West Bradford Parish Council

Clerk:
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Minutes of the meeting of West Bradford Parish Council held on Wednesday 29 November 2023 at West Bradford Village Hall

Members present:	Parish Cllr A Bristol (Chair)	
	Parish Cllr R Chew (Vice Chair)	
	Parish Cllr H Best	
	Parish Cllr M Fox	
Apologies:	Parish Cllr R Marsden	
	Cllr K Horkin MBE (RVBC)	
Clerk present:	Andrew Glover	
County Cllr present:	None	
Members of the public / other	her PC David Green, Lancashire Constabulary	
persons present:		

1. Declarations of Pecuniary, Other Registrable and Non-Registrable Interests Cllr Chew confirmed that, as the applicant in planning application 3/2023/0846 (considered in minute item 10ai below), she wished to declare a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in this matter. Even though the deadline for a possible Parish Council response to her planning application had passed, she did not participate in the discussion. As the Parish Council's representatives on the Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC), Cllrs Fox and Chew both declared an Other Registrable Interest with regard to planning application 3/2023/0897 (considered in minute item 10aii below) and did not participate in the discussion. 2. Minutes / Matters Arising a) Minutes of the last meeting (1 November 2023): The minutes of the meeting held on 1 November 2023 were to be signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record. (cont)

	Proposed by: Cllr Best Seconded by: Cllr Chew	
	Resolved The minutes of the meeting held on 1 November 2023 would be posted on the Parish Council website	Clerk
b)	Matters arising:	
i)	Water running down from junction of Eaves Hall Lane / West Bradford Rd	
	Members were pleased to note that further works recently completed by LCC (with a view to ceasing the flow of water onto Grindleton Rd) appeared to have been successful.	
ii)	Traffic concerns— junction of Chapel Lane / Grindleton Rd	
	The Clerk had written to the complainant and advised him of the police's stance on this issue. A copy of the letter to the complainant was presented for members' information.	
iii)	Planning application – Village Hall	~
	On 3 November, the Clerk had paid - on behalf of the Parish Council - the fee of £181 relating to the planning application for patio doors / patio area at the Village Hall. The Clerk had since been reimbursed by the Parish Council via cheque number 1288. (The planning application itself was considered below, see minute item 10aii).	
iv)	LCC Highways – complaint submitted about surface of Pimlico Link Road	
	As requested, the Clerk had written to LCC as Highways Authority and complained about the poor condition of the surface of Pimlico Rd, particularly the stretch between the Tarmac facility and the roundabout at Chatburn Rd. A response had since been received, in which LCC confirmed that it had recently inspected the Pimlico Link Rd (which it did as a matter of policy every month) and identified two defects which met its policy on repairs; repairs to these defects had now been completed. Any future resurfacing of the Pimlico Link Rd in its entirety was a matter for the LCC Cabinet, which would meet to agree its future funding programme for highway repairs in March 2024.	
3.	Public questions, comments or representations:	
	None	
4.	Update from Ward Councillor present:	
	In the absence of Cllr Horkin, no update was given.	

5. Attendance by Lancashire Constabulary

PC David Green attended the meeting, introducing himself as the Community Beat Manager (CBM) for the Clitheroe North area; this was one of four such posts recently introduced within the Ribble Valley. Lancashire Constabulary had now moved away from its previous "response" approach to a more neighbourhood-based format, with an increased emphasis on a visible local profile in the form of foot patrols on the beat. As part of this new approach, the Constabulary had widened the channels of communication through which matters of concern could be reported; as well as traditional methods such as telephoning 999 or 101, parish councillors could use the "In the Know" messaging service and (where appropriate) direct contact with the CBM by email.

Officer resource had increased in recent months, with 2 PCSOs (Sian Coffey and Mick Kearns-Turner) working with the CBM in Clitheroe North. Additional officers could be deployed as necessary via the Rural Crime Task Force under Sgt Kevin Day.

