

West Bradford Parish Council

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Minutes of the meeting of West Bradford Parish Council held on **Wednesday 27 October 2021 at
West Bradford Village Hall**

The meeting was held on a socially-distanced basis.

Members present:	Parish Cllr A Bristol (Chair) Parish Cllr H Best Parish Cllr M Wood Cllr K Horkin (RVBC)
Apologies:	Parish Cllr R Chew (Vice Chair) Parish Cllr M Fox
County Councillor present:	County Cllr G Mirfin
Members of the public present:	Mr T Pike

1.	Disclosure of interest: None received	
2.	Minutes of the Last Meeting (29 September 2021): The minutes of the September 2021 meeting were signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record. Proposed by: Cllr M Wood Seconded by: Cllr H Best Resolved It was agreed that the minutes of the September meeting would be posted on the Parish Council website	Clerk
3.	Public questions, comments or representations: None	

4.	<p>Update from Ward Councillor present:</p> <p>Cllr Horkin reported that – following the granting of planning application 3/2021/0725 – the Buck Inn at Grindleton would be refurbished for use as a pub / restaurant, with potential benefits for neighbouring West Bradford.</p> <p>Cllr Horkin went on to discuss the £0.5m funding made available to the borough by Sport England, an issue which he had initially raised at the September meeting of the Parish Council. It was now expected that RVBC officers would give a thorough briefing on the finding arrangements at the November meeting of the Parish Council Liaison Committee.</p>	
5.	<p>Bradford Bridge</p> <p>a <u>Repair to wall on Clitheroe Rd / retention of traffic lights</u></p> <p>Re-building of the wall adjacent to the river had now been completed and as a result the temporary traffic lights had been removed. In light of this, the Chair asked the local resident in attendance to address the Parish Council on his view that permanent traffic lights should now be installed on either side of Bradford Bridge. Mr Pike stated his opinion that over recent years there had been an increase in traffic-related confrontations and bullying behaviour as drivers sought to cross the bridge. As a result, some residents felt obliged to avoid crossing the bridge and instead drive to Clitheroe via Waddington. However, this problem had been much reduced when the temporary lights were in situ and governed the smooth flow of traffic. To establish local opinion on the matter, Mr Pike had undertaken an informal survey which recorded villagers' views on whether traffic lights should be installed permanently. He had visited 237 local premises, of which 176 had given their clear and positive support to the proposed installation of traffic lights.</p> <p>County Cllr Mirfin indicated that he had raised the potential retention of traffic lights with the Leader of LCC and, following her intervention, officers had adopted a more collaborative approach; they were now intending to gather appropriate data with regard to traffic flow over the bridge.</p> <p>After a vigorous debate on the merits of the proposal, members agreed to maintain a watching brief pending clarification of LCC's stance. In his role as a member of the Highways Authority, County Cllr Mirfin agreed to take from Mr Pike details of his survey for use as appropriate.</p> <p>b <u>Damage to white-painted railings</u></p> <p>Members noted that the Clerk had written to the landowner on 5 October and sought clarification of his intentions with regard to a possible repair. No response had yet been received.</p>	

c	<p><u>Wider / associated traffic issues</u></p> <p>Members outlined their concern that the provision of information on pending road closures within the parish was somewhat sporadic. Cllr Horkin suggested that this problem was not restricted to West Bradford but also impacted other areas of the Ribble Valley. County Cllr Mirfin sought to assist by agreeing to forward on to the Clerk any details of road closures which he received in his capacity as a county councillor.</p>	
6.	<p>Haweswater Aqueduct Resilience Programme (HARP)</p> <p>County Cllr Mirfin advised that he was in possession of email correspondence between United Utilities (UU) and Lancashire County Council which may be of interest to parishes affected by the proposed development. The content of the email (which was now in the public domain) was robust in that it outlined a number of serious concerns which LCC felt UU would need to address prior to consideration of the application by members of RVBC's Planning and Development Committee. County Cllr Mirfin undertook to provide a copy of the email to the Clerk for parish councillors' information.</p> <p>Resolved Clerk to approach County Cllr Mirfin for a copy of the correspondence</p> <p>County Cllr Mirfin then raised a number of other County Council issues which he felt related to the parish. These included:</p>	Clerk
i	<p><u>Rural Roads Strategy</u></p> <p>In its role as Highways Authority, the County Council was proposing to remove rural roads from their current status within the main maintenance budget, and instead look to finance their repair from a dedicated funding stream. The Parish Council would be consulted on this proposal in due course, but in the interim County Cllr Mirfin suggested that members should let him know if the condition of any local rural roads were a particular cause for concern.</p>	
ii	<p><u>Flood Strategy</u></p> <p>In acknowledgement of the risk to Ribble Valley communities posed by flooding, County Cllr Mirfin confirmed that the existing Flood Strategy was currently being re-visited, with possible funding implications. He offered to provide a copy of any consultation document for members' consideration.</p>	
iii	<p><u>Lancashire Road Safety Partnership (LRSP)</u></p> <p>Members highlighted their ongoing road safety concerns within the village, particularly along Grindleton Rd in the vicinity of the children's playground at the Village Hall. County Cllr Mirfin explained some of the difficulties around the current LRSP (including its financing) and outlined certain fundamental changes which were under consideration. Once again, pending the introduction of any changes, he emphasised the importance of reporting to the LRSP any local areas of traffic concern.</p>	

