**BARNOLDSWICK TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Wednesday 10th March 2021 by Zoom

**Cllr Tom Whipp, Chairman**

**Present**

Councillors David Whipp, Jodie Hoyle, Chris Church, Jayne Mills, Callum Hird, Mick Strickland, Emma West, Mike Whittingham & Marjorie Adams

**20/71 Apologies for Absence**

Cllrs Lindsay Gaskell & John Rose Parker Ken Hartley

**20/72 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest

**20/73 Open Forum**

No emails were received and no questions were asked via the YouTube broadcast.

**20/74 Minutes of the last meeting**

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the last Full Council Meeting held on the 10th February 2021 be approved as a correct record

**The following two items were brought forward on the agenda**

**20/75 To consider the Council’s response to the following:**

**21/0111/FUL: Major: Erection of 19 No. Bungalows (over 55) with associated landscaping, car parking and access from Brogden Lane**

**Resolved:** To object on the basis that this falls within an area of archaeological interest. There are 8 heritage assets within the studied area. There are serious flooding concerns as the site has surface water run off. Concerns over highway safety due to the exit route being on a busy main road that already has a development approved on the opposite side. This means they would all be converging on to the same main road.

**20/76 Response to the Local Plan**

**Resolved:**

General comments on part 2 of the Local Plan:

**Housing numbers.**

* Together with other parts of West Craven, Barnoldswick has been adversely affected by the Covid 19 pandemic. Over 1,000 jobs are being lost within the local economy due to contraction of the aero-space sector, offshoring of production by Rolls-Royce and relocation/homeworking at a major local call centre.
* The loss of many highly skilled and well-paid jobs will have an inevitable consequence on the local housing market.
* The housing number for Pendle as a whole should be reduced in response to the structural impact of this economic contraction. A figure closer to 146 should be used for the annual requirement, rather than the 240 included in the Plan.

**Planning permissions.**

* Barnoldswick has seen significant housing growth during the plan period, with some sites built out and others with extant planning permission awaiting development.
* The town has already seen its fair share of housing development. Given the number of sites with current planning permission where work is yet to commence, there is no need to allocate further sites for housebuilding.
* Overallocation will lead to developers cherry-picking the most desirable sites, leaving less attractive sites undeveloped.

**Infrastructure.**

* Health service provision is inadequate in Barnoldswick. Converted cottages with poor access and cramped conditions used for GP primary care services. Other healthcare is based at the end-of-life Butts Clinic, with services increasingly being moved out of town or relocated to the overcrowded Rainhall Centre.
* Such inadequate provision for health services is a major constraint to further expansion of the town’s population.
* Education settings aren’t adequate for additional pupil numbers.
* Highway networks provide insufficient capacity for growth in many parts of the town.
* Flooding issues are a constraint in several areas.

**Impact on Landscape and Heritage Assets.**

* Set discreetly in the landscape, Barnoldswick nestles within the contours beneath Weets Hill. It is unobtrusive and largely hidden within its enclosing hills and drumlins.
* Expansion of the town will adversely impact the rural character of the town’s surrounding area, with increased urbanisation significantly affecting the character of the town itself.
* In many parts of the town, housing development would spoil the settings of designated heritage assets, including those of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal.

**Site Allocations**

Barnoldswick Town Council objects to the allocation of land off Foster Road (P055) as a reserve housing allocation site. In addition to the general concerns set out above, the town council believe the land is particularly constrained because of inadequate highway access and that development would result in an unacceptable extension of the town into open countryside.

Taking into account the general issues already raised, the town council raises the following concerns in respect of sites listed as reasonable alternatives.

* **P010** **Wapping** Loss of green wedge/wildlife corridor. Inadequate highway access. Impact on landscape. Proximity to site of ancient St Mary’s Abbey and former Church. Conservation area status.
* **P062** **Silentnight Wood** Loss of woodland area. Important buffer between commercial/industrial use and residential areas. Green Wedge.
* **P127** **Greenberfield Lane** Committed site with planning consent.
* **P169** **Park Hill Reservoir** Essential water supply asset, not redundant. If superseded, access issues up Park Hill preclude reuse for housing.
* **P170** **Clifford Street** Inadequate access. Significant issues with drainage and flooding of adjacent properties downstream.
* **P240** **Brogden Lane/Foster Road** Inadequate access. Impact on landscape character. Extension into open countryside.
* **P266** **Meadow Park** Impact on landscape. Extension into open countryside. Expansion of town towards Salterforth eroding gap between the two communities with consequent threat of losing village character.
* **P278** **Monkroyd** Impact on landscape. Extension into open countryside. Proximity to site of ancient St Mary’s Abbey and former Church. Conservation area status. Holy Well on Calf Hall Lane. Listed building at Lower Calf Hall Farm.
* **P288** **Applegarth** Proximity to industrial site on opposite side of canal. Access.
* **P274** **Barnsey** Impact on landscape. Extension into open countryside. Eroding gap between Barnoldswick and Salterforth, with consequent impact on village. Impact on heritage due to Little Cut tunnel to quarry.
* **P042** **Greenberfield Lane** Owned by Barnoldswick Town Council, no willing vendor. Town council would wish to see designation as part of Victory Park with allotment, recreational use and as woodland.
* **P232** **D+H Concrete** Employment site. Access.
* **P164** **Skipton Road** Impact on designated heritage assets. Impact on landscape. Extending into open countryside.
* **P057** **Fernbank Mill site** Brownfield site with possible use for housing, but previously intended for employment use with velodrome test track.

