

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF
WEST CRAVEN COMMITTEE
HELD AT THE RAINHALL CENTRE, BARNOLDSWICK
ON 7TH JULY 2026**

PRESENT –

Councillor D. Hartley (Chair)

Councillors

*C. Church
B. Hartley
S. Land
L. Whipp
G. Whittaker*

Co-optees

*L. Barrett, Barnoldswick Town Council
A. Mayers, Kelbrook and Sough Parish Council
K. Shorrocks, Salterforth Parish Council
County Councillor D. Whipp*

Officers

<i>R. Ferguson</i>	<i>Committee Administrator</i>
<i>R. Gifford</i>	<i>Senior Regeneration Officer</i>
<i>D. Walker</i>	<i>Assistant Director Operational Services and Area Co-ordinator</i>



The following person attended and spoke on the item indicated –

<i>S. Beresford</i>	<i>Dark Lane, Earby</i>	<i>Minute No. 47</i>
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39. 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.

The following person declared an Other Registrable Interest in the item indicated for the reason stated -

<i>County Councillor D. Whipp</i>	<i>Salterforth War Memorial</i>	<i>County Councillor</i>	<i>Minute No. 46</i>
<i>County Councillor D. Whipp</i>	<i>Dark Lane, Earby</i>	<i>County Councillor</i>	<i>Minute No. 47</i>
<i>County Councillor D. Whipp</i>	<i>Drainage Issues at allotments, Greenberfield Lane</i>	<i>Barnoldswick Town Councillor</i>	<i>Minute No. 48</i>
<i>County Councillor D. Whipp</i>	<i>Ginnel between North Street and Castle View, Barnoldswick</i>	<i>County Councillor</i>	<i>Minute No. 49</i>
<i>County Councillor D. Whipp</i>	<i>Outstanding Issues (b) Actions/permissions awaited from LCC following site visit to Church School/Clifford Street, Barnoldswick.</i>	<i>County Councillor</i>	<i>Minute No. 54</i>

The following persons declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in the item indicated for the reason stated -

<i>Councillor C. Church</i>	<i>Drainage Issues at allotments,</i>	<i>Barnoldswick Town</i>	<i>Minute No. 48</i>
<i>Councillor L. Whipp</i>	<i>Greenberfield Lane</i>	<i>Councillor</i>	

40. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A member of the public raised a parking issue near Gisburn Road Community Primary School in Barnoldswick with vehicles parking close to the Gisburn Road/Skipton Road roundabout. Also, higher up on Skipton Road, cars were parking on either side of the road close to the Wellhouse Road junction making visibility difficult and dangerous. This issue had been raised at previous meetings of the committee, with action taken to the Traffic Liaison Meeting where they had been asked to look at the existing road markings in the vicinity of Gisburn Road Community Primary School and the junction of Skipton Road and Wellhouse Road in Barnoldswick to see if there was anything that could be done to restrict parking and improve highway safety.

Another member of the public praised the customer service of Pendle Borough Council's Operational Services Team and thanked them for their hard work.

RESOLVED

That Lancashire County Council Highway Officers be contacted to provide an update on the request to review the existing road markings near Gisburn Road Community Primary School and the junction of Skipton Road and Wellhouse Road, Barnoldswick, to determine whether any further measures could be introduced to improve highway safety.

41. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 9th June 2026, be approved as a correct record.

42. POLICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY ISSUES

The Committee considered the crime figures for June 2026 which had been circulated prior to the meeting. Members discussed a number of community safety concerns that had been raised by residents.

Concern was expressed regarding reports of individuals entering private gardens and yards in the area. Members emphasised the importance of residents reporting incidents directly to the Police to ensure that appropriate action could be taken and accurate intelligence gathered.

Members also sought an update regarding reports of indecent exposure in a public park. It was reported that Lancashire Constabulary had advised that the individual concerned was currently in custody in relation to another matter. Members were informed that the Police were considering whether additional licence conditions could be imposed to restrict that person's access to public parks.

Reference was made to a recent incident on Warwick Drive, Earby and Members noted that the Police would welcome any information from members of the public which could assist ongoing enquiries.

The Committee also discussed concerns regarding gatherings of young people at Letcliffe Park following school prom events. Members were advised that the Police had agreed to record key dates in advance so that appropriate resources could be deployed if necessary.

An issue was raised regarding two young people who had reportedly been looking into residential properties. The school attended by the individuals had been contacted and officers would continue to liaise with the school.

