

WHALEY BRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Mechanics Institute, Market Street, Whaley Bridge, High Peak, SK23 7AA
Town Clerk: Mrs S Raybould Tel: 01663 733068 e-mail: town council@whaleybridge.com

Meeting: Town Council
Date: 10th April 2014
Time: 7.30pm
Venue: Mechanics Institute
Present: Councillors Thomas (Chair), Bowden, Linda Leather (until 8.30pm),
Susanne Lomas (until 9pm), Gilmour, Goldfinch, Lomax, Pritchard, Swift,
Taylor, Wild and Anne Winter. PC Ellen Barlow

MINUTES

C13/202 Apologies for Absence - None

C13/203 Declarations of Members' Interests and Dispensation Applications (2)

Cllr Thomas	Agenda Item 19	Chair of WBTC
Cllr Wild	Agenda Item 12	Network Rail employee

C13/204 Community Police

PC Ellen Barlow gave crime statistics for the previous month including nine abandoned 999 emergency calls which were attributed to children playing pranks from local public telephone boxes.

C13/205 Open Forum

Sandra Allen from Wharf Court registered concern about the poor state of the surface of Wharf Road with large potholes resulting from the lack of road maintenance. There are ownership and responsibility issues and she also requested the removal of unsightly fencing along this central section of Wharf Road. It was noted that this fencing had been given retrospective planning approval until 2015. The lack of parking at the station was also a problem for those using the rail service from Whaley Bridge. The garage area adjacent to Wharf Road is detrimental to the conservation area. Access only signs and "no parking" signs were also requested. It was noted that shoppers were parking along Wharf Road and causing an obstruction.

Albert Bishop registered concern about the depth of the potholes along Wharf Road which are hazardous for local residents especially for wheelchair access. He stated that most residents in this area are pensioners and unable to make any financial contributions towards road maintenance. He requested that if the land is developed then there should be an agreement with the developers to re-surface the road.

RESOLVED: To bring forward discussion of Item 21 on the agenda – State of Wharf Road.

C13/206 State of Wharf Road (Footpath No. 105)

Cllr Pritchard stated that he had written a letter to Cllr Anne Western (Leader of Derbyshire County Council) regarding the poor state of Wharf Road and outlined details of the current situation. Parking can only be controlled by the owner of the land. Cllr Pritchard had received an interim report from Cllr Anne Western stating that land ownership issues are being investigated.

RESOLVED: That the council write to DCC and HPBC reiterating that the surface of Wharf Road is in a dangerous state and a peril to the public.

RESOLVED: To ascertain from DALC the legal position. (Corporate Manslaughter Act)

Cllr Pritchard declared an interest as a member of HPBC and stated that the road is unsafe for HPBC vehicles such as the refuse collection lorry and it was noted that emergency vehicles may not be able to access Wharf Court due to parked cars along Wharf Road causing an obstruction.

RESOLVED: To ask the East Midlands Ambulance Service to comment on the state of Wharf Road and its effect on emergency vehicles accessing residents of Wharf Court as the surface could be a hazard to ambulance drivers and paramedics.

C13/207 Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 13th March 2014

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 13th March 2014 were a true and correct record of the meeting and the Chair was authorised to sign them.

C13/208 Clerk's Report

The Clerk's Report was received.

C13/209 Accounts for Payment

It was **RESOLVED** that the accounts listed below be authorised for payment:

Chq	Payee	Description	Amount
2498	Mobile Physio Service	Donation	75.00
2499	WB Toddler Group	Donation	75.00
2500	WB Film Group	Donation	75.00
2502	WB Rose Queen Committee	Donation	75.00
2503	Toddbrook Sailing Club	Donation	75.00
2504	W3 for Canal Group	Donation	75.00
2505	WB Royal British Legion	Donation	75.00
2506	HMRC	PAYE & NI February & March	1283.62
2507	WB Sports Association	VAT Refund for 2013/14	566.25
2508	WB Sports Association	Repay Fieldturf final payment	8907.71

