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**Briercliffe with Extwistle Parish Council**

**Thursday September 5th 2024 7.30pm**

**Present:** Councillors Gordon Lishman, (Chair), Michael Greenwood, ,Libby Lalor, Pippa Lishman, John Marlow, Michael McFarlane.

**In Attendance:** County Councillor C Towneley, Cllr Anne Kelly, R Greenwood (Temp Clerk), 5 members of the public.

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| The Chair opened the Meeting and welcomed all to the meeting. | | | |
|  | **Actions by Clerk** | **Cllr Support** | |
| **23/24/172 Announcements** | | | |
| All were welcomed to the meeting and informed that the meeting would be recorded for training and monitoring purposes and to ensure the accuracy of the minutes. |  |  | |
| **23/24/173 Apologies for absence** | | | |
| Cllrs Frost and Sagar gave their apologies and reasons for absence. These were accepted.  PCSO Jodie Hudson gave her apologies, these were accepted.  Cllr Vicky Balmer gave her apologies for absence and will be standing down from the Parish Council due to work and family commitments, Cllr Balmer was thanked for her work over the duration of her service. |  |  | |
| **23/24/174 Disclosable Pecuniary Interest** | | | |
| Cllr Gordon Lishman and Borough Councillor Anne Kelly declared an interest in the Amberside transport route, as this will pass their respective houses. |  |  | |
| **23/24/175 Minutes of the last meeting** | | | |
| The minutes of the meeting were accepted as a true record. |  |  | |
| **23/24/176 Matters outstanding from the minutes** |  |  | |
| Community Centre and LCC Land auction. The Chair outlined the process that the Parish Council has undertaken with regards to the LCC land disposal.   * The Parish Council was informed that LCC wished to dispose of the land under the Community Centre, the car park and the former library building. * LCC has a lease with the Parish Council for the Community Centre, the Parish Council own the building but rent the land it sits on. The lease with LCC has expired. It was stated that the Community Centre has the right to a new lease with security of tenure for the next 15 years. * The Parish Council considered options to buy the land, former library building and car park using the Public Works Loan Board at the requested price of £73,000 * The Parish Council also considered how the PWLB money could be paid back as there were restrictions, from LCC, about recouping the money via businesses in the former library building. * The Parish Council engaged a surveyor to look at the land and the former library building * The Survey said that the former library building had reached the end of its working life and was not fit for purpose. The building should be considered a liability not an asset with £25k to £35k cost to demolish. He also commented on the retaining wall above the car park. * The Parish Council made the decision not to proceed with borrowing £73,000 from the PWLB as there would then be the further cost of building another structure. * The Parish Council are concerned that the auction website does not state that the Parish Council owns the building and their lease is protected.   C. Cllr Towneley confirmed that the Parish Council has a protected lease under the 1954 Tenancy Act, which will give secure tenancy for 15 years and could be extended to 30 years. LCC have requested a payment of rent (see finances) of £290 and C. Cllr Towneley confirmed this debt can not be backdated.  C. Cllr Towneley stated that she and Cllr Frost were first contacted regarding this sale in August 2023. It appears that the Parish Council has not had access to some emails.  Borough Cllrs Gordon and Maggie Lishman and Kelly have kept the Borough Council appraised of the situation and the Leader of the Council has written to LCC supporting the Community’s concerns about the Community Centre.  It was agreed that no further action can be taken before the auction. |  |  | |
| **23/24/177 Planning Working Group** | | | |
| Amberside, Battery Storage Planning Application. The Parish Council will publish a full record of the concerns, comments and questions asked at last months meeting on social media. These are on the Parish Council website under the minutes of the last meeting.  The Parish Council will facilitate public meetings, help any community action group and use social media to inform members of the public on any developments.  C. Cllr Towneley was concerned to find that LCC Highways were not part of the pre-consultation process. She has brought the concerns to their attention and they are requesting that Amberside source smaller battery storage units as these will be easier to transport through the village.  Cllr G Lishman stated that the chosen route for transporting items to the site will be M65, Casterton Ave, Briercliffe Road and onto Lane Bottom. Concerns have been raised again about the quantity of traffic and disruption of parking on route.  Cllr G Lishman confirmed that this is the first time Amberside have ventured into the energy storage business and that the structure of that market is changing. Amberside would have to have a bond / insurance guaranteed in case they went out of business.  Question from the floor – are the batteries for storage only? It was confirmed that the batteries would be used to either store or return energy to the grid via the pylon at the location.  C.Cllr Towneley confirmed that an increasing source of energy would be solar and off shore wind farms and that pylons would be needed to transport the electricity. |  |  | |
