

**Minutes of the Meeting of Burley Parish Council
held on Thursday 8th July 2021 at 7.30pm
at Burley Library, Grange Road**



Present: Councillor Duncan Ault
Councillor Debbie Cox
Councillor Vicky Evans
Councillor Bob Felstead
Councillor Jan Lepley (Chair)
Councillor Gary Scott
Councillor Chris Turner
Councillor Mike Wild

Officers: Clare Smith (Clerk)

Also present: 2 members of the public

046/2122 **Item 1 – Chairman’s Remarks**
Councillor Lepley welcomed those present to the meeting.

047/2122 **Item 2 – Apologies for Absence**
All members present.

048/2122 **Item 3 – Disclosures of Interest**
No declarations of interest were made in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 s32 and the relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012 from Members or Officers.

049/2122 **Item 4 – Dispensation Requests**
None requested.

050/2122 **Item 5 – Public Participation**
No members of the public wishing to speak

051/2122 **Item 6 – Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 7th June 2021 be accepted as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

052/2122 **Item 7 – Matters arising from Previous Minutes**
All matters are to be dealt with elsewhere on this agenda.

053/2122 **Item 8 – Minutes of Council Committees**
It was **RESOLVED** that the following minutes be accepted by the Council:

Community & Environment Committee	21 st June 2021
Library Committee	28 th June 2021
Planning Committee	28 th June 2021
Staffing Committee	30 th June 2021

The Chair moved to take Item 11 at this juncture.

Item 11 - Proposed Closure of Public Right of Way – Burley & Woodhead Primary School

The Clerk circulated a report regarding the proposed closure of the public right of way through Burley & Woodhead Primary School.

Burley Woodhead Primary school made an application to Bradford Council to close the public footpath which runs through the school grounds using Section 118B of the Highways Act 1980.

The school made the application based on concerns including: risk of children absconding, risk of strangers with ill intent on site and the inability of staff to be able to discriminate between those and people benignly using the footpath, the anxiety caused to both staff and children by having people on site and walking through their field and play areas (however innocently) when in use by the children plus the distress and upset from having work and equipment vandalised. Risks from dogs and dog faeces. Repeated damage to school property, continual problems with litter being left by youths hanging around outside school hours. Interruption of school maintenance, such as mowing the fields by people coming in to play and picnic and refusing to leave. Compromising the safety of children in out of school clubs using the grounds by other people coming on site and using the facilities. The additional stress on the staff who are working to keep the children safe and provide a good education.

There are specific legal tests that have to be met to close a public footpath through a school and Bradford Council had to consider if these tests had been met.

Following an informal consultation in 2017 and further evidence submitted by the school, Bradford Council decided that the tests had been met to make an Order. The Order was made on 21 August 2018 and advertised in the Ilkley Gazette newspaper and by notices on site. A significant number of responses were made to the proposal. Both in support and also in opposition to the loss of the amenity that the route provides.

Bradford Council cannot confirm an opposed Order, so in accordance with the law the authority submitted the opposed Order to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State has now appointed an independent Planning Inspector to decide the matter, i.e., whether to confirm the Order or not. This will be dealt with by means of a Public Inquiry, to be held virtually on the 28 September 2021.

Burley Parish Council resolved to object to the closure of the footpath on 21st September 2018/ However, the Parish Council now has the opportunity to review this decision. It can retain its objection, expand on the objection by submitting a Statement of Case to the Inspector or it can withdraw its objection.

RESOLVED to suspend Standing Orders to allow the Headteacher of Burley & Woodhead Primary School to speak and answer Councillor's questions.

The Headteacher described the issues being experienced on the school site due to the public right of way being in place. These included significant challenges with safeguarding the children during the school day (members of the public accessing the school site), anti-social behaviour out of school hours (drugs, alcohol, criminal damage/vandalism, dog fouling). The vandalism to the play equipment costs the school approximately £1000 per year to repair and the Site Manager has to sweep the grounds every morning for dog waste and other hazards such as broken glass.

The Chair resumed Standing Orders.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council believes safeguarding of children at Burley & Woodhead Primary School is of paramount importance and therefore withdraws its previous objection. The Clerk shall inform the Inspector of this decision.

