

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF
WEST CRAVEN COMMITTEE
HELD AT THE RAINHALL CENTRE,
BARNOLDSWICK
ON 4TH JULY 2023**

PRESENT –

D. M. Whipp (Chair)

Councillors

*R. E. Carroll
C. Church
S. Land
M. Strickland
T. Whipp*

Co-optees

*C. Hird, Barnoldswick Town Council
A. Inman, Earby Town Council*

Police

*PC. A. Marsden
PC. T. Schofield
PCSO K. Evans*

Officers Present

<i>D. Walker</i>	<i>Assistant Director Operational Services and Area Co-ordinator</i>
<i>N. Watson</i>	<i>Assistant Director Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services</i>
<i>T. Partridge</i>	<i>Countryside Access Officer</i>
<i>J. Eccles</i>	<i>Committee Administrator</i>



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

<i>H. Potts J. Dart R. Walters</i>	<i>23/0067/FUL - Reserved Matters: Major: Erection of 30 no dwellings (Appearance, Landscaping, Layout and Scale) of Planning Permission 19/0815/OUT at Land to the north east of Meadow Way, Skipton Road, Barnoldswick</i>	<i>Item No. 38(a)</i>
<i>T. Hardman</i>	<i>UK Shared Prosperity Fund</i>	<i>Item No. 42</i>
<i>C. Duckworth T. Hardman</i>	<i>Sough Park Improvements</i>	<i>Item No. 43</i>

34. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

35. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A resident from Barnoldswick explained the reasons for recently erecting a fence on top of the wall around his property and his reasons for wanting to retain it. He was disappointed that the Council

had asked him to take it down because it was over the height allowed for a fence situated adjacent to the highway, and asked if anything could be done to allow him to retain it. The Assistant Director Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services explained that planning permission was needed for fences or walls over 1m in height that were adjacent to a highway. Each case was looked at on its own merits. He said he would look at this particular case and get back to him.

36. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of this Committee, at the meeting held on 6th June 2023, be approved as a correct record.

37. POLICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY ISSUES

Crime statistics for June 2023 compared to the previous year had been submitted for information. They were broken down as follows –

	2022	2023
Burglary – Residential	3	1
Burglary – Commercial	0	0
Vehicle Crime	2	4
Hate Crime	0	0
Assaults	21	17
Theft	11	5
Criminal Damage	3	4
Other Crime	47	31
All Crime	87	62
Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)	17	17

PC Schofield talked Members through the statistics. Overall crime was down. There had been no commercial burglaries and theft had been halved. It was noted that there had been a recent spate of wheelie bins being stolen and set alight.

The Police encouraged everyone present to report a crime whether online (if it had already occurred) via 101 (even though there might be a wait) or to ring 999 if it was an emergency or someone felt intimidated. If crimes or anti-social behaviour were not reported, they would not be picked up, and appropriate action could not be taken. The only way Police resources were likely to be increased would be in response to crimes reported.

RESOLVED

- (1) That Inspector Pearson be asked if the extra funding recently announced for anti-social behaviour patrols in the region could be extended to additional patrols in West Craven.
- (2) That the Police be asked to regularly patrol open spaces and parkland in West Craven including Earby Recreation Ground, Earby Waterfalls, Clough Park, Letcliffe Park, Victory Park, and the Silentnight woodland in response to the recent anti-social and dangerous behaviour of setting wheelie bins alight.

38. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

(a) Planning applications for determination

The Assistant Director, Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services submitted a report on the following planning application for determination -

23/0067/FUL *Reserved Matters: Major: Erection of 30 no dwellings (Appearance, Landscaping, Layout and Scale) of Planning Permission 19/0815/OUT at Land to the north east of Meadow Way, Skipton Road, Barnoldswick for Tabley Homes (Barnoldswick) Ltd*

(A site visit was carried out prior to the meeting.)