| **23/24/0178 Communication Working Group** | | | |
| The Parish Newsletter has been delivered; Cllr J Marlow was thanked for undertaking the largest share of the delivering. The next newsletter is to be the Christmas edition and anyone wishing to submit an article are asked to contact Cllr P Lishman. Cllr P Lishman was thanked for her work on the newsletter.  There is a request for nominations of residents over the age of 80 years to be put on a list for the distribution of gifts at Christmas time. Any member of the Parish Council can be contacted to add residents to the list. |  |  | |
| **23/24/0179 Contractor Working Group** | | | |
| * The Interim Lengthsman continues to cut the grass, there is to be one more cut this season. Volunteers are undertaking other jobs. * The new Lengthsman draft proposal will be presented at the October meeting. * Cllr G Lishman thanked colleagues and volunteers for the work that has been done to keep our village tidy. |  |  | |
| **23/24/0180 Allotment and Garage Working Group** | | | |
| 8 are on the waiting list for allotments  3 are on the waiting list for Turning Circle Garages.  There has been a tentative enquiry regarding allowing a tenant from outside the area to have an allotments. The existing policy is that Briercliffe residents have priority and that this covers the Ward of Briercliffe plus one mile.  Next year the allotments will be extended down the mill side, this will give a number of new plots but there is extensive clearance work, fencing and gating to be done before new tenants can be brought in.  A request has been received from residents of Harrison Street who wish to have an allotment for community use. The Working Group are meeting the Allotment Association and discussion will be held about where would be most suitable for a community plot.  The next allotment inspection will take place on 22nd September 2024. 4 people were requested to tidy up their plots at the last inspection.  The next Community skip day will be in October and potentially on the same Sunday as the litter pick. There will be a skip on the Turning Circle and one on Harrison Street. A question from the floor asked for larger skips and for a longer period of time. This can not be done as skips left overnight might be subject to fire damage and larger skips can not be collected in the same period.  It was proposed that the skips be approved. Cllr J Marlow abstained, all other members in favour.  The allotment BBQ was a success with donations being received from members of the allotment community. The next social event will be the bonfire in November.  There are a number of vacant garage plots, many have unusable structures on them, these will be taken down in due course – perhaps being used for the next bonfire.  Cllr J Marlow asked when the next meeting of the working group was as he had not attended a meeting. He was advised that no meeting had taken place. | | | |
| **23/24/0181 Project Working Group** | | | |
| The following events are scheduled to take place, the Allotment Bonfire and the Reindeer Trail. Further information will be circulated in due course.  The Garden Competition was a huge success with the accounts coming in at £4 under budget.  The Flower show had many applications, Cllr M McFarlane was thanked for presenting the certificates and prizes. A question from the floor was “does the Briercliffe Society exist anymore” The Clerk to write for an answer  A decision is needed about the Christmas lights, this will be on the agenda for the October meeting.  Cllr J Marlow objected to money being spent on social events when there are existing repairs to be financed. Cllr P Lishman said it was important to build community cohesion and build social relationships between tenants. Two members of the attending public felt that the social events were “money well spent”.  The litter pick continues on the first Sunday of each month. If anyone has a “grot spot” they wish targeting please contact the Parish Council. Volunteers were thanked for their work. |  | |  |
| **23/24/0184 Policies Working Group** | | | |
