

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF  
WEST CRAVEN COMMITTEE  
HELD AT THE RAINHALL CENTRE, BARNOLDSWICK  
ON 4<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2025**

*PRESENT –  
Councillor D. M. Whipp (Chair)*

**Councillors**

*D. Hartley  
S. Land  
M. Strickland  
T. Whipp*

**Co-optees**

*A. Mayers, Kelbrook and Sough Parish Council  
J. Wilson, Salterforth Parish Council*

**Police**

*PCSO R. Riley*

**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>

*(Apologies for absence were received from Councillor C. Church.)*



*The following person attended and spoke on the item indicated -*

<i>Mike Hughes</i>	<i>24/0810/FUL - Full: (Major): Erection of 30 no. dwellings with new access from Park Avenue along with associated infrastructure and landscaping at Land to the west of White Leys Close, Earby</i>	<i>Minute 168(a)</i>
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**164. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

**165. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no questions from members of the public.

**166. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED**

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2025, be approved as a correct record.

## **167. POLICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY ISSUES**

PCSO R. Riley highlighted some of the crime statistics for the last couple of months. In the period January to February 153 crimes had been reported covering anti-social behaviour, nuisance and environmental crime. This compared to 146 in the same period the previous year. There were 27 incidents of anti-social behaviour reported in January 2025 and 32 in February. He thought that the increase in crime from 2024 to 2025 could have been due to more people reporting crimes rather than the actual number of crimes increasing. A lot of work had been done on encouraging members of the public to report crimes. There did not appear to be any night-time economy related crimes. 10-15 people were persistent offenders causing anti-social behaviour, and his priority was to manage those individuals.

Members reported a problem with trial bikes and quad bikes being driven on roads and pavements which was illegal. PCSO R. Riley said that investigations were underway with some recent cases that had been reported.

He encouraged members of the public and Councillors to submit dashcam footage to the Lancashire Police website for any highway related crimes.

Speeding vehicles on Colne Road, Kelbrook were mentioned as a continuing issue. Members suggested it would be good to have a dialogue with the Police on where speeding and any crashes were occurring and consider if there were any non-enforcement actions relating to road design or the built environment that could be taken to slow traffic down and make roads safer. PCSO R. Riley said he would raise both these issues at an upcoming Road Safety Priorities meeting he was attending.

Members welcomed the news that a Community Beat Manager (CBM) would be starting in the area in the next few weeks.

It was pointed out that the Police had not provided the usual detailed crime statistics for the last couple of months. Members hoped that these would continue to be provided. They also repeated their request for an action plan on police work in the area and setting out their priorities. PCSO R. Riley said that he would take these comments away and discuss them with the new CBM. He assured Members that the police were keen to work in partnership in the community.

## **168. 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 –

**24/0810/FUL                      *Full: (Major): Erection of 30 no. dwellings with new access from Park Avenue along with associated infrastructure and landscaping at Land to the west of White Leys Close, Earby for Mr R. Calderbank***

A planning update had been circulated prior to the meeting reporting additional drainage information from the applicant to address the objections of the Lead Local Flood Authority and Yorkshire Water. They had been reconsulted and their responses were awaited. Further

information to address LCC's Highways' remaining comments were satisfactory subject to a number of conditions. Additional information including revised layout and level plans had also been received to address the reasons for refusal relating to trees and residential amenity. The Council's Environment Officer was now satisfied that the amended plans would not result in unacceptable impacts on the protected trees to be retained. The developer was still in discussion with Planning to address the residential amenity issues and intended to submit further plans. It was recommended that determination of the application be deferred to allow for the consultee responses and submission of amended plans to address the residential amenity issues.

## **RESOLVED**

That determination of the application be **deferred** to allow time for the consultees to respond and the submission of amended plans to address the residential amenity issues.

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

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

## **169. ENFORCEMENT ACTION**

The Legal Services Manager submitted a report giving the position on prosecutions. The Assistant Director Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services reported receipt of a planning application for the outstanding construction surface water management plan at Lower Green Hill Farm, Kelbrook Road, Barnoldswick. He also reported that the Planning Officer was in touch with the Lead Local Flood Authority about the revised drainage strategy for the development at Land to the west of Brogden View, Barnoldswick and had forwarded them photographs showing surface water problems.