**Mixed Use Allocation – Long Ing & land off Ravenscroft Way**

Barnoldswick Town Council objects to the Mixed-Use designation proposed for Long Ing Mill etc. This area should retain Employment Land designation. The land is occupied by a multitude of SMEs. These would struggle to find suitable alternative accommodation if their present premises were replaced by housing. There is insufficient undeveloped land off Ravenscroft Way to house all the existing occupants. The loss of Employment Land on the opposite side of the canal at the Barnsey Mill site highlights the need to retain such designation at Long Ing.

**Settlement Boundary**

Barnoldswick Town Council agrees with the proposed tidying up of the settlement boundary to reflect defined features on the ground, garden boundaries and developed areas, rather than arbitary lines on the map.

**Protected Employment Areas**

The boundary of the Protected Employment Area at Crow Nest should include the whole of the partially developed land to the north east of Ravenscroft Way.

**Policies**

Barnoldswick Town Council delegates authority to the clerk to submit further comments on proposed new policies, subject to consultation with members.

**20/77 Financial Matters**

1. To confirm approval of payments made by the Town Clerk to the Council since the last meeting of the Council and to delegate consent for payments to be made prior to the next meeting of the Council
2. To note the internal transfer from grants received to cover the office rental payments from January to March 2021.

**Resolved:** That authority be delegated to the Town Clerk to make payments up to the next Full Council meeting.

To confirm approval for the internal transfer of funds to cover the rental for the two offices from January to March 2021.

**20/78 Committee/Working Groups**

**Allotments 4th March 2021**

At the allotments committee meeting they passed a resolution to recommend to the Full Council that land currently owned by the Town Council be made in to a mixture of allotments and hen pens.

A discussion took place around the areas to be considered and the parking/access that would be needed,

**Resolved:** To undertake a tree survey and discuss with the tree officer from Pendle BC. Clerk to contact the Planning Department to ascertain if any permissions are needed. To delegate consent to the Clerk in conjunction with the Chair of the Council and Chair of GP to get quotes and then undertake the work to include: groundwork, parking areas, creation of paths and fences, turn over the ground and to put a new water supply to the site. Due to the homes on Gisburn Road losing their garden tenancies to allow these people to have allotments on the new site.

**20/79 Review of Financial Regulations and Standing Orders**

**Resolved:** The following amendments be made to the Financial Regulations:

3.3 the limit be increased to £1000.

To add 4.5 – That the Chairman or other nominated person will perform a monthly check of the bank statements to confirm that the balances held by the bank are consistent with the monthly balance sheets.

12.1 to amend to that this will be reviewed in March annually

That the following amendments be made to the Standing Orders:

To add an additional point to 18

In the event that the meeting is streamed to the public. Any question posed during the meeting, that is not covered in the Open Forum part of the meeting, can be discussed at the end of all the agenda items at the discretion of the Chairman.

To strike out item 46.

**20/80 Community Governance Review**

**Resolved:** To draw attention that Brogden and Bracewell do not meet as a parish and arrangements are not made for the church star. That the whole of Dales View Park should be included with Salterforth. That the remainder of Barnoldswick (after Coates Ward is removed) should be split in to two wards.

**20/81 Resignation of a Councillor**

To advise the Town Council that Mike Pearce has resigned as a Town Councillor for Coates Ward. The elections office have produced a Notice of Vacancy that is on the notice board and on the Town Councils website. The closing date for a bi-election to be called is the 18th March 2021

**Resolved:** To formally thank Mike for his hard work and Clerk to arrange to send a gift.

**20/82 Tree Surveys**

**Resolved:** To waive standing orders for the need for 3 quotes as Clerk has been unable to find 3 companies that would quote for the work needed. To appoint Bowland Tree Consultancy Limited to carry this out on behalf of the Council.

**20/83 Town Centre Works and re-opening of the High Street**

Cllr David Whipp advised that the contractors were due to be back last Monday.

**Resolved:** That we convey our dissatisfaction that the work hasn’t been done in a timely manner and request that they put extra men on to complete the remainder of the work faster. To authorise the Clerk to make the payment to Pendle for our contribution to phase 1.

To form a working group for the re-opening of the town centre. Volunteers for this: Jayne Mills, Jodie Hoyle, Tom Whipp, Marjorie Adams, David Whipp. Invite shop keepers to this group.

**20/84 Heritage Trail**

**Resolved: To form a working group to look at options. Volunteers: Jayne Mills, Chris Church, David Whipp and Tom Whipp.**

**Members agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during the following item of business in pursuance of the power contained in Section 100(A) (4) of the Local Government Act, 1972 as amended when it was likely, in view of the nature of the proceedings or the business to be transacted, that there would be disclosure of exempt information which was likely to reveal the details of the contract**

**20/85 Yorkshire Water Agreement**

**See file notes**

**20/70 Correspondence/Items for information**

A member of the public has raised concerns about the anti-social behaviour at the moment in town. Cllr Mills stated that this was raised at WCAC and the police said they had only received 1 or 2 reports. Police want the Council to promote Lancashire Talking and stressed the importance of reporting on 101 or 999 (if happening then)

Cllr Strickland was concerned about the level of damage from fires and this not being reported. Would like to meet with local police to see what we could do to improve.

**Approved as a correct record of the above meeting**

**Signed………………………………………………………**

**Date…………………………………………………………**

**Cllr Tom Whipp – Chair of the Full Council**

**The next meeting of the Full Council will be held on 7th April 2021**

**For further information please contact: Joanne Geldard, Town Clerk, The Civic Hall, Station Road, Barnoldswick, BB18 5NA**

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