PC Green raised a number of other issues, including:

- the force's emphasis on the importance of CCTV (a topic which members had explored in depth in the past);
- knife crime in the Ribble Valley was thankfully low, but motoring offences (speeding and drink driving) remained matters of concern for the police;
- with regard to ASB / drug use, Operation Centurion was an ongoing exercise to improve public safety in the grounds of Clitheroe Castle; and
- other preventative work (such as a police presence to prevent unsafe parking at the primary school, or working with elderly residents who may become victims of doorstep crime) were local initiatives currently underway.

Cllr Best suggested that – from a reassurance perspective - it would be greatly appreciated if PC Green or one of his staff could call in at the Senior Citizen's Xmas Party (to be held on 9 December), a proposal to which PC Green agreed.

Members thanked PC Green for his support in attending the meeting, and welcomed the new neighbourhood approach which was considered a great step forward.

Resolved

Clerk to write and thank PC Green for his attendance, as well as the work carried out on residents' behalf

Clerk

Clerk

Clerk to advise PC Green of the date / time of the Senior Citizens' Xmas Party

6. Bradford Bridge

No update

7. Haweswater Aqueduct Resilience Programme (HARP)

a) Update – planning application 3/2021/0661

Since the October meeting, the Clerk had circulated a HARP newsletter produced by United Utilities and dated 1 November. The text of the newsletter was informative, confirming that the timescale for commencement of activity was likely to be longer than previously understood. The appointment of the contractor would take around 12 months, and – once commissioned – the contractor would need to spend several months working out how best to comply with the numerous planning conditions imposed by RVBC. Members noted that, as a result, other than preparatory work, site activity was not expected to begin before 2025.

8. Overview of financial position:

a) Monthly accounts – October 2023

The Clerk submitted details of income and expenditure for the month of October 2023 for approval by the Parish Council and signing-off by the Chair.

Resolved

That the record for October 2023 as presented would be signed off

b) Fees for grass cutting 2023/24

At the October meeting, members had been reminded that – given the increase in 2023/24 fees imposed by RVBC, which members had considered excessive – a number of questions had been formally posed to RVBC on future arrangements for grass cutting in the village. It had been agreed that no payment for 2023/24 would be made pending a response to the above questions. As no response had been received, members agreed that they would now ask the Clerk to again seek an update from RVBC on its stance.

Resolved

Clerk to again contact RVBC

c) Precept 2024/25

At the October meeting, members had agreed that – in order to ensure the Parish Council could meet its commitments for 2024/25 - a rise in the precept of 10% would be appropriate. The Clerk had been tasked with submitting the required paperwork to RVBC by the deadline of 22 December; the form had in fact been delivered by hand on 3 November 2023, well in advance of the stipulated deadline.

As requested, the Clerk had also placed on the Parish Council's website explanatory text setting out the rationale which underpinned the decision to raise the precept by the agreed amount of 10%.

d) Backpay

In early November, the Clerk had been advised that the National Joint Council for Local Government Services had reached agreement on revised rates of pay for all local government employees applicable from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024.

From 1 April 2023, the Clerk had been paid at SCP 18 (£14.44 per hour) and this amount has now risen to £15.21, an increase of £0.77 per hour.

From 1 April 2023, up until the date of his salary claim for Q2 (18 September 2023) the Clerk had worked the following hours:

- April 27.86
- May 22.52
- June 18.82
- July 7.67
- August 20.82
- Sept 5.58

This gave an overall total of 103.27 hours, which at £0.77 per hour equated to backpay of £79.52 before tax.

The Clerk offered to leave the room during the discussion.

