

SCARISBRICK PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021. This meeting was held in compliance with Regulations 5 of the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings (England and Wales) Regulations 2020**

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**PRESENT:**

Councillor A. Blundell (in the Chair)  
Councillor J Marshall  
Councillor G Holcroft  
Councillor M Andrews  
Councillor J Herbert  
Councillor N Makin

Councillor E Pope and Councillor D O'Toole in attendance.

Mrs J Smith (Clerk) in attendance.

Three members of the public were present.

**21/030 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE:**

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor C Marshall. His reasons for absence were approved.

**21/031 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

There were no declarations of interest.

**21/032 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES:**

Subject to amendment of the year shown in minute 21/026 Budget table, it was resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2020 be approved and signed by the Chair.

**21/033 ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING:**

It was resolved to adjourn the meeting at 19:33pm to allow a period of public discussion,

Councillor O'Toole responded to correspondence received from a resident of Pool Hey Lane concerning flooding. He advised that he had been in contact with Senior LCC Officers including the Chief Executive, Head of Highways and the Lead Flood Management Officer. He has made strong representations about the constant flooding problem which is affecting the whole of Lancashire. He is receiving an unprecedented number of emails from residents and is in regular contact with the Lead Flooding Management Officer at LCC, who has also visited various sites across the County.

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Councillor Pope stated that the Lead Flood Management Officer has visited Pool Hey Lane and other areas including Burscough, Hesketh Bank, and Newburgh, and is well aware of the issues. He intends to request her involvement in Scarisbrick as well.

Councillor Pope advised that flooded households are given priority for action and that there is a need to look right across West Lancs where land that floods is being built on.

Councillor O'Toole advised that WLBC's planning committee do raise concerns when applications are received for development in areas that flood. However, if these concerns are not supported by statutory consultees such as LCC, the Environment Agency and United Utilities the applicant will appeal and obtain planning permission regardless of WLBC's position

Councillor Pope stated that part of the issue will be in the next Local Plan which will identify areas of flooding which will not be designated as building areas.

Councillor Herbert asked how much co-operations there is between LCC and the other agencies. He advised that LCC Highways has assisted in Bescar Lane but that the works on Bescar Lane have had no result due to the outflow pipes into Drummersdale Drain being underwater. Councillor Pope advised that there is a forum where LCC, WLBC and the agencies can meet. The Lead Flood Officer has had meetings with Environment Agency and United Utilities regarding Hesketh Bank and there has been some action taken such as clearing of drains.

Councillor Pope advised that the Environment Agency has not cleared rivers, so the drains do not work as the water has nowhere to go. Ultimately it is the Environment Agency that needs to be tasked with the issues and Lancashire needs massive Government funding for the Environment Agency to do their job.

Councillor Herbert advised that the Crossens drainage catchment started as an agricultural project and development has happened which has been plugged in to it. The capacity of rivers and ditches has not been increased and the lack of maintenance means that the waterways have decreased capacity to carry the water. There is a need for maintenance to start at the sea and work back but the Environment Agency are very remiss at this.

Councillor Pope considered that the Environment Agency should allow farmers to maintain watercourses. This has been negotiated at Martin Mere with licences issued to farmers.

Councillor O'Toole advised that some 500 to 600 homes have been built in Aughton with water crossing the railway line by being pumped through a pipe. Massive flooding has occurred as the pipe cannot take the capacity of the water as it has not been upgraded by United Utilities although an increase in capacity was promised some 20 years ago.

The meeting reconvened at 19:55pm.

**It was resolved to change the order of the agenda to consider Bescar Lane flooding before discussing the planning applications.**

### **21/037 BESCAR LANE FLOODING:**

Councillor Herbert spoke at length:

He advised that upstream maintenance is pointless if downstream issues are ignored. Problems started with Bescar Lane in October 2020 when Drummersdale Drain was full with no flow, with all gardens flooded. The details and images provided by a Pool Hey Lane resident show widespread flooding which is down to the lack of maintenance of the Three Pools system. This is the responsibility of the Environment Agency (EA) which is not a Local Authority but is an arms-length agency of Government through DEFRA. The EA's powers are permissive, they have a choice of whether to exercise them and have a responsibility only to

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permissive, they have a choice of whether to exercise them and have a responsibility only to 'use their best endeavours'. The EA make full use of this provision.

The Environment Agency is a big organisation with competing responsibilities which include ecological responsibility. This requires the achievement of good ecological status for rivers (i.e., undisturbed conditions) so they do not want to dredge which then impacts on flood management. However, ecology does not survive flooding and the Environment Agency is responsible for maintaining the rivers and Scarisbrick has a problem that needs addressing as a matter of urgency.