| Cllr M McFarlane is to undertake a review of the Freedom of Information Policy. The existing policy does not reflect the current legal position and will be reviewed, circulated and brought to the next meeting.  The Parish Council will be the Data Controller and it was proposed that the named lead will be Cllr M McFarlane. Proposed MM Seconded GL – All in agreement. |  | |  |
| **23/24/0185 Staffing Working Group** | | | |
| There will be a review by the Staffing Working Group of the Temporary Clerks work. |  | |  |
| **23/24/0186 Formally Adjourn for Public Participation** | | | |
| Royal Court Parking issues. The Parish Council has contacted Calico regarding the question of the four visitor parking bays at Royal Court. The plans show that four parking spaces were allocated to visitors. Under application APP/2017/0601 for the removal of parking numbers, the application was declined in favour of keeping the allocated numbers. The Parish Council to await Calico’s response.  Standenhall Drive traffic issues. The Parish Council will contact LCC Highways as the white lines need replacing at the junction of Hillington Lane. A concerned resident wrote to the Parish Council concerned about the speeding traffic and the potential for the increase in construction traffic. C. Cllr Towneley is aware of the issue.  Email re plot being changed to a garden plot. The Parish Council has limited access to documentation regarding this. The tenant is concerned that the issue has not been referred to the Land Registry. The Parish Council is working with a solicitor to bring this matter to a conclusion. |  | |  |
| **23/24/0187 County Council Report** | | | |
| Posters were circulated for The Great Lancashire Debate requesting schools joining in the search for Lancashire’s best public speaker.  C. Cllr Towneley has liaised with United Utilities, the local Parish Councils and Lancashire Police regarding a collaboration for a rural Police Vehicle.  Stirling Court Footpath, assurances have been secured that this footpath will now be opened.  Grit bin filling – this will take place in October or November.  C. Cllr Towneley will request a parking attendant from Brennand Street up to the top of Harle Syke in line with concerns raised.  Cockden road closure. The barriers have been removed, perhaps illegally. These will be replaced by concrete barriers. A warning was issued that any vehicle damaged whilst travelling on the closed road would not be compensated by LCC.  Cllr G Lishman thanked C. Cllr Towneley for her report. |  | |  |
| **23/24/0188 Borough Council Report** | | | |
| The Borough Councillors report was presented by Clr Anne Kelly and is below.  The Fun and Games Group thank the Parish Council for the grant to cover their rent of the Community Centre. |  | |  |
| **23/24/0189 Formally reconvene the Parish Council meeting** |  | |  |
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| **23/24/0190 Finance** |  | |  |
| |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Expenditure** |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  | | Allotment Water rates | WaterPlus | | Cheque 1909 | | 379.79 | | Allotment plant hire | NBC Northwest | | Cheque 1910 | | 2,073.60 | | HR & Legal Advice | Croner |  | Cheque 1911 | | 386.61 | | Parish newsletter Printing | Colour Frog | | Cheque 1912 | | 120.00 | | Community Centre Ground Rent | LCC |  | Cheque 1913 | | 290.00 | | Temp Clerk, part salary | R Greenwood | | Cheque 1914 | | 1,960.14 | | Vouchers for Garden comp | Springwood | | Cheque 1915 | | 70.00 | | Garden stakes for competition |  |  | Cheque 1916 | | 5.97 | | Allotment provision - BBQ | Spar |  | Cheque 1917 | | 3.18 | | Allotment provision - BBQ | Bookers |  | Cheque 1918 | | 165.40 | | Allotment maintenance | Fuel |  | Cheque 1919 | | 67.51 | | Allotment maintenance | Fuel |  | Cheque 1920 | | 36.36 | | Tap Repair allotment | Screwfix |  | Cheque 1921 | | 5.74 | | Tap Repair allotment | Rightway |  | Cheque 1922 | | 9.99 | | Tap Repair allotment | Homebase | | Cheque 1923 | | 54.40 | | VOID |  |  | Cheque 1924 | | 0.00 | | Lengthsman | D Joss |  | Cheque 1925 | | 240.00 | | Website host | Easy Web |  | DD |  | 36.96 | | Steve Watson | Clerk |  | STO |  | £457.80 | |  |  |  |  |  |  | | **Income** |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  | | Returned Cheque | Cheque 1780 | |  |  | 60.00 | | Paying in slip 266 | Garden 15 rent and deposit. | | |  | 150.00 | | Paying in slip 267 | newsletter advert | |  |  | 15.00 | | Paying in slip 268 | Allotment donations | |  |  | 28.12 | |  |  |  |  |  |  | |  | |  |
| **23/24/0191 Correspondence** | | | |
| The Council will meet informally twice a year to consider longer-term strategy and priorities. Residents will be consulted via social media and the Parish Council’s website  There will be a Heritage policy developed for the Parish Council  The Parish Council would like to build links with other Parish Councils. | | | |

