

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF  
THE WEST CRAVEN COMMITTEE  
HELD AT THE  
RAINHALL CENTRE, BARNOLDSWICK  
ON 5<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2016**

*PRESENT –*

*Councillor D. M. Whipp – Chairman (In the Chair)*

**Councillors**

*M. Adams  
R. E. Carroll  
M. Goulthorp  
K. Hartley  
M. Horsfield  
R. Milner  
C. Teall*

**Co-optees**

*L. Gaskell  
C. Tennant*

**Police**

*Sergeant K. De Curtis*

**Officers Present**

*P. Atkinson  
J. Eccles*

*Neighbourhood Services Manager  
Committee Administrator*

*(Apologies were received from Councillor L. Davy.)*



*The following people attended and spoke at the meeting on the items indicated –*

<i>Debbie Wood</i>	<i>Problem Buildings</i>	<i>Minute No. 126</i>
<i>Chris Church Doris Haigh Catherine Cordwell Victoria Reed Wendy Venables Michael Venables Lyn Harrison</i>	<i>Recent Flooding Incidents in West Craven</i>	<i>Minute No. 132</i>

**117. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were reminded of the legal requirements concerning the declaration of interests.

**118. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no questions from members of the public.

**119. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED**

That the Minutes of this Committee, at the meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2015, be approved as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

## **120. POLICE ISSUES AND POLICE AND COMMUNITIES TOGETHER (PACT) PRIORITIES**

Sergeant De Curtis reported crime statistics for West Craven for December 2015 compared to the same period in 2014. Crimes were broken down as follows –

	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>
Burglary in a dwelling	5	3
Burglary other than a dwelling	2	1
Vehicle Crime	1	3
Hate crime	1	1
Assaults	10	9
Criminal Damage	10	6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>32</b>
Anti-Social Behaviour	35	40

There was discussion about the crime figures and the way they were reported following concerns at the last meeting that some vehicle crimes didn't appear to have been included. Sergeant de Curtis explained that the figures were not always totally up to date because of the time it took for some crime reports to come in and be logged. It was agreed that in future if there were any significant difference in the monthly crime statistics that came to light after they had been reported that this would be highlighted at the next area committee.

The PACT priorities in Barnoldswick were amended to reflect the concerns of Councillors about dangerous car parking on Gisburn Road near the shops and at the Richmond Road/Gisburn Road junction and anti-social behaviour at Greenberfield Lane Car Park and Valley Gardens. One resident also complained about dangerous parking on Main Street in Kelbrook.

### **RESOLVED**

That the Neighbourhood Services Manager be asked to raise the dangerous parking issues in Kelbrook at the next Traffic Liaison meeting and to report back.

## **121. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

### **(a) To be determined**

There were no planning applications for determination.

### **(b) Planning Appeals**

The Planning, Building Control and Licensing Services Manager reported that at 16<sup>th</sup> December there were two new planning appeals as follows - .

*13/15/0169P Appeal against refusal of outline planning permission for the erection of 9 dwelling houses with access off Park View terrace (access only) (Re-Submission) at Land adjacent Roughts Barn, Salterforth, Barnoldswick BB18*

13/15/0400P *Appeal against refusal of planning permission for change of use from office (A2) to single dwelling (C3) with associated external alterations to rear elevation at 47 Victoria Road, Earby, Barnoldswick BB18 6UN*

**122. ENFORCEMENT/UNAUTHORISED USES - COMPLAINTS RECEIVED**

**(a) Outstanding**

The Planning, Building Control and Licensing Services Manager submitted a report detailing outstanding enforcement cases for information.

**(b) Enforcement Action**

The Democratic and Legal Manager submitted a report for information giving the up-to-date position on progress in respect of enforcement notices which had been served.

**123. CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2015/16**

The Neighbourhood Services Manager reported that the balance for the Committee's 2015/16 Capital Programme was £3,393. This equated to £3,188 for Earby and £205 for Barnoldswick.

**RESOLVED**

That £205 from the Barnoldswick allocation of the 2015/16 Capital Programme be used for the purchase of further material for stone marking to help combat the theft of stone in the area.

**REASON**

*To enable the Capital Programme to be allocated efficiently and effectively.*

**124. REVENUE BUDGET 2016/17**

The Financial Services Manager submitted a report asking the Committee to consider its base budget for 2016/17, identify any options for budget reductions and pass on any comments to the Executive which was noted.

**125. ENVIRONMENTAL BLIGHT**

The Neighbourhood Services Manager submitted a report on environmental blight sites in West Craven.

**RESOLVED**

- (1) That the Land off Hill Street/Earl Street, Barnoldswick be retained on the environmental blight list until the issue of maintenance was resolved.
- (2) That the untarmacked part of Greenberfield Lane car park at the back of the football pitch and the land at Bank Street (the former Joiner's shop) in Barnoldswick and Cemetery Road car park in Earby be added to the environmental blight site list and consideration be given to their improvement.

**REASON**

*In the interests of visual amenity.*

**126.**

**PROBLEM BUILDINGS**

The Planning, Building Control and Licensing Services Manager submitted a report on problem buildings in West Craven. Residents were concerned about the untidy land and building at Gospel Hall.