Resolved

Members agreed to:

- award the amount of £79.52 in gross back pay to the Clerk for the period from 1 April – 18 September 2023; and
- increase his ongoing hourly remuneration for SCP 18 to £15.21 from 19
 September 2023, in accordance with the nationally-agreed pay settlement

e) Contribution to Xmas lunch for elderly residents

As agreed at the October meeting, the Clerk had approached VHMC regarding the Parish Council's proposed donation of £275 to be made in support of this event. However, no response had been received, and as a result it was agreed that the Clerk should seek to contact the Treasurer to the Village Hall Management Committee (Ann Backhouse) on this matter.

Resolved

Clerk to pursue

Clerk

f) LCC – PROW / Biodiversity grants

The above grants totalling £800 had been paid to the Parish Council by LCC on 11 October. Members noted that, moving forward, this funding could be used to support the development of the Pinfold in 2024, once ownership issues had been resolved.

9. Governance

a) External audit arrangements for 2023/24 - information from LALC

At the November meeting, members had discussed the impending audit requirement for parish councils to provide a dedicated email account for use by (i) their Clerk and/or (ii) members of the public who wished to approach the Parish Council. According to guidelines, ideally the email address would have the following domains:

- .gov.uk; or
- .org.uk.

Additionally, the guidance had suggested that the email address should be "linked to" the council website. Failure to comply with this "urgent" requirement would oblige the Parish Council to declare a non-compliance with the relevant provision of the Annual Governance Statement for 2023/24.

In considering this, members had concluded that – whilst the Clerk's email address currently used by him was his personal one – it was clearly "linked to" the Parish Council website, and was therefore seemingly compliant with the criteria as stipulated above.

However, since the October meeting, the Clerk had entered into further correspondence with LALC on this issue, and as a result had now received additional information which he wished to place before members for their consideration.

In LALC's opinion, as well as considering the use of any particular domain name (.gov.uk or .org.uk), it was equally important to note the external auditor's requirement that:

"every authority should have an email account that **belongs to** the council and to which the council has access." [emphasis added]

In LALC's opinion, a hotmail address (such as the Clerk's current one) or gmail address (such as the Clerk's official one) was "personal to" the Clerk and was neither owned by nor belonged to the Parish Council.

In contrast, if the Parish Council were to acquire an email address (eg clerk@westbradford.org.uk) attached to its website name (www.westbradford.org.uk), then such an email address would then be "owned by" the Parish Council and accessible by it, as well as being transferable to a new Clerk should the future need arise.

In light of this further clarification from LALC, members agreed to ask the Clerk to approach Jon Pendrill (website administrator) for further advice on the acquisition of an email address which would be owned by the Parish Council, and any financial or other implications arising from such a move.

Resolved Clerk to contact Jon Pendrill

Clerk

10. Planning applications considered

a) Planning Applications

i) Planning Application No: 3/2023/0846

Proposal: Proposed single-storey side extension and installation of solar panels.

Resubmission of application 3/2023/0155

Location: Sheilings, Clitheroe Road, West Bradford BB7 4SH

Details of this application had been circulated to members on 7 November, with a deadline for response of 28 November. This deadline had therefore expired by the time of the meeting, with no submission made to RVBC as members had expressed no concerns during the consultation window.

ii) Planning Application No: 3/2023/0897

Proposal: Creation of patio doors and raised patio area to rear including adjusted exercise track.

Location: West Bradford Village Hall, Grindleton Road, West Bradford BB7 4TE

Details of the above application had been circulated to members on 18 November, with a deadline for response of 5 December. Members were supportive of the proposals in the application (which would enhance the existing facilities at the Village Hall) and did not wish to submit any comments to RVBC under its consultation process.

iii) Planning Application No: 3/2023/0907

Proposal: Listed building consent for new ground floor shower room with new timber casement window.

Location: Eaves House Farm, Waddington Road, West Bradford BB7 3JF

Details of the above application had been circulated to members on 29 November, with a deadline for response of 20 December. Members carefully considered the proposals details of which were provided onscreen for their information), noting that the development site was a Grade II listed building situated within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Members considered that the proposed development would result in changes to the building which were primarily internal and did not significantly affect its character; as a result they did not wish to submit any comments to RVBC under its consultation process.

b) List of contested applications

As requested, the Clerk continued to compile a list of contested applications which would be submitted to members on a regular basis for their consideration. The purpose of the list was to assist members in keeping track of contested applications, and to have more clarity around the subsequent determinations made by RVBC / Planning Inspectorate.