055/2122 **Item 9 – Staffing Committee Recommendation**

The Chairman reported that the current Assistant Clerk had tendered her resignation. The Staffing Committee had reviewed the job description to ensure that the Council's needs were fully met. It was recommended by the Committee that the post be altered to Bookings and Facilities Administrator. The post would remain at 20 hours per week and on the same scale of pay.

RESOLVED: To advertise the vacancy of Bookings and Facilities Administrator with a closing date of 23rd July. Interviews to be held w/c 2nd August 2021. The Staffing Committee is to be delegated authority to carry out the interviews and make an offer to the successful candidate.

055/2122 **Item 10 – Finance**

10.1 **Schedule of Receipts and Payments (June 2021)**

RESOLVED: The schedule of receipts and payments for June 2021 was approved.

10.2 **Bank Reconciliation (June 2021)**

RESOLVED : The bank reconciliation for June 2021 was approved.

10.3 **Budget Report – Year to Date (at 30th June 2021)**

The Clerk circulated a detailed budget report (Cost Centre Report). The report was received and noted by Members.

It was agreed that the Finance Committee will meet on 19th July at 6:30pm to review the first quarter of this financial year.

056/2122 **Item 11 – Proposed Closure of Public Right of Way – Burley & Woodhead Primary School**

See Minute 054/2122 above.

057/2122 **Item 12 – Wharfedale Greenway**

There has, unfortunately, been little progress with the purchase of the Golf Club land. The Clerk will contact the solicitor.

Ilkley Town Council has now approved a feasibility study for Phase 4 of the project (Burley to Ben Rhydding).

The steps at Menston Old Lane were now complete making the footpath safer and more accessible.

058/2122 **Item 13 – Action Plan and Capital Expenditure Plan**

It was agreed that a separate working group meeting would be held to discuss Capital Projects and public consultation. The Action Plan would be reviewed and updated at the meeting.

Cllr Cox reported that the Youth Forum Steering Group had met recently and we working on various projects (e.g., YouTube channel, Summer Festival events and a gaming competition).

Cllr Cox had accessed Bradford Youth Service training recently and it had been confirmed that the Youth Service Manager could act as the Youth Forum Safeguarding Officer. Ilkley Town Council had been in touch as they are hoping to carry out similar work engaging with young people and were keen to share ideas.

040/2122 **Item 14 – Queens Hall**

The Fire Risk Assessment had recently been carried out and the under-stage area had been identified as a risk. A meeting has been arranged with the Theatre Group to discuss this matter further.

Three quotes had now been obtained for the roof repair. It was **RESOLVED** that the quote from Crag Top roofing should be accepted and the expenditure of £4430 be approved.

041/2122 **Item 15 – The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Celebrations**

It was agreed that the Council should plan an event to commemorate this occasion. Councillors will circulate ideas by email and Cllr Evans will amalgamate response and co-ordinate a working group meeting to begin the planning process.

042/2122 **Item 16 – Reports from Councillors – For Information Only**

Cllr Scott reported that a meeting had taken place at the Riverside on 23rd June regarding the anti-social behaviour experienced in the area during periods of good weather. The Police (Sgt. Hudson) were investigating whether any legal orders could be applied and they were liaising with the Anti-Social Behaviour Team and North Yorkshire Police. Woodhouse/Hyde Park Police were also in liaison with Sgt. Hudson regarding large numbers of university students visiting the area.

Cllr Lepley reported that the Hermit Public House had now been removed from the register of Assets of Community Value as it had now been sold to a local pub company who plan to refurbish and run the business as a pub. The Parish Council now has the option to re-apply for Asset of Community Value status should the new owners of the pub chose to sell it at a later date. It was agreed that Cllr Lepley would discuss this with the Hermit Community Group and if they felt that this was required, they will formally request that the Council take action.

044/2122 **Item 17 – Report from Councillors – Concerns Raised by Members of the Public**

Cllr Scott had received a complaint from a member of the public regarding the proposed Wharfedale Greenway. He reported that a response had been sent to the member of the public but he had not yet heard from them.

045/2122 **Item 18 – Diary Dates**

The following diary dates were noted:

19 th July 2021	Finance Committee; 18:30
19 th July 2021	Planning Committee; 19:30
26 th July 2021	Community & Environment Committee; 19:30
9 th August 2021	Planning Committee; 19:30
9 th September 2021	Full Council; 19:30

The meeting closed at 9:35pm

Signed (Chairman, Councillor Lepley): _____ Date: _____