

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF
WEST CRAVEN COMMITTEE
HELD AT NEW ROAD COMMUNITY CENTRE, EARBY
ON 3RD FEBRUARY 2026**

PRESENT –

Councillor D. M. Whipp (Chair)

Councillors

*C. Church
B. Hartley
D. Hartley
S. Land
L. Whipp*

Co-optees

*J. Spencer, Barnoldswick Town Council
S. Ashley, Kelbrook and Sough Parish Council*

Police

*PCSO T. Griffiths
PC G. Ingham*

Officers

<i>D. Walker</i>	<i>Assistant Director Operational Services and Area Co-ordinator</i>
<i>L. Barnes</i>	<i>Senior Planning Officer</i>
<i>J. Eccles</i>	<i>Committee Administrator</i>

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The following people attended and spoke on the item indicated –

<i>L. Greenwood P. Parris D. Richardson G. Wilson</i>	<i>25/0813/FUL - Full: Erection of 1 no. dwelling with associated vehicular access, infrastructure, siting of a temporary caravan, and the provision of 3 no. parking spaces at Land to The North of The Stables, Old Stone Trough Lane, Kelbrook</i>	<i>Minute 136(a)</i>
<i>M. Bell</i>	<i>Dial-a Ride Service to Dales View Park</i>	<i>Minute 125(a)</i>

131. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

RESOLVED

That Councillor D. Hartley be appointed Vice-Chair for the remaining municipal year 2025/26.

132. 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.

133. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from members of the public.

134. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 7th January 2026, be approved as a correct record.

135. POLICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY ISSUES

The crime figures for January 2026 compared to the same period in the previous year had been circulated prior to the meeting. They were broken down for Coates, Craven and Barnoldswick.

PC G. Ingham said that the crime statistics for the previous month were relatively good. He felt there was nothing to highlight this month and was hopeful that the rise in assaults in Earby, from 5 in January 2025 to 15 this month, was a one-off.

At the last meeting Members discussed anti-social behaviour and verbal abuse that bus drivers were experiencing from young people and action being taken to tackle the problem. PC G. Ingham said the Police had interviewed a young male the previous day who had admitted to a recent bus-related offence which had been caught on CCTV and had been referred to the Youth Offending Team.

Members had also previously discussed an alleged knife crime incident in Earby between 2 males. PC G. Ingham confirmed that they had attended the scene within 22 minutes of the emergency call being made; the call to 999 had made no mention of a knife; no weapon was found when they attended the scene; and the person appeared to have mental health issues and was taken home.

The Chair said that there was an ambition for local organisations to work together to renovate the skate park and pump track in Barnoldswick. PC G. Ingham confirmed that they could apply for funding for diversionary activities towards the project. They could also approach Hope Technology which had access to funding streams in the biking world that might be able to help.

In discussing community safety issues, PC G. Ingham said that he was not aware of any local trend on racially motivated hate crime, although one individual had been involved in such an incident, who had been apprehended.

There had been rumours and posts on Facebook about potentially fatal incidents from drugs in the area. PC G. Ingham said that the Police had looked at toxicology and coroner reports and there was no evidence to support this.

136. 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 –

25/0813/FUL Full: Erection of 1 no. dwelling with associated vehicular access, infrastructure, siting of a temporary caravan, and the provision of 3 no. parking spaces at Land to The North of The Stables, Old Stone Trough Lane, Kelbrook for Mrs L. Lancaster

An update had been circulated prior to the meeting reporting receipt of a report amending visibility splays, an amended elevation plan with materials updated, a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal and a Construction Method Statement. It also covered a number of other issues which had been raised in objections to the application. The additional information and comments received did not alter the planning balance. The application was recommended for approval with several conditions.

RESOLVED

That consideration of the planning application be **deferred** to allow for a site visit.

(b) Planning Appeals

The Assistant Director Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services submitted a report on outstanding planning appeals for information.

137. ENFORCEMENT ACTION

The Legal Services Manager submitted a report giving the up-to-date position on enforcement action.

Members noted that the application for bridge permits to the Environment Agency had been made in respect of the outstanding works at the Wardle Storey Offices in Earby but there were still outstanding works required on Land at the junction with Greenberfield Lane, Gisburn Road, Barnoldswick.