An updated version of the document was presented for members' information.

11. Lancashire Best Kept Village Competition (LBKVC) 2023

a) Judges' feedback

As requested, the Clerk had circulated appropriate details of the judges' feedback to all entrants in the Outstanding Features categories of the competition.

b) Removal of village's secondary notice board – Chapel Lane

It had been agreed at the October meeting that the Chair would arrange for the removal of the secondary notice board, which was in poor condition and considered superfluous to requirements. The Chair confirmed that he would complete the removal of the notice board at a suitable opportunity.

12. Land in which the Parish Council has an interest

a) Pinfold: Land ownership / proposals to improve Pinfold site

As agreed at the October meeting, the Clerk had commenced work on completion of draft documentation which ultimately would be submitted to the Land Registry in support of the Parish Council's bid to register its title to the Pinfold site. As anticipated, this task was proving challenging for the Clerk with a number of lengthy and technical forms to be filled in. (It was also possible that the services of a lands valuer may yet be required - if so, the Chair offered to approach a contact who may be able to assist). The Clerk had therefore once again sought guidance from Maureen Pickup, the legally-qualified person working with the Parish Council on this matter, and it was hoped that some further progress could be reported by the time of the January meeting.

13. Youth initiative in Grindleton

At their meeting in May 2023, members had received a request from Grindleton Parish Council; this body had recently commissioned visits by LCC's Youth Bus, and was enquiring whether West Bradford Parish Council would wish to support the project. At that time members had agreed in principle to support the concept, with the possible future promotion of the Youth Bus to young people in West Bradford, and would reconsider the position once the Youth Bus was operational in Grindleton.

Since mid-October the Youth Bus had begun attend Grindleton, with sessions taking place on the Pavilion car park on Wednesdays from 6.45pm-8.45pm. These sessions were originally scheduled to run until Xmas, but had now been extended for some weeks into the new year. Age-appropriate activities are provided to suit different groups.

Generally, feedback from the initial event had been positive, although attendance to date had been limited; only 5-6 young people had attended. Attendees were believed to be 11-year-olds (school year 7), the youngest acceptable age. The bus has a capacity of around 10.

Grindleton Parish Council's offer to open up attendance at the Youth Bus to children from West Bradford was discussed at some length. However, whilst

members were appreciative of the offer, it was concluded that few parents from the village would be willing to take their children to Grindleton for this purpose, particularly during the winter months. It was possible that – should the Youth Bus be available to attend West Bradford Village Hall during the summer, when many young people were to be found using the playground or football field – an acceptable level of turn out could then be achieved. With this in mind, members agreed to monitor the success of the Grindleton initiative moving forward.

Resolved

Clerk to thank members of Grindleton Parish Council for their approach, but advise them of West Bradford Parish Council's stance

14. Draft Action Plan 2023

a) Review of Action Plan 2023

The Clerk presented an updated Action Plan for 2023.

b) Arrangements for Armistice / Remembrance Sunday

Members reflected on the considerable success of the Act of Remembrance, which this year had been held at 11am on Saturday 11 November. Attendance had been high, with around 50 residents present (including many young people), many of whom had attended the subsequent coffee morning at St Catherine's Church.

A number of learning points were identified for future events. These included:

- people standing in front of the war memorial had obstructed the view of persons viewing from the roadside. Whilst there was no issue with people watching the ceremony from behind the war memorial, attendees should be discouraged from blocking the view of those watching from the highway;
- residents had responded favourably to the increased number of poppies displayed around the village this year. With this in mind, and given that around 10 of the existing poppies had not survived November's Storm Debi, it was agreed that a further 30 poppies should be purchased from the Royal British Legion for display in 2024;
- other parishes had opted to display a number of small crosses stuck into the ground at key locations. It was felt that these could be a beneficial addition if displayed in the grassed area adjacent to the war memorial.
 Members may wish to consider making these themselves prior to the 2024 event; and
- on a positive note, the control of passing traffic by marshals had worked well.

