

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF
WEST CRAVEN COMMITTEE
HELD AT THE RAINHALL CENTRE, BARNOLDSWICK
ON 8TH SEPTEMBER 2026**

PRESENT –

Councillor D. Hartley (Chair)

Councillors

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

Co-optees

*D. Anderson, Earby Town Council
K. Shorrocks, Salterforth Parish Council
County Councillor D. Whipp*

Officers

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

(Apologies for absence were received from L. Barrett (Barnoldswick Town Council).)

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75. 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 Members declared an Other Registrable Interest in the item indicated for the reason stated -

<i>County Councillor D. Whipp</i>	<i>Planning Application for determination - 25/0357/CND (Discharge of Condition 9)</i>	<i>County Councillor</i>	<i>Minute No. 79(a)</i>
<i>Councillor C. Church Councillor L. Whipp County Councillor D. Whipp</i>	<i>Enforcement Action – Greenberfield Lane, Gisburn Road, Barnoldswick</i>	<i>Barnoldswick Town Councillor</i>	<i>Minute No. 80</i>
<i>Councillor C. Church Councillor L. Whipp County Councillor D. Whipp Councillor S. Land</i>	<i>Legacy Fund</i>	<i>Barnoldswick Town Councillor Earby Town Councillor</i>	<i>Minute No. 81(b)</i>
<i>County Councillor D. Whipp</i>	<i>Salterforth War Memorial</i>	<i>County Councillor</i>	<i>Minute No. 82</i>

County Councillor D. Whipp	Earby Flood Alleviation Scheme	County Councillor	Minute No. 83
County Councillor D. Whipp	Items for Discussion – all items	County Councillor	Minute No. 84
County Councillor D. Whipp	Outstanding Items (b)&(c)	County Councillor	Minute No. 87(b)

76. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A resident from Barnoldswick raised the issue of subsidence on Clifford Street, a large area of road which had been subject to movement creating a large surface depression, and residents believed it was worsening. They had again reported that the road was sinking to LCC on 25th August. She referred to trip hazards, and a possible risk of E coli leaking out from the sewer, if it was damaged. There was a worry that the weight from refuse vehicles, in addition to all the domestic vehicles using Clifford Street to access houses on Beech Grove and Myrtle Grove, was making the situation worse. LCC had acknowledged there was a problem and a geotechnical survey had been undertaken. They had been in discussion with United Utilities to try and find a resolution. Residents had been informed that LCC had no funding in the 2026/27 budget to do the improvement works. She asked if anything could be done to resolve the issue.

The Committee had undertaken a site visit with officers in May and agreed that action was needed.

RESOLVED

That the Engineering Manager be asked to convey to LCC the serious concerns of residents and Members about the subsidence on Clifford Street; that LCC be invited to a site visit with Members of the Committee to see if the situation had worsened; and that a report come back to the next meeting.

77. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 4th August 2026, be approved as a correct record.

78. POLICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY ISSUES

PC G. Ingham could not attend the meeting but had provided detailed crime figures for August 2026 which had been circulated prior to the meeting and a response to a couple of issues which had been raised at the last meeting.

He said that, as requested, a more visible presence had been shown, where possible, in the parks. The parks formed part of their patrol plans and anti-social behaviour had seen a dramatic reduction. Members had asked if there was a reason for a rise in assaults in July. PC Ingham said it could have been down to the hot weather and people drinking at home, but there was no clear reason.

Members were very concerned about an incident the night before after 10pm with a man seen wielding a knife in Earby and slashing tyres on several vehicles. Residents and Councillors were very concerned about this incident and had wanted to raise the issue with the Police at this meeting.

The Manager at the Co-operative Store in Earby had told the Chair that there was an increasing number of customers with challenging behaviours and that a bigger police presence in the town would be a deterrent.

It was suggested that Police and Communities Together (PACT) meetings, which used to be held regularly by the local Neighbourhood Policing Team, should be resumed. They were a way for the Police to engage with members of the community to discuss current issues and set the policing priorities for that neighbourhood and to help communities feel safe.

A resident had raised road safety issues outside Kelbrook Road Primary School at pick up and drop off times. A number of possible actions were considered. It was noted that Kelbrook and Sough Parish Council, LCC's Traffic Liaison Meeting and the School had discussed the issue previously and had agreed to leave the situation as it was. The Head of the School had recently been asked for their views and it was agreed to await their response and discuss this further at the next meeting.

RESOLVED

- (1) That PC Ingham be thanked for providing the detailed monthly statistics and responding to the issues raised at the last meeting.
- (2) That Inspector R. Grey be asked if it was possible for him or another senior Police officer to attend the next meeting if PC G. Ingham or another member of the Neighbourhood Policing Team were unable to attend due to work commitments, leave or training. Also, that he consider resuming the PACT meetings in local areas.
- (3) That Jonathan Hinder MP be contacted to seek his assistance in encouraging police representatives to attend Parish Council and area committee meetings where possible.