2509	DCC	2 tons grit salt	127.68
2510	WB Football Club	Donation	50.00
2511	Shelter Maintenance Co.	Bus shelter cleaning & repair	245.33
2512	Trafalgar Marine Services Lt	W3 day boat hire	259.99
2513	Peak Park Parishes Forum	Subscription 2014/15	80.00
2514	DALC	Subscription 2014/15	837.97
2515	HP Marquees	Welldressing marquee hire dep	170.40
2516	HPBC	Allotment lease 2014/15	10.00
2517	Trusted IT Ltd	Monthly backup service	30.00
2518	RBL Poppy Appeal (WW1)	Wreath for 11 th May event	25.00
2519	John Dugdill Fabrications	3 litter bin liners	489.60
2520	Mechanics Institute	April 2014 Account	562.17
2521	Cash	Petty cash – April 2014	40.85
0458	Souters Maintenance Ltd	SA – 3AGP Mtnce Contract	528.00
0459	WBTC	SA – Payroll payment 2013/14	3518.56
0460	HPBC	SA – Rates May 2014	163.50
		TOTAL £	18421.63

C13/210 Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies

Cllr Bowden stated that he had met Andrew Bingham MP together with the Minister of Transport and reported that re-trunking the A6 was being considered.

Cllr Pritchard (**High Peak and Hope Valley Community Rail Partnership**) reported that the timetable for re-franchising the local rail network had been agreed and there would be a consultation soon followed by invitations to bid which would be evaluated and new contracts awarded in February 2016. Severe under-accounting on the Buxton line continues due to non-payment of fares.

He also reported that NALC, SLCC and DCLG continued to work in partnership on the new Quality Town and Parish Council Scheme which is still in a state of suspension.

Cllr Thomas reported that Whaley4Wards had met on 31st March 2014. Cllr Goldfinch had obtained some old street furniture from the Memorial Park which is being refurbished free of charge by Garrie Bevan, for future use by WBTC.

C13/211 Correspondence

1. HPBC – Community Right to Bid Policy confirmation of receipt of nomination for WB Mechanics Institute to be listed as an asset of community value, assessment undertaken, report for decision prepared and formal notifications being issued.
2. DCC – proposed diversion of Public Footpath No 15 (Part) Whaley Bridge.
3. DCC – invitation to Parish & Town Council Liaison Forum 1st May 2014 6pm – 8pm at County Hall, Matlock (Needs Response)

4. DCC – News bulletin about The Derbyshire Challenge and the ways the unprecedented cuts to the budget need to be tackled.
5. Peak Park Parishes Forum – newsletter winter 2014.
6. DCC – information about extensive damage to roads by wet winter weather and information on reporting online.
7. RAD – Rural Matters March 2014.
8. Cllr Jon Goldfinch – request for financial support from WBTC towards new mower for WB Cricket Club in conjunction with HPBC Councillors Initiative Fund.
9. Bill Newton Dun MEP – Mid March report.
10. Action for Market Towns – information about Town Funder Event 1st April at Sheffield Town Hall.
11. DCC – information about flash flood and drainage issues Eccles Road, WB.
12. CPRE – information that the membership fee will be increased in August 2014.
13. DCC – Presentation slides from Digital Derbyshire Event.
14. HP & HV CRP – Agenda and minutes.
15. Local Works – More funds for Parish & Town Councils proposal under Sustainable Communities Act.
16. Derbyshire Pension Fund – Employers’ Newsletter No 119.
17. Cllr Thomas – main points from meeting at Footsteps with DCC Youth Officers.
18. Chapel-en-le-Frith Mobile Physiotherapy Service – letter of thanks for donation.
19. HPBC – confirmation of completion of works at Memorial Park in time for WB RBL rededication ceremony on 11th May 2014.
20. IWPS – response regarding unsuccessful grant application and the possibility of working together on the future of WB Canal Basin, the Warehouse and a possible trip boat. **A meeting is being arranged with the Canal & River Trust and Ian Edgar from IWPS will be invited to attend so suggestions from his letter can be discussed at that meeting.**
21. HPBC – response confirming availability of regeneration grant for 2014/15, but uncertainty of the amount with information that theoretically it could fund plaques, subject to their suitability.
22. HP & HV CRP – copy of the partnerships submission for the new Northern Franchise.
23. HPBC – Media Release for Grants to commemorate First World War.
24. HPBC – copy of Policy on Fly-Posting.

25. Peak District NPA – Planning Service Parishes Bulletin 06 April 2014.
26. Footsteps – Footprint March 2014 Number 16.
27. HPBC – papers for Extraordinary meeting on Tuesday 8th April 2014.
28. RBL – thanks for donation and change of venue to Bowling Club for the War Memorial Rededication Service Buffet.
- 29.