Resolved

Clerk to diary the above learning points for consideration in September 2024

Clerk

c) Flag Flying

ci) Flying of the Union flag

The Chair confirmed that, in accordance with national requirements, the union flag had been flown on the following dates:

- 11-12 November (Remembrance Service / weekend); and
- 14 November (birthday of King Charles III).

cii) Lancashire flag

In addition, the Clerk confirmed that the Lancashire flag had been flown on Lancashire Day (27 November 2023).

d) Christmas arrangements

di) Village Christmas tree

Since the October meeting, Cllr Chew had made enquiries and was now able to confirm that once again Heidelberg Materials (via Sam Wrathall) would donate a Xmas tree for display on the Coronation Gardens. The tree had in fact been delivered on the afternoon of the meeting, and members were asked to move the tree behind the rear wall so as ensure its safe keeping.

Resolved Chair and Cllr Fox to move the tree

Chair / MF

dii) Xmas tree / lights

It was agreed that the tree would be erected, and lights displayed on it, by members at 10.30am on Saturday 9 December 2023

Resolved

Chair to check that lights were in working order

Clerk to send a reminder message informing all members of the date / time for putting the tree up

Chair Clerk

The Clerk was asked to contact Sam Wrathall with regard to the potential supply of electricity for the Xmas tree lights. It was agreed that, in line with last year, the sum of £50 would be offered to compensate Sam for the cost of electricity used.

Resolved

Clerk to contact Sam regarding potential access to electrical supply, and offer the sum of £50 in compensation for cost incurred

Clerk

diii) Xmas gifts

In previous years, the Parish Council had purchased a number of small Xmas gifts to thank residents who had voluntarily and without charge supported their work over the previous 12 months. These had included:

,			
	Jon Pendrill (website);		
	 Darren Hudson (defibrillator); and 		
	Sam Wrathall (arranging the Xmas tree and providing electricity for lights).		
	It was agreed that, this year, each of the above would receive a voucher to the value of £25 to be redeemed at the 3 Millstones.		
	value of £23 to be redeemed at the 3 Millistoffes.		
	Resolved		
	Clerk to purchase a voucher and thank you card and present to each recipient	Clerk	
15.	Lengthsman		
a)	Replacement Lengthsman		
	At the October meeting, members had agreed to offer the role of Lengthsman to Mr Malcolm Taylor. Subsequent to the meeting, the following actions had taken place:		
	 as requested, the Clerk had amended the Lengthsman's contract of employment to run for a 12-month period only, commencing on 1 March 2024 and expiring on 28 February 2025. NB – subject to satisfactory performance, this would not preclude the Parish Council from renewing the contract for a further period; and further dialogue had taken place between Malcolm and the Clerk, with Malcolm's concerns about the specific wording of the contract hopefully resolved as a result of the reassurances given. 		
	Resolved		
	Clerk to contact Malcolm in January 2024 and confirm that he was still interested	Clerk	
	in acting as Lengthsman		
	If so, Clerk to arrange a walk around the village with the Lengthsman in March 2024 to advise him on the nature of work required	Clerk	
b)	Final claim for salary – Clerk / previous Lengthsman		
5,	That claim for salary Clerk / previous Lengthsman		
	Members noted that the Clerk / Lengthsman had submitted a final claim for his 2023 salary (£96.15, of which £19.20 was PAYE) during 2023.		
16.	Reports from sub-committees / other meetings attended		
	 Playing Field / Village Hall – Cllr Fox reported that the "pop-up bar" events on Friday evenings remained popular, with a children's party to be held 		
	prior to the pop-up event on 1 December. The Xmas party for senior	В	
	citizens would be held on 9 December.		
	 Parish Councils' Liaison Committee – the Chair had attended the meeting 		
9	held on 9 November, and reported that the following items had been discussed:		
	 representatives of the Little Green Bus had given a presentation on the 		
2 8	organisation's work and sought funding for it. The Bus operated from 9am to 4pm and was supported by 1 full-time staff member as well as		