79. 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 –

26/0294/CND *Approval of Details Reserved by Condition: Partial Discharge Condition 4 (Verification Report relating to surface water drainage system) of Plots 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24 and 25) Planning Permission 23/0067/REM at development site to the west of Meadow Way, Skipton Road, Barnoldswick for Hurstwood Homes (Barnoldswick) Ltd*

RESOLVED

That condition 4 (in relation to plots 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24 and 25) be discharged subject to implementation.

26/0315/CND *Approval of Details Reserved by Condition: Discharge Condition 3 (Materials), Condition 4 (Construction Method Statement), Condition 11 (Scheme for disposal of Foul and Surface Water), Condition 15 (Method Statement), Condition 16 (Dust control) and Condition 17 (Scheme for protecting residential and business neighbours from noise and vibration) of*

Planning Permission 26/0078/FUL for remains of Dotcliffe Mill, Dotcliffe Road, Kelbrook for Mr & Mrs Paul & Shevonne Metcalfe

RESOLVED

That conditions 3, 4, 11, 16 and 17 be discharged subject to implementation and condition 5 be partially discharged, subject to receipt of validation report.

26/0397/FUL Full: Formation of an agricultural access track at Thornton Hall Farm, Thornton Hall Farm, Skipton Road, Barnoldswick for Mr Chris Harrison

The Senior Planning Officer advised Members that since the report for this planning application had been written, the Government's new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) had come into effect (17th August 2026). Retrospective planning applications now needed to be dealt with in accordance with Policy DM8 of the new NPPF.

RESOLVED

That consideration of this application be **deferred** to the next meeting so that it could be considered in accordance with the new National Planning Policy Framework.

25/0357/CND Approval of Details Reserved by Condition: Discharge Condition 9 (Surface Water Sustainable Drainage Scheme) of Planning Permission 21/0111/FUL (Appeal Ref: APP/E2340/W/21/3288078) at Land to the west of Brogden View, Brogden Lane, Barnoldswick) for Mr Mark Smith

(A site visit had been undertaken prior to the meeting.)

(Before the vote was taken, the Senior Planning Officer advised that a decision to refuse the application would represent a significant risk of costs in the event of an appeal. The matter would therefore be referred to the Head of Legal and Democratic Services and subject to his agreement the decision would stand referred to the Development Management Committee.)

RECOMMENDATION

That the discharge of condition 9 be refused for the following reasons –

- The lived experience of residents in the area was that since the bungalows had been built, and the land levels raised, that flooding was more extensive and deeper.
- That the drainage scheme did not take account of water coming onto the land from Brogden Lane, which, when this application was won on appeal, the Inspector said had to be addressed. There was also water run-off from the neighbouring site (former ambulance station).
- That there was no evidence that the condition of culvert running under Gisburn Road towards Victory Park had been assessed to make sure it was not blocked and had adequate capacity to take the additional water.
- That in times of heavy rainfall and flooding on Brogden Lane, the attenuation pond that had been built was only 25% full. Water was going elsewhere.

(b) National Planning Policy Framework

The Assistant Director Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services submitted a report on changes to the National Planning Policy Framework for information.

(c) Planning Appeals

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

80. ENFORCEMENT ACTION

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

Members had attended a site visit earlier in the day to discuss the lack of footpath at the Land at the junction with Greenberfield Lane, Gisburn Road, Barnoldswick. It was unfortunate that the footpath had not been created as it was a problem for pedestrians.

LCC had been invited to the meeting but not been able to attend. They had however, confirmed that there was no Section 38 Agreement for the site so they had no means of enforcement. Planning enforcement was the only leverage in terms of getting the developer to implement what was agreed in terms of planning.

RESOLVED

That the Legal Services Manager be asked to continue with enforcement action regarding the breaches of condition at the Land at the junction with Greenberfield Lane, Gisburn Road, Barnoldswick.

81. AREA COMMITTEE BUDGET 2026/27 & LEGACY FUND

(a) Area Committee Budget 2026/27

The Head of Property and Engineering Services submitted a report on the Committee's Area Committee Budget for 2026/27.

There was a new bid from Earby Memorial Bowling Club seeking £450 towards the installation of CCTV.

Members also considered a new bid seeking £1,500 from the Barnoldswick Premises Improvement Grant.

At the June meeting, Members agreed to deallocate £2,000 from the Barnoldswick Premises Improvement Grant and reallocate it to the resurfacing the footpath at Church Primary School. Since then, the Engineering Team had been in discussion with LCC about the design for the footpath scheme and the various permissions needed and were now confident that funding would be secured from LCC. In the circumstances, Members were asked if they wished to deallocate funding from the footpath scheme which would free up funding for the Barnoldswick Premises Improvement Grant scheme.

