

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF
WEST CRAVEN COMMITTEE
HELD REMOTELY VIA TEAMS
ON 2ND FEBRUARY 2021**

PRESENT –

*His Worship the Mayor Councillor Ken Hartley
Councillor D. M. Whipp (Chairman, in the Chair)*

Councillors

*M. Adams
R. Carroll
C. Carter
M. Goulthorp
J. Purcell
T. Whipp*

Co-optees

*K. Singleton
P. Hampson
E. West*

Officers Present

D. Walker

N. Watson

J. Eccles

*Environmental Services Manager (Area
Co-ordinator)*

*Planning, Economic Development and
Regulatory Services Manager*

Committee Administrator

(Apologies were received from Councillor J. M. Mills.)



92. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

93. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from members of the public.

94. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of this Committee, at the meeting held on 5th January 2021, be approved as a correct record.

95. POLICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY ISSUES

The crime figures for January 2021 compared to the same period in 2020 had been circulated prior to the meeting. Crimes were broken down as follows –

| | 2020 | 2021 |
|------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Burglary - Residential | 0 | 2 |
| Burglary - Commercial | 3 | 0 |
| Vehicle Crime | 8 | 4 |

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------|
| Hate Crime | 0 | 0 |
| Assaults | 10 | 10 |
| Theft | 15 | 8 |
| Criminal Damage | 5 | 3 |
| Other Crime | 47 | 19 |
| ALL CRIME | 88 | 46 |
| Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) | 26 | 63 (incl.32 Covid related ASB) |

Members were concerned about a number of identity theft and fraud scams that were circulating. One scam causing particular concern involved people being invited for a vaccination by email or text message. In some cases, people were asked to press a number or to send a text to confirm they wished to receive the vaccine. This was likely to result in a charge being applied to their phone bill. In other cases, callers were offering the vaccine for a fee or asking for bank details. It was noted that NHS England were only contacting patients by phone and letter.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Police be asked whether the incidents of Covid related ASB related to house parties or other breaches of the regulations.
- (2) That LCC Trading Standards and the Police be informed of scams circulating in the area and the Council's Communications Team be asked if they could do anything to make people aware of the scams on vaccinations.

96. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Appeals

The Planning, Economic Development and Regulatory Services Manager reported that there were no outstanding planning appeals.

97. ENFORCEMENT ACTION

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

98. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1972

In accordance with the provisions of Section 100 (B)(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, as amended, the Chairman agreed that the following item should be considered as a matter of urgency, the grounds being that urgent representations needed to be made to the Trees Officer about the proposal to fell some trees on Earby Road, Salterforth at Klondyke.

99. TREES AT KLONDYKE

The Chairman reported that he had brought this matter to the Committee's attention following an email from the Trees Officer telling him that there were plans to fell 3 mature ash trees at Klondyke, Salterforth due to ash dieback. He referred to the Quantified Tree Risk Assessment report carried out by consultants on behalf of Pendle Council dated October 2019 which said to keep an eye on the trees' condition and recommended some remedial work which had not been carried out.

The Planning, Economic Development and Regulatory Services Manager said that following complaints about branches falling off the trees, the Trees Officer had inspected them. It was in view of this recent inspection that he was recommending that the trees be felled.

Members wondered whether the harsh frosts this winter might be contributing to the trees' condition/appearance rather than there being a significant deterioration due to dieback. They recognised the need to protect members of the public both highways users and pedestrians. However, they were reluctant to fell the trees before their time, especially such prominent ones, unless there was a clear need.

The Environmental Services Manager reported that consultants were coming into the borough to do some work on high priority trees identified in the report, and works on these trees recommended in the consultant's report could be incorporated into the programme of works.

RESOLVED

- (1) That, in view of the trees being so close to the highway, the Planning, Economic Development and Regulatory Services Manager be asked to request LCC's arborist to inspect the trees for a second opinion, to see if they agreed with the Tree Officer's assessment, and for a report to come back to a future meeting.
- (2) In the meantime, that the Environmental Services Manager speak to the Trees Officer about the contractors including trees at Klondyke when they carried out works on high risk trees in the borough.

REASON

To preserve the longevity of the trees for as long as it was safe to do so.

100. CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2020/21

The Housing, Health and Engineering Services Manager submitted a report on the Committee's 2020/21 Capital Programme.

Members were asked to consider the bid at Appendix 2 from Salterforth Village Hall Management Committee seeking £1,000 towards improvements to the frontage of the Hall.

