



Grindleton Parish Council

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Minutes of the meeting of Grindleton Parish Council on **Tuesday 6 February 2024** at the Pavilion, Grindleton.

Members present:	Parish Cllr Lorraine Halley (Chair) Parish Cllr Glenn Wheeler (Vice Chair) Parish Cllr Paul Atkinson Parish Cllr Tony Bramwell Parish Cllr Chris Brennan Parish Cllr Megan Haslam Parish Cllr Susan Walsh
Apologies for absence:	Borough Cllr Kevin Horkin MBE (RVBC)
Clerk present:	Andrew Glover
Members of the public present:	None

1.	Declarations of Interest a) Standing orders suspended Re minute item 14a below, Parish Cllr Atkinson declared an Other Registrable Interest as he had been a former employee of Bowland High School. Re minute 19a below, the Chair declared an Other Registrable Interest as she was working closely with the B4RN initiative. b) Standing orders resumed	
2.	Public Participation None	

<p>3.</p> <p>a)</p> <p>b)</p> <p>i)</p>	<p>Minutes / matters arising</p> <p><u>Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 2 January 2024</u></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 2 January 2024 were signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record.</p> <p>Proposed by: Cllr Atkinson Seconded by: Cllr Walsh</p> <p>Resolved The Chair was authorised to sign off the minutes of the meeting held on 2 January 2024, and it was agreed that the minutes of this meeting would be posted on the Parish Council website</p> <p><u>Actions taken / matters arising since the last meeting (not covered elsewhere on the agenda)</u></p> <p>The Clerk had compiled a list of actions for members to note / update briefly on progress since the last meeting.</p> <p>Subject to a guillotine of 30 minutes, members gave verbal updates on their respective actions. These were captured on the list retained by the Clerk.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
<p>4.</p> <p>a)</p> <p>b)</p>	<p>Overview of financial position</p> <p><u>Monthly accounts – January 2024</u></p> <p>The Clerk presented details of income and expenditure for the month of January 2024 for approval by the Parish Council and signing-off by the Chair.</p> <p>Resolved That the record for January 2024 as presented would be signed off</p> <p><u>Shares held by Equiniti</u></p> <p>The Clerk had now received further correspondence from Equiniti confirming that the Parish Council held 129 ordinary shares in Lloyds Banking Group, in the name of Frank Robinson. An online search had suggested that the shares were each currently worth c43p, meaning that the overall value of shares held was c£55.47. No certificate would be required to transfer the shares.</p> <p>Members agreed that – due to their limited value – the shares would be retained by the Parish Council for the time being.</p> <p>Resolved Clerk to add details of the shareholding to the Asset Register</p>	<p>Clerk</p>

c)	<p><u>Lengthsman</u></p> <p>The Clerk had received invoices from the Lengthsman for services carried out in the months of November 2023 (£352.60) and December 2023 (£65). No timesheets had been submitted to accompany the claims.</p> <p>As a result of the lack of timesheets, and the size of the claim for November in particular, the Chair had met with the Lengthsman in person and presented him with a draft revised timesheet compiled by Cllr Walsh. The draft timesheet was in Excel format, which the Lengthsman confirmed he was happy to use moving forward. The Chair would now provide the Lengthsman with an electronic copy of the revised timesheet, along with a covering letter setting out the Parish Council's expectation that timesheets would now be submitted with any claims for remuneration.</p> <p>Members thanked Cllr Walsh for her efforts, which – it was hoped – would result in the completed timesheets providing sufficient data for the setting of an annual budget for the Lengthsman's services.</p> <p>Resolved Chair to provide Lengthsman with (i) an electronic copy of the revised timesheet and (ii) a covering letter Clerk to check whether payment of the November and December invoices had yet been made and advise the Chair accordingly</p>	<p>Chair</p> <p>Clerk</p>
5.	<p>Improving Parish Council effectiveness</p> <p>a) Shared document storage</p> <p>i) <u>Presentation</u></p> <p>At the January meeting, following a presentation by Cllr Atkinson, it was agreed that adoption of the Microsoft 365 facility would be progressed. Cllr Atkinson confirmed that he intended to move forward with this matter during the half-term break (commencing 12 February).</p> <p>Resolved Cllr Atkinson to pursue</p> <p>ii) <u>External audit arrangements for 2023/24 - information from LALC</u></p> <p>Also at the January meeting, Cllr Wheeler had indicated that – as part of his earlier research into potential document storage facilities – he may have obtained an email address which would meet the forthcoming requirements of the external auditor (ie be an address which was owned by the Parish Council). Cllr Wheeler was now able to advise members that the Parish Council did indeed own the domain name grindletonpc.org, which he would (i) activate; (ii) advise the Clerk of any costs incurred; and (iii) forward any relevant information on the domain name to Cllr Atkinson.</p> <p>Resolved Cllr Wheeler to pursue</p>	<p>PA</p> <p>GW</p>