20 volunteers. The Chair had enquired what take up there was for its services in the village, but had yet to receive a response; and

staff from the Citizens' Advice Bureau had explained that this service no longer had a presence in Clitheroe. Any member of the public seeking to access the CAB should therefore contact one of its offices in Hyndburn, Pendle or Burnley.



 Hanson Cement Liaison Committee – the date of the next meeting was yet to be confirmed. Minutes of the meeting held on 5 October had now been circulated by the Clerk.

17. | Correspondence / requests received

a) LCC - Public Realm Agreement

The Clerk had received an email from LCC, pointing out that LCC operated a number of public realm agreements with borough and district councils throughout the county. Through these agreements, each district was able to determine the functions that it carried out locally, with provision of those functions which had not been otherwise taken up by the borough or district remaining at County Council level.

LCC was aware that parish councils may potentially be interested in undertaking some of these functions themselves, and (if so) the County Council would welcome further discussion.

Members considered the proposal from the County Council and concluded that they wished to continue with the status quo.

b) Resurrection of LALC Area Committee for Ribble Valley

Members noted that LALC had appointed a new Area Committee Support Officer, who now proposed to resurrect the dormant Ribble Valley Area Committee (with a likely meeting date of 9 January 2024).

The Parish Council was now invited to nominate a representative to sit on the Area Committee. However, being conscious of workload, members were reluctant to do so without seeking further information from LALC. The Clerk was therefore asked to contact the new Area Committee Support Officer, and ask the following questions:

- how will the role of this body differ from that of the PCLC?; and
- what added benefit will the parish council gain by attending both bodies, rather than just continuing to attend the PCLC?

Resolved Clerk to pursue

Clerk

c)	Request for funding – Little Green Bus	
	Members noted that a funding request had been received from the providers of the Little Green Bus service, which received careful consideration. However, in the circumstances members did not feel able to make a financial contribution at this time.	
d)	Register of electors 2023	
	RVBC had written to the Clerk inviting him to apply for a copy of the full register of electors, to which the Parish Council was entitled. (This document could only be used for specified purposes such as electoral purposes and the prevention / detection of crime; it was a criminal offence for it to be used for other purposes or its content disclosed).	
ā	Resolved Clerk to ask RVBC to provide an electronic copy of the register of electors 2023	Clerk
18.	Any Other Business	
a)	Dog fouling – Coronation Gardens	
	The Clerk had received a visit at his home from an irate local resident who continued to object to having to remove dog poo from the Coronation Gardens site. The resident requested that a message be circulated via the community Facebook page, reminding residents that this anti-social behaviour was unhygienic and spoiled the use of the site. The Clerk had drafted wording which, with Cllr Chew's assistance, had subsequently been circulated.	,
	Members discussed the ongoing prevalence of dog mess around the village, and reserved the right to seek assistance from the RVBC Dog Warden if necessary.	
b)	Coronation Gardens – minor subsidence	
	Cllr Fox reported that a resident had pointed out to him small areas of the Coronation Gardens where minor subsidence was occurring.	
	Resolved Cllr Fox to fill the subsidence in with soil as required	MF
	Date / time of next meeting:	
	The next scheduled meeting of West Bradford Parish Council was to be held at 7.30pm on Weds 31 January 2024 .	
	The meeting closed at 8.43pm.	i

Signed by:		,
	Andrew	Bull
	Date:	Cllr A Bristol
	,31.1.24	Chair

AG