

ULNES WALTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD 12 SEPTEMBER 2005

In Attendance:

Cllr D Ormerod (Chairman), Cllr J Ascroft; Cllr P Mortimer; Cllr Mrs E Doran and Cllr D Williams

Also Present:

Mrs L Rowett (Clerk)
2 residents and 1 Borough Councillors

129/05 Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Mrs D Todd who had a medical appointment.

130/05 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.

131/05 Minutes of the Last Meeting

Minutes of a meeting held on 11 July 2005 were accepted and signed as a true record.

132/05 Matters Arising on the Minutes (not elsewhere on the agenda)

a) Bus Shelter Southport Road (Item 111/05c)

The Neighbourhood Warden had visited but seen nothing of concern. It was agreed the resident be advised of the Wardens contact number so she could ring as necessary.

b) Ulnes Walton Lane (Item 111/05d)

One volunteer had already come forward to join the working group.

c) Extension to HMP Garth/Other Prison Issues

PC Plummer had been contacted regarding the problems, she was fully aware of the situation and had prepared an item for inclusion in the newsletter.

A letter had also been received from the Governor of HMP Wymott advising the action being taken to prevent drugs entering the prison.

It was noted that Alan Scott had left HMP Wymott and the new Governor is George Popple.

d) Parish/Borough Charter

The matter had been raised at the Borough/Parish Liaison Meeting with little success, it was agreed this should be raised with the Chief Executive at the planned meeting.

e) Damaged Railings (Item 125/05b)

The railings had been repaired.

f) Post Box – Southport Road

The obstruction had been reported to PC Plummer who was monitoring the situation. It was noted that the box was often full and a larger one was needed. It was also agreed that the matter should be referred to the Borough Council.

g) Consultation by British Telecom (Item 129/05)

A letter had been received advising that a decision would only be made when a consultation exercise currently being undertaken by Ofcom was complete. The proposal was that parish councils no longer be contacted regarding call boxes, but the Clerk had advised NALC of the recent experience and stressed the need for parish councils to be consulted on any changes to call box services.

133/05 Extension to HMP Garth

Briefing notes covering the recent meeting between the Parish Council Clerk, representatives of the Prison Authorities and Lancashire County Council had been previously circulated.

Main points arising related to access for the new build which would be along Ridley Lane. A further plan had been produced outlining the proposed planting of screening, which Members were asked to agree and did so in the format presented. It was understood this would now be given priority.

However reservations were expressed that some of the intended planting could be damaged due to children playing football on the area to be screened, this was due to a lack of proper maintenance on Wymott Park. Discussion took place on the problems associated with the Park and it was agreed that the following course of action should be taken –

1. Contact the Wymott Community Association to establish if they perceive a problem with maintenance, if the response is yes –
2. Contact the Borough Council to arrange a site meeting with the appropriate Officer and involve the Community Association.
3. Try to establish who is responsible for holding the finances set aside for the maintenance.

134/05 Chorley Borough Council – Area Forum

Cllr Williams briefed on his attendance at a preliminary meeting and reported on the proposals. Members then debated whether or not they wished to be part of the scheme. It was agreed that before forming a final opinion the Clerk be asked to determine what the Borough perceive to be the benefits of the Forums and who would be responsible for ensuring that any action necessary from the discussions were carried through.

It was apparent there could be some advantage to cohesion with neighbouring parishes, it was agreed to approach Croston and Bretherton with a view to holding a joint meeting to discuss the idea further.

135/05 Local Road Safety Schemes – Southport Road and the LCC Business Plan

A letter had been circulated from Lancashire County Council regarding the speed limit along Southport Road, it was agreed that the Network Management Group should be contacted to ascertain why the criteria for speed limits in villages was not being applied.

The Clerk also briefed on recent discussions with Traffic and Road Safety Section regarding items put forward for inclusion in the Business Plan. The request to improve the signage at the junction of Ulnes Walton Lane with Moss Lane had been approved, however the request for horse awareness signs had been temporarily put on hold as the criteria for such signage was not met by the current conditions along Ulnes Walton Lane. The Officer at the County Council dealing with the matter had offered to look at the case again if further evidence of need could be presented and the Clerk had enlisted the assistance of the Ulnes Walton Bridleway Association to provide the data requested. It was generally felt that this situation was ludicrous.

