

STALMINE-WITH-STAYNALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 12 January 2016 at 7.00pm at the Village Hall, Stalmine

Present: Cllrs J Jackson (Chairman), K Jenkinson, S Pelham, A Wallace and D Walmsley

In Attendance: Jan Finch, Clerk to the Council and County Councillor Vivien Taylor (Item 5)

085(2015-16) Apologies for Absence

None

086(2015-16) Declaration of Interests and Dispensations

The Clerk reminded councillors that they all had a pecuniary interest in item 6 (budget for 2016/17) as they were all council tax payers. Each councillor had requested a dispensation in order to allow them to discuss and vote on the precept and councillors **resolved** to grant the dispensations until the next elections in May 2019.

087(2015-16) Minutes of the Last Meeting

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting held on 8 December 2015 be agreed as a true record.

088(2015-16) Public Participation (Including Police Report)

Councillors **resolved** to adjourn the meeting to allow members of the public to bring matters relating to the agenda to the attention of the council.

Councillors noted the police report and summary of crime and anti social behaviour in the parish and expressed concern at the rise in crime.

County Councillor Taylor outlined the proposed budget cuts on which LCC are current consulting in order to inform discussion of the proposed cuts at Item 5 on the agenda.

On the conclusion of public participation councillors **resolved** to reconvene the meeting.

089(2015-16) LCC Proposed Cuts

Councillors noted that the cuts to services proposed by the County Council include withdrawing funding from the Knott End to Fleetwood Ferry, the closure of Knott End library and the withdrawal of bus subsidies. Councillors discussed the effect of these proposals and noted their effect on students, people using public transport to get to and from work and medical appointments and the elderly and **resolved** to make these points and to emphasise their effect on rural isolation and health and wellbeing to the County Council. Councillors further **resolved** that the response should contain the suggestion that both Knott End and Garstang libraries be retained but on a part time basis.

090(2015-16) Budget 2016/17

Councillors considered the draft budget options and **resolved** that the precept for 2016/17 be set at £21,010.

091(2015-16) Community Engagement Strategy

Councillors noted that the community engagement strategy should be reviewed annually and **resolved** to approve the strategy with a minor change to reflect the fact that the parish council no longer produces a quarterly newsletter.

092(2015-16) Procurement of External Audit Services

Councillors noted that, from the start of the 2017/18 financial year, smaller authorities can choose to

have an auditor appointed to them by a new sector led body (the Smaller Authority Audit Appointment Authority Ltd) or they can decide to procure their own. Smaller parish councils with a turnover of less than £25,000 will be exempt from having to submit an annual financial return but will still need to have an auditor appointed in case there are questions from electors to be resolved. Councillors **resolved** not to opt out of the arrangement.

093(2015-16) Play Facilities for Older Children

Councillors noted the letter from Oliver Sealy asking the Parish Council to consider installing play facilities for older children. The Clerk reported that Wyre's Estates department would first need to give permission to install such facilities on the playing field and, if permission was forthcoming, seek support from the local community which would be needed to apply for funding. Councillors **resolved** to agree to provide play facilities for older children towards the bottom of the playing field adjacent to the wood and to seek Wyre Council's permission to start the process. Councillors further **resolved** that this should be an item on the next agenda.

094(2015-16) Container Update

Councillors noted the unsuccessful attempts by Caroline Holden from LCC's Emergency Planning service and her Highways colleagues to find a suitable location for the container either within the parish area or within a short distance of it. Councillors **resolved** to ask Wyre Council whether there was any scope to use the storage facility at Preesall to store sandbags and signs which might be used in Stalmine. Councillors further **resolved** to notify Wyre Council that the Shaping Your Neighbourhood grant for the container could not be used.

095(2015-16) Casual Vacancy Update

Councillors noted that there had been no response to the advertisement for a volunteer to fill the casual vacancy and **resolved** that they would attempt to identify a suitable individual.

096(2015-16) Planning Applications

15/00998/OUT

Proposal: Outline application for the erection of one detached dwelling

Location: Land Adjacent to Bramble Bank, Staynall Lane, Stalmine

It was agreed that the Council has no objections to the proposal.

15/01012/FUL

Proposal: Erection of one new dwelling

Location: Berdon Cottage, Stricklands Lane, Stalmine

It was agreed that the Council has no objections to the proposal.

097(2015-16) Finance

a) Receipts this month

General Reserve Account interest	£4.25
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b) Payments to be approved:

1281/82/83	Staff costs	£824.77
1281	Staff expenses on behalf of the Council	£26.10
1284	HMRC	£633.60
1285	F H & M Davies & Son	£174.00
1286	Preesall Auto Discount	£25.94

Payments by Standing Order for Noting:

Easy Websites (monthly hosting fee)	£24.00
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c) Statement of Accounts – December 2015

The statement of accounts for the month ending December 2015 shows

Business Current Account	£141.71
Business High Interest Account	£10,971.96
General Reserve Account	££3,373.41

Councillors **resolved** to approve the accounts for payment and noted the receipts, the payment by standing order and the statement of accounts.

