MINUTES OF A MEETING OF WEST CRAVEN COMMITTEE HELD AT THE CIVIC HALL, BARNOLDSWICK ON 9TH JULY 2024

PRESENT – Councillor D. M. Whipp (Chair)

Councillors

C. Church D. Hartley M. Strickland T. Whipp

Officers Present

D. Walker	Assistant Director Operational Services and Area Co-ordinator
	Assistant Director Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services
J. Robinson	Committee Administrator

(Apologies for absence were received from Co-optees, S. Ashley and A. Inman.)

37.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

38.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from members of the public.

39.

40.

MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 4th June 2024, be approved as a correct record.

POLICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY ISSUES

Crime statistics for June 2024 compared to the same period in the previous year had been circulated prior to the meeting. They were broken down as follows –

	2023	2024
Burglary – Residential	0	2
Burglary – Commercial	0	0
Burglary – Non-dwelling	1	3
Vehicle Crime	2	6
Assaults	19	15
Theft	5	14

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Arson/Criminal Damage	8	6
All Recordable Crime	53	72
All Crime	88	118
Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)	16	10

The Police were not able to attend this meeting but PSCO N. Wallin had circulated some commentary on the crime figures prior to the meeting. In that commentary he stated that the figures were generally good with the exception of Theft. There was, however, no real pattern to the thefts or locations in which incidences were particularly concentrated. The Police were currently working with businesses in the West Craven area as part of Operation Vulture, a national operation to tackle shoplifting. A perpetrator had been identified for the Valley Gardens arson attack. Priorities for July would include; tackling anti-social behaviour, specifically in the vicinity of AJ's Bar & Grill; shoplifting and thefts; and working with the Lancashire Road Safety Partnership to tackle speeding and other anti-social driving.

Concern was raised about an accident damaged vehicle which had been parked on Colne Road in Kelbrook for a few weeks. The other vehicle involved had since been removed but this one remained and was causing a partial obstruction to the bus stop, pavement and road.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) be requested to provide some commentary on Vehicle Crime to explain its increase in June.
- (2) That the NPT be requested to submit an action plan based on issues of concern to all future meetings of this Committee irrespective of their attendance.
- (3) That the issue of the accident damaged vehicle that was causing an obstruction in Kelbrook be looked into with a view to ensuring it could be removed as soon as possible.

REASON

In the interests of community safety.

41.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

(a) Planning application for determination

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

24/0373/PIP Permission in Principle: Erection of 1 no dwelling at Land to the North East of Meadow Park Court, Barnoldswick for Mr Ian Birtwistle

RESOLVED

That planning permission in principle be granted subject to the following conditions -

Informative:

As part of a technical details application the following information should be provided:

- Plans, including location plan, site plan, access visibility splay plan, car and cycle parking plan, elevation and floor plans, and existing and proposed levels and finished floor levels.
- Planning Statement.
- Arboricultural Impact Assessment and Method Statement.
- Ecology Survey.

Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) requirements:

- Statement confirming the development is subject to the biodiversity net gain condition.
- Metric confirming pre-development biodiversity value.
- UKHab Plan detailing pre-development habitats and their condition.
- Description of any irreplaceable habitat on the land to which the application relates, that exists on the date of application.
- Confirmation of how you foresee achieving the 10% net gains.
- Draft Biodiversity Gain Plan.
- Draft Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan.
- Mapping (UKHab or similar) detailing post-development habitats and their condition.
- Any specific information relating to the preparation and finalisation of a legal agreement (S106) e.g. draft Heads of terms.

REASON

Section 38 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires that applications be determined in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. The proposed housing development would accord with Local Planning Policy and would be compliant with the guidance set out in the Framework, subject to compliance with planning conditions. The development therefore complies with the development plan. There is a positive presumption in favour of approving the development and there are no material reasons to object to the application.

(b) Planning Appeals

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

42.

ENFORCEMENT ACTION

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services submitted a report giving the up-to-date position on prosecutions.

In a verbal update it was reported that there had been some progress with the first case (North Block, Wardle Storey Offices, Earby) since the last meeting and it was hoped that further progress could be made and reported at the next one.

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An update on the third case (Land at the junction with Greenberfield Lane, Barnoldswick) was requested following the adjourned Hearing on 2nd July 2024. It was not known whether this Hearing had taken place. An update would be provided by email.

There had been some muck shifting on the land at the junction with Greenberfield Lane (case 4) which was, it was felt, exacerbating flooding issues downstream. There were currently no proposals for dealing with water at the construction stage and this needed to be addressed before winter arrived.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the report be noted.
- (2) That updates on Enforcement Action cases 1 and 3 be provided at the next meeting of this Committee.
- (3) That the Assistant Director, Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services be requested to submit a report, detailing the current position with case 4 and the options going forward, to the next meeting of this Committee.

REASON

In the interests of public health and safety.

43.

AREA COMMITTEE BUDGET

It was noted that the current balance for the Area Committee's budget for 2024/25 was £22,632.09. In addition there was £101 uncommitted from the 2022/23 brought forward to 2024/25.

Members considered a bid from PBC's Engineering Services seeking £2,000 towards highway improvements at Cemetery Road, Earby and a late bid from Linden Road Community Centre (LRCC) seeking £2,000 towards laying a new floor at the Centre.

Although Members resolved to approve the bid from PBC's Engineering Services they expressed concerns that, unless further improvements were made to the highway to strengthen the carriageway edge in private ownership, the scheme might not achieve its main outcomes. It was suggested that landowners be given the option to carry out additional works on their sections of land.

When considering the second bid Members were reluctant to commit the majority of Eaby township's remaining allocation particularly as they felt that LRCC might be eligible to access other sources of funding such as LEF funding.