	<p>With regard to the specific problems of vehicles speeding on Grindleton Rd, it was suggested that the Clerk should write to the office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire and enquire about the provision of a dummy speed gun; these could be used by residents to act as a deterrent to speeding motorists, a tactic which had apparently been used successfully in other locations.</p> <p>Resolved Clerk to write to Police and Crime Commissioner</p>	Clerk
iv	<p><u>County / Parish communications</u></p> <p>County Cllr Mirfin emphasised the importance of attendance at the forthcoming Parish and Town Conference on 13 November. This would be an ideal opportunity to learn more about the intentions of the new Conservative administration and also forge links with key council officers.</p> <p>Resolved Clerk to discuss possible attendance with Chair</p>	Clerk
v	<p>Communications with local police</p> <p>County Cllr Mirfin suggested that members may wish to consider inviting a representative of the local police force to attend a future meeting of the Parish Council.</p>	
vi	<p><u>Overhanging trees / road visibility</u></p> <p>Members discussed the problems arising from overhanging trees and their impact on traffic visibility, especially at key junctions such as that of the A59 / Pimlico Link Road.</p> <p>Resolved Clerk to pass on appropriate details to LCC</p> <p>On behalf of the members present, the Chair thanked County Cllr Mirfin for his attendance; this had led to a wide-ranging discussion which was considered both useful and informative. It was agreed that County Cllr Mirfin would be invited to attend future meetings of the Parish Council on a twice-yearly basis, with the next invitation to be issued in March 2022.</p> <p>Resolved Clerk to invite County Cllr Mirfin to attend in March 2022</p>	Clerk
7.	<p>Overview of financial position:</p>	
a	<p><u>Monthly accounts – September 2021</u></p> <p>The Clerk submitted details of income and expenditure for the month of September 2021 for approval by the Parish Council and signing-off by the Chair.</p>	

	<p>Resolved</p> <p>That the record for September 2021 as presented would be signed off</p>	Chair
8.	<p>Governance</p> <p><u>Training – New Code of Conduct</u></p> <p>The Clerk confirmed that he had arranged to attend a training session provided by RVBC on the subject of members' Code of Conduct. This training would be held on 1 November, and the Clerk would cascade details of the course content to members at the November meeting of the Parish Council.</p>	
9.	<p>Planning applications considered</p> <p>Cllr Horkin had left the meeting at this point and (as a member of the Planning and Development Committee) did not participate in discussions on this item.</p> <p>The following request was considered:</p> <p>a) <u>Planning Application No: 3/2021/1020 - Eaves Hall, Eaves Hall Lane, West Bradford BB7 3JG</u></p> <p>Details of this application had been circulated to members on 14 October 2021. Members agreed that the submission of a formal response to the consultation was not appropriate.</p>	
10.	<p>Lancashire Best Kept Village Competition (LBKVC) - Update</p> <p>Members were informed that the county-wide results from the 2021 competition had now been received, and were as summarised below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whole Village – unplaced • Places of Worship – unplaced • Public Houses (restaurants) – unplaced • Hotel – winner from 2 entries (Eaves Hall) • Public Building – joint 8th from 23 entries (Village Hall) • Community Notice board – unplaced • War Memorial – joint 8th from 27 entries (Coronation Gardens) <p>Members noted the feedback provided by the competition judges, and agreed that it should be circulated widely to residents and participating bodies. It was agreed that the latter would be thanked for their interest, and the hope expressed that they would again participate next year.</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>Clerk to write a letter of thanks to participating bodies, and to provide them with the feedback provided by independent judges</p>	Clerk

	Clerk to arrange for display of the judges' feedback on the Parish Council website and for circulation to residents via the village email network	Clerk
11	Operation London Bridge <p>In the absence of Cllr Chew, this item would be deferred until the November meeting.</p>	
12	Straitgate / LCC grant for PROW maintenance <p>As requested, the Clerk had sought an additional quote from a local builder with regard to the necessary repairs to Straitgate. No response to this approach had been received. It was therefore agreed to proceed with the original quote previously provided.</p> <p>Members also noted that LCC had provided a further £500 under the Public Rights of Way – Local Delivery Scheme. It was agreed that this funding would be put towards the cost of funding the contractor's repairs as outlined above.</p> <p>In addition, the Clerk had also approached the LCC PROW team for guidance on the merits of whether signage should be erected in the vicinity of Straitgate to warn residents of the situation. The Clerk had been advised that a response would be received in due course.</p> <p>Resolved Clerk to contact contractor who provided the original quote and ask him to proceed</p>	Clerk
13	Proposal to further develop the Parish Council website <p>At the September meeting, members had received a proposal from a local resident for the development of a website which would provide local news for residents. After some discussion, it had been agreed that the Clerk would work with the resident to explore how the existing Parish Council website could best be developed to meet this need. As a result, the Clerk had met with the local resident on two occasions, and a summary of possible ways forward had been circulated to Jon Pendril for his consideration.</p> <p>Members acknowledged the sensitivities of this situation, and were conscious that any revisions to the site should only be carried out with the agreement of Jon Pendril (given his efforts in setting up the site and his ongoing role as administrator).</p> <p>Resolved Clerk to contact Jon Pendril for further discussion, with the possible involvement of Cllr Chew</p>	Clerk
14	Action Plan 2021 <p>In relation to the Action Plan, the following matters were discussed:</p>	