## **RESOLVED**

That the Assistant Director Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services be asked to –

- (1) Discuss with the Legal Services Manager the outstanding works at North Block and South Block at Wardle Storey offices in Earby and provide an update to Committee.
- (2) Arrange a meeting with LCC to discuss the outstanding highways issues of land at the junction of Greenberfield Lane with Gisburn Road, Barnoldswick to try and achieve a satisfactory outcome.

## **170. AREA COMMITTEE BUDGET**

The 2024/25 Area Committee Budget and the additional £101 carried forward from 2022/23 totalling £31,591 had been allocated.

There was a surplus of £205.85 remaining in the budget from last year which had originally been allocated towards dog waste/litter bins. Members were asked to decide where to allocate the surplus £205.85 to prevent carrying it forward to next year.

## **RESOLVED**

That the surplus of £205.85 remaining in the budget from last year be allocated to dog waste/litter bins.

## **REASON**

*To enable the area committee budget to be allocated efficiently and effectively.*

### **171. WINTER MAINTENANCE**

Members discussed the response from LCC's Highways District Lead Team about their Winter Maintenance programme in response to the issues raised by this Committee on 7<sup>th</sup> January. Pendle Rural County Councillors had been invited to attend the meeting to discuss their response. County Councillor M. Goulthorp had given his apologies. He was satisfied that the response from the LCC was comprehensive and said he would not have anything to add.

The response set out LCC's strategy for keeping traffic moving on the priority road network. Also how they treated main urban traffic routes, major bus routes and routes serving emergency service sites. It stated that they treated priority footways and had a mutual aid agreement with PBC to support and help treat footways during challenging periods. Secondary routes were treated where practicable after higher priority roads had been cleared.

Members had not seen gritters out on the roads/pavements and gave examples of roads e.g. Dotcliffe Road, Kelbrook and Rainhall Crescent in Barnoldswick which had not been treated in the bad weather in early January, although they might have been treated previously. PBC workers and volunteers had cleared much of the snow and ice on pavements.

## **RESOLVED**

That the response from the LCC's Highways District Lead Team be noted.

### **172. FLOODING ISSUES IN EARBY**

At the 7<sup>th</sup> January meeting Members asked the Engineering Manager to review the flooding response capability in Earby and the Earby Flood Warden Community Scheme. The note of a meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> February to take these issues forward was submitted for information. Since that meeting the Engineering Manager had taken forward some of the actions and spoken to relevant organisations and people. The following progress was noted -

- The Environment Agency had confirmed that they would support the process of signing up new flood wardens.
- Earby Town Council had confirmed they had keys for the sandbag containers and these were being collected.
- A local resident had access to the pump stored in the Boot Street container and was continuing to maintain it on behalf of the Town Council.
- Yorkshire Water had been reminded about the problems with sewers on Stoneybank/Water Street and Salterforth Road.
- A date had been agreed for a walkaround with the various interested parties.

Unfortunately, Earby Town Council had said they would no longer be supplying any sandbags going forward. The Council would need to consider providing a supply for public collection going forward.

## **RESOLVED**

- (1) That Earby Town Council be invited to meet to discuss the future provision of sandbags and flood wardens.
- (2) That the Engineering Manager be formally requested to contact Yorkshire Water about the outstanding problems with the sewers on Stoneybank/Water Street and Salterforth Road.
- (3) That the Assistant Director Operational Services be requested to look into the possibility of transferring the sandbags to the Earby Flood Warden Community Scheme, or an appropriate organisation so they continued to be accessible in an emergency.

