

## Haighton Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2021. The meeting was held by phone and e-mail owing to the high rate of Covid infections (one in 50 people in England), the fact that some of the population have not yet had their booster vaccination, and the difficulty in providing social distancing at the meeting venue.

### Correspondence:

- Best Kept Village Competition: Haighton achieved 5<sup>th</sup> place in the hamlets class, which is not bad considering all the upheaval at Park House Farm.
- E-mail received from a young female resident of Cow Hill stating that she had nearly been run over while pushing a pram on the bend opposite the Park House building site. She said that the road had become more dangerous since the building sites had opened and asked why there was no proper footpath or traffic calming measures on this dangerous bend. The Clerk immediately sent a report to LCC Highways via their web site. This was followed by letters to PCC Planning and the Head of Highways at LCC. Both said that the planning applications for the two developments had satisfied the criteria for highway safety. The Clerk replied, saying that they had not given any consideration of the safety of pedestrians walking from Cow Hill to Grimsargh and vice-versa, and that some temporary barriers, signs etc. would help. We await their response.
- E-mail from Sue Whittam, Clerk to Grimsargh PC, asking whether HPC would be able to suggest a suitable site for a SPID (traffic speed sign), and whether we could contribute to the purchase of one. The Clerk replied, stating that there was no suitable site owing to the fact that the route between the 30mph sign on Whittingham Lane near to its junction with Cow Hill and the 20mph sign on D'Urton Lane near to its junction with Eastway is delimited (60mph), despite our letters to LCC and the Chief Constable asking for this to be reduced to 40mph. Furthermore, HPC's financial reserves would not go very far toward the £6,000 needed for a SPID.
- E-mails from a resident of Cow Hill who had some concerns about Planning Application 06/2021/1432-for 5 dwellings at Sumners Farm, Cow Hill. One e-mail arrived on PCC's closing date for public consultation (18/11/21), the other on the 21<sup>st</sup> November. The resident has sent her comments to PCC Planning and Cllr Harry Landless.
- Letter from Sarah Waterhouse, Highways and Operational Support and Liaison Officer, LCC Highways, replying on behalf of John Davies, Head of Highways, regarding HPC's letters concerning the hazardous route for pedestrians along the section of Whittingham Lane outside the Park House Farm development site. She mainly repeated the points made by John Davies, ie., that 'both site accesses can be delivered safely', which completely misses the point HPC were making about the danger

to existing pedestrians. She also stated that 'pedestrian movements in the area are minimal'. The Clerk's response refuted this by quoting a Cow Hill resident who said she had counted over 50 walkers, joggers and dog walkers per hour on many occasions. At least her closing statement was more positive, saying that they had visited the site on 16/11/21 and encouraged the developer to install further warning signs ahead of the development. Phil Cousins, PCC's Development Management Team Leader has promised to look into the matter further and reply to HPC.

### **Planning:**

#### **Applications:**

- 06/2021/1432: 5no. Detached dwellings with rear garages, parking and associated landscaping at Sumners Farm, Cow Hill. This was a revised application for the 2 dwellings which had already been approved for the site of the derelict barn and the 3 dwellings already approved for the adjacent plot to the south of the barn. This would enable all of the houses to be more equally spaced and possibly larger. Since this seemed a sensible idea, there were no objections.
- 06/2021/1537: Outline Application for 4no. Self-build dwellings seeking approval for access (all other matters reserved), on land between South Lodge and Houghton Reservoir.. Houghton Green Lane. Following consultation of all members there was unanimous opposition to this proposal. Like the recent application for 5 dwellings in open countryside at Sumners Farm, this proposal was purely speculative, satisfied none of the criteria in Policy EN1-Open Countryside, violated the Areas of Separation Policy (EN4) and would set a precedent for every landowner along Whittingham Lane, Houghton Green Lane and D'Urton Lane to expect permission to be granted for applications that would gradually result in a continuous ribbon of development. This must not be allowed to happen, as HPC's response will make very clear.

#### **Application withdrawn**

- 06/2021/1044: Outline permission for 5 dwellings seeking approval for access and layout, Sumners Farm, Cow Hill.

#### **Approvals:**

- 06/2021/1061: Variation in condition 2 of planning permission 06/2021/0238 for 2 dwellings to include changes to fenestration and addition of a chimney stack, solar panels, etc, to the two dwellings which have gained approval at The Paddock, Whinfield House.
- 06/2021/1137: As for 06/2021/1061, above, for the third dwelling at The Paddock, Whinfield House.

Refusals: None

Appeals: None.

#### **Meetings:**

- LALC Annual Meeting, November 2021.

**Accounts:**

- Annual Budget: the Clerk had prepared the usual spread-sheet with the expenditure for the current financial year and the projected requirement for the coming one. Taking all of this into account, and bearing in mind the coming parish council election in 2023, the budget requirement was £750.
- Cheque No. 346 for £36.00 paid in favour of the Campaign to Protect Rural England for the renewal of HPC's subscription.
- Cheque No. 347 for £266.49 paid in favour of J Jones for the Clerk's Expenses.
- Cheque No. 348 for £14.00 paid in favour of the NW Air Ambulance Charity as a donation.
- Cheque No. 349 for £60.00 paid in favour of Mr S Stafford for gardening services at Houghton Green.

**AOB:**

- Cllr Jones had noticed the 'Concealed Entrance' sign on the verge approaching the entrance to the Park House building site. The developer had acknowledged the fact that this is a stupid place for the entrance to a housing estate. He reported this to LCC Highways.
- Cllr Jones also noticed that large stones had been placed on the narrow verge outside Beechwood on Whittingham Lane. Apart from presenting a tripping hazard, they would also make it difficult for a pedestrian to avoid traffic if two vehicles were passing at that point. After reporting this to LCC Highways, a red and white chain suspended from metal rods appeared along the edge of the verge. This has not solved the problem which can only be rectified by the removal of the rocks.
- A pot-hole which had re-appeared outside Jubilee Villa had been reported to LCC Highways.