RESOLVED

- (1) That £450 be allocated from the Kelbrook and Sough allocation of the 2026/27 Area Committee Budget towards the installation of CCTV at Earby Memorial Bowling Club.

- (2) That £2,000 be deallocated from the footpath scheme in Barnoldswick and £1,500 of that funding be allocated to the Premises Improvement Grant scheme for Barnoldswick to enable a new bid to be supported.

REASON

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

(b) Legacy Fund

The Head of Property and Engineering Services submitted a report on the Legacy Fund. Appended to the report was a breakdown of the current commitments. A revised form for organisations to use when submitting applications for funding had been emailed to Members prior to the meeting.

There was discussion on the 2 Earby projects proposed at the 31st March meeting. Members agreed that more discussion was needed with residents about their willingness to run Northolme Community Centre, how this would be managed and the costings involved.

Council officers were looking at the feasibility and costings for the proposed pump track. However, Earby Town Council thought that the Bailey Street site was not the right location for a pump track. They had suggested that a learning site on a bog garden would be more appropriate.

It was proposed that the remaining funding for Barnoldswick, Kelbrook and Sough and Salterforth totalling £36,090 be offered to the respective Parish and Town Councils to spend on their play areas.

The Canal and River Trust had agreed to an initial meeting on 10th September to discuss the building of a bridge across the canal for pedestrians/cyclists linking Whitworth Way to the canal tow path and to set out the Trust's processes and permissions. The Chair and Councillor L. Whipp would attend this meeting and report back in due course.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the funding remaining in the Legacy Fund allocations for Barnoldswick (£30,090), Kelbrook and Sough (£3,000) and Salterforth (£3,000) totalling £36,090 be offered to the respective Parish and Town Councils to spend on the play areas in their area, and they report back on how the money has been spent.
- (2) That the meeting with the Canal and River Trust to discuss the bridge over the canal go ahead as although there was no longer funding available for this project from the Barnoldswick allocation of the Legacy Fund it was still considered a project worth pursuing with possible funding from elsewhere.
- (3) That a further update on progress with the Earby projects be submitted to the next meeting.

REASON

To benefit local communities.

82. SALTERFORTH WAR MEMORIAL

Following the request at the 7th July meeting, the Engineering Manager reported that there was insufficient available paving to create the link from the flagpole to the War Memorial. The cost of additional work would be £2,000. If funding was made available, the materials could be ordered (there would be a 12-week lead in) and then the works could be undertaken.

The Committee agreed not to proceed with the additional work as quoted but to see if a small, grassed area could be tarmacked, within the agreed scheme, as the cost would be minimal, and save on maintenance going forward.

RESOLVED

That the Engineering Manager be asked to arrange for the small, grassed area between the back of the footway and paving around the flagpole at Salterforth War Memorial to be tarmacked.

REASON

To complete the scheme and avoid future maintenance of a small area of grass.

83. EARBY FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME

Members noted the update from the Engineering Manager on the remaining phase of the Earby Flood Alleviation Scheme affecting Wentcliffe Beck.

Members hoped that the £400k allocated by the Environment Agency (EA) for works to be undertaken would be made available for the potential schemes for offline water storage areas and Natural Flood Management which were being developed by consultants, AECOM in partnership with the Council and EA.

RESOLVED

That LCC, as the Lead Local Flood Authority, be asked to meet Members of the Committee, the Environment Agency and the consultants working on the Earby Flood Alleviation Scheme to see if they can assist with carrying out any works and look at how schemes can be funded.

REASON

To push forward flood alleviation works in the Earby area, especially in view of the changing climate and extreme weather.

84. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

(a) Speeding vehicles on Salterforth Road, Earby

This item was added to the agenda following concerns about speeding on Salterforth Road, particularly near the children's playground. A statement from a local resident was read out at the meeting, asking for warning signs in both directions to alert drivers to the playground, and for the wording "SLOW" to be painted on the road outside No. 66 Salterforth Road to warn traffic to slow down. Members also considered the option of reducing the speed limit to 20mph. The resident had logged her request with LCC under reference CF33027.

RESOLVED

That the Committee add their support to the request to LCC (reference CF33027) and LCC's Traffic Liaison Meeting be asked to arrange for warning signs to be sited in both directions of Salterforth Road, Earby to alert drivers to the presence of the playground, and a reduction in speed limit to 20mph.

REASON

To improve highway safety on Salterforth Road.

(b) Illegal parking outside the Co-operative store/junction of Victoria Road, Earby

Members reported numerous cars frequently parking on double yellow lines in the vicinity of the Co-operative Store and junction of Victoria Road, Earby.