098(2015-16) Reports from Outside Bodies (for information)

None.

099(2015-16) Clerk's Report (for information)

Councillors noted the Clerk's report in respect of:

Pay Award Offer to Local Government Staff

Council staff have been offered a 1% pay increase from April 2016 and a further 1% the following year. The National Employers have made the two-year deal to unions, which would also see employees on lower salaries be given higher rises to take into account the new National Living Wage. Trade unions Unison, Unite and GMB are to consult with members on the pay offer and will meet in February to decide their next steps. Any agreement reached will apply to all local council staff on NJC Terms and Conditions and those employed under the model SLCC/NALC model contract.

Government Consultation on Proposed Changes to the Planning System

The Government has announced a consultation on proposed changes to the planning system to support the delivery of new homes, including low cost homes for first time buyers. This includes asking whether local communities, including town and parish councils, will have the opportunity to allocate sites for small scale 'starter home' developments including in the Green Belt through neighbourhood plans. The closing date is 25th January.

Christmas Card

A Christmas card was received from the Brickhouse Cottages team including an invitation to look at the cottages in the new year. Any councillor interested in visiting should contact the team on 01253 702122.

Walney Extension Community Fund

The next stage of the consultation process has now been announced and public exhibitions will be held at Gregson Community & Arts Centre, 33 Moorgate, Lancaster between 2pm and 7pm on **Tuesday 23rd February and at Fleetwood Town Football Club, Park Avenue, Fleetwood from 12-5pm on Wednesday 24th February**. All members of the community are invited to attend to find out more about the Fund and to further share their views on where and who should benefit. There is no need to book a space, just come along to the venue nearest to you and meet the GrantScape team. The current timeframe for applications is that the Fund will open in approximately March / April 2016 and the first round decisions will be made by approximately September / October 2016. If you have any questions relating to the Fund or would like to register your interest and receive updates about the consultation process, please call GrantScape on 01908 247634 or email wecf@grantscape.org.uk

Lancashire LEADER Programme

LCC has announced that the Lancashire LEADER programme is now open for business. The scheme is part of the Rural Development Programme for England and is part funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development. The aim of LEADER is to create jobs and help businesses grow, which will then benefit the rural economy. The first round of funding is aimed at Enterprises and Farming businesses and the focus is on job creation and growth of the business. Full details of the eligibility criteria can be found on our [Rural Development Fund website](#).

The Enterprise fund provides support for micro and small businesses (less than 49 full-time equivalent employees and non-agricultural) and farm diversification. The grants are for both new and existing businesses and all types of businesses, including social enterprises can apply. Find out more about [funding for Enterprises](#) including what types of projects can be funded.

Farming grants support a wide range of farm investments. They are particularly for businesses that want to invest in innovative business practices and new technologies to help them become more sustainable and productive. Find out more about [funding for Farming](#) including what types of projects can be funded.

The application process is competitive and therefore there are no guarantees that an application for funding will be successful. Applications will be appraised and assessed against a broad range of criteria but the primary focus will be the creation of jobs, how the business will grow and the impact upon the local rural community. The first applications will be considered at the end of April 2016. In order for an application to be considered an outline application needs to be submitted by 31 January 2016.

Tourism

The tourism funding programme is likely to be launched some time in Spring / Summer 2016 but is dependent on the publication of the Destination Management Plan from Marketing Lancashire which should provide more detailed information regarding the current accommodation / attraction stock in Lancashire. The type of projects which might be funded is not available yet but if you have a tourism project in mind, it would be most helpful if you could complete an initial register of interest [form](#).

Cultural and Heritage

These projects have not previously been funded but could include the construction and restoration of sites and buildings. If you have a potential project idea please complete an initial register of interest [form](#).

Basic Services

The previous programme funded a range of projects via this particular theme including village hall developments, play areas, financial outreach work and the training of volunteers to provide essential rural services. Funding for Basic Services in the 2015-2020 programme is quite limited. If you have a community project in mind, please complete an initial register of interest [form](#) as this will inform us what types of funding communities are looking for.

Forestry

Forestry businesses may be able to apply for funding via the Enterprise theme. Each LAG has a very small allocation of funding for specific forestry projects. If you have a forestry project idea please complete the initial register of interest [form](#)

100(2015-16) Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Tuesday 2 February 2016** at 7.00pm.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8pm.