6.	<p>Registration with the Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO)</p> <p>As a data processor, the Parish Council is obliged to register each year with the ICO at an annual fee of £40. The Clerk had recently paid the registration fee for 2024 from his own money and confirmation of receipt had been received. The Clerk now sought reimbursement of the £40 sum.</p> <p>Resolved Members approved reimbursement to the Clerk of the £40 registration fee</p>	
7.	<p>Internal audit 2023/24</p> <p>The Clerk had approached the previous internal auditor (Clare Atkinson) to see if she was willing to act as GPC’s internal auditor for 2023/24. The Clerk was pleased to report that Clare had indeed confirmed her willingness to once again fulfil this role, and – subject to members’ approval - a fee of £90 for her professional services had been agreed.</p> <p>Resolved Members approved the fee of £90 for Clare’s professional services as internal auditor for 2023/24</p>	
8.	<p>Planning applications to be considered</p> <p>a) Planning Application No: 3/2023/1041 Proposal: Increase in height of existing single garage and construction of attached two-bay car port in rear garden. Location: North Barn, Back Lane, Grindleton BB7 4RW</p> <p>Details of this application had been circulated to members on 16 January, with a deadline for submission of any comments to RVBC of 5 February 2024. No adverse comments had been received and, as a result, members noted that no submission had been made to RVBC with regard to this application.</p> <p>In reaching this decision, members had been reminded that the property was situated within both the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Grindleton Conservation Area.</p> <p>b) Planning Application No: 3/2023/0973 Proposal: Retention of 16 x 395kw solar panels on the south-east facing roofslope. Resubmission of 3/2023/0297. Location: Rushton House, Lower Chapel Lane, Grindleton BB7 4QT</p> <p>Details of this application had been circulated to members on 1 February, with a deadline for submission of any comments to RVBC of 21 February 2024. The property is situated within both the AONB and Grindleton Conservation Area.</p> <p>Members were reminded that, in August 2023, they had opposed the previous application 3/2023/0297 on the grounds that the proposed solar panels would sit upon a frame that fitted directly onto the rooftiles (and would therefore sit proud of them). In members’ opinion, this type of panel (and its required fixing) was not</p>	

	<p>in keeping with the traditional slate roofs found elsewhere in the village; they looked out of place in the Forest of Bowland AONB; and were aesthetically displeasing.</p> <p>With regard to the present application, members noted that – according to the Planning Statement submitted – the 14 solar panels would be set <u>into</u> the roof-space as opposed to being fastened <u>above</u> the slates. In view of this modification, no submission to RVBC was required.</p>	
9.	<p>Haweswater Aqueduct Resilience Programme (HARP)</p> <p>a) <u>Planning application 3/2021/0661</u></p> <p>The Clerk advised members that LCC was consulting on a planning application (LCC/2023/0039, submitted by Armstrong’s Aggregates) which would allow mineral working at Waddington Fell Quarry to continue until 1 July 2026, with final restoration to be completed by 1 July 2027.</p> <p>This application had been considered by a meeting of RVBC’s Planning Committee on 15 January 2024, when it had been determined that no objection to the application would be made by the Borough Council.</p>	
10.	<p>Footpaths</p> <p>A) <u>Log of footpath concerns</u></p> <p>The Clerk presented an updated version of the log of footpath concerns.</p> <p>B) <u>Update on actions:</u></p> <p>a) <u>Ribble Way / footpath FP0321057</u></p> <p>Members were reminded that, prior to the January meeting, letters had been sent to 3 local landowners relating to concerns over footpath FP0321057 (the Ribble Way). Problems identified had included defective gates, with muddy access, and – most importantly - the impact of erosion caused by the river.</p> <p>At the January meeting, the recipients of one of the letters (the co-managers of a field through which the Ribble Way passed) had addressed members of the Parish Council. As a result of their appearance before councillors, a number of actions had been taken, including:</p> <p>i) <u>Co-managers</u></p> <p>Written confirmation of the Parish Council’s stance – including its shared concerns for public safety arising from erosion of the footpath – had been sent to the co-managers on 4 January.</p>	

