

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF
WEST CRAVEN COMMITTEE
HELD AT THE RAINHALL CENTRE, BARNOLDSWICK
ON 4TH NOVEMBER 2025**

PRESENT –

Councillor D. M. Whipp (Chair)

Councillors

*C. Church
D. Hartley
S. Land*

Co-optees

*J. Spencer, Barnoldswick Town Council
H. Wright, Kelbrook and Sough Parish Council*

Officers

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

(Apologies were given by C. Pollard from Salterforth Parish Council and Councillor L. Whipp.)

87. 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.

88. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from members of the public.

89. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 7th October 2025, be approved as a correct record.

90. POLICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY ISSUES

The Police were unable to attend the meeting. The crime figures would be circulated as soon as they became available.

91. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

(a) Planning Applications for determination

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

24/0810/FUL Full: (Major): Erection of 28 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

RESOLVED

25/0543/VAR ***Variation of Condition: Vary Condition 7 (Estate Road) of Planning Permission 13/14/0172P at site of Hope Mill, Skipton Road, Barnoldswick for Nick Doherty***

RESOLVED

(b) Planning Appeals

92. ENFORCEMENT ACTION

RESOLVED

- (1) That an update on progress be sought from the developer of the former Wardle Storey offices in Earby.
- (2) That the developer's compliance with the Construction Method Statement at Land off Cob Lane and Old Stone Trough Lane, Kelbrook be noted and the site be removed from the list.

93. AREA COMMITTEE BUDGET 2025/26

94. TRAFFIC LIAISON MEETING

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In relation to the TRO for the new bus stand on Station Road, the Committee had previously requested that the Disabled Parking Bay outside the Civic Hall in Barnoldswick be removed and 2 additional bays be created in front of the Station Road car park. However, the minutes of the meeting stated that LCC was not considering any additional on-street disabled parking provision given existing provision on the Civic Hall car park, other nearby car parks and the potential for 3-hour Blue Badge parking on yellow lines. Members felt that this arrangement could cause a bottleneck. There was also the potential for buses to get stuck in the vicinity of the gable end of *Decisions* on Station Road by this part of the road which was not being included in the TRO.

Members noted that the Minutes referred to the street to the rear of Barnoldswick Town Square as Albert Square, whereas the street was currently unnamed.

RESOLVED

That the Engineering Manager be asked to inform LCC that –

- (1) The Committee formally objected to the TRO for the new bus stand on Station Road, Barnoldswick, on the basis that 2 disabled bays should be created in front of the Station Road car park and that No loading and Unloading At Any Time should be included at the gable end of *Decisions*.
- (2) At the next meeting of this Committee Ward Councillors would be considering naming the street to the rear of Barnoldswick's Town Square, which LCC currently referred to as Albert Square.

REASON

1. ***In the interests of road safety and improving access and traffic flow.***
2. ***To facilitate easy identification for organisations, emergency services, residents and visitors to the area.***

95. LITTER/DOG WASTE BINS

An update was given on the provision of litter/dog waste bins in Quarter 2 – 1st July to 30th September 2025 which was noted.

96. ROYAL MAIL SERVICE

Following discussions at previous meetings about the poor postal service in West Craven, a formal complaint had been made to Royal Mail asking why the postal service in the area had not improved in recent months and requesting action to put things right. Councillor D. Hartley referred to the recent, unsuccessful leaflet drop for his funeral business. This had also been raised with Royal Mail. As yet, Royal Mail had not replied.

Members reported they were still receiving complaints about the poor service, people missing hospital appointments and having to wait a long time for post to reach them. Whilst it was understood that there were plans to reduce the area of individual postal rounds and to recruit more people, the service was currently understaffed. Meanwhile a leaflet had recently been delivered to homes offering a postal prescription service. There was concern that if there was no additional staffing for this new service, there would be delays with that service and it would detract from other post deliveries.

RESOLVED

That the Committee's concerns about the poor postal service in the area be reiterated and that Royal Mail be asked how the new prescription service could be offered to residents when the current postal service was so poor.

REASON

To improve the postal service in the area for the benefit of residents and businesses.

97. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1972

In accordance with the provisions of Section 100 (B)(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, as amended, the Chair agreed that the following item should be considered as a matter of urgency, the grounds being that safe access to all polling stations was required for the Barnoldswick by-election on 27th November.

98. LIGHTING AT WALMSGATE

It was reported that a lamppost at Walmsgate Independent Methodist Sunday School was out of action following a road traffic accident. Members wanted to make sure that there was adequate lighting for the forthcoming Barnoldswick by-election when the building was being used as a polling station. There was also a small section of uneven path between the pavement and the Walmsgate car park which was owned by the Council which needed attention.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the floodlights fixed to the pole in the Walmsgate car park be replaced so that they were in full working order in time for the by-election on 27th November.
- (2) That the small section of uneven path between the pavement and the Walmsgate car park be resurfaced in time for the by-election on 27th November.

