

Nether Kellet Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting 4th October 2017

Those Present: Cllrs. David Whitaker (Chairman), Judith Bentham, Chris Halhead, George Smith, Ian Williams, Nick Johnson, Peter Riley, Michael Watson (Clerk); City Cllr. J Roger Mace & Steve Hinde

- 1 **Apologies for Absence:** none
- 2 **Minutes from the Meeting: 6th September 2017** (enclosed with agendas and previously circulated by email as provisional) were agreed and signed as a true record.
- 3 **Declarations of Interest:** None
- 4 **PACT (Police Matters):** A group from the village are to attend a training session in November in the use of speed guns.
- 5 **Matters Arising:**
 - (a) **Road Safety and related matters:** Pothole on Back Lane bend, bollards on verges of Kellet Lane, hedgerow on Timpenny Road, access from Ashmeadow Road onto Main Road, wearing of the slow signs and white-lining on Bolton Lane on approach to the 'hump', damaged warning sign on approach to narrow section of Shaw Lane, additional warning signs on Main Road noting unsuitability of Shaw Lane as a direct route to Halton for HGVs and additional lit warning sign on Back Lane on approach to entrance to Back Lane Quarry. Reminders had been sent with copies to County Councillor on all issues and "County Highways" have again acknowledged receipt and assure us that all are "in the pipeline" A notification of a damaged surround to a drain on Ashmeadow Grove to be **sent to County Highways**.

Despite further attempts to obtain an up-date on the position regarding the outstanding water supply works on Bridge Road no response has been received.
 - (b) **Not otherwise covered by the agenda:** None
- 6 **Planning:**
 - (a) 17/00014/REF: Notification of appeal against decision on application 16/01351/FUL (refer 6b p527 & 6b p520 under reference 16/00606/FUL) Erection of an agricultural building for free range hens and creation of new access point on land to the south-east of Lower Addington Farm ~ Appeal office reference APP/A2335/W/17/3175065 ~ **Appeal Refused**
 - (b) 17/0127/TCA: Fell two trees growing as one previously notified for reduction. On further inspection the trees were found to be in a very poor condition having been subjected to poor tree work approximately 10 years ago. No viable points for reduction present. Only other option would be to pollard but this would still leave a very poorly tree with weak branch unions and stems with heartwood decay. Felling would be the best option. For Mr David Paterson @3 Castle Cottages LA6 1EU ~ No objections from Parish Councillors ~ **Awaiting Decision from City Planners**
- 7 **Accounts:**
 - (a) **Confirmation of completion of audit for year ending 2016-17 from BDO LLP of Southampton issues raised regarding non- completion of Q11 on P2 of form and non-inclusion of defibrillator as a fixed asset.**
 - (b) Lancaster City Council ~ Bedding plants (VAT £24.16) **£144.95**
 - (c) BDO LLP ~ Fee for audit 2016-17 (VAT £20.00) **£120.00**

All Accounts matters approved unanimously
- 8 **LALC** ~ Report from Local Meeting 25th September. The Police reported a 15% increase in reported crime which was largely due to an increased incidence of fly-tipping in the Morecambe area. The '101 emergency number' tended to be swamped with calls and was unable to cope. The parish champion (County) highlighted a five-year plan for improvements and repairs to minor roads. Further discussions took place on the subject of Neighbourhood plans. Next Local Meeting 28th November.
- 9 **Quarry Matters:** Quarry liaison meetings Tuesday 12th September. **Dunald Mill** ~ The operators had no intention of expanding the use of the quarry by allowing other companies to utilise the space in the quarry but had been approached by one company regarding the application for temporary storage of waste discussed at the September meeting of Nether Kellet PC. **Leapers Wood** ~ A new bigger crusher is in use which should reduce the necessity for night working. The work towards removing and re-siting the offices has been delayed due to geological problems. It is anticipated that these will soon be resolved. The viewing platform is still in mind and both operators are working towards the establishment of a permanent viewing point. No significant complaints had been reported. The operators agreed to deal with the weeds and overgrowth on the lime-kiln on the permissive path subject to the landowner's

consent. Cllr David Whitaker confirmed that this had been agreed and Cllr Ian Williams is to contact the operators to give the go ahead. Cllr Ian Williams asked about the contribution to the village Christmas tree and this was agreed.