<p>ii)</p> <p>iii)</p> <p>iv)</p>	<p><u>Environment Agency (EA)</u></p> <p>A letter in support of the co-managers’ concerns about riverbank erosion had been sent to the Environment Agency on 8 January. In response, the EA had made a number of key points, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • maintenance of the watercourse remained the ultimate responsibility of the owner of the land adjacent to it; and • the River Ribble is a statutory main river watercourse, and as such any work to the riverbank (or within 8m of it) was likely to be classed as a flood risk activity, meaning that the consent of the EA for any remedial work would be required. <p><u>Lancashire County Council – Public Rights of Way</u></p> <p>When approached about the impact of riverbank erosion on the safety of walkers on the Ribble Way, LCC had indicated that any works to counter the erosion of the riverbank would be “prohibitively expensive” and officers were “not able to commit the substantial resources needed”. The County Council had also confirmed that any remedial work would require the consent of the Environment Agency.</p> <p>On a more positive note, PROW officers had moved the footpath access gate further inland on a concessionary basis, thereby ensuring that walkers continued to enjoy safe access to the Ribble Way. (The Parish Council had originally assumed that repairs to the gate had been carried out by the landowner, but on learning the true position the Chair had written to the PROW officer and thanked him for his support).</p> <p><u>River Ribble Trust (RRT)</u></p> <p>Following information gained by Cllr Bramwell (suggesting that the River Ribble Trust had some years ago offered to provide funding for work to shore up the riverbank), an approach by email had been sent to the RRT on 8 January. A very prompt response had been received, stating that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the landowner had previously refused assistance in solving the problem of riverbank erosion; • natural erosion was to be left alone, but “green engineering” could be considered; • funding was unlikely to be available, especially in the absence of linkage to other environmental projects; and • in essence, responsibility for the footpath lay with the landowner. <p>In considering the above correspondence, members noted that they had gone to considerable lengths to report any potential risk to public safety arising from riverbank erosion to the relevant agencies, concluding that they had taken all appropriate actions in that regard.</p>	
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v)	<p><u>Damage to fencing</u></p> <p>Immediately after the January meeting of the Parish Council, members had been made aware that fencing in the co-managers' field had been cut so as to allow walkers to pass. It was unclear who had cut the fence, an action which had also enabled sheep to pass from one field to another, and members remained mindful of the need to condemn / report any such illegal activity as appropriate.</p>																															
11.	<p>Other reports submitted to LCC / other agencies</p> <p>The Chair confirmed that a number of matters of local concern had been reported to the appropriate agency:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="284 658 1275 1238"> <thead> <tr> <th>Date</th> <th>By</th> <th>To</th> <th>Ref No</th> <th>Location</th> <th>Issue</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>19.1.24</td> <td>LH</td> <td>LCC</td> <td></td> <td>Roseberry Cottage, Main St</td> <td>Broken grid / tripping hazard</td> </tr> <tr> <td>19.1.24</td> <td>LH</td> <td>LCC</td> <td>3845500</td> <td>Prospect House, Sawley Rd</td> <td>Lamp not working</td> </tr> <tr> <td>22.1.24</td> <td>LH</td> <td>LCC</td> <td></td> <td>Back Lane*</td> <td>Query re which body has responsibility for maintenance of unadopted highway</td> </tr> <tr> <td>28.1.24</td> <td>LH</td> <td>BT</td> <td>2299963264</td> <td>Main Street opposite Rose Cottage</td> <td>Trip hazard on loose BT cable</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>*This approach had arisen following a conversation between the current and previous Chairs of the Parish Council, the latter having sought to support a resident of Back Lane whose house abutted a particularly poor stretch of the road. On 31 January, in response to the Chair's approach, LCC had made the following comments with regard to the status of Back Lane:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Back Lane did not form part of the adopted highway and as such was outside the responsibility of Lancashire Highways; • the highway authority, therefore, would be unable to carry out any repairs to it, even though – as a highway - the public had a right to use it; • any requests for repairs should be addressed to the landowner(s) (which may not necessarily be the owners of the properties fronting onto the road; and • if the road were to be within a conservation area – which the Clerk could confirm was indeed the case - Ribble Valley Borough Council's Planning team may be able to advise on what repairs may be appropriate for the road. <p>(cont)</p>	Date	By	To	Ref No	Location	Issue	19.1.24	LH	LCC		Roseberry Cottage, Main St	Broken grid / tripping hazard	19.1.24	LH	LCC	3845500	Prospect House, Sawley Rd	Lamp not working	22.1.24	LH	LCC		Back Lane*	Query re which body has responsibility for maintenance of unadopted highway	28.1.24	LH	BT	2299963264	Main Street opposite Rose Cottage	Trip hazard on loose BT cable	