RESOLVED

That the Assistant Director Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services be asked to continue to press for progress on the outstanding works required at Land at the junction with Greenberfield Lane, Gisburn Road, Barnoldswick, to improve the situation for pedestrians.

138. AREA COMMITTEE BUDGET 2025/26

The Legal Services Manager submitted a report on the Committee's Area Committee Budget for 2024/25. It was noted that the balance on the Area Committee Budget for 2025/26 was £23,644.52.

At the last meeting Members agreed to carry forward 50% of the 2025/26 Area Committee Budget to 2026/27 to support Pride in Place Impact Fund projects in West Craven. For this to happen Members noted the need to spend the allocated but unspent schemes where possible, or to allocate funding to new schemes which could be spent before the end of March 2026 to reduce the carry-forward figure to £31,490, the maximum amount this Committee could carry forward.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Engineering Manager be asked if the £1,941.11 remaining from the Earby Memorial Park retaining wall project was needed for a drainage/culvert issue in the park and if so that it be used for that purpose, or it be deallocated at the next meeting.
- (2) That funding be allocated from the Earby allocation of the Area Committee Budget 2025/26 for the replacement of the seats in Earby bus shelter.
- (3) That a decision on the remaining £10,843 in the Area Committee Budget be deferred to the next meeting.

REASON

To enable the Area Committee Budget to be allocated efficiently and effectively.

139.

TRAFFIC LIAISON MEETING

The minutes of the Traffic Liaison Meeting (TLM) held on 1st December 2025 were submitted for information. In the table of current TROs and SLOS it was noted that the condition of Station Road was poor and not suitable for new road markings required by the TRO; that the new NLAAT TRO referred to the street to the rear of Barnoldswick Town Square as Albert Square, whereas the street was currently unnamed; that surprisingly there were no issues for discussion under the Speed/Traffic Concern or LCC Road Safety items; and that all in attendance at the TLM had agreed that the yellow line restrictions on Water Street, Earby should be removed providing the remaining carriageway width supported it, which Members were confident it did.

It was noted that Ward Councillors would formally consider naming the street to the rear of Barnoldswick's Town Square, which LCC referred to as Albert Square, at the next meeting of this Committee.

RESOLVED

That the Engineering Manager be requested to -

- (1) Ask LCC for the surface of Station Road, Barnoldswick to be improved prior to any new markings being made required by the current TRO.
- (2) Inform LCC that Ward Councillors would formally consider naming the street to the rear of Barnoldswick's Town Square at the next meeting of this Committee on 3rd March.
- (3) Reiterate the Committee's concern over the lack of proactive road safety measures to try and reduce speeding and road accidents in the county, and that a Vision Zero policy on road safety be introduced, like the one in North Yorkshire aiming to eliminate all road deaths and serious injuries within the region by focusing on safer roads, users, and vehicles.
- (4) Convey the Committee's support of the lifting of restrictions on Water Street, Earby to allow limited parking to be introduced for the benefit of local businesses and customers.

REASON

- 1. In the interests of highway safety and best use of resources.***
- 2. To name a currently unnamed street.***
- 3. Zero road accidents and deaths should be achievable and desirable.***
- 4. To support local businesses and facilitate limited parking in Earby.***

140.

DIAL-A RIDE BUS SERVICE

Following the request at the last meeting, LCC's Area Accessible Transport Services Manager had reported that they were unable to extend their Dial-a-Ride service to Dales View Park. Residents and Councillors were disappointed with the response. They understood that other larger vehicles managed to access the site and turnaround in the development. It was suggested that the vehicle might be best approaching the site from the Salterforth Lane direction.

RESOLVED

That the LCC's Area Accessible Transport Services Manager be asked if it was possible to arrange a site visit to Dales View Park with the Dial-a-Ride vehicle to establish what was possible.

REASON

To improve the local bus service for residents of Dales View Park, Salterforth.

