

Cloughton on Brock Parish Council

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting to be held on Thursday 11th January 2018 commencing at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall.

1. Those Present

Councillor F.J. Fitzherbert-Brockholes – Chairman
Councillor E.J. Leach
Councillor D. P. Gornall
Councillor S.M. Dewhurst
J.E. Hallas – Clerk
Councillor P. Murphy
Councillor S. Turner

2. Apologies

Councillor R.E. Eccles
Councillor J. Gornall

3. The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 4th October 2017 were resolved by the Council to be a true record.

4. Councillor Fitzherbert-Brockholes declared a personal and prejudicial interests in agenda item 6.1.1. and therefore took no part in the Councils resolution on this item.

5. Chairman's, Councillors' and other Reports

The Clerk reported that a new Lengthsman had been selected following advertisement of the role. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman had taken part in the interviews of 3 applicants. The successful applicant is Ms. Margaret Noblet a local resident. The Clerk informed that a transition was now underway with Ms. Noblet shadowing Mr. Cragg during the next 3 weeks before taking over the role fully in early February when Mr Cragg will retire from the role.

Councillor Dewhurst proposed that the Council should acknowledge Mr. Cragg's excellent service given to the Council for the past 15 years and suggested an appropriate gift be presented. This proposal was seconded by Councillor Gornall and unanimously supported by other members. Councillor Turner stated that he considered that Myerscough PC would also want to make a contribution as Mr. Cragg was well respected by the Myerscough Council members.

The Clerk will liaise with the Clerk of Myerscough and seek to arrange a suitable joint gift.

6. Items for Discussion and which may need Resolutions.

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6.1. The Council discussed and resolved on the following Planning Applications:

6.1.1. The Council considered application 17/01135/FUL the erection of a slurry store at Cross House Farm, Smithy Lane. The Council discussed this item in depth and whilst no principal objection will be raised the Council instructed the Clerk to inform the case officer of their significant concerns about the visual impact on the landscape of such a high and wide concrete building. To also suggest that the impact be lessened by excavating for deeper foundations to reduce the height above ground level to approximately 3metres. Plus appropriate boundary screening.

6.1.2. The Council considered 2 applications for Bradley Hill Farm these are 17/01779/FUL and 17/01882/FUL. For 2 offices and an Agricultural Storage building.

The Council resolved to raise no principal objections, however the point was made that in recent history agricultural buildings on this farm had been declared redundant and on application permission to convert to small industrial units was granted by Wyre Planning. The Council instructed the Clerk to make this known to the Case officer.

6.1.3. The Council considered application 17/01155/FUL, proposals to Variations of a range of conditions relating to the development of land to the South of Joe Lane. The Council resolved that no objections or observations needed to be raised.

6.2. The Council discussed and resolved to approve the payments listed in the accounts statement that have been made since the last meeting of the Council, cheque numbers 00626 to 00645. The Clerk informed that a payment sent to Biffa Waste Management Limited had not reached them. This was a cheque (000638) for £64.20 that may be lost in the Christmas post or somewhere in the Biffa pipeline. However, the account was paid by the Clerk using personal debit card to ensure the PC remained in credit. Futher payments are being processed and the missing cheque may 'wash-up' at some point downstream.

6.3. The Council checked and approved the Bank statement and completed Account reconciliations for the account for the year ending 31st March 2018 against the latest Bank statement dated 27 December 2017.

6.4. The Council discussed the revised arrangements for Auditing to be introduced during 2018. The Clerk informed that a new company has been appointed to undertake external Audit - PKF Littlejohn. Currently they are beginning a communications and education/information roll out and therefore how they intend to operate and the documents and processes should become much clearer over the next couple of months.

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- 6.5. The Council discussed the draft budget prepared by the Clerk and resolved to submit to Wyre Council its requirement for a Precept of £15,450.00 to be raised for 2018-19. This represents an increase of 3% over the level raised for 2017/18. However this is considered necessary to cover increases in salary costs and other services. The Council also recognised the significant growth in number of Parish residential dwellings and population that will occur in the near term and this must be prepared for and will lead to increased Parish Council costs. It was also noted that the precept will be amortised over more than double the current quantity of residential and retail properties when current developments are occupied.
- 6.6. The Council discussed and resolved on Clerk's salary for 2017/18 and 2018/2019.
- 6.7. The Council discussed the invitation to attend the Lancashire Civic County Carol Service unfortunately none of the members are available to attend.

7. Other Items for Information and Discussion Only

- 7.1. The Council briefly discussed the need to revisit the Parish Plan as it is 10 years since an outline plan was prepared. The Council agreed to defer any action.
- 7.2. Councillors Murphy and Turner reported that little if any further progress had taken place on the Canal Towpath project. In part this was due to a key member of the team at Wyre having left the Council's employment. Both Councillors were optimistic that there will be movement once the staffing issue is resolved. They were also very upbeat following their attendance a Canals & River Trust event at Barton Grange Hotel where they had made contact with Senior Representatives of the Trust who had expressed positive support for the initiatives proposed .
- 7.3. No Council member is available to attend the next Wyre Area LALC quarterly meeting.
- 7.4. The Clerk spoke briefly about the Parish Armistice day memorial Service in Nov 2018. He informed that he had discussed some embryonic thoughts with Paul Robinson and had agreed with Paul to meet at the beginning of February to try and prepare a skeleton plan for a major inclusive commemorative event that will attract the widest possible support of the Parish Community.
- 7.5. Councillor Murphy informed the meeting that Wyre Councils Local Plan is scheduled to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate at Bristol during week commencing the 15th January.

8. The date for the next meeting is Tuesday April 10th at 7.30pm.