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13.	<p>Allotments</p> <p>a) <u>General issues</u></p> <p>Members were pleased to learn that one of the tenants had offered to lead on setting up a WhatsApp group for allotment holders, with a view to encouraging tenants to meet on site on a regular weekend basis.</p> <p>b) <u>Tenants' meeting</u></p> <p>The Clerk and Cllr Bramwell had offered to arrange a tenants' meeting at the start of the growing season. However, this would involve some minor expense for room hire at the Pavilion.</p> <p>Resolved Members authorised the Clerk / Cllr Bramwell to hold a tenants' meeting in Spring, and agreed to pay the cost of hiring a room at the Pavilion</p> <p>c) <u>Rental fees 2024/25</u></p> <p>In mid-January, the Clerk had received confirmation from the tenants of both Plots 1 and 6 that they did not wish to renew the tenancies for 2024/25.</p> <p>As no names were currently recorded on the waiting list, it had been agreed with the Chair / Cllr Bramwell that a message advertising the vacancies should be placed on the community Facebook page. This had now resulted in the letting of Plot 6 to new tenants (with the rental fee received), although Plot 1 remained unlet (see minute item 13e below).</p> <p>On 22 January 2024, renewal letters had been sent out to the 7 tenants who held plots other than numbers 1 and 6. The letters had requested payment of rent for 2024/25, and included a copy of the tenancy agreement recently revised by members. At the time of the meeting, 4 of these 7 recipients had renewed their tenancy and paid the required fees, with a response from plots 2,3 and 8 still outstanding.</p> <p>A summary of the financial position relating to allotments was provided for members' information. The Clerk reported that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • assuming that Plot 1 were also to be filled, the 25% rental increase agreed at the January meeting would result in income to the Parish Council rising from £269.97 in 2023/24 to £337.45, an increase of £67.48; and • this increase in fee income of £67.48 would equate to approximately an additional 4.5 hours of the Clerk's time, giving the Clerk a total of c11 hours to spend on allotment business over the course of the year before the allotments were provided at a loss. 	Clerk / TB
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<p>d)</p>	<p><u>Revised tenancy agreement 2024/25</u></p> <p>Members noted that the tenant of Plot 4 had once again submitted a number of observations regarding the wording of the tenancy agreement. The tenant’s comments were presented to members for their consideration.</p> <p>The main questions raised by the tenant included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) a request for details of the split between, on the one hand, <i>rent charged</i> and, on the other, the <i>costs incurred for water usage</i> (asserting that historically these had been two separate levies imposed on tenants). <u>Member response</u> – the tenant was entitled to ask for details of water usage and costs, and this could be provided. However, the key issue was that – from 2023 onwards – the Parish Council had amalgamated both the rent and annual water charges into a single sum, with tenants charged an appropriate pro rata amount to cover these combined costs; and ii) what “other expenditure” had been incurred on the allotments? <u>Member response</u> – as well as capital costs on paths etc, the main Parish Council expenditure was on administration. The 25% increase in rent was designed to cover the costs incurred in revising the tenancy agreement and keeping it up to date; renewing agreements with tenants; letting vacant plots as required; responding to tenants’ ongoing queries and concerns; and servicing 2 x tenants’ meetings per year. The rental charged was on a cost neutral basis and was not intended to generate profit for GPC. <p>Resolved Clerk to respond to tenant of Plot 4 in writing</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
<p>e)</p>	<p><u>Plot 1 – expressions of interest</u></p> <p>Two expressions of interest had been received with regard to the vacant Plot 1. Neither expression of interest was without complication, and members received the following information on each in turn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) <u>Expression of interest 1 – residency requirements</u> <p>The first expression of interest was from a resident who had also sought the Parish Council’s clarification on a certain aspect of the tenancy agreement. Specifically, the resident had indicated that she may be seeking to move house at some stage in the future, and – whilst she would want to stay local and retain the tenancy of Plot 1, if granted – she may be moving outside the parish.</p> <p>In essence, should the resident take on the tenancy, she would not want to be penalised for later leaving the village when she would already have invested time and effort into the cultivation of Plot 1.</p>	