RESOLVED

That LCC be asked to arrange for a new Traffic Regulation Order for No Loading/Unloading outside the Co-operative Store in Earby and for traffic wardens to patrol the area more frequently.

REASON

In the interests of highway safety.

(c) Greenberfield Lane, Barnoldswick

Members discussed a problem with the access track joining onto Greenberfield Lane. Drivers were going from the access track onto Greenberfield Lane without checking for vehicles with priority. It was suggested that road markings were needed at both ends of the access track to delineate the end of the track and the start of the main road.

Also, allotment holders were parking in the passing places, which were needed in view of the large vehicles in use on this route. Large vehicles regularly used this route so the passing places were needed, and there would be increased traffic in the coming months when a telephone tower was due to be constructed at the end of the lane. It was noted that Barnoldswick Town Council had recently erected No Parking signs in the passing places, so hopefully this would deter people from parking there.

RESOLVED

- (1) That Barnoldswick Town Council be asked to renew the road markings at the top of the access track making it clear that vehicles here needed to give way before going onto Greenberfield Lane.
- (2) That United Utilities be asked to put road markings at the bottom end of the access track which they had just finished resurfacing.

REASON

In the interests of highway safety.

(d) M5 bus service between Earby and Salterforth

Members reported repeated problems with the double decker buses on the M5 route service between Earby and Salterforth unable to negotiate Klondike. There was a suggestion that a smaller bus might be more suitable for this rural road.

RESOLVED

That LCC and Transdev be asked if there was anything that could be put in place to help the buses on the M5 bus route to negotiate Klondike and to continue operating.

REASON

To maintain this valued bus service for residents.

(e) Valley Drive and Meadow Way, Barnoldswick

Members received a petition signed by residents of Valley Drive and Meadow Way in Barnoldswick asking for repairs to be carried out to improve the road surface. Members agreed that the road was a mess and was in need of repair.

RESOLVED

That LCC be asked to carry out effective road repairs to Valley Drive and Meadow Way in Barnoldswick.

REASON

To improve highway safety and pedestrians/residents on Salterforth Road.

85. 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 the local postal service needed immediate improvement so that residents and businesses had an efficient postal service that they could rely on.

86. FURTHER ISSUES WITH ROYAL MAIL SERVICE

Over the last two years Members had complained on several occasions about the unreliable postal service in West Craven and the impact this was having on people's lives e.g. missing hospital appointments. They had met representatives from Royal Mail at the Delivery Office in Barnoldswick in February 2025. Royal Mail representatives had also met Jonathan Hinder MP there in November. In February 2026 the service improved off the back of a successful recruitment campaign. However, there were reports of delays again and in recent days, when people had gone to the delivery office to collect their post, it had been closed due to a shortage of staff.

RESOLVED

- (1) That a strongly worded letter be sent to the Chair and Chief Executive Officer of Royal Mail asking them to look into the postal delays in West Craven, the closure of the delivery office, and what they were doing to address staffing shortages.

- (2) That this issue also be brought to the attention of Jonathan Hinder MP.

REASON

To bring improvements to the delivery and collection of post for residents and businesses in West Craven.

87. OUTSTANDING ITEMS

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

- (a) Northolme Community Centre – Councillors consulting with residents (31.03.2026)
- (b) Actions/permissions/confirmation of funding awaited from LCC on safer routes to school scheme following a site visit to Church School/Clifford Street, Barnoldswick –an update will come to the October meeting (12.05.2026)
- (c) Ginnel between North Street and Castle View, Barnoldswick – officers undertaking further site visit to look at costings for resurfacing ginnel, and a linked scheme to take the resurfacing into Castle View with possible contribution from the PROW network (07.07.2026)
- (d) Earby Memorial Park Toilets – consulting with sports clubs and will report back with revised costs and proposed arrangements (04.08.2026)

In respect of (d), costings were provided for opening the toilets from April to November between the hours of 8am and 7pm and initial feedback from the sports clubs about the possibility of volunteers opening the toilets when matches or training were being held. Discussions would continue and an update would come back to the next meeting.

88. 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.

89. OUTSTANDING ENFORCEMENTS

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

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Assistant Director Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services be asked to remove the 5th case from the outstanding enforcements list, as the development on site had now been removed.
- (2) That in respect of the 7th case, the Assistant Director Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services be asked to take urgent action in respect of any TPOs needed in the woodland adjacent to the site.

REASON

To ensure that trees which make a significant impact on the amenity of the local environment and their loss would be detrimental to the character of the area, are protected.

90.

PROBLEM SITES/EMPTY HOMES

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

RESOLVED

That the Head of Housing and Environmental Health be asked to arrange for works to be done in default for the 1st case; a more formal approach be taken in respect of the works required for the 2nd case; and two empty properties to be added to the list.

REASON

In the interests of visual and residential amenity.

Chair.....

DRAFT