

OLD LAUND BOOTH PARISH COUNCIL
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MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 3RD, 2025, IN FENCE VILLAGE HALL.

Present: Couns, B. Newman, J. Myers, M Ridge, D. Hall, K Gardner Boyes, J. Hartley, I Hargreaves, County Coun H Hartley, 20 members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence

Coun. A Devanney

2. Declaration of interests

None.

3. Questions from residents

A query was raised as to why the chairman's annual report had been publicised in the village directory which goes to other villages and what the cost had been.

A query was raised as to why a councillor had not declared an interest (due to family connections) regarding the useage of Mr John Houldsworth, solicitor, for legal issue. It was clarified that Mr Houldsworth was undertaking the work free of charge for the benefit of the community and there was no conflict of interest as only he was representing the firm of solicitors and dealing with the parish council issue.

Residents raised questions about why the parish council had decided not to take on the CCTV project in the village. It was pointed out that new technology had been researched which would lead to lower prices and a representative of the CCTV committee said they only wanted the council to "back the CCTV project in principle". After a long discussion and a request for a quick resolution, it was agreed the parish councillors would meet after the main meeting to discuss the new information, with press and public excluded.

A resident asked whether the council had commented on the proposed battery storage plan which has gone to appeal. It was confirmed, that although the plan is not in the parish and therefore the parish council is not invited to comment, the parish council had sent in a list of objections and support for the parish council it effects.

4. Minutes of the last meeting

These were accepted.

5 Matters arising from minutes

5.1 Pendle Forest Sports Club deeds

The solicitor is in talks with the landowner's solicitor re the issues raised.

5.2 Litter pickers.

Coun Myers said following a plea for litter pickers, several people had come forward, including a group from Padiham and volunteered to help.

6 Reports from outside bodies

The Forest of Bowland has confirmed that the parish council has been awarded a diamond landmark tree. After discussions with Pendle Borough Council, it was agreed to place it outside the village hall and all checks had been done to ensure it would not affect any utilities. A root barrier will be needed as a precaution. PBC had suggested the best tree option would be a crab apple and the appropriate paperwork was completed and signed.

7. Correspondence

LCC had liaised with the council solicitor re the play area lease and the relevant forms were signed by the chairman. An outstanding bill for £50 towards the annual renewal from LCC has been put on hold until the new lease is formalised.

8 Planning

24/0848/TPO - T1 Oak Fell and remove due to several large limbs snapping out and causing damage to property (another limb has broken out since original application to prune the tree), Crown is very open and has further potential to lose more limbs.

T2 Oak, Fell and remove very poor form and heavily weighted towards house and with the loss of T1 will be more exposed at 4 Wheatcroft Avenue Fence Lancashire BB12 9QL. Councillors felt as the trees are long established and healthy, that the application should be refused.

APPLICATION: 25/0057/HHO PROPOSAL Full: Erection of a single storey rear kitchen extension. AT: 1 Wheatcroft Avenue, Fence – no comments.

9. Finance

Authorised payments were made to:

In £3,250 – Pendle BC precept payment

January:

£460 - Rebecca Hay, clerk's salary and expenses.

£96.63 – LCC pension contribution for clerk

£45 – J Barritt, PAYE

£85 – Royal Mail, postage.

February:

£460 - Rebecca Hay, clerk's salary and expenses.

£96.63 – LCC pension contribution for clerk

£53 – lease paperwork

£108.49 – J Hardwick, lengthsman.

£499 – A Melia, website annual renewal

£10 – J Myers, thank you gift re Christmas tree delivery

£120 – J Noblett, Christmas tree.

The agreed precept form for £13,000 was signed and sent to Pendle.

10 Any other business

Coun Myers had received an inquiry re the non gritting of side roads and cul de sacs, plus empty gritting bins. These are the responsibility of LCC and the parish council understands the policy is to grit the main priority roads and the bins are re filled on a rota system.

11 Date of next meeting

March 3rd, Fence Village Hall, 7 p.m.