Members noted that the recently-revamped tenancy agreement merely stated the following:

The tenant must be at least 18 years of age, and shall reside within the Grindleton Parish during the continuance of the tenancy (unless a dispensation has been formally agreed by the Parish Council and confirmed in writing).

When a vacant plot is not available, the Parish Council operates a waiting list. When a plot becomes available, the person at the head of the list is given first choice for the tenancy. The waiting list may contain persons residing within the parish of Grindleton, as well as non-residents of the parish. However, priority with regard to vacant plots will be given to residents of the parish.

The resident had therefore sought clarification on whether – should she commence the tenancy but then leave the parish – a dispensation would be given and she would be allowed to continue. Members debated the matter at length and concluded that (as a general principle) they would not be inclined to support a request for dispensation in such circumstances, especially where it was unclear how far away from the parish (and therefore from the allotment) the resident may be moving.

ii) Expression of interest 2 – commercial activity

The owner of a local public house had indicated that he would be willing to take up the tenancy of Plot 1 in order to grow produce for use in his licensed premises (in his words, “growing for the pub”). Members considered whether such use of an allotment plot could potentially be in breach of the standard tenancy agreement, clause 12a of which states:

The plot shall be wholly or mainly cultivated by the tenant for the production of vegetable or fruit crops (or flowers) for their own personal use. The tenant must not use their plot to carry out any business or grow produce for sale. No more than 30% of the plot should be for recreational use only.

Assuming that the tenancy was in the applicant’s private name (as opposed to being in the name of the public house or a commercial entity), and that any produce grown could equally be for private consumption as well as used in food on the pub’s menu, members concluded that there would not necessarily be any breach of the terms of Clause 12a as written. In the event this interpretation were challenged by any other tenant, it should be pointed out to them that they too could seek approval from the Parish Council for similar activities to take place; each case would be considered on its own individual merit.

iii) Agreed way forward:

Members discussed both expressions of interest at length, and agreed the following next steps.

	<p>Resolved</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • with regard to expression of interest 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the Clerk would write to the resident and advise her that a dispensation would not be granted at the current time; • with regard to expression of interest 2: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cllr Bramwell would hold a site meeting with the applicant and outline the Parish Council's stance; - once agreement had been reached, the Clerk would send the applicant details of the rental due and copies of the tenancy agreement for signing 	<p>Clerk</p> <p>TB</p> <p>Clerk</p>
14.	<p>Rural Prosperity Fund</p> <p>a) <u>Permissive Footpath</u></p> <p>Cllr Atkinson reported that he had now submitted the Expression of Interest form to RVBC for their consideration, and an email confirming receipt had been provided.</p> <p>Members thanked Cllr Atkinson for his considerable efforts on this matter to date.</p> <p>Resolved Cllr Atkinson to forward the confirmation email to the Clerk for his records</p> <p>b) <u>Nature Recovery Network</u></p> <p>Cllr Haslam confirmed that she was continuing to engage with external bodies such as the Lancashire Wildlife Trust, with a view to gathering further information in support of the draft Expression of Interest.</p> <p>Again, members thanked Cllr Haslam for her work to date.</p>	<p>PA</p>
15.	<p>Complaint made against Parish Council</p> <p>a) <u>Update</u></p> <p>At the January meeting, members had considered a complaint from a local resident relating to the flow of gravel from the permissive footpath at Grindleton Brow previously installed by the Parish Council. It had been agreed that, prior to determining any next steps, the Clerk would seek to find the original invoice from the contractor; this may identify whether any deflection system was due to have been fitted during the construction work.</p> <p>The Clerk had revisited the Parish Council's records (both electronic and hard copy) but had been unable to locate the requested paperwork. However, the Chair had subsequently identified and contacted the contractor, who had assessed the path and proposed the following remedial measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) the use of postmix (rather than gravel) to create a firm and slip-free step; and 	

