

ULNES WALTON PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD 11 JULY 2005

In Attendance:

Cllr D Ormerod (Chairman), Cllr Mrs D Todd, Cllr Mrs E Doran and Cllr D Williams

Also Present:

Mrs L Rowett (Clerk)
2 residents and 2 Borough Councillors

108/05 Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr J Ascroft who was away on holiday and Cllr P Mortimer due to family illness.

109/05 Declaration of Interest

Members were asked to consider any personal/prejudicial interests they may have to disclose in respect of any matters under consideration at the meeting. There were no disclosures at this point.

110/05 Minutes of the Last Meeting

Minutes of a meeting held on 13 June 2005 were accepted and signed as a true record.

111/05 Matters Arising on the Minutes (not elsewhere on the agenda)

a) QP Investment Fund (Item 96/05)

The portable loop system had been delivered.

b) Litter Bins (Item 98/05)

Two bins had been requested one to be located in the lay-by at the north end of Ulnes Walton Lane the other at the entrance to Wymott Park, the Borough would provide poles if necessary.

c) Bus Shelter Southport Road (Item 100/05a)

There had been no feedback from the Neighbourhood Warden on this or other matters referred. It was agreed she be contacted by letter so that residents could be kept informed.

d) Ulnes Walton Lane (Item 100/05b) Footpath Ulnes Walton Lane (Item 101/05)

The Clerk had discussed the issues raised with Martin Trengove of the Lancashire Road Safety Partnership who had agreed that the best way to present the concerns was as a package. It was important that the submission contained supporting evidence of need. The footpath should be a separate submission with accompanying evidence of demand.

It was agreed that a small working group of residents be established to consider the matter in more detail and an appropriate item appear in the newsletter.

112/05 Extension to HMP Garth/Other Prison Issues

The Clerk drew attention to the fact that she had recently received reports from two different residents expressing concern about drugs being thrown over the wall into HMP Wymott. The Clerk had informed the Police of the concerns and been advised that they knew of the problem and that residents had been following the correct procedure in reporting the matter.

The meeting was adjourned at this point to allow a resident to speak.

Having resumed normal proceedings it was resolved that residents concerns should be brought to the attention of the Prison Authorities and PC Plumber be requested to write an article for the newsletter advising residents what to do if witnessing a suspicious occurrence.

Briefing notes had been circulated covering the recent meeting between representatives of the Parish Council and the Prison Authorities. The content was noted and subsequent actions.

Members were asked to consider the options for access to the building site at HMP Garth. The use of Ridley Lane and breach of the wall would mean having to remove a number of mature trees that currently screen the wall and would take a considerable time to re-establish. The cost of breaching the wall was also going to be expensive and it was felt that the funds would be better diverted to the Multi Use Track. The alternative was to have the lorries using Ulmes Walton Lane at strictly controlled times so as to limit disturbance. Following discussion the general feeling was that if at all possible the preferred route should be via Ridley Lane. It was felt that if trees have to be removed they can be replaced and in time will grow up, however if there is some other logistical reason why this route cannot be used the Council would reconsider.

113/05 The Old School

The Secretary to the Trustees of the Old School has been in discussion with the Diocesan Board for Education and Community Futures regarding the legal position of those concerned with the management and future development of the building. The matter is very complex and it is clear that the situation is going to take some considerable time to resolve, it is important that all parties involved are aware of their role and legal standing in the proceedings and to this end it has been suggested a meeting take place between representatives of the Trustees; the Parish Council and Community Futures. It was agreed the best date for the meeting be Thursday 15 September 2005.

114/05 Secondment of Clerk to Action for Ulmes Walton

Briefing notes had been circulated and it was agreed to accept the contents as presented.

115/05 Local Road Safety Schemes – Southport Road

A letter received from Lancashire County Council had been circulated. It was agreed that clarification of the content be requested and point out that the advice seemed to contradict that contained in a document issued by the Department of Transport.

116/05 Grass Cutting

The Clerk reported that since the last meeting there had been no progress. It was agreed there was a need for the Borough to commit to a proper cutting schedule and this should be pursued.

Members also noted the content of the email received from a resident who was concerned about the knock on effects of the grass on the Park not being cut. It was agreed the Neighbourhood Warden should be requested to monitor the situation.

117/05 Request for Recycling Facilities on the Car Park at the Wymott and Garth Club

A request has been made by the Chairman of the Wymott and Garth Club for a recycling facility to be located on the car park, it was agreed that as this was on private land the approach should be made by the Club with the Parish Council offering support.