RESOLVED

(1) That £2,000 be allocated from the Earby allocation for highway improvements at Cemetery Road, Earby.

- (2) That PBC Engineers be requested to consider giving landowners the option to carry out additional works to ensure that the improvements at Cemetery Road, partially funded by this Committee, remain in a good condition for as long as possible.
- (3) That consideration of Linden Road Community Centre's bid be deferred to the next meeting to allow for officers to issue advice to them on other potential funding opportunities.

REASON

To enable the area committee budget to be allocated effectively.

44. PARKING POLICY AND STRATEGIES FOR PENDLE

The Head of Economic Growth submitted a report which proposed a new overarching Pendle parking policy followed by five area-specific parking strategies for Nelson, Brierfield, Barnoldswick, Earby and Colne.

Members were asked to nominate a working group or individual to assess and review the current car parking situation and to establish what this Committee required from the new policy and strategy. The Chair suggested that three Members be nominated. A meeting would then be arranged with the Engineering Team to discuss town-specific parking issues and Member requirements.

Some Members felt it would be more productive to have a single working group for the whole Borough rather than having individual ones for each area. They also felt the Climate Emergency Working Group should be invited to nominate Members to the working group.

It was reported that campervans were being stored long-term on the car park on Cemetery Road, Earby and reducing parking provision in the Town. The car park was in Earby Town Council's ownership and this issue would be raised with them.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the report and proposed process be noted.
- (2) That Councillors C. Church, D. Whipp and T. Whipp be nominated to sit on a working group to assist in establishing West Craven's parking requirements.
- (3) That the Head of Economic Growth be requested to consider setting up a single working group for the whole Borough rather than having individual ones for each of the five areas.
- (4) That the Head of Economic Growth also be requested to consider inviting the Climate Emergency Working Group to nominate Members to the working group.
- (5) That a letter be sent to Earby Town Council to recommend that they do not permit the longterm storage of campervans on their Cemetery Road car park to increase parking provision in Earby.

REASON

To produce a parking policy for Pendle with a strategy that works for the Borough and Barnoldswick and Earby.

45. BUILDING RUBBLE/SPOIL AFFECTING OUSEL DALE

At the last meeting Members discussed the building rubble and spoil which had been dumped onto the embankment in Council owned woodland in Clough Park. The developer, when requested, had commenced work to clear the site but nothing had been done for several weeks. The developer had been contacted again but failed to carry out the remedial works. As a result, a Community Protection Warning (CPW) was served on 26th June requiring the debris to be removed within the month.

In a verbal update it was reported that the site had been visited recently and there were still works outstanding. The situation would be monitored.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

(a) Wentcliffe Drive, Earby – continuing ground water problems

Members had previously raised concerns about ground water problems in properties in Wentcliffe Drive, Earby. A meeting had been held with Together Housing some time ago but it was not clear whether they had since provided the information that had been requested at that meeting relating to the drilling of boreholes which, it had been suggested, might be contributing to the problems.

RESOLVED

46.

That a report on the continuing ground water problems on Wentcliffe Drive, Earby be submitted to a future meeting of this Committee.

REASON

To address the continuing ground water problems at this location.

(b) No waiting restrictions on Water Street, Earby outside the shops

There were no waiting restrictions outside of the even numbered commercial properties on Water Street, Earby which Members felt were not required. It was suggested that LCC should be asked to remove the restrictions and instead implement a number of marked 20-minute parking bays a suitable distance from the mini roundabout.

RESOLVED

That LCC be requested to remove the no waiting restrictions outside the even numbered commercial properties on Water Street, Earby and instead implement a number of marked 20-minute parking bays a suitable distance from the mini roundabout.

REASON

The no waiting restrictions are not required at this location.

(c) The canal leaking through Barnoldswick

Leaks had been noted at the Coates and Long Ing canal bridges in Barnoldswick and were affecting the properties on Roundell Road. Concerns were expressed that these leaks might eventually undermine the residential properties. The Canal & River Trust would be responsible for carrying out repairs.

RESOLVED

That a letter be sent to the Canal & River Trust to request that they take effective action to repair the leaks found at the Coates and Long Ing canal bridges in Barnoldswick.

REASON

To ensure the properties on Roundell Road, Barnoldswick are not undermined.

47.

OUTSTANDING ITEMS

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

- (a) Meeting with Pilkington Bus Company and LCC on 16th July about the possibility of extending the Barnoldswick Town bus service.
- (b) Meeting on 16th July to discuss maintenance/charging issues at Together Housing (TH) properties on Kelbrook Road, with the TH Neighbourhood Co-ordinator.
- (c) Meeting on 10th July with Euravia's General Manager.
- (d) Meeting requested with NHS Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board to discuss pharmacy provision.
- (e) Update on 2 Northern Powergrid issues in Barnoldswick.
- (f) Update on youth provision.

48.

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

Members agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during the following items 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.

49.

OUTSTANDING ENFORCEMENTS

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

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An update on the third case was requested. A communication had been issued to all involved parties but there had only been one response. A further communication was due to be issued to them and PBC's Barrister would be instructed to prepare Court papers for service if they did not respond within 7 days.

The sixth case was then discussed in some detail. There had been some progress with this case. PBC's Environmental Health Team had served a Notice requiring the removal of asbestos from the building and precautionary measures had been taken in the vicinity of the building to ensure any residual asbestos would not cause any issues. The process and timescales relating to this Notice were enquired about. The detail was not known but would be sought following the meeting and shared with Members.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the report and updates be noted.
- (2) That details of the process and timescales relating to the Notice served on the owner of the building referenced in case 6 be shared with Members following this meeting.

REASON

In the interests of public health and safety and visual amenity.

50.

PROBLEM SITES

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

An update was requested on the fourth site but there was nothing further to report at this stage.

Chair