Determination of the planning application was deferred at the May meeting for a site visit. An update was circulated prior to the meeting reporting receipt of a landscaping plan and planting scheme for the northern boundary of the site. It also reported a site visit by officers following comments received from members of the public relating to the right to light from a window at No. 35 which was adjacent to the proposed plot 1.

RESOLVED

That the item be deferred to the next meeting to allow the developer to amend the landscaping scheme to create a further softening of the transition from open countryside to the housing development and to look at the possibility of connecting the pavement on Coates Lane through to the cycle path.

(b) Planning Appeals

The Assistant Director, Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services reported that the outstanding appeal against refusal of planning permission had been dismissed.

39. ENFORCEMENT ACTION

The Head of Legal Services submitted a report giving the up-to-date position on prosecutions for information. It was noted that LCC had met with the developers for Land on the south east side of Long Ing Lane, Barnoldswick, and the substandard works would be remedied.

40. AREA COMMITTEE BUDGET 2023/24

(Cllr R. E. Carroll declared a personal interest in this item as a Trustee of the Earby and Kelbrook Senior Citizens group.)

It was reported that the uncommitted balance from the Committee's budget for 2022/23 was £101, for Earby and Coates. The new allocation for the 2023/24 Budget was £31,490 which had been split into areas by electorate.

The following bids were considered –

Earby and District History Society - £649 for a remote access projector

Earby and Kelbrook Senior Citizens - £1,500 towards a new boiler
Rolls FC - £1,500 for football pitch maintenance (deferred from the 9th May meeting)

Councillors discussed using the area committee budget going forward to fund schemes they wanted to prioritise, rather than encouraging ad hoc bids from other organisations. Improvements to Sough Park was one such scheme; upgrading the Skate Park and further improvements in Victory Park was another.

RESOLVED

- (1) That further information be sought from Rolls FC on the funding required for the maintenance of the football pitch.
- (2) That consideration of the bid from the Earby and Kelbrook Senior Citizen's Group be deferred for the time being and they be encouraged to apply for Awards for All National Lottery funding.
- (3) That consideration of the bid from the Earby and District History Society be deferred to see where else they had sought funding.
- (4) That the Green Spaces Manager be asked to report back on the cost of replacing the broken ramp at the Skate Park in Victory Park and for the Committee, in conjunction with Barnoldswick Town Council, to look at further upgrades for Victory Park.

REASON

To distribute the Committee's Budget efficiently and effectively.

41. PROPOSED DIVERSION OF PUBLIC FOOTPATH 57 AT RAIKES HILL, BARNLDSWICK

At the last meeting members asked if it was possible for both options on the proposed diversion of public footpath 57 to be public rights of way and for the diversion to incorporate improved works at the Victoria Road end of the footpath. The advice received was that the issue of the diversion application should be kept separate from the proposed creation of an additional footpath, and the proposed improvements to part of the footpath which was unaffected.

Therefore, the Committee was asked to decide the diversion application in accordance with the recommendation in the 6th June report, or in accordance with the alternative resolution set out on page 5 of that report. If the Committee adopted the recommendation (i.e. the diversion onto the Option 1 route) but wished for the creation of a path on the Option 2 route then this could be treated as a new project and be set up accordingly in the workload of the Countryside Access Officer. The proposed improvements at the Victoria Road end could also be investigated as a separate matter.

There was a discussion on the implications of discontinuing the diversion order already made and making a new diversion order to include the connecting footpath to Victoria Road.

There was also a question about whether public footpath 58, shown on the Plan, had been made up. A pedestrian barrier had been placed opposite No 31 for some time.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Borough Council of Pendle Public Footpath 57 Barnoldswick Public Path Diversion Order 2023 dated 30th January 2023 not be confirmed.
- (2) That the landowners be asked to revise the proposals for a more extensive diversion for the new footpath to run on a tarmac surface to a new point on Victoria Road.
- (3) That the Countryside Officer check progress with public footpath 58 at the eastern edge of this development.