## **REASON**

***To try to improve the flooding response in Earby in the event of an emergency.***

### **173. GROUNDWATER PROBLEMS AT WENTCLIFFE DRIVE, EARBY**

*(Councillor D. Whipp declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item as a Director of PEARL Together.)*

Ongoing problems with groundwater in properties at Wentcliffe Drive were raised at this Committee on 8th October 2024 and Members asked for the Engineering Manager to arrange a meeting with Together Housing and that Earby Town Council (ETC) be invited. Also, that ETC, on behalf of residents, consider taking legal action against the contractors used by Together Housing who undertook work for them installing ground source pumps. LCC were also asked if they were considering taking any action in view of their drainage assets. The Engineering Manager submitted a note which set out the background to the issue and ETC's and LCC's response to the requests. Both ETC and LCC had decided for reasons set out that they would not be taking any action. As Pendle Council's property/land was not being affected by the groundwater it was felt that no further action could be taken.

Members were aware that drainage issues were currently being considered at the PEARL Together Spring Mill housing development. Members were concerned that the original proposal for surface water on Bailey Street being discharged in a cut-off attenuation tank would now be dealt with in a trench with no discharge point for the surface water collected.

## **RESOLVED**

- (1) That the responses from Earby Town Council and Lancashire County Council on the groundwater problems be noted.
- (2) That the Head of Economic Growth be asked to request PEARL Together to ensure that the treatment of surface water on Bailey Street had an appropriate discharge point, so

that it was removed from site and would not add to problems residents were experiencing with groundwater in this area of Earby.

## **REASON**

***To try to reduce the groundwater/surface water in this part of Earby.***

**174.**

### **ROYAL MAIL DELIVERIES**

Tim Bulmer, Operations Performance Leader from Royal Mail, met members on 13<sup>th</sup> February to discuss the postal service in West Craven. Members gave examples of problems residents had reported with missing or delayed post.

Mr Bulmer explained that Royal Mail was asking regulators to change the Universal Service Obligation (USO) which would reduce second class deliveries to every other day, and that recruitment was on hold due to the USO review. Recruitment was a challenge anyway as new terms and conditions had created a two-tier workforce. Staffing at Barnoldswick Delivery Office was under strength and there were three people on reduced duties.

Since the meeting there had been a couple of complaints which would be reported directly to Mr Bulmer, as agreed.

**175.**

### **ENVIRONMENTAL BLIGHT**

The Head of Property Services submitted a report on environmental blight sites in West Craven. It was noted that PBC and LCC officers were working together to address instances of flytipping at West Close Road Lorry Park. A camera, funded by this Committee, had been installed at this location and had so far picked up 3 instances of fresh dumping on Stock Beck which were being investigated.

**176.**

### **OUTSTANDING ITEMS**

At previous meetings reports/updates had been requested on the following items -

#### **(a) Access to dentistry services in Earby. Awaiting response from LSC Integrated Care Board.**

A letter from the Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board (L&SC ICB) in response to the concerns raised about access to dentistry services in Earby had been circulated prior to the meeting. It explained what was being done nationally and locally to improve access to dentistry services. It stated that in the event of urgent care being needed residents could ring the local helpline 0300 1234 010 which could provide advice, support and an appointment where this was required.

The Chair said that he would feed back this information to the person who had raised the issue.

#### **(b) Proposed maintenance works for Earby Memorial Park.**

It was noted that Kelbrook and Sough Parish Council would be considering what level of funding to allocate to maintenance works in the park at their meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> March. They had received

letters of support from the Bowling Club. A drop-in consultation event was planned on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March to get feedback from residents and visitors on their priorities for the park.

**177. 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.

**178. OUTSTANDING ENFORCEMENTS**

The Assistant Director Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services submitted a report on outstanding enforcements. It was noted that the plan and costings for the first case were being prepared and work was expected to start in April/May.

**RESOLVED**

That the Assistant Director Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services be asked to check whether the second case needed to be on the outstanding enforcements list.

**179. PROBLEM SITES**

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

**RESOLVED**

- (1) That the Assistant Director Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services be asked to explore the possibilities of progressing work on the first property listed in the report and contact the bank for an update on the third property.
- (2) That the Head of Housing and Environmental Health be asked to include the fourth and fifth properties in the Empty Homes Programme and for them to be prioritised.

**REASON**

***In the interests of visual amenity and to bring empty properties back into use.***

Chair.....