141. FORMER SCHOOL PLAYING FIELD OFF CLIFFORD STREET, BARNOLDSWICK

Members discussed LCC's response to the Committee's request that the former school playing field off Clifford Street, Barnoldswick be either maintained as an area of green space or consider transferring the land to Barnoldswick Town Council who would be prepared to maintain it for use by local residents. LCC had said that the land had been allocated to the adjacent school as educational land. It needed to have been unused for 10 years before it could revert back from DfE, but as this was the only outdoor land the school had, this would be looked on unfavourably.

However, Members believed that the school had additional outdoor space. It was noted that there were trees on site that needed pollarding, and an ash tree with signs of dieback. It was also pointed out that Kelbrook Road in this area was in poor condition.

In 2023 Members had discussed with LCC/PBC officers and the Head Teacher of Barnoldswick Church of England Primary School the possibility of creating a safe, pedestrian route to the school and looked at footpath improvements from Clifford Street across the fields to the school. At the time the scheme included provision for lighting etc. However, Members suggested that a simple resurfacing of the footpath would suffice and provide a much-needed improved pedestrian route to school that parents and children would be more inclined to take.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Head of Property and Engineering Services be asked to request a site visit with LCC to look at the outdoor space available to Barnoldswick Church of England Primary School and to look at the trees on the boundary.
- (2) That the previous request to have a safe, pedestrian route to the school be revisited with a request for LCC to resurface the footpath from Clifford Street across the fields to the school.
- (3) That LCC Highways be asked what plans there were to address the defects on Clifford Street, where the road was subsiding into the adjacent county council owned land.

REASON

To try to improve pedestrian access and highway safety in the vicinity of Barnoldswick Church of England Primary School.

142. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

- (a) **To consider a request to Northern Powergrid for the new properties in Earby to have a speedy connection to the mains supply**

Residents of the new housing estate at the former Brook Shed Mill site, at New Road, Earby had moved in before they had been connected to the mains supply. Electricity was being provided by generators and some residents were complaining about the noise.

RESOLVED

That Northern Powergrid be asked for the new properties on New Road, Earby to be connected to the mains supply as soon as possible.

REASON

In the interests of residential amenity.

(b) Transdev ticketing changes and consequential price increases

Members had received complaints from some local residents about the changes Transdev had made to area ticketing. Whilst the ticket increased the distance one could travel, it was also an increase in price. For people travelling to school (in particular, families with more than one child) or commuting and travelling 5 days a week within Pendle, it was a significant price increase.

RESOLVED

That Transdev be asked to review their new arrangements for area ticketing to make it more affordable.

REASON

In the interests of local residents.

(c) Problems with Barnoldswick's fire engine exiting the fire station

Due to kerbside parking it was difficult for fire engines to turn right out of Barnoldswick fire station onto Wellhouse Road, which was sometimes the quicker route to the scene of an emergency. They were often having to turn left, then onto Fern Lea Avenue and taking a longer route.

RESOLVED

That LCC be asked to look at restricting parking on Wellhouse Road in the vicinity of the fire station to enable a speedy egress both ways out of the fire station and for a report to come back to a future meeting.

REASON

To enable the fire service to respond to emergencies as quickly as possible.

(d) Vehicles mounting the pavement at the bottom of Salterforth Road, Earby

Members said that vehicles had been seen mounting the pavement at the sharp corner at the bottom of Salterforth Road, Earby to avoid oncoming traffic.

RESOLVED

That LCC be asked to consider erecting bollards between the pavement and road at the corner at the bottom of Salterforth Road, Earby to protect pedestrians from vehicles mounting the pavement.

REASON

In the interests of highway safety.

143. 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.

144. OUTSTANDING ENFORCEMENTS

The Assistant Director Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services submitted a report on outstanding enforcements. A verbal update was given at the meeting which was noted.

145. ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

The Assistant Director Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services submitted a report on environmental action for the period 1st October to 31st December 2025 which was noted.

RESOLVED

That the Head of Housing and Environmental Health be asked to liaise with organisations in Pendle e.g. Pendle New Neighbours to see if they could inform new residents to the area of the recycling arrangements and bin collections that needed to be followed.

146. PROBLEM SITES/EMPTY HOMES

The Head of Housing and Environmental Health submitted a report on problem sites which were all long-term empty properties which was noted.

Chair.....