

Present: Chris Burt, Chris Hudson, Kathleen Wilkinson, Carl Ryder, Andy Cowell, Cllr. James Starkie, County Cllr. Christian Wakeford.

1. There were no visitors.
2. Apologies                      Ann Norris Johnson
3. Declarations of interest        None
4. Approval of Minutes from 8<sup>th</sup> November 2016. KW queried the amount of the quotation from J.Waine. This would be discussed under agenda item 7b. Minutes accepted and signed.

4a. Matters Arising:

KW reported purchase of gifts for elderly ongoing.

Re. 3e Best Kept Village competition, reply received from J. Gatton which agreed that the report was not satisfactory and it would be followed up.

JS: he had spoken to chair of judges panel who had confirmed a proper report would be sent.

Re.3f Sparable Wood CR outlined recent attempts at communication with lengthsmen and emails with Angela Whitwell and confirmed lengthsmen had worked for about 2 hours the day after the email exchange. About one third of the work is completed. CR will check the lengthsmen's timesheet when submitted. Lack of communication was the problem, the lengthsmen had not responded to the initial request, the email was sent 4 weeks later. CB emphasised the importance of the job to be done properly and the need to keep Chris Binney, PBC Environmental Officer, informed.

5. No questions.

6. Reports:

Chairman: Had met with 2 residents of Sabden Fold who had concerns over the lack of grit bins on the hill towards Higham and overgrown vegetation onto the lane. The Chairman had spoken to R. Tomkinson, LCC engineer, who said the road was too narrow for grit bins and although some grit from the piles would be washed away, not all would be. AC questioned if grit bins could be put into the verge. Agreed to try to identify a location and get back to LCC.

The residents had also previously had a parish noticeboard on the side of their barn which had been removed as the owner of the grass verge in front of the noticeboard objected to access across his verge. Agreed to follow this up.

The appeal against retrospective planning permission at Douglas Hall Farm had been withdrawn.

KW: Congratulations to Cllr. Wakeford on recent marriage.

Collection from Newchurch toilets for November was £21.08

Thanks to all concerned with erection of Christmas lights in Newchurch and Spenbrook.

Thanks to Alan Taylor and Chairman for work on footpath between Spenbrook and Newchurch.

Residents of Little Tynedale Farm concerned about rats at their property. Councillors agreed that it is not in the remit of the Parish Council to deal with rats on individual householders' properties and they would need to seek their own solutions. Councillors gave individual opinions about rat poisons.

Action

Cllr. A. Cowell

Cllr. C. Burt

Road surface on lane in Sabden Fold near Higher Town Farm in very poor condition and numerous drains are blocked on lane between Newchurch and Sabden Fold, resulting in dangerous conditions for cyclists and hazardous for motorists, particularly when frozen.

CR: Barley lengthsman clears drains on their roads.

CB: LCC website can be used to report these problems and they are followed up. GBPC lengthsman could be asked to clear drains.

(No reports from CH, AC, CR)

## 7. Agenda Items

7a: Councillor vacancy: Chairman requested all councillors to consider who they knew who could be approached to serve.

7b: Draft budget:

Chairman went through Payments section of draft budget.

First 2 figures based on current year's payments.

J.Waine mowing: confirmation of next year's work and price.

Baskets, gardens and lengthsman figures based on current year's figures, labour for gardening and hedges and verges are estimates. Latter will be cut more frequently than this year.

Other items are based on current year's figures.

With regard to income, PBC has said there will be a slight reduction in total council tax base received from GBP properties overall in 2017/18 which means an increase in the precept of 2.2% just to maintain the current year's income level.

Councillors discussed items of expenditure.

Concern was expressed about the large amount of water being used in the toilets, which is charged on a meter. This needs to be checked, in case there is a leak. From April 2017, it will be possible to change water suppliers and perhaps secure a better deal.

The estimated figure for electricity should be £100, not £64.

It was agreed to reduce the budget for plants from £150 to £100 as garden areas have now been planted up and should only need minor replacements.

It was agreed to combine the expenditure on labour for gardening and the lengthsman under the heading of parish maintenance and to increase the total by £150 to £800. This would give more flexibility over who did the work.

AC asked if there was money left over from this year's accounts that could be used next year. There is currently about £4,500 in the reserves.

It was proposed by CR, seconded by CH, to increase the precept to £5,431. Accepted unanimously.

CB will present the revised budget for final approval at the January meeting.

### Financial Report:

Invoices paid:	Parish magazine	£105.00
	British Gas DD	£16.43
	United Utilities DD	£45.34

## 9. Reports from Borough and County Councillors

a. Cllr James Starkie: The PBC Executive meeting had discussed removal of recycling points, including the one at Barley car park. This was likely to go ahead, similarly the removal of phone boxes locally, apart from the one in Barley which is necessary due to lack of mobile reception.

At Barrowford & Western Parishes meeting, there were several planning applications. 13 houses at Blacko and holiday cottages at Barley were refused, drug and alcohol rehabilitation centre at Higherford approved

b. County Cllr. Christian Wakeford: Possibility of Higherford joining the SID

All councillors

Cllr. C. Burt

scheme, which would reduce cost to individual parishes. One set of brackets will be fitted which means others will need to be provided at the other locations. JS pointed out that there is still about £2,000 in the PBC capital budget, each parish could bid for £250 to cover the cost of the SID.

The removal of recycling sites could be called in for review.

There are ongoing problems with the safety of taxis in Pendle and resolving these issues with the taxi firms. CH expressed concern over bad driving by taxis on country lanes. All should monitor this.

CH asked about the situation with the Camp School at Whitehough. CW confirmed that Burnley Football in the Community were proposing to continue using for the same purposes as now, and including Duke of Edinburgh award scheme. However, there is apparently a query over the sale, as it now appears it is the lease that is for sale, not the buildings and land. BFC therefore made a lower offer to LCC, which was not accepted. CW will make further enquiries.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.