RESOLVED

That the Housing, Health and Engineering Services Manager be asked to allocate £1,000 from the Earby allocation of the 2020/21 Capital Programme to Salterforth Village Hall Management Committee towards improvements to the frontage of the Hall.

REASON

To enable the capital programme to be allocated efficiently and effectively.

101. RE-OPENING OF BARNOLDSWICK AND EARBY TOWN CENTRES

There were further discussions on the use of £11,320 ERDF funding to support the re-opening of Barnoldswick and Earby town centres allocated to this Committee. It was reported that the 31st March deadline for using this funding had now been extended until 30th June, which gave more

time to determine the best way forward. There was also PBC funding of £6,480 that had been made available for town centres.

The Shop Local app they were considering that could provide a home delivery service had been put on hold. Whilst there were no upfront costs, the 17% charge for each delivery was considered too much for local businesses to absorb and it was felt that local shoppers would not be willing to pay an additional premium of 17%. A click and collect scheme was an option, and this was now eligible for ERDF funding.

RESOLVED

That discussions on how best to support the re-opening of Barnoldswick and Earby Town Centres continue outside the meeting and for a report to come back to the next meeting on progress made and any future plans.

REASON

To support local businesses in the town centre.

102.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Winter Gritting

Members raised concerns about streets and pavements in West Craven that were on the secondary gritting route but were sometimes being missed or inadequately gritted. These included-

- Old Stone Trough Lane, Kelbrook;
- Cob Lane, Kelbrook;
- Dotcliffe Road, Kelbrook;
- Barnwood Road & Crescent, Earby;
- Alder Hill Street & Croft, Earby;
- Warwick Drive, Earby;
- Kenilworth Drive, Earby;
- Chapel Hill & Cross Lane, Salterforth;
- York Fields, Barnoldswick;
- Rainhall Crescent & Ben Lane, Barnoldswick;
- Dam Head Road, Leonard St & Ash Grove, Barnoldswick;
- Darnbrook Road & Rylstone Drive, Barnoldswick;
- Richmond Road, Coniston Avenue & Frederick Street, Barnoldswick;
- Brogden Lane, Barnoldswick;
- Gisburn Old Road, Blacko.

There were also several supported housing schemes in Barnoldswick and Earby which were not being gritted ie Valley Gardens. The refilling of grit bins also required attention.

Having had the worst weather in several years and more bad weather predicted, Members felt that urgent action was required in order to be better prepared. It was felt that the West Craven area was affected more than some other parts of Lancashire and therefore required more attention.

RESOLVED

That LCC and Together Housing be asked to ensure that the streets/pavements they were responsible for were being adequately gritted when required, and the grit bins were refilled when necessary.

REASON

In the interests of public and highway safety.

103. OUTSTANDING ITEMS

- (a) Meetings with local businesses (05.01.2021)
- (b) Transdev Buses – Meeting to be arranged (05.01.2021)

104. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

Members agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during the following item of business in pursuance of the power contained in Section 100(A) (4) of the Local Government Act, 1972 as amended when it was likely, in view of the nature of the proceedings or the business to be transacted, that there would be disclosure of exempt information which was likely to reveal the identity of an individual.

However, there was an initial discussion about whether private and confidential reports being discussed at area committees as exempt items always needed to be. Whilst Members agreed with the principles of GDPR, they felt that some matters could be discussed in the public arena without infringing an individual's right to privacy. Officers' views were that they needed to be dealt with in this way, in order to comply with current legislation.

RESOLVED

That the issue of exempt items and GDPR legislation be discussed at the next Policy and Resources Committee with a view to making appropriate representations to Government, seeking a change in legislation.

REASON

In the interests of transparency.

105. OUTSTANDING ENFORCEMENTS

The Planning, Economic Development and Regulatory Services Manager submitted a report on outstanding enforcements in West Craven and answered related questions.

RESOLVED

That the Planning, Economic Development and Regulatory Services Manager be asked to take appropriate action in respect of PLE/18/0711 and PLE/20/0357.

106. ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME – QUARTER 3

The Environmental Services Manager submitted a report on environmental crime in West Craven for the period 1st October to 31st December 2020 and highlighted the main points.

The Chairman reported that a volunteer who was litter picking in Letcliffe Park had found lots of dog waste that was in bags in the area around but not in the litter bin, which was located near the bottom gate of the park near the sett paved path.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted and the Environmental Services Manager be asked to arrange for the area surrounding the litter/dog waste bin at the bottom gate in Letcliffe Park to be inspected, that the bagged waste be removed, and that the site be monitored to see who was littering the area.

Chairman.....