Councillor S. Land reported that speed signs between the Punch Bowl Pub, Skipton Road and the nearby lay-by were either obscured by vegetation or had fallen into the roadside verge. Members were advised that the matter had previously been reported to Lancashire County Council. However, current protocol was to just have one sign showing rather than one on each side of the carriageway.

Members also discussed opportunities to engage young people in positive activities and reduce antisocial behaviour. It was noted that Lancashire Constabulary had expressed support for youth-based initiatives and may be interested in contributing towards the proposed pump track project at Victory Park.

A concern was also raised regarding the disabled toilet provision in Barnoldswick where a facility accessed via a RADAR key was reportedly being used for storage purposes. Members requested clarification from Barnoldswick Town Council regarding the arrangements and timescale for the matter to be resolved.

RESOLVED

- (1) That Lancashire Constabulary be requested to provide a further update regarding reports of indecent exposure within local parks.
- (2) That Barnoldswick Town Council be requested to provide an update regarding the use of the RADAR key accessible toilet facility and the timescale for returning it to public use.

REASON

To address ongoing community safety concerns and ensure appropriate public facilities remain available for residents.

43. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Planning Appeals

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

Members discussed a property at Park Road, Barnoldswick, where planning permission had been granted subject to a condition restricting the use of UPVC windows. Concern was expressed that extensive UPVC had subsequently been installed and that this appeared inconsistent with the approved plans and the property's location within a conservation area.

The Committee also noted that the property owner had sought grant assistance towards frontage improvement works and Members questioned whether the planning condition remained justified in the circumstances.

RESOLVED

That the Committee's concerns regarding the planning condition relating to the use of UPVC windows at the property on Park Road, Barnoldswick be referred to the Assistant Director Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services for consideration and response.

44. ENFORCEMENT ACTION

The Legal Services Manager submitted a report giving the up-to-date position on enforcement action. A verbal update was given at the meeting.

Members were advised that progress had been made in relation to the Wardle Storey Offices development and that discussions were continuing regarding outstanding issues affecting the site.

Concern was expressed regarding the longstanding enforcement case relating to land at the junction with Greenberfield Lane and Gisburn Road, Barnoldswick. Members noted that significant highway and pedestrian safety concerns remained because the required footpath works had still not been completed. It was suggested that a further site visit be arranged and that Lancashire County Council be invited to attend so that Members could better understand the current situation and discuss possible options, such as a pavement for progressing the matter.

An update was also provided regarding drainage issues at Brogden View. Members were advised that a technical drainage submission had been received from the developer and that progress was being made towards resolving the matter.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the updates be noted.
- (2) That a further site visit be arranged to land at the junction with Greenberfield Lane/Gisburn Road, Barnoldswick and Lancashire County Council be invited to attend.
- (3) That the highway and pedestrian safety concerns and the request to insert a pavement on land at the junction of Greenberfield Lane/Gisburn Road, Barnoldswick be raised at the next Traffic Liaison Meeting.

REASON

To assist Members in understanding the current position and the outstanding highway and public safety issues affecting the site.

45. AREA COMMITTEE BUDGET 2026/27

The Head of Property and Engineering Services reported that the Committee's Area Committee Budget for 2026/27 was £32,590.55 including a credit balance for litter and dog waste bins for 2026/27 of £1,100.55.

The current balances were shown for each area showing the amount allocated to date and the allocation remaining.

A late bid from the Robert Windle Foundation had been circulated prior to the meeting which was seeking £7,000 towards roof repairs. It was noted that the total estimated cost of the works was £45,000 and they had raised £31,500 so far.

Although Members recognised the importance of the building and the significant amount of match funding already secured, it was felt that a site visit should take place before any decision was made.

RESOLVED

That consideration of the funding application from the Robert Windle Foundation be deferred pending a site visit by Members.

REASON

To enable Members to make an informed decision on the application.

46.

SALTERFORTH WAR MEMORIAL

The Engineering Manager submitted a plan showing proposed improvements to the War Memorial in Salterforth which included granite paving with new bollards and chains along the front and the two sides. Members welcomed the proposed works which were being funded with Pride in Place Impact Funding of £14,200 with a contribution of £1,300 from this Committee.

It was noted that there was the option of a flagpole, and that volunteers were being sought to take responsibility for raising and lowering of flags. If no party could be found, then it was proposed that the flagpole element of the plan would be removed and the funds retained within the project to enhance the remaining aspects of the scheme.