REASON

The diversion order made on 30th January does not include a section of the connecting footpath leading to Victoria Road which is currently impossible to use due to extensive vegetation. The proposals should include this path by diverting it to a wide informal path nearby which is now being used by the public. The footpath is used for local journeys on foot, e.g. to school or work, and therefore tarmac is considered to be the most appropriate surface type.

42. UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND (UKSPF)

(a) Victoria Road, Earby project

Members of the Committee had attended a site visit on 22nd June with representatives from Earby Town Council and Kelbrook and Sough Parish Council and Pendle Council officers to discuss the Victoria Road, Earby UKSPF project. The cost of the scheme had increased to £165k for improvements to one side of the Victoria Road, using 50mm Indian stone. Currently funding stood at £115K - £15k from the Area Committee Budget, £100k from UKSPF. Unfortunately, the £50k pledged from LCC for the scheme was no longer available.

There were discussions about how the shortfall could be funded. Maybe LCC could be persuaded to contribute. Earby Town Council would be considering whether to commit to the scheme at their next meeting, their level of involvement and whether to expand the scheme to incorporate public event space. Maybe work could be phased to access further UKSPF funding and, if possible, the scheme extended. The Masterplan process also provided an opportunity, depending on the outcome, to enhance the scheme and make the town centre a more relaxing and inviting place for people.

RESOLVED

- (1) That LCC be requested to reconsider providing a minimum of £50,000 towards the refurbishment of the Victoria Road pavements as the highway authority.
- (2) That the Head of Economic Growth be asked to look at the detail of the Masterplan and how this could unlock further funding.

- (3) That the Executive be asked to look at UKSPF funding and the phasing of work and for their views on how to progress the Victoria Road, Earby scheme if they only had two thirds of the funding for the work.

REASON

1. ***To enable the best possible improvement scheme for Victoria Road, Earby to progress.***
2. ***To improve access and increase the viability of the town centre for the benefit of the local economy.***

(b) Public Realm Projects in West Craven

Members discussed the overall programming of UKSPF supported public realm schemes in West Craven which included the traffic flow and pedestrian Barnoldswick Town Centre scheme as well as the Victoria Road, Earby one.

RESOLVED

That the Executive be asked to look at the total amount of UKSPF funding available over the full programme and to agree a seamless programme of work over the period remaining to maximise the amount of work that can be done.

REASON

To get the most out of the UKSPF funding available and progress works as quickly as possible.

43. SOUGH PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Members of the Committee had attended a site visit with representatives from Kelbrook Phoenix FC, Earby Town Council and Kelbrook and Sough Parish Council and the Green Spaces Manager on 28th June to discuss the use of the Park, its future management (currently PBC) and possible improvements. The Committee had received an update prior to the meeting summarising the discussions.

The site visit followed a request from Kelbrook Phoenix FC to take on a licence/lease of the football pitch and surrounding amenity area and a lease of the associated changing facilities within the park. As part of the agreement the club proposed to maintain the sports pitches themselves at their own cost. The current changing rooms had not been used for several years, were in poor condition and not fit for purpose. The Club were willing to upgrade the changing rooms. They estimated that they needed £1,600 for materials and offered to provide the necessary labour for free.

RESOLVED

- (1) That £850 be allocated from the 2023/24 Area Committee Budget to Kelbrook Phoenix FC towards their upgrade of the changing rooms; the Assistant Director Operational Services be asked to contribute the remaining £750 from the Council's Repairs and Maintenance

budget towards the works; and the £1,600 funding be given to Kelbrook and Sough Parish Council so that they could claim the VAT back.

- (2) That the Club be granted a lease for specific parts of the building they required, and that due to the financial implications for the Club of bringing the pitch and changing rooms up to standard, the licence be agreed at a nominal cost of £1 per annum for 5 years.
- (3) That the maintenance and ancillary grass on the Earby side of New Cut be maintained by Kelbrook Phoenix FC.
- (4) That Earby Town Council and Kelbrook and Sough Parish Council be asked to consider the future management and ownership arrangements of Sough Park with a view to them taking over full responsibility in due course in a manner to be agreed by the two parties and with the support of the Committee.
- (5) That the Committee consider funding other improvements to Sough Park this year from the Area Committee budget.

