

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF  
WEST CRAVEN COMMITTEE  
HELD AT MOUNT ZION BAPTIST CHAPEL, EARBY  
ON 26<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024**

*PRESENT –*

*D. M. Whipp (Chair)*

**Councillors**

*C. Church  
S. Land  
M. Strickland  
T. Whipp*

**Co-optees**

*A. Inman, Earby Town Council  
S. Ashley, Kelbrook and Sough Parish Council*

**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>J. Eccles</i> | <i>Committee Administrator</i>   |



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

|                  |  |                          |
|------------------|--|--------------------------|
| <i>R. Mercer</i> | <i>23/0060/FUL - Full: Retention of vehicle display/</i> | <i>Minute No. 182(a)</i> |
| <i>L. Katiff</i> | <i>sales area with associated boundary fencing at</i>    |                          |
| <i>K. Mather</i> | <i>Land to the East of Struntley Bank, Colne Road,</i>   |                          |
|                  | <i>Kelbrook for Kelbrook Car Sales</i>                   |                          |

**178. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

**179. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

A member of Earby Town Council asked if any enforcement action was being taken in respect of a scrapyard on New Road, Earby. The site had been untidy for some time. The Assistant Director Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services said that he was not aware of any action being taken but would bring this to the attention of the Enforcement Officer.

Another member of Earby Town Council raised concern about the Cemetery Road Play Area, following the discovery of a knife. She asked what the Council could do to improve safety in play areas. The Chair said that he would bring this incident to the attention of the Police, but that whilst Pendle Council would make some visits to cut the grass and empty any litterbins in the area, it was the Town Council's responsibility for managing and maintaining this play area. The Assistant Director Operational Services said he would make his teams aware of the possible ASB issues taking place.

**180.**

## **MINUTES**

### **RESOLVED**

That the Minutes of this Committee, at the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2024, be approved as a correct record.

**181.**

### **POLICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY ISSUES**

The crime statistics for March 2024 compared to the same period in the previous year were circulated prior to the meeting. They were broken down as follows -

|                             | <b>2023</b> | <b>2024</b> |
|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Burglary – Residential      | 2           | 2           |
| Burglary – Commercial       | 2           | 3           |
| Burglary – Non-dwelling     | 0           | 1           |
| Vehicle Crime               | 3           | 2           |
| Assaults                    | 10          | 16          |
| Theft                       | 7           | 5           |
| Arson/Criminal Damage       | 11          | 6           |
| Other crimes                | 27          | 17          |
| <b>ALL RECORDABLE CRIME</b> | <b>62</b>   | <b>52</b>   |
| Hate Crime                  | 2           | 2           |

Sergeant C. Emmett was unable to attend but had provided an update which had been circulated prior to the meeting.

The main discussion focused on anti-social behaviour. Sergeant Emmett had been informed by the PCSOs that there have been no significant public order incidents. He was aware of the report of large groups of youths in Barnoldswick, but this had been attributed to them attending the youth club. The Neighbourhood Team had worked hard to engage with local youths during the month and had not had any issues in Earby, Barnoldswick, Salterforth, Bracewell or Kelbrook.

Members said that there had been some minor vandalism at Sough Park bowling pavilion resulting in a cracked window and damage to the door. There was also continued vandalism in Barnoldswick Town Centre – the door of the disabled toilet had been damaged in the Town Council owned toilet block and the eco plaque on Station Road had been destroyed.

The Committee welcomed the news that PC Tom Schofield was to be appointed WC Community Beat Manager from the 1st May.

### **RESOLVED**

That the recent incident regarding a knife found at Cemetery Park Play Area and the ASB in Sough Park and Barnoldswick Town Centre be reported to the Police.

**182. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**(a) Planning Applications for Determination**

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

**23/0060/FUL     *Full: Retention of vehicle display/sales area with associated boundary fencing at Land to the East of Struntley Bank, Colne Road, Kelbrook for Kelbrook Car Sales***

**RESOLVED**

That an extension of time be sought and consideration of the application be deferred to allow discussions between the applicant and the Planning Department on design.

**(b) Planning Appeals**

The Assistant Director Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services Manager reported that there was one outstanding planning appeal.

**183. ENFORCEMENT ACTION**

The Legal Services Manager submitted a report giving the up-to-date position on prosecutions for information.