Back Lane ~The wheel wash is now working well. Aggregate industries are still concerned regarding the possible location of additional housing in Carnforth which it was felt could threaten their working practices. The problem of the surface at the entrance to Back Lane Quarry had been reported to County Highways. Some surplus buildings are to be removed and "AI" are in consultation with Lancashire County Council regarding their removal. The quarry operators were thanked once again for the donation of chippings for the footpath repair works.

Next Meetings 6th March 2018

- 10 **Lengthsman Report:** Mike Ashton has been engaged in grass-cutting (2 times), works towards footpath improvement on FP No 4 including preparation, stone conveyance and placement and trimming wood pegs on steps. He also replaced the handrail and catch on the gate on the approach to the permissive path from Main Road.
- 11 **Twinning Association:** Nothing to report
- 12 **Fly Tips** One small tip had been removed by City Council. Progress is being made by City Council on the possible deployment of CCTV at strategic locations in an attempt to combat fly-tipping.
- 13 **Footpath Report:** The works to improve the surface of FP No 4 had now been completed and had received numerous favourable comments. Thanks, are extended to Mike Ashton for implementing and carrying out the works to the usual high standard, with the assistance of Councillors Ian Williams and Chris Halhead. The parish councillors also thanked Aggregate Industries for supplying the stone required. Surplus stone has been applied to the 'dip' on Hallfield Lane FP No 3. Generally, footpaths are clear but due to the weather, for the time of year, they are still very wet underfoot.
- 14 **Nether Kellet Village Hall Committee:** Steve Hinde, the village hall chairman, reported that the box for the connection on the playing field had been condemned as unsafe and had obtained a quotation for its replacement. Similarly, a quotation had been received for illumination of the defibrillator. Alternative quotations are to be sought. Clerk to take action. Steve said that the committee were looking into the question of storage facilities at the Village hall and to this effect wished to know what storage would be required for the emergency plan. Clerk to obtain details to be available for the next PC meeting.
- 15 **Projects:** Cllr. Peter Riley is continuing to liaise with John Bentham with regard to photographs required for the proposed information board.
- 16 **B4RN.org:** Snags have been encountered with regard to possible routes through the village. It was agreed that the clerk and the parish chairman would need to sign wayleaves where the route passes through areas under its control. Cllr. Judith Bentham explained that it was necessary to produce maps showing the boundaries of landowners' property as part of the wayleaves. Parish Online is a program which produces suitable maps for this purpose and it was agreed that the Parish Council would pay for this program for a limited time period.
- 17 **Emergency plan:** Refer 14 above.
- 18 **Neighbourhood Watch:** Nothing
- 19 **Grass Cutting (County verges):** Because of the exceedingly wet summer the grass has grown more than would normally be expected and with a reduced number of cuts the verges have often not looked at their best. It was agreed to monitor more closely the regularity of 'cuts' next year.
- 20 **Parish Council Settlement questionnaire (Lancaster City Council):** This was an extensive survey which the clerk would complete and send to 'City'
- 21 **Vacancy for Parish Clerk:** Mr Watson confirmed that it was not his intention to continue in the role of Parish Clerk beyond the end of 2017 and provided a letter to this effect. An advertisement for the vacancy had been placed in the PC Notice-board and had been also circulated via LALC. It was agreed to place a flier in the October edition of Round and About which is due for circulation soon. Roger Mace agreed to arrange production of the flier and the clerk would provide him with a copy for this purpose. Cllr Peter Riley agreed to place a copy in each magazine.
- 22 **Christmas Tree:** Cllr Ian Williams in liaison with Mike Ashton would purchase a suitable tree on behalf of the village.
- 23 **Items for Circulation:** *LCR Autumn '17*
- 24 **Items for the next meeting:** None
- 25 **Next Meeting of Parish Council: 7.00 p.m. Wednesday 1st November 2017**