REASON

1. ***The proposed improvements to the changing rooms and maintenance of the pitch represent good value for money.***
2. ***To improve the park and facilities for the benefit of local residents.***

44. MEETING WITH NHS – HEALTH PROVISION IN BARNOLDSWICK

The note of a meeting with the NHS regarding health provision in Barnoldswick held on 10th May was submitted for information. Since the meeting, the Council's Chief Executive and Director of Place had looked around the various health facilities in Barnoldswick and agreed that ideally it would be better to have a single facility serving the community. A further report would come to the Executive in due course following a further meeting August.

45. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Members had requested that the following items be discussed -

(a) Library provision in Barnoldswick

Concern was expressed about the state of the lighting outside Barnoldswick Library. Some lights were broken, bulbs smashed and the uplighters were not working. It was understood that some of the lighting was due to be renewed, but it was felt that the state of the lighting needed thoroughly checking and upgrading.

RESOLVED

That LCC be asked to improve the lighting outside Barnoldswick Library, together with replacing bulbs/fittings internally where necessary and if the funding that had previously been allocated for mechanical/electrical works at the Library was still available.

REASON

In the interests of public safety and visual amenity.

(b) Maintenance and responsibility of bus shelters

Members discussed the condition of bus shelters on the main routes through West Craven. There were several that needed various repairs and improvements. An example was given of one of the main bus stops opposite Coates Avenue needing a raised kerb. Other upgrades could include the installation of glass and benches.

There was an issue with one of the primesite bus shelters in Kelbrook which hadn't been upgraded - on Colne Road, opposite the Craven Heifer – due to it not being considered to be sited on the adopted highway.

RESOLVED

That a meeting be requested with LCC's Bus Stops and Shelters Team to discuss improvements to each bus shelter in West Craven, including the primesite bus shelter at Kelbrook, which it was felt should be included as bus works and highway works had been undertaken there previously.

REASON

To seek improvements in the physical condition and appearance of bus shelters.

(c) Boundary fence erected at Goodall Close following Earby FAS2 works on New Cut

The wooden fence that had been erected at this location following works on New Cut had been vandalised. It was felt that the fence was inadequate and needed to be made safer to protect young people from the drop down to the beck. Members thought that hooped railings, like the ones on the opposite side of the beck would be better.

It was understood that the land that the fence enclosed was in private ownership and the owner unknown. This had been raised at Executive.

RESOLVED

That the Director of Place be asked to report back on the possible replacement of the boundary wooden fence erected at Goodall Close following recent works on New Cut, and investigations made into the ownership of the land.

REASON

In the interests of visual amenity and public safety.

46. OUTSTANDING ITEMS

It was noted that the following items had been requested and an update or report would be provided to a future meeting -

- (a) Costings for Coates Lane/Skipton Road highway improvements
- (b) Costings for footpath improvements for route to Barnoldswick Church Primary School
- (c) Meeting with Transdev to discuss bus services
- (d) Consultation with residents regarding former Gospel Hall.

An email from the Commercial Director of Transdev had been circulated prior to the meeting, explaining the rationale for the recent changes to bus services in West Craven and offering to meet Members of the Committee.

It was noted that the consultation with residents regarding the possible development of the former Gospel Hall was underway and the outcome would be reported to the 1st August meeting.

RESOLVED

That a meeting be arranged with Transdev to have further discussions about the bus services in West Craven.

47. EXCLUSION OF THE 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 or any action to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of a crime.

48. OUTSTANDING ENFORCEMENTS

The Assistant Director Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services submitted a report on outstanding enforcements which was noted.

49. PROBLEM SITES

The Assistant Director Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services submitted a report on problem sites in West Craven.

RESOLVED

That the Assistant Director Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services be requested to pursue the various actions required to make progress.

REASON

In the interests of visual amenity.

Chairman