Members welcomed the proposals and discussed the inclusion of a flagpole as part of the works. It was reported that volunteers, including representatives of the Royal British Legion and local residents, had come forward and were prepared to take responsibility for raising and lowering the flag. Members were also advised that Lancashire County Council had raised no objection to the proposed location.

Councillor L. Whipp suggested that consideration be given to extending the paving between the memorial and the proposed flagpole. It was explained that the current scheme made use of reclaimed granite paving and represented good value for money, although additional paving could be costed.

Members welcomed the progress made and expressed the hope that the project could be completed in advance of Remembrance Day.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the proposed improvement works to the Salterforth War Memorial be supported.
- (2) That the Head of Property & Engineering investigate the cost of extending the paving between the memorial and flagpole and report back to a future meeting.

REASON

To enhance the appearance and setting of the War Memorial.

47.

DARK LANE, EARBY

At the last meeting there was a question raised about a recent decision by the Planning Inspectorate to record Dark Lane as a restricted byway rather than a bridleway. The original Definitive Map Modification Order made by Lancashire County Council was to make Dark Lane a public bridleway.

As requested, the Countryside Access Officer submitted a report for information only. It was noted that the changes which the Inspector had proposed were required by legislation to be advertised, so that anyone could object if they wished to challenge the evidence. The deadline for any objections was 3rd July 2026. Members of the Committee had been made aware of this so that they had time to make representations on the proposed modification by the deadline, if they had not already done so.

Concerns were raised regarding highway safety, the possible impact upon trees and wildlife habitats and the potential cost of any future maintenance works. Members were advised that the determination of the legal status of the route formed part of a statutory process and that matters relating to safety, maintenance and environmental impacts were not considerations in determining the legal rights that existed over the route.

Whilst recognising the legal position, Members expressed concern regarding the practical implications of reopening the route and discussed whether Lancashire County Council should consider alternative options.

RESOLVED

That Lancashire County Council be requested to consider whether it would be appropriate to pursue a stopping-up order or other measures in respect of the route, having regard to the concerns raised regarding safety, environmental impacts and financial implications.

REASON

To reflect local concerns regarding the future use and management of the route.

48.

**DRAINAGE ISSUE AT ALLOTMENTS, GREENBERFIELD LANE
BARNOLDSWICK**

The Engineering Manager had met the Chair of the Committee, Ward Councillors, and the Chair of Barnoldswick Town Council (the landowners) on site to discuss a drainage issue on the allotments at Greenberfield Lane, Barnoldswick. The issue was related to a land drain which had been damaged. The Engineering Team proposed to replace the short section of pipe and was trying get in touch with the allotment holder to gain access.

Members were advised that discussions had taken place with the allotment holder and that arrangements were being made to gain access to the land so that the repair could be undertaken. Barnoldswick Town Council welcomed the progress that had been made and reported that communication with those affected had been positive. Members acknowledged the work that officers had undertaken in investigating the problem and expressed the view that the repairs should be carried out as soon as practicable in order to resolve what had been a longstanding issue.

RESOLVED

That the Engineering Team be thanked for looking into the drainage issue at the allotments at Greenberfield Lane and they be asked to progress the repair of the land drain at the earliest opportunity.

REASON

To remedy a long-standing drainage issue at Greenberfield Lane allotments.

49. GINNEL BETWEEN NORTH STREET AND CASTLE VIEW, BARNOLDSWICK

Members noted that a site visit had taken place on 17th June to discuss a scheme to resurface the ginnel between North Street and Castle View which was in a poor condition, and that the Engineering Manager would submit costings to a future meeting. The Committee could then consider funding for the scheme.

Costings would also be provided for a possible linked scheme to take the resurfacing into Castle View, so that residents could be asked on their likelihood to contribute towards the works.

During the discussion Members referred to concerns raised by local residents regarding the condition of the path, steps and handrail. It was suggested that any future improvement scheme should consider improvements to the steps, resurfacing works and the possible replacement of sections of handrail where required. Members also discussed whether improvements could be extended to adjoining areas in order to provide a more accessible route for users.

It was suggested that Lancashire County Council should be approached to establish whether a financial contribution could be made towards the works through the Public Rights of Way network. Members agreed that this should be explored before any funding decisions were taken.

It was reported that detailed costings for the proposed works would be prepared by the Head of Property & Engineering and submitted to a future meeting for consideration. Costings would also be sought for any associated improvements which could form part of a wider scheme.

RESOLVED

That the Engineering Manager be asked to submit detailed costings for the resurfacing and improvement of the ginnel between North Street and Castle View, Barnoldswick to a future meeting and that Lancashire County Council be approached to ascertain whether a contribution towards the works could be made through the Public Rights of Way network.

