

SCARISBRICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held at St Marks Parish Hall at 7.30pm on Monday 4th September 2023.

PRESENT:

Councillor A Blundell (in the Chair)
Councillor C Berks
Councillor N Makin
Councillor C Marshall
Councillor A Pickersgill
Councillor G Pratt
Councillor S Roberts
Councillor M Wood

Mrs J Smith (Clerk) in attendance

5 members of the public were in attendance.

The Chairman announced the sad news of the passing of Margaret Edwards. Margaret was well known to many in the Scarisbrick community and worked tirelessly for the Parish and its residents during her time as a Councillor.

23/135 APOLOGIES:

Apologies were received from Cllr J Marshall.

23/136 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Cllr C Marshall declared a pecuniary interest in planning application 2023/0161/FUL.

23/137 MINUTES:

It was resolved that:

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 3rd July 2023 were a true record and should be signed by the Chairman.

23/138 ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:34pm.

Members of the public spoke about Planning Application 2023/0471/FUL which is a full, planning application for the erection of a building to house a cosmetic manufacturing facility. This is a resubmission of planning application 2020/1092/FUL for which planning permission was refused as the proposed development conflicted with the NPPF and Policy GN1 in the West Lancashire Local Plan 2012-2027 DPD in that the proposal constituted inappropriate development resulting in harm to the openness of the Green Belt and would result in encroachment into areas of the countryside which are currently undeveloped. It was felt that the resubmission failed to demonstrate any very special circumstances sufficient to outweigh the identified harm. The subsequent planning appeal was dismissed. However, the resubmitted application appears to seek to address the reasons for refusal at Council and appeal levels. However, these centre on employment and location issues and do not appear to provide justification for building on the green belt. Additional concerns were raised concerning drainage permissions and the fact that once land is converted to B2 it can be used for other purposes.

Members of the public spoke about the Mushroom Factory and the appeal to HM Planning Inspectorate based on non-determination of planning application 2022/069/FUL. HM Planning Inspectorate are in receipt of the appeal APP/P2365/W/23/3324305 but have yet to confirm a start date for the process which will be through the written representation procedure. 2022/069/FUL includes the construction of 50 polytunnels (10,000 square metres) instead of the steel framed buildings for which permission had been given. WLBC deferred the application and requested the applicant to provide a lighting assessment so that the proposal could be fully assessed. This

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information was not received, and the applicant submitted an appeal to the Planning Inspectorate without any further contact with WLBC.

Throughout the construction of the factory the applicant has allegedly continuously disregarded the planning process and has so far constructed approx. 30 polytunnels without the necessary planning permission. Access requirements to the site were a pre-planning requirement but were not met prior to the commencement of construction and, to date, have not been completed.

There have been no details submitted regarding the drainage arrangements for the polytunnels and there are major flooding concerns for surrounding properties and land. Residents have also raised issues regarding planning infringements concerning noise, light and dust.

The meeting was re convened at 8:13pm.

23/139 PLANNING (CLLR BERKS TOOK THE CHAIR):

Councillor Blundell did listen to the planning deliberations but did not vote on any planning application due to his membership of the WLBC Planning Committee. Cllr C Marshall left the meeting whilst planning application 2023/0610/FUL was discussed.

a) The following applications were considered, and the decision taken as shown:

Reference	Details	Applicant	Address	Resolution
2023/0471/FUL Response date: 28/07/23 Extended to after 4 th Sept meeting.	Full planning application for the erection of a building to house a cosmetic manufacturing facility. (Resubmission of 2020/1092/FUL)	Cerberus Cosmetics	Vicarage Barn, Southport Road, Scarisbrick, Ormskirk, Lancashire	Objection. This application is a resubmission of 2020/1092/FUL to which the Council objected to as an inappropriate development for the greenbelt. This application was also refused by WLBC on greenbelt considerations including inappropriate development and impact on amenities. The re-submitted application 2023/0471/FUL and related applicant planning statement seek to show that this development would be: 'sustainable', in compliance with the Local Plan and NPPF, and with no harmful impact to the greenbelt. Additionally, the high costs connected with moving to an alternative site are used as justification that the proposed development is the only option. However, the additional information provided does not demonstrate any 'special circumstances' that would outweigh the potential damage to the green belt.
2023/0669/FUL Response Date: 01/09/23	Conversion and extension of existing ex-clubhouse to form a dwelling following	Mrs Carol Marsden	Aughton Town Green Bowling Club, Asmall	No objection

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EXTENSION GRANTED TO 20/09/23	demolition of existing outbuilding		Lane, Scarisbrick, Ormskirk, Lancashire	
2023/0610/FUL Response Date: 08/09/23	To use land in Planning Use Class B8 to include Open Storage and the siting of 8 No. containers with associated access and parking for a temporary period.	Mr P Halsall	Land Adjoining Bescar Lane Station, Bescar Lane, Scarisbrick, Lancashire	No objection
2023/0657/FUL Response Date: 08/09/23	Temporary use of outbuilding for accommodation during construction works for main dwelling (main dwelling previously approved ref: 2022/1174/FUL).	Mr David Smith	33 Hall Road, Scarisbrick, Ormskirk, Lancashire, L40 9QB	No objection
2023/0717/FUL Response Date: 08/09/23	Replacement windows, Infill, and new door	Brake	Home Farm Cottage, 4 Scarisbrick Park, Scarisbrick, Ormskirk, Lancashire	No objection

- b) The response to the expected Mushroom Factory appeal APP/P2365/W/23/3324305 was discussed. A suggestion was made that the Council should consider forming a working group for this purpose, but this was rejected by vote. It was noted that the Council needed to be in a state of readiness so that a timely response was possible.