No:	DALC Circulars and Information 2014 – Content
06	Financial General Circular – Repeal of s.150(5) Local Government Act 1972, Implementation (England) – Ways to pay PAYE/NIC's: HMRC Expectations – Accounting for Council Tax Support Grant in a Council's Annual Return – CIL Demystified – HMRC Employment Allowance – Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 - Vacancy
07	General Circular - Spring Seminar reminder - Openness in Local Government - Grant for disabled people to be cllrs - Time to conduct review - Big Gig - Annual Parish Mtg & Annual Parish Council Mtg - Online training - Living Wage - Vacancy

30. Orchard Road resident – letter regarding problems from highway footpath vegetation overgrowth at Orchard Road. **Agreed to report this matter to Derbyshire County Council for attention.**
31. Transition New Mills – requesting assistance with project tackling non-native invasive species in New Mills/Goyt Valley.
32. Footsteps 10K Runners – request for sponsorship for 8 runners participating in the Manchester 10K on Sunday 18th May 2014.
33. Cllr John Pritchard – link to Derbyshire Local Resilience Forum – Flood Contingency Plan, including a Parish/Town Councils' information page.
34. Whaley Bridge Toddler Group – e-mail with thanks for donation.
35. DCC Pensions – Employers Newsletter 120.
36. PDNPA – revised Parishes Bulletin 6 with revised dates. Annual Parish Meeting changed to 30th June and rescheduled Parishes Day 2014 to 18th October.
37. Environment Agency – Living on the Edge, guide to rights and responsibilities of riverside ownership in response to issues raised in respect of Footpath at Wharf Road.
38. Downing Street – information about introduction of the new Employment Allowance and opportunity for tax cuts for engaging new employees.

C13/212 Draft Year End Accounts to 31st March 2014 and Earmarked Reserves

Draft year end accounts were circulated for information. The internal audit will take place on 14th May 2014. The earmarked reserves were agreed as follows:

	Earmarked Reserves	£
1	Mechanics Institute refurbishment	2000.00
2	Regeneration projects	4000.00
3	Sports Association Sinking Fund	19045.00
4	Sports Association New Project	19045.00
5	Goyt River Bridge	6000.00
		£ 50090.00

C13/213 Financial Regulations and Financial Risk Assessment 2014

RESOLVED: That the current Financial Risk Assessment (dated 10th April 2014) be approved and signed.

RESOLVED: To adopt the new Financial Regulations dated March 2014.

C13/214 A6 Corridor Study – Final Draft Summary Report for Consultation

A letter was received from Susan Stevenson (Transport Policy, Programmes and GIS Manager for Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council) requesting that WBTC submit comments on the A6 Corridor Study (Final Draft Summary Report undertaken by Atkins Ltd.) as a key stakeholder.

RESOLVED: Following discussion, these comments were agreed:

1. The study is welcomed and the study objectives supported.
2. The lack of parking at Whaley Bridge Station does not encourage the use of the rail link from Whaley Bridge. It was suggested that Network Rail consider removing the shrubbery on the platform side of the car park, redesigning and increasing the size of the station car park.
3. The inequality of the fare structure needs addressing. It is much more expensive to travel by train from Whaley Bridge than from New Mills and stations beyond this point due to subsidies from TfGM. These subsidies need to be extended to include Furness Vale and Whaley Bridge to encourage travel by train rather than by car along the A6 to access trains at Hazel Grove.
4. A more frequent service is required along the rail line to Buxton, along with longer trains.
5. Re-trunking the A6 should be encouraged.

6. Cycle lanes should be improved and clear cycle preferences marked at dangerous central island refuges, e.g. Outside St. Johns Church, Furness Vale and at the approach to Whaley Bridge.
7. Any increase in traffic along the A6 through Furness Vale will increase pollution, already at unacceptable levels, especially in the vicinity of Furness Vale Primary School which is adjacent to the A6.
8. HGV container traffic is increasing via Whaley Bridge from the direction of Long Hill. This is causing flying debris which is dangerous and needs to be prevented. (A piece of such debris recently landed off a truck onto the pavement outside Furness Vale Primary School!). This sort of incident will increase with the increase in volume of commercial traffic.
9. Attention should be paid to the potential increase in traffic generated along the A6 through Bridgemont and Furness Vale from large housing developments granted planning permission in Chapel-en-le-Frith. More houses generate more traffic.
10. The Town Council supports the measure to increase parking spaces at New Mills Newtown. This should be a short-term measure and not on the medium-term list.