As a Parish Council we need to lobby hard. The Environment Agency are micro-managed and have to justify their maintenance expenditure on an asset-by-asset basis. The Parish Council cannot accept the content of the letter from the Environment Agency.

The Parish Council needs to write to the Chief Executive of the Environment Agency, lobby Government and involve MP, involve the Flood Minister Rebecca Pow.

The Parish Council needs to be more proactive and there are further issues that need to be looked at by us as a Parish Council involved in what is going on this could include collecting data from residents to identify flood hotspots and key risk areas, obtaining maintenance schedules from Environment Agency (what they do and how often), engage with farmers. Rufford Parish Council commissioned a hydrology survey report and other Northern Parishes are looking at this. This is something that Scarisbrick Parish Council could look at, perhaps in conjunction with Halsall Parish Council and could include the effect of development elsewhere on Scarisbrick flooding.

The Parish Council also needs to speed up on flood resilience and self-help for the Scarisbrick community.

Kathryn Fletcher MP and Rosie Cooper MP will be useful contacts for lobbying Government. Rosie Cooper MP raised issues in PMQs last week. Damien Moore MP for Southport could also be contacted.

**It was resolved to contact Kathryn Fletcher MP, Rosie Cooper MP and Damien Moore MP.**

### **21/034 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**

The following applications were considered, and the decisions taken as shown:

<b>Reference</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Resolution</b>
<b>2020/1214/FUL</b> Response Deadline: 05/02/21	Proposed first floor side extension	Mr Taylor	82 Jacksmere Lane, Scarisbrick, Ormskirk, Lancashire. L40 9RS	<b>No objection</b>
<b>2020/1269/FUL</b> Response Deadline: 12/02/21	Erection of 8no. new dwellings, all with private gardens, in-curtilage car parking and served by the existing crossover and a new internal	Broadley Developments Ltd	Lancashire County Engineering Services, Council Depot, Bescar Brow Lane, Scarisbrick, Ormskirk.	<b>No Comment</b>

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	access road, all following demolition of existing commercial buildings.			
<b>2021/0007/LDP</b> Response Deadline: N/A	Certificate of Lawfulness - Proposed installation of 3 roof windows.	Mr Matthew Gordon	Stable End Scarisbrick Park Scarisbrick Ormskirk Lancashire L40 9RZ	<b>No Comment</b>
<b>2021/0001/LBC</b> Response Deadline: 12/02/21	Listed Building Consent - Replacement patio doors and first floor rear window.	Mr Justin Grice	Old Vicarage, Southport Road, Scarisbrick, Ormskirk, Lancashire.	<b>No Comment</b>
<b>2021/0015/LDP</b> Response Deadline: N/A	Certificate of Lawfulness - Proposed single storey rear extension.	Mr Mike Wood	Wood Farm 408 Southport Road Scarisbrick Ormskirk Lancashire L40 9RE	<b>No Comment</b>

**21/035 2020/21 GRANT APPLICATIONS:**

**It was resolved to award the following grants:**

Friends of Bescar Station	£100.00
St Mark's Church,	£150.00
St Elizabeth's Church	£150.00
Mission of the Good Shepherd.	£150.00

The Clerk was requested to contact Bescar Lane Methodist Church (as previous attempt has failed) to invite a grant application from them.

**21/036 FINANCE:**

The Oct to Dec bank reconciliation was noted.

**It was resolved that Councillor Herbert would undertake a quarterly verification of the bank reconciliations.**

**It was resolved to pay the following accounts:**

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<b>Payee</b>	<b>Detail</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Authority</b>
Scarisbrick Parish Council	Payment required to credit new bank account	500.00	LGA 1972, s111 (2)
J Smith	Salary (Jan 21)	611.54	LGA 1972, s112 (2)
J Smith	Amazon purchase of hard disk hatch (to recover data from broken laptop)	9.98	LGA 1972, s111 (2)
Friends of Bescar Lane Station	Parish Council Grant	100.00	LGA 1972 s137
Mission of the Good Shepherd	Parish Council Grant	150.00	LGA 1972 s137
St Elizabeth's Church	Parish Council Grant	150.00	LGA 1972 s137
St Mark's Church	Parish Council Grant	150.00	LGA 1972 s137

Parish Council Grants are to aid the appearance, maintenance, and advancement of valued community resources. Expenditure is considered proportional to the benefits accrued by residents using these facilities.

Cheque to Scarisbrick Parish Council £500 is required by Unity Trust Bank as opening deposit for new bank account.