136/05 Planning

- a) Minutes of the Special Planning Meeting held on 4 August 2005 were agreed and signed as a correct record.
- b) New Application for an extension to the side and ear of 182 Southport Road raised no objections

c) Single storey side extension to the rear of 170 Southport Road had been approved.

Erection of a conservatory to the side of Calverts Barn had been refused.

d) Briefing Meeting arranged by the Borough Council for the 21 September 2005

It was agreed that Cllr Mrs Todd; Cllr Mrs Doran; Cllr Ormerod and the Clerk should attend.

137/05 Parish Plan Implementation

Twinning – the Clerk briefed on recent discussions with a representative of the Anglo Norse Society concerning the community of Balestrand and it was agreed that this line of enquiry should be pursued.

138/05 Crime Awareness Day 11 October 2005 and Bogus Official Awareness Presentations

Two letters have been received from Lancashire Constabulary had been previously circulated. A general invitation to an event on the 11 October 2005 was noted, in relation to the second presentation it was agreed that the current position be established and if the organisers were willing to use a location in the village a donation of £25 towards the cost of the room hire would be provided.

139/05 Finance

Audit of Accounts

The external audit of the accounts had been completed and there were no points arising. Members were astounded at the fee charged for the work involved and it was agreed that the matter be put forward as an item for the next agenda for the LAPTC Area Committee and to be raised with neighbouring parishes.

Approval of Expenditure

The following items were given approval – general precept L Rowett £484.38 salary for July and August; BDO Soy Hayward £141 audit fee.

QPI Fund - £99.99 to L Rowett re purchase of overhead projector from Staples, £71.64 to Cornhill Insurance to extend the insurance cover on new items purchased. The Clerk was asked to check the wording of the excess.

140/05 LAPTC Review of Subscriptions and Annual General Meeting

A working group of the LAPTC has undertaken a review of the method used to calculate the annual subscriptions, the Clerk briefed on the proposals. Having considered the papers Members were unable to draw any conclusions as the message being conveyed was unclear and in cash terms there was no indication of impact there will be on the Council's subscription. The Clerk was asked to enquire if it would be possible for the LAPTC to give some indication as to how the subscription would change in real terms, and a model of the effect it will have on a larger council and a medium size. The Members felt they would then be in a better position to express an opinion and this being the case it would be intended that Cllr Ormerod be at the AGM to vote accordingly.

However, knowing that one of the larger neighbouring parish councils had recently withdrawn from the LAPTC, the Members questioned what steps are being taken to retain councils in membership, as it is clear that should a large council withdraw the shortfall in income has to be borne by remaining councils and this could have a significant effect on the level of subscriptions.

Further being in a Borough where a significant number of parishes are not in membership was questioned what actions are being taken to entice councils back into the fold.

141/05 Parish Council Website

The Clerk has been contacted recently by a number of service providers asking that their websites/products be promoted through our website or newsletter. Members were asked to consider how to deal with such requests and it was agreed that some form of policy statement should be posted on the website.

It was further agreed that a newsletter item should be prepared asking if there would be any interest in a listing of local businesses.

There would also be some costs arising associated with the needs to re-register the domain name.

142/05 Matters of Concern

a) Recycling Rubbish

Concern was expressed about the amount of rubbish left blowing around after the green waste collection. It was agreed that some photographs were needed as evidence and the Borough should be asked to promote the use of boxes.

b) Photographic Competition

Following the success of the Action for Ulnes Walton Photographic Workshop it was suggested that at some stage the Parish Council could consider sponsoring a photographic competition.

c) Ashes Win

It was agreed that following the success of the England cricket team winning the Ashes a letter of congratulations should be sent to Andrew Flintoff.

d) VISION

It was questioned why the LCC publication was being posted out to residents in hand written envelopes as this appeared to be a waste of money. The Clerk was asked to take up the matter with Cllr Whittaker.

143/05 Borough Councillors Report

The Borough Councillors had nothing to report.

144/05 Date and Time of Next Meeting

The date for the next Full Council meeting was agreed as Monday the 10 October 2005 at 7.30 pm

Signed Date.....