C13/215 Brookfield Pond Nature Reserve – Boundary Fence

The post and rail fence between Brookfield Pond and Whaley Hall needs to be replaced or repaired. There is £1500 in the budget for Brookfield Pond this financial year but the quotes for this work received last year exceeded £2000. Rev David Hall has been informed that we will be replacing the fence during the spring this year.

RESOLVED: To increase the budget for Brookfield Pond by £500 to £2000 and obtain up-to-date quotations for this project.

C13/216 Concessionary Use of the Mechanics Institute for the Whaley Water Weekend

An email was received from Barry Rudd, Chair of W3, requesting concessionary use of the Mechanics Institute over the W3 weekend from 6th – 8th June 2014.

RESOLVED: To grant concessionary use to W3 for the above dates.

C13/217 Annual Community Award 2014

Nominations have been invited for a person or organisation that has made an outstanding contribution during the past year for the benefit of Whaley Bridge or Furness Vale. Nomination forms are available from the Clerk and must be submitted prior to 30th April 2014. The selection will be made at the May council meeting on 8th May 2014 and the award made at the Annual Town Meeting to be held in the Mechanics Institute on 19th May 2014.

C13/218 Date for Annual Town Meeting

RESOLVED: To hold the Annual Town Meeting at 7.30pm on Monday 19th May 2014 in the Meeting Room, Mechanics Institute, Market Street, Whaley Bridge.

C13/219 Mechanics Institute Structural Survey – Priority Repairs Quotation

Three quotations had been sought for the repair work at the Mechanics Institute. Only one was received.

RESOLVED: To accept the quotation for £5544.00 from Grimshaw Construction & Renovations to carry out the repair works recommended in the Structural Survey, provided satisfactory Public Liability Insurance was in place.

C13/220 World War 1 Community Projects

It was noted that HPBC has made £20,000 of grant funding available to support local community organisations holding WW1 centenary events. Application forms are available from HPBC and the Mechanics Institute.

C13/221 Grant for Footsteps Youth Club

A letter was received from Rosie Wallace requesting a grant towards kit for members of Footsteps Youth Club entering the Manchester 10K Run in aid of funds for Footsteps.

RESOLVED: To grant £80.00 to the Youth Club (via Whaley Bridge Community Trust) towards their Youth Club activities.

C13/222 Village Entry Signs

Whaley4Wards is proposing a project for five village entry signs (Long Hill, Chapel Road, Bridgemont, Whaley Lane and Macclesfield Road). The design has been chosen from artwork supplied by Rosemary Wignall from Whaley Bridge Art Group. A visit to Leander Architectural is planned to discuss the project. It is likely that the project will cost up to £7,250 from the regeneration budget for 2014. The signs will require Advertising Consent Planning Approval from HPBC and information has been sent to Steve Alcock at DCC for consideration as the signs will be placed adjacent to the highway. It was agreed that removable strap boards should be attached below the signs to advertise forthcoming village events to encourage tourism and regeneration.

RESOLVED: To approve expenditure up to £7,250 for the signs, apply for appropriate planning consent from HPBC and continue discussions with Steve Alcock at DCC.

C13/223 Surface Repairs to Shallcross Incline Greenway

It was noted that there had been some minor flood water damage to the surface of the Shallcross Incline Greenway which could be hazardous to pedestrians and cyclists.

RESOLVED: To accept the quotation from Chris Tetley for £45 to carry out necessary repairs to the surface.

It was noted that a boundary fence was required between the top of the incline and an adjacent property. Cllr Swift will survey the site and report back to the next meeting with a recommendation for necessary work.

C13/224 Grant for Replacement Mower for WB Cricket Club

Cllr Goldfinch reported that £3000 had been granted from HPBC Councillor Initiative Fund towards replacing the mower for WB Cricket Club. WB Cricket Club would also donate towards the project.

RESOLVED: To grant £200 towards this project and to purchase the mower following receipt of partnership grants and donations.

C13/225 Sunnybank Allotment Site – Water Supply Project and New Lease with HPBC

Cllr Swift reported progress.

C13/226 Review of Allotment Rents

Allotment rents were reviewed. It was noted that the current rent of £20 per year had not been increased since 2008.

RESOLVED: That allotment rents be increased from April 2015 to £30 per year for smaller plots and to £60 for larger plots and to notify current tenants about the impending increase.

C13/227 Producing a Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan Group met on 9th April 2014. Cllr Thomas reported progress and a meeting is proposed with Joanna Bagnall (HPBC) to discuss queries from the group concerning the emerging new High Peak Local Plan.

Signed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

.....**Chairman**

Date.....