REASON

In the interests of public safety.

99. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

- (a) **Uneven road surfaces on Station Road and Skipton Road (near the junction with Fernlea Avenue)**

The soft bitmac surfaces in this location were being squashed by buses, as inevitably they used the same route on their approach to the bus stop. Station Road was due to have new TRO markings in the near future. Members suggested that the road surface should be hardened before the new lines were put down. Double deck buses often lurched forward at the Skipton Road/Fernlea junction.

Members agreed that both these areas were heavily used by pedestrians and the undulations in the road surface created tripping hazards. There was a need for the bus waiting area to be hardened to prevent recurring issues with deformation of the carriageway.

RESOLVED

That the Engineering Manager be asked to raise the uneven road surfaces on Station Road and Skipton Road (near the junction with Fernlea Avenue) with LCC, to ask what they intended to do and for a report to come back in due course.

REASON

In the interests of highway and public safety.

(b) Condition of ginnel from Gisburn Road to Coniston Avenue (gable ends of Rosemount and Melville Avenues)

Grass was overgrowing the edges of the surfaced path at this location, and the path needed attention.

RESOLVED

That LCC be asked to improve the ginnel from Gisburn Road to Coniston Avenue (gable ends of Rosemount and Melville Avenues) by cutting the grass and improving the surface of the path.

REASON

In the interests of public safety and convenience.

(c) Condition of exceedance channel adjacent to Robinson Fold from the culvert entrances in the former Westfield Mill Lodge

It was explained that this exceedance channel was where water escaped from the former mill lodge if it became too full. A second culvert was constructed through planning gain from Robinson Fold, and flooding had reduced dramatically in the area. However, there would be occasion when the culvert would not be able to cope, and in really bad weather surface water from the streets uphill of the channel spilt into this exceedance route. Unfortunately, some residents had tipped garden waste and other debris into the channel, blocking it. The last time this was a problem, residents on the downhill side had water threatening their homes. It was unclear who should be keeping the channel clear. The situation needed resolving before it become an emergency situation in heavy rain.

RESOLVED

That the Engineering Manager ask LCC to carry out works to improve the condition of the exceedance channel adjacent to Robinson Fold from the culvert entrances in the former Westfield Mill Lodge before the worst of the winter weather.

REASON

To prevent future flooding in this location.

(d) Late running on the Stagecoach 280 Service

There had been complaints about the late running of the Stagecoach 280 bus service weekday mornings which was causing pupils at Skipton schools to be late.

RESOLVED

That Stagecoach and LCC be asked to report back on the timeliness of the 280 bus service.

REASON

To improve public transport for children attending schools in Skipton.

(e) Grass cutting and use of new bus shelter, Skipton Road, Barnoldswick, following introduction of the 30mph speed limit

A new bus shelter had been installed on Skipton Road as part of the new Cotton Meadows development, but was not being used by buses, which continued to stop at a pole (with no shelter) closer to Barnoldswick. There were questions about the markings around the new bus stop as well as those on raised kerbs at other bus stops in the area. As the 30mph limit had been extended, there was a request that the grass cutting be extended.

RESOLVED

That the Engineering Manager ask the bus company why they were not stopping at the new bus shelter on Skipton Road, Barnoldswick; ask LCC if any works were due to be carried out at bus shelters in the area; and request that the grass cutting be extended in line with the new 30pmh limit.

REASON

To make use of the new bus shelter and improve visual amenity in the vicinity.

(f) Road surface conditions including Cavendish Street; Park Road; Walmsgate/ Westgate; Moorgate Road; and Harper Street

LCC were reviewing their budget for road repairs and there was concern that there were many roads in West Craven which needed attention. Very few roads in the area had been improved in recent years. There were complaints about the road surface conditions at the following locations -

- Cavendish Street – the road was breaking up badly on the section near Cedars Close.
- Park Road – had been repeatedly patched, and was constantly breaking up.
- Walmsgate/Westgate - old reinstatements were breaking up.
- Moorgate Road - a very uneven surface on the approach to Folly Lane (an elderly person had recently fell and injured himself).
- Harper Street – there was a section with a thin layer of asphalt breaking up on top of the setts.

Members also raised the following issues –

- Clifford Street - gable end of the Groves. The road was subsiding very badly and probably needed a new retaining structure.
- Lower West and Lower East Avenues, Barnoldswick – the road surfaces were breaking up, creating potholes when winter conditions set in.
- Wellhouse Road pavement, opposite North Parade - there was a missing pavement at a former entrance to the mill. This was blocking access for people in wheelchairs and mobility scooters, it filled with water during rain, and often had cars parked in it, forcing pedestrians into the road.

