

Myerscough and Bilsborrow Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MYERSCOUGH AND BILSBORROW PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT BILSBORROW PARISH CHURCH ON THURSDAY 25 NOVEMBER 2021.

PRESENT

Cllr Mrs J Olivine (Chairman), Cllr Mrs S Allan, Cllr M Barker, Cllr W Collinson, Cllr W Robinson, Cllr D Bolton, Cllr S. Turner & Cllr M Sutcliffe

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL - John Hallas (Acting)

APOLOGIES

Cllr R Pye

GUEST IN ATTENDANCE

Cllr Elizabeth Webster – Wyre Council

CHAIRMAN'S BRIEF STATEMENT PRIOR TO OPENING THE MEETING

Cllr Olivine explained to the Council the continued absence of the Clerk, Roy Basnett, due to illness. Cllr Olivine informed the Council that Roy had requested that he be allowed to take unpaid leave from October 1 to 31 December, when a further review of his situation will be made. The Council unanimously agreed to Roy's request and also expressed their best wishes for his speedy return to better health. Cllr Olivine stated that John Hallas will continue to stand in as Clerk for the foreseeable future.

62.21 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 23 September were signed.

63.21 DECLARATIONS

No Declarations of personal or prejudicial interest in any of the agenda items were made by any of the members present.

64.21 FINANCE

The Clerk explained that all relevant financial documents including cheque books had now been obtained and this enabled him to present members with copies of statements of the Parish Council's Current Account and the War memorial Current Account. These had been prepared following a review of all receipts and payments since April 1st, 2021. In addition the reconciliations of these accounts against the latest bank statements from HSBC dated October 31st, 2021, were presented for checking and approval. The Council resolved to approve the accounts and the reconciliation was checked and signed. The Clerk informed that he could not provide exact details of the balance of reserves held in the NS&I investment account as the details of this account are still held by Roy Bassnett. The Clerk stated that in May this year £10,000 had been transferred to NS&I, but since the last Council meeting it had been necessary to transfer funds back into the Current Account (£10,000) from the NS&I investment account. This had been necessary to cover several payments that were pending. However, the balance remaining in the NS&I account is at approximately the same level as

at the last financial year-end, but with some interest to be added. Cllr Olivine reminded the Council that a resolution had been passed at the last meeting authorising the nominated bank account signatories to arrange for all payments to be made that may arise prior to the November meeting of the Council and this had been followed.

The Council resolved to approve each of the payments made since the last meeting.

65.21 Precept Budget 2022/2023

The Council discussed the financial expenditure out-turn estimates for 2021/2022 and the anticipated expenditure that it expects to incur during 2022/2023 and the need to continue to accrue additional reserves that will be needed for future projects in the Parish. Following a lengthy debate the Council resolved to raise a precept amount of £17,500 for the next financial year. This will result in an increase of four pounds per annum per band D equivalent property.

66.21 Planning

Since the September meeting the Council had received 4 new applications with requests for Consultation. The Council had raised no observations or objections. The Council also discussed the application 20/00907/FULMAJ for 39 residential dwellings on land to the South of Bilsborrow and West of the A6, which has been amended by the applicant, several changes having been made. Cllr Webster informed that this application was being called in for a review at Wyre Planning Committee's next meeting scheduled for December 1st. Cllr Webster asked if the Parish Council had any material points it would wish to raise during the review, as she would be submitting a statement to the review and could include in this any points suggested. Cllr Olivine and Cllr Allan made several points, with major concerns being the quantity of properties planned on the space available and the dangers that density will create and very specifically the restricted space available for vehicles such as recycling trucks, delivery vehicles and Emergency services. Cllr Webster agreed to raise these.

67.21 Lengthsman Scheme Review

Cllr Olivine asked the members of the sub-group (Cllrs Allan, Barker, and Bolton) if they had been able to achieve any progress with the review. The Councillors informed that there had been some discussions and fact finding but they now needed to hold a meeting to work on their proposals. Cllr Olivine noted that it was important that we are prepared in good time prior to negotiation of the contract with the Lengthsman for 2021/2022.

68.21 Greater Garstang Partnership – progress update.

Cllr Turner, who is a member of the board of the partnership, provided the members with a general appraisal of the progress to date most significantly the review taking place of proposals for projects that have been put forward and the processes being adopted to assess these. It was also noted that the public at large are being encouraged to submit ideas to the Project team.

69.21 Wyre Council Climate change initiatives – update.

Cllr Turner provided an interesting update on the range of initiatives being put forward for consideration including community energy sharing schemes utilising various renewable energy types – he also discussed briefly the 'Local Electricity Bill' which is being debated by Parliament, The Clerk will distribute information to members via email.

70.21 Highways, Footpaths, Waterways – updates.

Cllr Barker commented on the continuing degradation of the road in Church Lane and the dangerous condition of the kerbs outside of the Methodist Church. Cllr Turner acknowledged these and agreed to raise these with colleagues at LCC to seek some remedial action.

71.21 Toucan Crossing - Cllr Turner informed that there is insufficient funding for this work at the present time.

72.21 Public Right of Way FP4

The Clerk informed that he had contacted the PROW officer at LCC to establish their progress on dealing with the blocked access to the PROW at Raby’s Farm on Bilsborrow Lane. It is still a work in progress - The Clerk will continue to progress this matter with LCC.

73.21 Bilsborrow Recreation Ground

The Clerk informed that following the last meeting he had received a letter from the Wyre Council which had raised several issues relating to the changes made at the recreation ground (i.e. the laying of the 140 tonnes of stone). Included in this letter were questions relating to the terms and conditions of the Lease Agreement and breaches of these by the Tenant (Myerscough and Bilsborrow PC); in addition the probable need for Planning Permission and the requirement for Legal work to amend the lease and possibly the review of rental levels etc. The Clerk informed that following discussions with Wyre Council’s Officers he had now taken action to submit a planning application (21/01349/FUL) and paid the fee of £231.00; once this is processed and resolved (assuming retrospective permission is granted) then further discussions with Wyre Council’s Estates officers will be arranged to discuss the lease agreement.

74.21 Bilsborrow Sewer Flooding Alleviation Project (the car park)

The Clerk informed that the Council’s letter of support for the Car Park development had been submitted to the MEL Planning Consultant leading on this. Cllr Olivine took the opportunity to bring to the Council’s attention the recent change made by United Utilities for adding new names to their Priority Services Register – the Clerk will distribute the UU notice to members and the PC Website.

75.21 Proposed MULTI – USE GAMES area at Bilsborrow School

Cllr Collinson is leading in this matter and will provide further updates as the matter progresses.

76.21 Garstang Christmas Lights Fund

Cllr Olivine informed the Council that a request had been received by the Parish Council seeking a donation towards the cost of the annual Christmas Lighting in Garstang Town. The Council discussed this and resolved to contribute the sum of £100 to the fund.

77.21 Forthcoming meeting

Next Council Meeting – Thursday 27th January 2022

Action – Clerk

CHAIRMAN:

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Distribution:

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