118/05 Planning

- a) Minutes of a Planning Meeting held on 21 June 2005 were accepted and signed as a true record.
- b) New Application - Removal of tree with TPO at Four Oaks Ulmes Walton Lane
Following discussion it was apparent that the tree has been there much longer than the bungalow, it is questioned why the builders were allowed to construct the property so close to the trees when it is understood there are quite clear building regulations governing proximity to trees.

Members were sympathetic to the need for the application and have no objection to the removal of the tree provided another oak tree is planted in an appropriate position to replace the one being lost.

- c) Consideration of Planning Applications. Following concerns voiced by Members about how planning applications should be considered the Clerk had taken advice from Planning Aid. It was felt that the way applications were being considered was satisfactory but in future if any applications received required expert knowledge the Clerk could contact Planning Aid prior to the plans being discussed to seek advice on how best to respond.
- d) Cllrs Ormerod and Doran briefed on discussion of planning enforcement item at the recent meeting of the LAPTC Chorley Area Committee. It was apparent that the problems being experienced in Ulnes Walton were Borough wide and an item had been requested by the LAPTC Area Committee for inclusion on the agenda for the next Parish/Borough Liaison Committee.

119/05 Sustainable Energy

Cllr Mrs Todd briefed on her attendance at two recent workshops both of which she had found interesting and informative.

Chorley Borough had requested volunteers to form a working group to look further at sustainability and Cllr Todd offered her time.

120/05 Parish Council Website

Members were asked to consider how best to deal with photographic material posted on the website in particular photographs of children. It was agreed that it would be preferable not to use images of children and that care should be taken to use appropriate shots of adults.

Regrettably there has been some recent abuse of the forums Members were asked to consider whether or not this aspect should be suspended. It was agreed to suspend them for the time being and relaunch in the autumn.

121/05 Parish/Borough Charter

Several Borough Councils in the County have taken steps to draw up a Charter between themselves and Parish Councils, indeed it appeared to be a statutory requirement that they do so. Members were asked to consider whether Chorley Borough should be approached to ascertain their intentions in this direction and it was agreed the matter should be raised at the pending Borough/Parish Liaison Meeting.

122/05 Parish Plan Implementation

Members noted progress being made in implementing the actions from the Parish Plan. Difficulty was still being experienced with the twinning exercise.

123/05 QP Investment Fund

All the major items of equipment had now been purchased Storage and accessibility to the portable loop system was presenting a problem and this needed further consideration.

124/05 Finance

- a) Request for Financial Assistance (Section 137 Funding)

A request has been received from the Secretary of the Southport Road Neighbourhood Watch Scheme for financial assistance of £20 to cover the cost of hospitality at a recent meeting. Members gave the application consideration and resolved that it was not appropriate to fund this activity as it would be setting precedence for other groups in the parish but should the

Group wish to apply for funding to cover more tangible aspects this would be given consideration.

b) Approval of items of expenditure

The following items were approved – QPI Fund - £673.58 RNID portable loop system, £15.22 Hope Education purchase of stapler.

Precept – L Rowett salary £242.19, Allianz Cornhill £26.25 additional premium to be reimbursed by Action for Ulnes Walton, D Ormerod £50 Chairman's expenses 2004/05; L Rowett £46.79 top up petty cash; L Rowett £549.29 additional hour Action fro Ulnes Walton to be reimbursed.

125/05 Matters of Concern

a) Litter Collection Ulnes Walton Lane

Concern was expressed regarding the amount of litter left blowing around on bin collection days. It was suggested this should be monitored.

b) Damaged Railings

It was noted that the railings at the junction of Holker Lane with Ulnes Walton Lane had been damaged.

c) Post Box – Southport Road

It was noted that access to the post box was being obstructed by a vehicle.

d) Drug Users

Members advised that a number of drug users had been spotted around the area late at night.

126/05 Date and Time of Next Meeting

The date for the next Full Council meeting was agreed as Monday the 12 September 2005 at 7.30 pm

129/05 Consultation by British Telecom

The payphone on Moss Lane has been identified as having very low use, British Telecom are proposing to convert it to a cashless payment option, Members were invited to comment on the merits or otherwise of this proposal and it was agreed that it should be retained as a cash box due to the need for released prisoner to call for a taxi.

128/05 Borough/Parish Liaison Meeting

It was agreed that Cllrs Williams; Ormerod and Todd should attend the meeting on the 13 June 2005.

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Signed Date.....