**21/038 GRASS CUTTING CONTRACT DOCUMENTATION:**

**It was resolved to approve the tender documentation and timetable**

**It was resolved that the opportunity be advertised to potential contractors as widely as possible using facilities such as social media, Parish Noticeboards, QLocal, Trader websites (e.g., Sole trader, Checkatrade), emails to gardening contractors.**

Clerk to take necessary actions to place advertisements as soon as possible.

**21/039 BUS SHELTER BIENNIAL CLEANING**

**It was resolved that a one-off clean of the Perspex bus shelters should be undertaken before the end of the financial year.**

Clerk to obtain quotes as soon as possible.

**It was resolved that consideration of contractual arrangements for this be deferred pending the one-off clean.**

**21/040 MAINTENANCE OF MEMORIAL BENCH AND OTHER AD-HOC WORKS**

**It was resolved that value for money needed to be demonstrated as the Parish Council is funded from public money.**

Clerk to obtain further quote for repair of bus shelter roof at Diglake.

**21/041 MEETING SCHEDULE:**

Noted that some amendments were required to the schedule as bank holidays had been included.

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**Resolved to approve the meeting schedule for 2021-22 subject to amendments.**

**21/042 LALC AREA COMMITTEE:**

**Resolved not to appoint a further representative at the present time. This will be revisited when new Councillors are in post.**

**21/043 WLBC SNAPE GREEN NAMING AND NUMBERING CONSULTATION:**

**Resolved to propose Edwards Close (rather than Well Close) as a potential street name to WLBC.** This is in recognition of the service of Councillor Margaret Edwards and the service she has provided both to Scarisbrick and the wider West Lancashire Community.

Clerk to propose Edwards Close to WLBC.

**21/044 LCC GRANTS:**

a) Parish Champion Grant Application:

There is £10k available which is spread across the whole of Lancashire. Suggestions for application included: Bench replacement (£500), Litter/Dog Bins (subject to emptying arrangements with WLBC), Millennium Wood signage, Dog waste bag dispenser.

**Resolved that Clerk should download application form and establish application requirements and key dates.**

b) Capital Grant Application:

The Council has received WLBC capital grant funding in prior years to assist towards the cost of replacement bus shelters. Match funding is required to obtain a capital grant and the purpose needs to fit with WLBC objectives. Suggestions for applications included: Trees, Flood Resilience Equipment, and Speed Indicator devices.

**Resolved that Clerk should obtain further details of the timetable and mechanism for Capital Grant Application.**

**21/045 LALC TRAINING:**

LALC Schedule of Courses was noted.

**It was resolved that Councillor Blundell, Councillor Herbert and Clerk would attend appropriate courses.** All completed application forms to be sent to Clerk for forwarding to LALC to reserve places. LALC to be advised that payment would be made in March.

**21/046 CLERKS REPORT:**

The following items were noted:

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- 1) Unity Bank Account application has been completed. It requires signing by the Parish bank signatories. Clerk will bring round during the cheque signing round tomorrow evening. Application needs to be posted with supporting information, including 6 months bank statements, and a cheque for £500 to open the account.
- 2) Arnold Baker book on order from Nexus.
- 3) No response received to date from Rosie Cooper re flooding issues.
- 4) No response received to date from North West Ambulance Service re access issues in Hillock Lane. Further email sent 21/02/21.
- 5) Email sent to LCC regarding Turning Lane Cycle Lane Bollards to confirm installation by end of March 2021.
- 6) Roof damage to bus shelter opposite Diglake Farm Shop. Temporary repair completed and estimate awaited to complete repairs.

### **21/047 COUNCILLORS REPORTS AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS;**

LALC Executive Committee: Councillor Herbert raised the issue of lack of inter-agency working by Lancashire County Council and Environment Agency and this was acknowledged by other Parish representatives across the County. It was felt that United Utilities are bad at co-operating. LALC are attempting to get the CEO of United Utilities to the next Executive Committee Meeting, along with CEO of Environment Agency if possible.

*Agenda item 21/048 includes exempt information in accordance with Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. It was resolved in accordance with section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 that, as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest (by reason of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, the public and press be temporarily excluded from this meeting and they were instructed to withdraw.*

### **21/048 CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLORS:**

Applications for co-option were considered in accordance with the Council Co-option Policy and Procedure.

#### **It was resolved to offer co-option to the following applicants:**

Sue Brake  
Kenneth Foulkes  
Allan Pickersgill

Clerk to advise them of their co-option and complete formalities.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9:30pm.