a)	<p><u>Interpretation Board</u></p> <p>Cllr Best presented the latest version of the draft text for the interpretation board, which Mr and Mrs Wilson had kindly worked on despite having been on vacation. Members were extremely impressed at the professional appearance of the draft, with the graphic design skills of the local residents being much in evidence.</p> <p>Resolved Clerk to write to Mr and Mrs Wilson and formally thank them for their efforts Clerk to provide the residents with a reward voucher at Xmas on behalf of the Parish Council Clerk to engage with the printers on production of a final version for display on the Coronation Gardens site</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
b)	<p><u>Remembrance Day</u></p> <p>As requested, the Clerk had contacted the RBL and had now received both the wreath and the additional 60 reusable poppies. Members discussed the next steps to be taken in advance of the Service of Remembrance on 14 November.</p> <p>Resolved Chair / Clerk to arrange for display of the poppies Chair to arrange for display of the banner of remembrance on the Coronation Gardens site Chair to complete repairs to the steps / railings Chair to arrange for flying of the Union Jack flag</p> <p>The Clerk indicated that he had been approached by a local resident who queried the policy of leaving wreaths on display at the war memorial on a permanent basis. Members discussed this issue and noted that other parishes seemed to adopt a policy of leaving the wreathes on display all year round, so it was appropriate to continue this approach so long as the wreathes on display remained in good condition.</p> <p>Resolved Clerk to update resident</p>	<p>Chair</p> <p>Chair</p> <p>Chair</p> <p>Chair</p> <p>Clerk</p>
c)	<p><u>Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2022</u></p> <p>No further update at this stage</p>	
15	<p>Reports from sub-committees / other meetings attended</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playing Field / Village Hall – no update • Parish Councils' Liaison Committee – next meeting 11.11.21. • Lancashire Association of Local Councils – no update • Hanson Cement Liaison Committee – next meeting Thursday 24 March 2022. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lengthsman scheme – the Lengthsman had been invited to attend the meeting and discuss service delivery in 2022. However, on 14 October he tendered his resignation with immediate effect and indicated that he would not be present at the meeting. The Clerk had subsequently indicated that he would be willing to fulfil the role of Lengthsman, and members agreed that this arrangement would commence from Spring 2022. <p>In the interim, a number of matters would need to be progressed. These included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the development of a specification of work, which would identify the tasks to be carried out and at what time; and - exploration of the necessary courses to be attended (eg on weed spraying), equipment required etc. <p>Resolved Clerk to send a letter of thanks to the outgoing Lengthsman for his contribution last year; Clerk to work with Bill Wood to develop a Schedule of Work in order to clearly identify the tasks expected of the Lengthsman and to bring greater transparency to the role, as well as identifying courses to be attended and equipment required</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
16	<p>Correspondence / requests received</p> <p>None</p>	
17	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>a <u>Temporary Street Signage – Request for Removal</u></p> <p>The Clerk had been approached by a local resident asking whether the temporary street signage located at the Coronation Gardens site could be removed by LCC. The signage in question consisted of two signs indicating traffic diversions – these were no longer necessary as the road closure at Coplow Bridge had not applied for some time. (There were also a further 2 signs which served to direct visitors to the Covid vaccination centre on the Village Hall, but these would presumably remain valid). After this intervention, the signage in question had been removed by LCC.</p> <p>b <u>Ash Dieback</u></p> <p>On 20 October, the Clerk was advised by Cllr Fox that the large ash tree located on Clitheroe Rd (between the highway and the River Ribble heading from the village towards Bradford Bridge) on which signage is commonly displayed is suffering from Ash Dieback. In view of its size and prominent location, this could pose a future hazard to road users.</p> <p>Resolved Clerk to report the matter to LCC</p>	<p>Clerk</p>

	Date / time of next meeting: The next scheduled meeting of West Bradford Parish Council is due to be held on 24 November 2021 at 7.30pm.	
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The meeting closed at 9.03pm

Signed by:		
	Date: 24.11.21	Cllr A Bristol Chair <i>Audun Barltrop</i>