**184. AREA COMMITTEE BUDGET 2023/24**

The Head of Economic Growth reported that all of the West Craven Area Committee Budget 2023/24 had been allocated.

**185. TRAFFIC LIAISON MEETING**

The minutes of the Traffic Liaison Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2024 were submitted for information.

There were reports of vehicles regularly parking on double yellow lines and on pavements causing obstructions. Locations mentioned included New Road, Earby when sometimes vehicles parked over the dropped crossing, and the Butts area of Barnoldswick, where residents were competing with the garage site and other local businesses. Vehicles were parking on the pavement going towards Valley Gardens blocking the road and pavement.

On the A56 HGVs were travelling at high speed through Earby and Kelbrook.

**RESOLVED**

That the Engineering Manager be asked to contact LCC and the Traffic Liaison Meeting to report the concern over speeding vehicles on the A56, in particular HGVs regularly speeding through Earby and Kelbrook and a request be submitted for more enforcement work to be done to combat pavement parking where this caused an issue and illegal parking on double yellow lines.

**REASON**

***In the interests of highway safety.***

**186. SPRING MILL HOUSING SITE – FUTURE USE OF  
COMPOUND AREA & VICTORIA ROAD PAVING UKSPF SCHEME**

On 18<sup>th</sup> March Members met members of Earby Town Council to discuss the future use of the compound area at Spring Mill housing site. The Town Council explained that they would prefer to create a woodland and wetland area on the compound area when it was no longer needed in preference to a pump track.

The Engineering Manager attended the meeting to answer questions about the Victoria Road Paving UKSPF scheme and provide further information.

**RESOLVED**

- (1) That the Director of Place be informed of Earby Town Council's expression of interest in creating a woodland and wetland area on the compound area when it was no longer needed for the Spring Mill housing site; that the Town Council be asked to reconsider the maintenance/liability issues and the land being transferred to them and a report come back in due course.
- (2) That the Engineering Manager report back to this Committee with an update on the Victoria Road Paving UKSPF scheme in due course.

**REASON**

***To improve the visual and recreational amenity of Earby.***

**187. PHARMACY PROVISION IN WEST CRAVEN**

The Pharmacy Delivery Assurance Manager at NHS Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board had provided an update on pharmacy provision within Barnoldswick and reported the outcome of recent visits to both pharmacies to discuss the issues they were having in providing services. It was understood that Whitworths branch was going through a change of ownership.

Members reported that there were issues with one of the pharmacies insisting that drugs on the Controlled Drugs Register being dispensed to customers were taken at the counter.

**RESOLVED**

That in view of continuing problems at the chemists a meeting be sought with the NHS Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board to discuss future pharmacy provision in Barnoldswick.

**REASON**

***To improve pharmacy services for local residents.***

**188. PREMISES IMPROVEMENT GRANT SCHEME – SUMMARY 2023/24**

The Head of Economic Growth submitted a report on progress on the Premises Improvement Grant Scheme in 2023/24 and requested funding in 2024/25 to allow the programme to continue. The Committee was also asked to nominate a minimum of two members to the Grant Panel for 2024/25.

**RESOLVED**

That the report be considered at the next meeting.

**REASON**

***By the time of the next meeting the 2024/25 Area Committee Budget would be available and membership would have been confirmed following local elections.***

**189. UPDATE ON YOUTH PROVISION**

The Community Safety Officer reported that in Barnoldswick the joint work of the Children and Family Wellbeing Service and Barlick First continued to work well and grow. The Police continued to report a reduction in town centre ASB.

In Earby, to his knowledge, the detached youth work was continuing. However, he was not aware of any progress on securing a venue or resources for youth sessions. This would be followed up over the next few weeks.

Members were hopeful that LCC would agree to the use of the New Road Community Centre for youth activities. It was reported that LCC had still not entered into a dialogue with Barnoldswick Town Council regarding the lease for Barnoldswick Civic Hall. Barnoldswick Councillors did not agree with the assessment of the reduction in town centre ASB, witnessing groups of youths causing damage and disruption.

**RESOLVED**

That the request be reiterated for the Community Safety Officer to request LCC to provide youth provision in New Road Community Centre and to look into the delay with renewing the lease for the basement of Barnoldswick Civic Hall.