**RESOLVED**

That the Planning, Building Control and Licensing Services Manager be reminded of the resolution at the previous meeting, to advise the new owners of the Gospel Hall that the Committee was minded to recommence enforcement action and wanted to see a timetable for repair works so it could give the matter further consideration at the next meeting.

**127.**

**AGREEMENTS CONCERNING USE OF WEST CRAVEN SPORTS CENTRE,  
WC HIGH SCHOOL, ASSOCIATED SPORTS PITCHES AND CAR PARKS**

The Democratic and Legal Manager submitted an update on agreements which needed to be completed concerning the use of West Craven Sports Centre, West Craven High School and the associated sports pitches and car parks.

**RESOLVED**

That the Democratic and Legal Manager be asked to arrange an urgent meeting with County Council to try and resolve the outstanding issues on the agreements.

**REASON**

*To bring to an end this long outstanding matter.*

**128.**

**VACANT HOMES**

The Housing, Health and Economic Development Services Manager submitted a report on the management of vacant houses in West Craven.

**RESOLVED**

- (1) That the management of empty houses in West Craven be noted.
- (2) That the Housing, Health and Economic Development Services Manager be asked to add 215 Gisburn Road and 13 Grange Street to the list of priority vacant houses and to email Councillors with more detail about the general situation of vacant housing in West Craven.

**REASON**

*To keep up to date with the position of vacant housing in the area.*

**129. REDIFFUSION CABLES IN BARNOLDSWICK TOWN CENTRE**

An update from County Council was given on the reasons why there was no action they could take at present to remove the rediffusion cables in Barnoldswick Town Centre. The Chairman had reminded County Council that they had acted in the past to remove the danger of such cables coming down over the highway and asked them to re-inspect the cables in view of the danger they presented. The Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation County Councillor, John Fillis had been asked to respond.

**RESOLVED**

That the Planning, Building Control and Licensing Services Manager be requested to carry out a further inspection of the rediffusion cable at Frank Street in view of its dangerous condition, particularly in light of the recent high winds.

**REASON**

*In the interests of public safety.*

**130. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PROGRAMME 2016/17**

Members were asked to consider topics for scrutiny for the next municipal year 2016/17 and to send any suggestions directly to the Scrutiny Management Team before the end of February.

**131. ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY ISSUES**

Members were reminded that it had been agreed to cease the meetings of the Community Safety Area Working Groups and the need to agree alternative arrangements.

**RESOLVED**

That future West Craven Committee meetings start 15 minutes earlier to allow time to debate community safety issues under the Police item.

**REASON**

*To facilitate debate on community safety issues.*

**132. RECENT FLOODING INCIDENTS IN WEST CRAVEN**

Members considered action that needed to be taken in view of the recent flooding incidents in West Craven following Storms Desmond and Eva and how the current volunteer/authority/agency response could be improved. They were keen to learn any lessons learnt from the experience and to work towards long term solutions to try to reduce the risk of flooding in the future.

Residents from Earby and Gillian's Lane/Bottom area in Barnoldswick talked about how the flooding had affected them and the Chairman reported on near flooding in the Ghyll Meadows and Crow Nest areas of Barnoldswick. There had also been other isolated incidents of flooding across West Craven.

The Chairman said that a meeting had already been arranged on 11<sup>th</sup> January to discuss the Ghyll Meadows near flooding following the storms in November. A meeting would be arranged as soon as possible to discuss the recent events in Earby and all residents would be welcome to attend along with members of this Committee, Lancashire County Council and Pendle Council, Earby Town Council, Wardle Storey, the Earby and Salterforth Internal Drainage Board, Lancashire Police, the Fire and Rescue Service, Earby Flood Defence Group and the Environment Agency.

**RESOLVED**

- (1) That a series of public meetings be held in the affected areas at the earliest opportunity and the outcome be reported back to this Committee.
- (2) That the Council be asked to reaffirm its commitment to creating a better flood alleviation scheme for Earby; that this be pursued with the Environment Agency; and that the North Yorkshire representative on the Yorkshire Flood and Coastal Committee be asked to strongly support the scheme when it was due for consideration at a meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> January.
- (3) That the Neighbourhood Services Manager be asked to seek advice for householders not insured from flooding to help with their recovery.

**REASON**

*To minimise the risk of further flooding in the West Craven area.*

**133. IMPACT ON FLOODING ON ESP LANE**

Members discussed the impact of flooding on Esp Lane with respect to the damage caused to the highway.

**RESOLVED**

That £1,000 be allocated from the funds held on behalf of Bracewell and Brogden Parish Meeting within the Capital Programme towards drainage improvements on Esp Lane.

**REASON**

*For drainage and highway improvements benefitting residents within the Parish Meeting area.*

**134. SENSORY GARDEN (PART OF MEMORIAL GARDENS), KELBROOK ROAD BARNOLDSWICK**

Members noted the work being undertaken at the Sensory Garden in the Memorial Gardens by Barnoldswick in Bloom. This was the last stage of the improvement works.

**135. COUNTY COUNCIL CUTS**

Members considered the impact of the possible cessation of County Council services and facilities in West Craven due to budget cuts.

**RESOLVED**

That County Council be asked to retain Barnoldswick Library, Barnoldswick Town Bus Service and the New Road Community Centre in Earby, and that before any decision is taken on closing a service/facility that consideration be given to an alternative means of operation.

**REASON**

***To try to retain public access to important services and facilities in West Craven.***

Chairman.....