

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF ECCLESHILL AND WATERSIDE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2021 AT THE CARUS CENTRE, HODDLESDEN, DARWEN AT 7.30 PM.

Before the start of the meeting the Chairman read out a letter to the members of the public pointing out the role of the Parish Council. (See appendix A).

Present Cllr Matthew Jackson (Chair), Cllr Lesley Shaw, Cllr Silvia Robinson and Cllr Andrew Green, Cllr Scott Pendry.

There were also a number of members of the public in attendance.

0881 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

0882 Declarations of Interest

Declarations of interest were received from Cllr Lesley Shaw and Cllr Andrew Green in respect of Victoria Buildings.

0883 Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 July 2021

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting held on 12 July 2021, having been circulated be received, and approved and signed as a true record by the Chairman. It had been stated at a previous meeting that Mrs L Taylor had requested a donation for bark chippings. It had actually been The Phase 3 Group that had requested the donation which had been put forward by Mrs Taylor who was the secretary of the group.

Meeting adjourned at 7.35pm for local issues.

Details of local issues were shown in the clerk's report.

Meeting reconvened at 8.05pm.

0884 Accounts:

Resolved: that the following accounts be approved:

Clerks Salary: £104.00 HMRC: 3 78.00, Grass Cutting: £130.00.

0885 Planning

The clerk had received one planning application Ref: 10/21/1005 which was a variation on the main scheme
Variation/Removal of Condition/Minor Material Amendment - Variation of Condition No.2

pursuant to planning application 10/20/1036 "The erection of 19 no. dwellings, with associated **infrastructure and landscaping works" - to introduce natural stone to side and rear elevations**

previously showing render

At

Davyfield Farm (former Welly bobs Limited)

Roman Road

Eccleshill

Darwen

BB3 3PJ.

There was no objection by councillors to the variation.

0886 Road Repairs Victoria Buildings

Expenditure from April 2021 to September 2021 was £ 266.15.

0887 Waste Tipping at Waterside

The Parish Council had received a detailed reply from the Borough Council to the questions raised regarding tipping at Waterside Farm. The questions and responses are detailed below.

Is there a licence in place to allow this activity to be carried out, and are there checks being made on the volumes and type of waste being dumped? If there is a licence what volumes have been agreed regarding dumping? According to our public registers Chris Walmsley registered eleven waste exemptions at Lower Waterside Farm on 15th October 2020. Exemptions are valid for three years, and can be renewed. Mr Walmsley had registered similar range of exemptions in the preceding three-year period. The exemptions currently registered at this location include a U1, which allows waste to be used in construction with certain limitations on the waste types, quantity and purpose. Depending on waste types, the exemption allows up to 5000 tonnes of inert wastes to be used within the three-year period.

The wording of the exemption can be found on Gov.uk:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/u1-waste-exemption-use-of-waste-in-construction>

Exemptions allow low-risk activities to be undertaken without the need for an Environmental Permit. Most exemptions can be registered free of charge, including all of those registered at the subject site. The Environment Agency receives no funding for proactive compliance monitoring of exempt activities. We may however reactively investigate where abuse of the exemptions system is alleged, in line with our incident attendance policy and as other priorities allow. Until now we have received no complaints regarding the current exemptions since they were registered. Our most recent visit to this site was on 24th September 2020.

If there is no licence in place is enforcement action imminent? We are not aware of any offences at the site and no enforcement action is in progress or pending by the Environment Agency.

Have you had a response from the enforcement officer who was sent to investigate the large volumes being tipped at Lower Waterside Farm? We were approached by Blackburn with Darwen Council in September 2020, as they had received a complaint about waste activities at Lower Waterside Farm. We conducted a joint inspection with council Planning Enforcement on 24th September 2020. The deposited waste consisted mainly of soil and clay with some brick and concrete. There was no visual evidence of any significant contamination, and no odour was detected. It appeared to be inert. The deposit was a significant distance from Waterside Brook and no environmental impact from the deposit or associated activity was evident on site. Following further discussions and information from Mr Walmsley we determined that the type, quantity and purpose and quantity of the deposit were consistent with the U1 exemption at the date of inspection. We understand however that the council did issue a planning contravention notice following the inspection.