It was resolved that:

The Council will object to the HM Inspectorate Appeal APP/P2365/W/23/3324305.

The Council will support any campaign by local residents in response to the appeal.

The Council have agreed the response to the appeal so that it can be sent quickly to HM Planning Inspectorate in order to meet response deadlines.

23/140 FINANCE (CLLR BLUNDELL RESUMED THE CHAIR):

- a) It was resolved to approve the following accounts for payment:***

	Payee	Detail	Amount Payable £ (inc VAT where applicable)	Authority	Payment Type
1	J Smith	The scheduled payment of the Clerk's salary as per contract of employment for September 23.		LGA 1972, s112 (2)	Electronic (due 29 th Sept 2023)
2	HMRC	PAYE/NI Jul 23 to Sept 23	588.84	LGA 1972,s112 (2)	Electronic
3	St Marks	Hire of Parish Hall for SPC September meeting	37.50	LGA 1972,s111 (1)	Electronic
4	PKF Littlejohn LLP	Professional services: Limited assurance review of Annual Governance & Accountability Return for year ended 31 March 2023. Inv SB20230136	252.00	LGA 1972,s111 (1)	Electronic

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5	Top Trophies	2023 Garden and Scarecrow Trophy engraving	108.00	LGA 1972,s111 (1)	Credit Card
6	Microsoft	MS365 2 nd August to 1 st Sept. Due 2 nd Sept.	19.92	LGA 1972, s111 (1)	Credit Card
7 See Note 1	Replica Print	Printing Services -July Newsletter. Inv SPC476 030723	152.02	LGA 1972,s111 (1)	PAID JULY 2023.
7 See Note 1	Yates Playgrounds	SPID Moving Apr 23 to Jun23	792.00	LGA 1972,s111 (1)	PAID JULY 2023

Note1: In accordance with Fin Reg 5.5 these items were paid as the due date for payment was before the SPC September meeting. This was with the agreement of the Chair.

23/141 BANK RECONCILIATION APR 23 TO JUN 23:

The verified bank reconciliation was received and noted.

23/142 FINANCE REPORT APRIL 23 TO JUN 23:

It was resolved that:

The April 23 to June 23 Finance report be approved.

23/143 NCIL REPORT 2022/23:

The 2022/23 NCIL report was noted.

23/144 COMPLETION OF EXTERNAL AUDIT 2022/23:

The external auditor's certificate and notice of conclusion of audit were reviewed. It was noted that there were no matters to report.

It was resolved that:

The 2022/23 external audit certificate and notice of conclusion of audit be accepted.

23/145 INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2023/24:

It was resolved that:

The 2022/23 internal audit plan be approved.

23/146 INTERNAL AUDIT LETTER OF ENGAGEMENT 2023/24 to 2025/26:

It was resolved that:

The Internal Audit Letter of Engagement be approved and signed by the Chair.

23/147 REVIEW OF SPC DATA PROTECTION POLICY AND SPC RECORD RETENTION POLICY:

The policy reviews were considered.

It was resolved that:

The updates to the policies be approved.

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23/148 SPIDS (Cllr Berks and Cllr Makin):

Councillor Berks advised that the Southport Rd SPIDs had been fitted with the modules and were awaiting LCC to mount them on the posts so they can be brought into operation.

The mobile SPIDs are awaiting collection By Elan City so that the factory upgrade can be completed but there have been delays due to the summer break.

Cllr Berks will contact both LCC and Elan City to expedite matters.

It was resolved that:

Cllr Berks will seek to contact LCC and Elan City so that all SPIDs can be brought back into operation as soon as possible.

23/149 CIVIC SERVICE 2023:

Due to venue issues, it is necessary for the 2023 Civic Service to be postponed to early 2024. The Clerk is seeking potential available dates for St Marks Church.

It was resolved that:

Clerk will chase up potential dates and include on SPC October agenda.

23/150 SPC NEWSLETTERS:

The issues raised were discussed.

Cllr Wood has volunteered to become involved with the sorting of the newsletters for distribution, and maintenance of the mailing list.

It was resolved that:

Going forward the newsletter will be produced twice per year (instead of quarterly) and will increase in size.

Volunteers will be formally thanked for their assistance and be provided with an advance production timetable.

The Newsletter Editorial Group will decide production dates and report back to Council.

Clerk will facilitate Cllr Wood meeting with the volunteer who currently sorts the newsletters.

23/151 MILLENNIUM WOOD:

It was noted that a resident has volunteered his service as a bird/wildlife warden for Millennium Wood.

It was resolved that:

The volunteer be invited to the October SPC meeting along with the volunteer tree wardens.

23/152 ASSETS OF COMMUNITY VALUE (ACV):

Cllr Pratt gave a brief overview of the ACV scheme and the potential for local community buildings and land, in public use, to be nominated for inclusion in the scheme.

Councillors discussed the potential use of the scheme if the Council was able to purchase a property that had been identified as suitable for community use. However, it was felt that, as Scarisbrick is a small parish council, that raising sufficient funding for both initial purchase and running costs would be an issue.

It was resolved that:

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The CHWG consider this further as part of their current remit.

23/153 REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICE:

It was resolved that:

A poppy wreath be obtained for the war memorial.

23/154 CLERKS REPORT: FOR INFORMATION

The Clerk's report was noted.

23/155 COUNCILLORS REPORTS AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS:

Cllr Pratt reported concerns regarding the maintenance of footpaths around the Parish – October agenda item.

Cllr Makin advised that she has forwarded her report from the recent LALC meeting to Councillors.

Cllr Blundell advised that there is an upcoming historical talk at Bullens Lane NSC on 3rd November and he has emailed details to all Councillors.

Cllr Berks advised that Bescar Lane church is closing in September.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9:27pm