garstang lights and if in the future Calder Vale were to ask for support in this area; it should be considered.

Signed Date

8.Wyre permit parking, pay & display proposals for Fleetwood & Cleveleys Promenades

This was discussed. It was agreed that the Parish Council supported the Fleetwod TC views to object to the parking fees proposals. **It was resolved that in the current climate, to impose charges would not be appropriate; therefore a letter of support would be appropriate.**

9.Speed limit on Northern end of Delph Lane, Oakenclough

A resident has contacted Councillor J Ibison directly in relation to high speeding traffic along Delph Lane, Oakenclough. Calderbank Lodge, now a school is on this stretch of road and the resident has concerns over safety issues. This was discussed and **it was resolved that the Parish Council would write to LCC Highways Dept to obtain clarification as to whether or not it was a statutory obligation of Highways to inform motorists that there was a school. Calderbank Lodge does fall at the side of the road which falls into Bleasdale Parish; but the Clerk will write and ask the question and once a response has been received the Parish Council can discuss again and take further view(s) if appropriate dependant on the response. A further suggestion was that a sign be placed before entering Oakenclough saying “welcome to Oakenclough, please drive carefully” but this would need costing and funding, etc.**

10.Parish Council IT and software

Currently the PC run the virtual meetings via MS Teams but using the Chair’s account. The IT grants to support Parish and Town Councils that Wyre Council are covering any additional Covid 19 expenditure of up to £500 (when looked initially this only appeared to be available by monthly subscription and not annual, but Chair will look into that again). It was also suggested that there may be a discount available via the gov.uk website – Councillor Commander will email Clerk the link.

The PC laptop is running slow and has a constant issue with the Microsoft package currently installed. The disc continuously needs reinstalling to run and repair. The laptop is 4 years old now and the Microsoft software used is disc form for home use so will not be updated and therefore causing some issues. This was all discussed and **it was resolved that a new laptop should be purchased and a standard business subscription package to Microsoft Office (which will include MS Teams).** Councillor Marsh has access to a software engineer whom she will speak to and ask for advice on which laptop on the market would be a good purchase and will send the information to all. **Once these details were received; as all agree with the purchase, this can go ahead.**

11.Barnacre-with-Bonds in Bloom

Garstang Councillor Liz Webster gave some information about this in the adjournment of the meeting; **it was resolved that the Parish Council was in agreement that it would support a Barnacre-with-Bonds in Bloom group & Councillor Webster if she was to look at pulling together a working group for the Parish. Once the group was identified; the Parish Council would discuss at that point how it would be able to assist in terms of obtaining grant monies etc.**

Signed Date

12.Consultation on transforming Lancaster travel – 2 proposals (1. The M6 junction 33 link Road, South Lancaster and 2. Lancaster City centre movement & public realm strategy.

This was discussed and **it was resolved that there were no comments and to note that the consultation had been received.**

13.Toppings development and completion of works

This was discussed in the adjournment of the meeting. Works almost completed there now; there are two outstanding issues which need to be kept an eye on: 1. to ensure the two lamp posts are put in place (LCC are currently in discussions re these with Redrow Homes) 2. the attenuation pond, which the Chair is monitoring.

14.Meeting dates 2021

It was resolved that the meetings of the Parish Council in 2021 would take place on the following dates:

13th January

17th March

19th May (Annual meeting)

21st July

15th September

17th November

15.Planning applications

a. Application 20/00944/FUL – Conversion of garage to ancillary accommodation @ Kelbrick Farm, Strickens Lane. This was discussed and **it was resolved that the original comments sent still applied with an additional comment that if the application was successful there should be a condition that the accommodation should not be used for holiday accommodation.**

b. Application 20/00948/FUL – Erection of a two storey rear extension (following demolition of existing conservatory) @ 12 Garstang Road, Bowgreave. This was discussed and **it was resolved that there were no comments.**

c. Application 20/00545/FUL – Proposed new dwelling (HEB House) with car parking and turning (part retrospective) @ Land off Calder House Lane. This was discussed and **it was resolved that the following comments be sent to Wyre Planning:** the proposed agricultural building-style of house (i.e. black wood cladding and corrugated roof) will have a significant visual, heritage and environmental impact to the site location. The site is surrounded by properties built of local stone and a modern agricultural building of this type will be completely out of character and will not be sympathetic to the local landscape. To advise Wyre Planning that this site is located adjacent to the Grade 2 listed Friends Meeting House and the Parish Council considers that this proposed building will have a significant detrimental impact on the appearance and setting of this historic building. Highlight that the content of the consultee response made by Wyre Council's Conservation Officer, Ian Heywood, fails to demonstrate any understanding of the historic importance of the Friends House to the community of Bonds and the conservation of its setting. This surprised the Parish Council.

Signed Date

In addition, as already outlined, this proposed modern style agricultural building will not fit with any of the existing buildings and will not preserve the appearance of this location. The comments of consultee Lancashire County Council Highways have been noted and the Parish Council agrees with their recommendations in relation to access, parking and road layout. These recommendations should form conditions of the formal planning decision.

16.Financial transactions

It was resolved that the Chair would sign the bank statement showing the following transactions being authorised:

Bank statement date	Paid IN / OUT	Date	Paid to	Amount £	Payment method
10.09.20	OUT	18.08.20	N Mason (salary)	384.43	SO
10.09.20	OUT	01.09.20	Easy Websites (service / maintenance)	27.60	DD
09.10.20	OUT	18.09.20	N Mason (salary)	384.43	SO
09.10.20	OUT	01.10.20	Easy Websites (service / maintenance)	27.60	DD
09.10.20	OUT	19.10.20	N Mason (salary – including backdated pay increase to 01.04.20)	441.00	SO

17.Bank statement

It was noted that the current bank balance was £5,704.08.

18.Authorise payments

Chq / BACs	To pay	For	Amount £
BACs	Autella payroll	Payroll processes July – October (inclusive)	62.32
TBC at the meeting	Mrs H Forshaw	2 memorial wreaths	40.00

It was resolved that the above payments be made. Councillor Forshaw confirmed that a BACs payment would be appropriate and would send Clerk the bank details for the payment.

Councillor Howell (Chair) proposed a vote of thanks to Councillor Forshaw for arranging both the purchase and laying of the wreaths.

19.Next meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place, virtually on Wednesday 13th January 2021.

Before closing the meeting the Chair wished all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Meeting closed at 9:09pm.

Signed Date