Can you confirm that the site has been designated as a biological heritage site by Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council and how does this fit in with dumping waste? We understand from our mapping system that the previous deposit location falls within the Waterside and Pickup Bank Valley Local Wildlife Site. Whilst such designations make locations more sensitive, they do not prevent exempt activities being undertaken. Has there been any Environmental assessment carried out, and if so, can the findings be shared? Please see the above answers regarding the outcome of our last inspection and assessment of activities on that date.

Can an Environmental Officer visit the site as a matter of urgency to ensure that correct practices are being adhered to? **There were no plans for a future visit.**

The clerk was asked by councillors to take this item off the agenda.

0888 Blocked Drains at Waterside.

There were continuing issues with the drains at Waterside which were constantly blocked. The previous repairs had made the situation worse. The Borough Council had set a date of October 2021 to carry out works. A concerned resident suggested that it should be brought forward as any work to be carried out was now urgent.

Action: The Chair to contact the Borough Council to see if the date could be brought forward.

0889 Allotments

The Chairman advised attendees at the meeting that there would be some Section 106 monies made available to the Parish Council due to increased house building in the area. The Chairman suggested that the monies could be used for allotments if that was the wish of the residents.

It was suggested that a public meeting should be held to discuss this proposal and to put forward any alternative proposals that the residents had.

0890 To receive items for information

The clerk had received no items for information.

Exclusion of Public and Press

0891 Parish Strategy and Parish Budget Plan

Councillors discussed this topic which needed to be progressed for the future with the aim of ensuring that funds were being spent to benefit the Parish.

0892 Financial Position to 13 September 2021

The financial position to the 13 September 2021 had been circulated to councillors with the agenda.

Councillors noted and approved the financial position.

0893 Use of Reserves (Victoria Buildings)

The clerk had produced a report on the use of reserves for Victoria Buildings as it had been suggested that they were not being used correctly. The report went back to December 2012 till present day highlighting all transactions over the period. The monies were also reconciled to the bank statements.

Following discussion, the figures in the report were agreed as a true record of the use of the reserves.

0893 Policies and Procedures

Following discussion and disagreements it was agreed by the majority of councillors to defer this item till the next meeting.

0894 Any Other Business

At this point Cllr Pendry advised councillors that he would be resigning as a councillor with immediate effect. Councillors accepted his resignation.

0895 Date & Time of the Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held on Monday 11 October 2021 at 7.30pm, at the Carus Centre, Hoddlesden, Darwen.

Parish Council Meeting 13/09/21(Letter from the Chairman)

Unfortunate, I find myself very disappointed of late and a little upset at offerings from certain people, regarding issues aimed to us, the Parish Council. I'm not going to name names-but I'm sure those responsible will identify these points with themselves.

In my opinion to become a servant of the community and sit as a volunteer as a councillor on this local Parish Council takes a huge amount of community spirit, selflessness in abundance and a good dose of bravery.

Bravery, because the moment that any person comes forward to take a seat up here on these chairs, and raise our head above the parapet, and while it's there, yes, we become a beacon of all what is right within a community but also it puts a target on our heads. Some, who are small minded, selfish, ignorant, and sometimes downright stupid can take pot shots at us from underneath the parapet, where they think they've got cover, where they think they're camouflaged, where they think they can say what they like and receive no consequence.

Now the role of a Chair is varied and mostly I'm here to orchestrate and facilitate the running of the meeting so it glides smoothly through the evening and we all leave satisfied that again we've met our civic duty and have contributed something to make this place a little better.

However, I also have another role, and this is to protect and shield each of these councillors and the treasurer from the nasty, provocative filth that sometimes gets thrown at us. Why, I don't know, maybe jealousy, ignorance who knows, but one thing I do know that if I read or hear anything derogatory, untrue or simply evil about any of the councillors here including the treasurer then the origin of that comment **will see consequences**. I can assure them of that, we have legal insurance that I'm just dying to use and see exactly what happens to those cowards hiding behind curtains typing away on their keyboards or strutting around letting their mouth run off thinking they are untouchable **believe me they are not so in the event of anyone thinking they're bulletproof.....as true as I'm sitting here, they are not, to those, I say be warned and be careful.**

One last note, when we're not sitting (August and December) it is because we are on holiday. That means we are on holiday and are not sitting, does anyone not understand that sentence.

So, without any further ado, lets carry on making Eccleshill and Waterside a better place.