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| October 10th 2024  November 7th 2024  December 5th 2024  January 16th 2025  February 6th 2025  March 6th 2025  April 3rd 2025  May 8th 2025 (Annual) |

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| **The meeting closed at 21.38hrs .** |

Police Report.

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| BRIERCLIFFE AREA 5th August – 2nd September 2024 | | | |
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| INCIDENTS REPORTED - 65 | | | |
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| NO | TYPE OF INCIDENT | LOCATION | DETAILS |
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| 1 | Burglary | Jubilee Street | Empty property, someone has removed copper piping. |
| 5 | Criminal damage | Burnley Road  Moorview Close  Lydgate  Balderstone Lane x2 | Isolated incident  Group of youths walk up footpath and kick at fence panels causing damage.  Group of youths walk up footpath and kick at fence panels causing damage.  People have gained entry into the recycling yard and caused damage. |
| 5 | Theft | Talbot Drive  Hallam Street  Harrison Street  Horning Crescent  Balderstone Lane | Vehicle has been broken into and items taken.  Isolated incident.  Items taken from the allotments awaiting being installed. Items returned.  Lead taken from roof  Taking of car batteries from the tip. |
| 1  0 | Vehicle crime  Theft of vehicle | Burnley Road | Van broken into and items taken. |
| 4 | Nuisance | Lydgate  Widow Hill  Balderstone Lane x2 | Youths setting off fire works.  Dangerous driving  People leaving a mess whilst the recycling centre is closed. |
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| Many thanks Jody Hudson PCSO 7738. | | | |
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**Borough Councillors’ Report – September 2024**

1. We reported in July that Cllr Maggie Lishman was meeting Highways representatives from the County Council to discuss the state of Burnley roads. She highlighted the extremely poor road markings across the town as well as potholes and provided them with photographs. Since then, the white road markings at Haggate have been renewed as has the yellow box outside the Ambulance Station on Burnley Road and thw central white line on Halifax Road. No action has yet been taken on the Zebra crossing on Briercliffe Road at Duke Bar, but we are pleasantly surprised that action has been prompt – last time, it took two years to get the Haggate junction done. Maggie will also be meeting the new Director of Highways shortly.
2. The three Councillors recently took the Council’s Leader and Chief Executive around Briercliffe. This included the area behind Lydgate and Horning Crescent, Standen Hall where the new development is due to start shortly, the proposed site for the Energy Storage facility, and the Community Centre. One outcome has been a strong letter from the Council Leader to LCC about the proposed sale of the Community Centre land.
3. The Borough Planning Department is still awaiting a planning application for land at rear of Lydgate, Horning Crescent and around. Any current activity should now have ceased as the Planning Department have been called out and warned the owners.
4. Cllr Maggie Lishman has met the Technical Director of McDermott Homes to discuss their plans for starting on the development. He was less well-disposed than we had hoped to the idea of a Residents Liaison Group but she stressed the importance of keeping residents informed and managing the flow of traffic. Please get in touch if there are any problems, particularly in relation to the conditions attached to the eventual planning approval.
5. There has been some cutting back of overgrowth by the County Council and by volunteers in ginnels at various sites in Briercliffe which have much improved those areas. They cannot tackle overgrowth rooted on private property but support the Parish Council’s approach of drawing the attention of property owners to any problems.
6. Cllr Maggie Lishman met the new Police and Crime Commissioner bur unsurprisingly the focus of the discussions were recent threats of disorder in a number of areas including Burnley. Along with fellow Councillors from all parties, we were impressed by the community solidarity that Burnley demonstrated.