- The pavement on Skipton Road, opposite the junction of Crownest Road, where the kerb was flush with the carriageway, water ponded on the pavement and road.
- Lower part of Ash Grove, which was heavily trafficked had been repeatedly patched but was not in good condition. This road had significant pedestrian usage.
- Wellington Street and York Street, Barnoldswick and George Street, Earby - both thinly surfaced streets over setts, which was constantly breaking up.

RESOLVED

That the Engineering Manager be asked to raise the uneven and poor road surfaces at the above locations with LCC, to ask what they intended to do, and for a report to come back to Committee in due course.

REASON

In the interests of highway and public safety.

(g) Condition of back streets in Barnoldswick Town Centre: back Albert Road and back Rainhall Road

There were complaints about the condition of back Albert Road and back Rainhall Road in Barnoldswick Town Centre. These two streets had first floor flats above the businesses and so the roads were well used by residents and pedestrians. They were in a dreadful state, with trip hazards, crumbling surfaces and drainage issues. They detracted from the Town Centre and reflected badly on the area.

RESOLVED

That LCC Highways and Economic Development officers be asked to investigate the complaint and to report back on whose responsibility it was to bring them up to an acceptable standard.

REASON

In the interests of public safety, visual amenity and the appearance of the town centre.

(h) Naming of unnamed street at the back of Barnoldswick Town Square

It was noted that LCC referred to an unnamed street at the back of Barnoldswick Town Square as Albert Square. The Council had statutory functions for the naming of streets within the Borough and it was felt that to avoid any confusion a decision on the name should be made by Ward Councillors at the next meeting.

RESOLVED

That LCC be informed that Ward Councillors at the meeting of West Craven Committee would be naming this street.

REASON

To facilitate easy identification for organisations, emergency services, residents and visitors to the area.

(i) Condition of road surface at Victoria Road/New Road/A56 junction in Earby

This was a busy three-way junction with lots of people crossing on foot. The road surface was badly broken up and had been repeatedly repaired so that no road marking survived, making it even more dangerous for road users.

RESOLVED

That the Engineering Manager be asked to raise the condition of the road surface at Victoria Road/New Road/A56 junction in Earby with LCC, to ask what they intended to do, and for a report to come back in due course.

REASON

In the interests of highway safety and public amenity.

(j) Condition of Taylor Street steps, Barnoldswick

The Taylor Street steps in Barnoldswick were uneven and on a long slope. These were the responsibility of LCC since a Definitive Map Modification Order added the route to the public network several years ago.

RESOLVED

That LCC be asked to take effective action to improve the condition of the Taylor Street steps in Barnoldswick.

REASON

In the interests of public safety.

(k) To consider the deterioration in local streets including Arthur Street, Sough and Meadow Way and Valley Drive in Barnoldswick

Members highlighted the worn-out road surface at Arthur Street, Sough. Also at Meadow Way and Valley Drive in Barnoldswick. These were some of the worst in the area.

RESOLVED

That the Engineering Manager be asked to raise with LCC the condition of the road surface at Arthur Street, Sough and Meadow Way and Valley Drive in Barnoldswick, to ask what they intended to do and for a report to come back in due course.

REASON

In the interests of highway safety and public amenity.

100.

EMPTY PROPERTIES

The Head of Housing and Environmental Health submitted a report on empty properties in West Craven. It was noted that there were 153 residential properties in West Craven which had been empty for more than 6 months. A further 64 which were exempt from taxation.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Executive be asked to use their Compulsory Purchase Order powers to address long-term empty properties in West Craven, including those that were so derelict that they did not attract Council Tax.

REASON

In the interests of visual and residential amenity and to bring long-term empty properties back into use.

101. 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.

102. OUTSTANDING ENFORCEMENTS

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

RESOLVED

- (1) That the meeting requested previously for the first case on the list be arranged as soon as possible.
- (2) That the Enforcement Officer be asked to check that previous cases listed had not come off the list by mistake and that an update on several cases be brought back to the next meeting.

REASON

To move progress and ensure that the information on outstanding enforcements is complete.

103. PROBLEM SITES

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

RECOMMENDATION

- (1) That in the absence of any action being taken to improve the third property on the list, that the Executive be recommended to use their Compulsory Purchase Order powers to bring it back into use.
- (2) That the if no action was taken in the next couple of months in respect of the fifth property on the list that the Assistant Director Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services be authorised to serve a Section 79 Buildings Notice requiring action to be taken.

REASON

In the interests of visual and residential amenity and to bring a long-term empty property back into use.

104. ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME – QUARTER 2

The Assistant Director Operational Services submitted a report on environmental crime in West Craven for the period 1st July to 30th September 2025 which was noted. Also provided was a comparison report on environmental crime between 2025/26 Quarter 1 and Quarter 2.

105. EMPTY PROPERTIES

The Head of Housing and Environmental Health submitted a list of empty properties in the West Craven area which was noted.

RESOLVED

That a couple of properties known to be empty be brought to the Empty Homes Officer's attention and added to the list.

REASON

To ensure that the list is as accurate as possible.

Chair.....