REASON

To allow Members to consider options for improving the condition, accessibility and safety of the ginnel.

50. EARBY MEMORIAL PARK TOILETS

Kelbrook and Sough Parish Council had requested that the Committee consider the future arrangements for the toilets in Earby Memorial Park to ensure that there was adequate provision for park users.

Members were advised that renovation works were progressing and discussed options for future management, opening arrangements and cleaning. It was noted that Pendle Borough Council did not normally operate public conveniences and that funding arrangements would need to be considered.

Members agreed that adequate toilet provision was important for users of the park and that baby changing facilities should form part of the overall provision.

Members acknowledged that, if alternative arrangements could not be secured, funding may need to be considered from future Area Committee budgets.

RESOLVED

That a report be submitted to a future meeting detailing the proposed management arrangements, opening times and cleaning costs associated with reopening the toilets at Earby Memorial Park, and that the inclusion of baby changing facilities be incorporated within those proposals.

REASON

To provide Members with sufficient information to consider future toilet provision within Earby Memorial Park.

51.

PRIDE IN PLACE IMPACT FUND

The Senior Regeneration Officer presented his report on the unallocated funds remaining within the Pride in Place Impact Fund for West Craven which amounted to £29,086. He asked Members to make a recommendation to the Executive on the allocation of remaining funds towards projects.

Members discussed a range of potential projects and considered feedback that had been received through public consultation. Particular emphasis was placed on ensuring that funds allocated to Earby were spent within Earby and that local organisations were given the opportunity to bring forward deliverable schemes.

Reference was also made to proposals within Barnoldswick. Members discussed a request to redistribute funding allocated for a proposed performance stage in Barnoldswick Town Square. After discussion, this proposal was not supported by the committee.

RECOMMENDATION

- (1) That the Executive be requested to allocate the remaining Earby Pride in Place Impact Fund resources to projects from the shortlisted projects submitted by Earby Town Council, subject to the projects meeting the programme criteria and being capable of delivery within the required timescales.
- (2) That the Pride In Place Impact Fund projects for Barnoldswick proceed as previously proposed to the Executive.

REASON

To enable the Pride in Place Impact Fund to be allocated efficiently and effectively.

52. 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 ground being that this Committee's comments were to be reported to the Executive on 23rd July so that the UK Shared Prosperity Funds could be spent within the required timescale.

53. UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND (UKSPF)

Following completion of the scheduled public realm works in Earby there remained approximately £6,853 unspent UKSPF funds. Members were asked to consider whether there were further works that could be utilised in Earby for the Executive to consider at their next meeting on 23rd July, bearing in mind the remaining amount had to be spent by the end of September 2026.

The alternative course of action was to transfer the remaining allocation to Brierfield, where Members had put forward a scheme of additional works which could utilise the unspent funds in Earby.

Members discussed a number of possible projects including additional public realm improvements, replacement street furniture, litter bins and town centre signage. Consideration was also given to whether the remaining allocation could further enhance existing schemes already being delivered within the area.

The need to ensure that any project could be completed within the required funding deadlines was emphasised.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Executive be requested to allocate the remaining UK Shared Prosperity Fund balance for Earby to further public realm enhancement projects, including improvements to the Colne Road railway embankment landscaping scheme. In the event that this project was not sufficiently advanced to utilise the available funding, authority be delegated to the Engineering Manager to deliver alternative minor improvement works within Earby town centre, such as the replacement of street furniture, litter bins and directional signage, where appropriate.

REASON

To enable the full allocation of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund for Earby to be utilised efficiently and effectively.

54. OUTSTANDING ITEMS

It was noted that a report would come back on the following items –

- (a) Northolme Community Centre – consulting with residents (31.03.2026)
- (b) Actions/permissions awaited from LCC following Site visit to Church School/Clifford Street, Barnoldswick (12.05.2026)

55. 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.

56. OUTSTANDING ENFORCEMENTS

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

Members were advised that warning signage was being progressed in connection with a dangerous wall and that the necessary procurement work was underway.

57. PROBLEM SITES/EMPTY HOMES

The Head of Housing and Environmental Health submitted a report on problem sites/empty homes in West Craven for information.

Members discussed a number of longstanding vacant properties and requested that particular attention be given to a building, which had remained vacant for a considerable period.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the report be noted.
- (2) That a report on a specified building be presented to a future meeting.

REASON

In the interests of visual amenity and public safety.

Chair.....