**REASON**

***To provide much needed diversionary activities for young people in West Craven.***

**190. WATER PUMPING STATION, CALF HALL ROAD, BARNOLDSWICK**

Mike Hammond, the General Manager for the North Yorkshire Region, and Phil Banks, the Faults Programme Manager, from Northern Powergrid attended the meeting and explained the recent electrical faults which had caused loss of power to the water pumping station on Calf Hall Road in Barnoldswick resulting in the water supply to businesses and residents in the area. This problem had occurred 6 times since January. The longest time was for a period of 2 ½ hours. In order to fix the problem, they were using an intelligent fuse which when one fuse blew, would automatically

switch to another one and that way was able to recover supply immediately. This had been fitted at Sycamore Way substation on 29<sup>th</sup> February and to date no faults had been recorded. When there was a fault, this intelligent device would be able to feedback accurate information to get to the root of the problem.

It was explained that Northern Powergrid had a duty to pay regulatory fines to customers that were set by OFCOM. Any home or business that was without electricity for over 12 hours, could be eligible for a customer guarantee payment, and payment would be sent automatically. There was no need to make a claim. Further information would be fed back to Members. They took the opportunity to leave some leaflets promoting the priority service for vulnerable residents.

## **RESOLVED**

- (1) That Northern Powergrid be thanked for attending the meeting and providing the informative update on actions that were being taken to remedy the recent electrical faults in Barnoldswick.
- (2) That in due course an update be provided on whether the substation at the rear of Barclays Bank was being replaced and what was proposed on Ghyll Meadows, Barnoldswick, where the power lines had been shrouded over.

## **REASON**

***To keep informed of Northern Powergrid developments in the area.***

191.

## **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

### **(a) Inadequate Postal Deliveries in West Craven**

Members discussed the poor postal service throughout West Craven. It was agreed that the service was unacceptable and had resulted in people missing appointments, including some important medical ones.

## **RESOLVED**

That this issue be raised with Royal Mail at the highest level.

## **REASON**

***To improve the postal service for residents of West Craven.***

### **(b) Surface of the bus layby at WC High School**

Following complaints at this Committee in February 2023, the Pendle Education Trust was asked about their plans for improving the road surface at the layby at West Craven High School. The Trust said it had hoped to carry out improvements in the summer of 2023 but in October the Trust informed Members that the work had had to be put on hold temporarily.

The Trust on request had given an update which had been circulated to Members of the Committee. The Trust apologised for not addressing the problematic bus layby but they had had

to prioritise internal works such as roofs, doors and windows, a new central heating system and fire alarm. They assured Members that it was still a priority for them and would be looked at in the context of their 2024/25 budget and capital works planning.

Members reported further complaints from parents who were dropping off and picking up at this location.

## **RESOLVED**

That the Pendle Education Trust be asked to undertake the improvement works to the surface of the bus layby at WC High School at the earliest opportunity.

## **REASON**

*In the interests of highway and public safety.*

### **192. OUTSTANDING ITEMS**

It was noted that the following meetings had been requested and updates were expected to come to a future meeting -

- (a) Discussion with the owner of the Pilkington Bus Company to extend the Town bus service
- (b) Future provision of post office service in Barnoldswick
- (c) Euravia to discuss recent odour complaints

A previous issue which had been raised at this Committee was the need for a local, sustainable NHS clinic in Barnoldswick.

## **RESOLVED**

That the Director of Place be asked to request a further meeting with the NHS Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board to discuss the urgent need for a clinic facility in Barnoldswick.

## **REASON**

*In the interests of public health.*

### **193. 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.

**194. OUTSTANDING ENFORCEMENTS**

The Assistant Director Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services submitted a report on outstanding enforcements and reported that a planning application had been received for one of the unauthorised developments.

**195. RETAINING WALL, BARNOLDSWICK**

The Assistant Director Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services Manager submitted a report on a retaining wall in Barnoldswick following advice from Counsel.

**RESOLVED**

- (1) That the Council issue proceedings against the owners of the houses to require the retaining wall to be made safe.
- (2) That no direct action be taken should the owners not undertake the work unless a further report is considered by Committee and that course of action is subsequently agreed.

**REASON**

- 1. In order to secure the safety of the wall.**
- 2. In order that the Council can consider what course of action is appropriate if the Section 77 procedure does not result in the danger being abated.**

Chair .....