

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF
WEST CRAVEN COMMITTEE
HELD AT NEW ROAD COMMUNITY CENTRE
ON 5TH AUGUST 2025**

PRESENT –

Councillor D. M. Whipp (Chair)

Councillors

*C. Church
D. Hartley
S. Land
M. Strickland
L. Whipp*

Co-optees

*J. Spencer, Barnoldswick Town Council
A. Mayers, Kelbrook and Sough Parish Council*

Officers

*D. Walker Assistant Director Operational Services and Area Co-ordinator
J. Eccles Committee Administrator*

(Apologies were given by C. Pollard, Co-optee for Salterforth Parish Council.)



46. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Members' attention was also drawn to the requirements of the Council's Code of Conduct relating to the disclosure of Other Registrable Interests and Non-Registrable Interests.

47. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from members of the public.

48. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 1st July 2025, be approved as a correct record.

49. POLICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY ISSUES

The crime statistics for July were circulated at the meeting but were not complete due to a technical difficulty. The Police were unable to send a representative to the meeting.

The Chair reported that Sergeant C. Emmett was now an Inspector elsewhere. The new Sergeant was in post.

Members noted the statistics and hoped that Sergeant Emmett's replacement or another Police representative could attend the next meeting.

49.

NORTH WEST AMBULANCE SERVICE

Matt Cooper, Cumbria and Lancashire Area Director for the NWAS, attended the meeting to give an annual update on performance and activity. He last attended, with colleagues, in May 2024 and focussed then on progress with implementing their strategy which was giving the right care at the right time at the right place to make the best use of resources and improving community resilience.

He was pleased to report that ambulance response times for C1 (life-threatening incidents) and C2 (emergency incidents) had both improved in East Lancashire for 2024/25 and 2023/24. Fewer people were being taken to hospital and more people managed over the phone from the control room, where they could be signposted and given advice over the phone by a clinician instead of an automatic trip to hospital. Investing in clinicians in the control room had been key. This was freeing up ambulances in the community to be available for calls that needed a face-to-face response.

Achievements in 2024/25 included being one of the quickest ambulance services for answering 999 calls in England. 97.8% of 999 calls were answered within 5 seconds. An NWAS Senior Paramedic, working with care homes and Age UK, had set up the collaborative "East Lancashire Care Home Engagement" as a way to find a solution to the long waits that vulnerable elderly patients often experienced when they had a fall.

He explained how the NHS Urgent and Emergency Care Plan 2025/26 with additional investment was supporting the changes needed to make improvements.

He highlighted three main areas of focus for the NWAS this year. A reduction in the response time target for C2 incidents from 35 minutes to 30 minutes. This was achieved in 2024/25, so the NWAS were looking at reducing this further to under 29 minutes. Introducing a maximum hospital handover time of 45 minutes and improving winter vaccine uptake rates amongst patients and staff.

Previously there had been an issue with ambulances tied up at hospitals, sometimes waiting with patients on hospital trolleys, because there was no procedure in place to hand over patients without undue risk. There was now a formal transfer process in place and a maximum handover of 45 minutes which meant the ambulance could then get back to responding to urgent calls much sooner. It had been working well at Airedale for a few weeks and had just gone live at Royal Blackburn on 1st August 2025.

A significant improvement which now helped ambulance crews and clinicians was the access to summary care records. Access to information on allergies, medication, previous procedures/conditions was really important for providing the best treatment.

Matt emphasised the importance of as many people as possible learning CPR for use in an emergency situation. The NWAS were currently recruiting a Head of Volunteering and one of their first jobs would be to increase take-up of volunteering opportunities, particularly in rural areas. They were considering having a light volunteer role, so that someone could just be a CPR volunteer, and not have to deal with other emergency cases, although this was in the very early stages. There was also a keenness to promote CPR training in communities so as many people as possible knew how to do CPR.

He encouraged the Committee, organisations and people holding community events to invite the NWAS where they could recruit volunteers and share the CPR technique in just a few minutes, hopefully breaking the fear.

The DefibFinder web app was a quick way to find the nearest defibrillators. Any new defibrillator needed to be registered with the British Heart Foundation on their Circuit website. All defibrillators needed guardians to check, at least every 90 days, that it was working. The NWAS were in conversation with the Army Cadets in looking for volunteers for defibrillator guardians. It was suggested that they might want to engage with the Fire Service Cadets and the King's Trust.

It was noted that some defibrillators were off-line because they had been used, so might have been left at hospital, in an ambulance or left at the scene. The NWAS had received some charity funding to enable an officer to manage the situation, to ensure they were back in situ, ready for the next emergency, as quickly as possible.

Matt summed up by saying that the improvements could not have been made without significant investment, and there were a lot of staff to thank for their hard work and willingness to adapt to new ways of working.

RESOLVED

- (1) That Matt Cooper be thanked for attending the meeting and providing such a comprehensive update on NWAS performance and delivery.
- (2) That the significant improvements outlined in the presentation be welcomed.
- (3) That the NWAS be invited to attend the Earby Community Flood Response event for emergency services in September when a date had been fixed.

50. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Planning Appeals

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

51. ENFORCEMENT ACTION

The Head of Legal Services submitted a report giving the up-to-date position on enforcement action. It was reported at the meeting that on 29th July the developers of the site at Land at the junction with Greenberfield Lane, Gisburn Road, Barnoldswick had been fined over £5,000 for failing to alter the perimeter fence in accordance with the approved plan.

52. AREA COMMITTEE BUDGET

The Head of Property and Engineering submitted a report on the Area Committee Budget for 2025/26. Members noted there was a credit of £1,395 for new litter and dog waste bins.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Head of Property and Engineering be informed that the Committee would like the amount for new litter and dog waste bins to remain as one amount and used across the whole of West Craven.
- (2) That £200 be allocated from the Earby allocation of the Area Committee Budget 2025/26 for the Earby Community Flood Response event in September.

REASON

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

53. TRAFFIC LIAISON MEETING

The minutes of the Traffic Liaison Meeting held on 9th June were submitted for information.

It was noted that the new bus stand on Station Road was awaiting informal consultation. Members had previously requested that the Disabled Parking Bay outside the Civic Hall be removed and 2 spaces be created in front of the Station Road car park. However, this proposal had not been agreed.

Members were surprised that no road safety or speeding/traffic concern issues were raised at the meeting. West Yorkshire Vision Zero was a road safety aim to eliminate all traffic fatalities and severe injuries, while increasing safe, healthy, equitable mobility for all in West Yorkshire.

The West Yorkshire Vision Zero partnership was made up of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority, the five local authorities (Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees, Leeds and Wakefield) West Yorkshire Police, West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service, National Highways, victim support services, and road safety campaigners. Working in partnership they aimed to reduce road danger in their region by 50% by 2030 and to zero by 2040.

It was felt that there should be a similar aspiration in East Lancashire.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Bus Stand on Station Road be welcomed but the removal of limited waiting parking spaces in front of Yellow Cars be rejected.
- (2) That LCC be asked to reconsider removing the Disabled Parking Bay outside the Civic Hall and creating 2 spaces on the kerbside in front of the Station Road car park.
- (3) That 'No Loading/Unloading' be included at the gable end of Decisions to facilitate buses negotiating the turn off Skipton Road.
- (4) That the need for the hackney carriage stand on Church Street, Barnoldswick be reviewed.
- (5) That the new No Waiting At Any Time TRO on Albert Square be supported but LCC be reminded that the street to the rear of Barnoldswick's Town Square had never been called Albert Square and that the naming of streets was the responsibility of Ward Councillors.
- (6) That LCC be asked to consider introducing a Vision Zero policy on road safety like the one in West Yorkshire.

REASON

In the interests of highway safety.

54. PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER – DOG CONTROL

The Director of Resources submitted a report on the extension of the Dog Control Public Spaces Protection Order.

The PSPO related to dog fouling in any space accessible by the public in Pendle, dog restrictions in cemeteries, war memorials and memorial gardens and no dogs and no smoking in children's play areas (which were not otherwise included in either the Parks or Sports Grounds PSPOs). During May and June town and parish councils and the public were invited to comment on a further 3-year extension of the PSPO from 20th September. Anonymised comments from the public were attached to the report.

RESOLVED

That the Dog Control Public Spaces Protection Order be extended for 3 years.

REASON

To enable the Council and its partners to respond to concerns regarding behaviour that is detrimental to the quality of life in public spaces in Pendle, including enforcement action.

55. LITTER/DOG WASTE BINS – QUARTER 1

An update was given on the provision of litter/dog waste bins in Quarter 1 – 1st April to 30th June 2025 which was noted.

56. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Members discussed recent incidents of highway flooding in Earby and Sough.

The various issues along with photographs had been reported to the Engineering Manager PBC who was going to raise them with the relevant authorities – LCC, Yorkshire Water and the Environment Agency. However, it was felt that they should also be reported directly to LCC as the Highways Authority.

RESOLVED

That LCC be asked to investigate the following flooding incidents on the highway to prevent or minimise any further occurrences -

- On Colne Road/Skipton Road, Earby water was surcharging from two chambers at the junction of New Road with A56 and there was standing water across both carriageways. It was thought that the issue was on the Victoria Clough culvert line which could have been silting up.
- At the bottom of Salterforth Road both the LCC culvert line and the Yorkshire Water sewer were surcharging. It was thought that the LCC line was inadequate between the chamber shown in the photograph and where the culvert discharged to open watercourse.
- There was ponding at the bottom of Ghyll Brow where the highway culvert was inadequate.
- At Sough, one carriageway flooded on the bend.

REASON

In the interests of highway safety.

57. 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.

58. OUTSTANDING ENFORCEMENTS

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

59. ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME – QUARTER 1

The Assistant Director Operational Services submitted a report on environmental crime in West Craven for the period 1st April to 30th June 2025 which he presented at the meeting. Members had also received a comparison report on environmental crime between 2024/25 Quarter 4 and 2025/26 Quarter 1.

Chair.....