	<p>for the visit to the Pavilion had been unacceptably short and the visit was not now likely to happen; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a meeting to provide support for Parish Clerks was due to be arranged; and - the Council’s Head of Strategic Planning and Housing had given a presentation on the settlement study, which would be circulated for wider comment. The document was significant as it could potentially impact upon the assessment of future housing need for both the borough in general and the parish in particular. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>WASP</u> – a meeting had been held on 31 January 2024, with both the Chair and Cllr Bramwell present. Attendance had been poor due to the recent bad weather, but attendees had discussed the composite document reflecting parishes’ desire for local road safety improvements. Some suggestions put forward (such as more 20mph zones) were very unlikely to happen, but others – eg chicanes or rumble strips at village gateways – were more feasible. However, members were concerned to learn that LCC would in all likelihood seek to recover the full cost of any physical works to be carried out from the commissioning parish, a stance which had not previously been made clear. 	
18.	<p>Correspondence received</p> <p>a) <u>Resuscitation course</u></p> <p>Up to 5 members had been invited to attend a training course on resuscitation techniques, to be held on 17 February 2024 (9am to 12.30) at the Pavilion.</p> <p>Cllr Walsh had subsequently indicated her willingness to attend.</p> <p>Resolved Chair and Cllr Walsh to attend the resuscitation course</p> <p>b) <u>ICT issues – GPC website</u></p> <p>A member of the public (with extensive ICT knowledge) had contacted the Parish Council and suggested that some amendments to the GPC website were required. Whilst some of these had been considered but rejected by the Chair, others had been referred to the website administrator for consideration. These included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the removal of any reference to Foxley Bank Stables, which was now a private residence; and • the absence of an SSL certificate, which at some future point would result in users of the site being denied access to it. The website administrator had subsequently advised that SSL can be bought for the site, at a range of process (£33-385 annually), with the 'most popular' option costing £143pa. The administrator had advised that an approach to the resident as to the preferred way forward may be helpful. <p>(cont)</p>	Chair / SW

	<p>Resolved Chair to contact website administrator and ask him if any other website concerns were in need of addressing</p> <p>Chair to ask the member of the public to explore ways forward with regard to the absence of SSL, as well as any other concerns identified</p>	<p>Chair</p> <p>Chair</p>
c)	<p><u>Traffic issues – Sawley Rd</u></p> <p>The Chair had entered into correspondence with a local resident who was concerned about traffic flow along Sawley Rd. Whilst understanding of the resident’s views, the Chair had pointed out that the 3 vehicles concerned (a farm tractor, a bus and a United Utilities tanker) were all individually entitled to use the highway, and – being owned by separate bodies – their use of the highway could not be co-ordinated so as to minimise traffic problems in future. The problem had essentially been caused by volume of traffic, and the Chair had advised that any implications for road safety at that location should be reported to LCC as Highway Authority (possibly via County Councillor Ged Mirfin).</p> <p>Members noted that traffic problems in the vicinity of Bowland High School were still continuing, and had recently resulted in some damage to the property of Cllr Walsh; this had been discussed with the school. However, the main issue was that of danger posed to schoolchildren when being collected or dropped off. A number of measures were considered to alleviate the problem, but none were straightforward. Roadside posts – to prevent unsafe parking - would need the agreement of the Highways Authority or landowner, and warning notices had previously been displayed to little effect. It was considered that, should the traffic problems persist or get worse, further dialogue with the school would be required.</p>	
d)	<p><u>Buckingham Palace Garden Party 2024</u></p> <p>King Charles III was to give two Garden Parties at Buckingham Palace this year to celebrate the Coronation. Lancashire & Merseyside ALC had been allocated 2 pairs of tickets for places on the event to be held on Tuesday 21st May 2024. Accordingly, GPC had been invited to nominate a representative (accompanied by a spouse or partner) to enter the ballot by the due date of Friday, 23rd February 2024.</p> <p>Resolved Chair to submit ballot entry in her name by deadline of 23 February</p>	<p>Chair</p>
e)	<p><u>Consultation on removal of restriction on Hackney Carriage numbers</u></p> <p>The Clerk had that day been informed that RVBC’s Licensing Committee had recently resolved to consult on whether the current restriction on the issue of Hackney Carriage vehicle licences should be retained, and, if so, whether the current maximum number of 53 such licences remained appropriate.</p> <p>The Borough Council had sought the views of all parish councils, with a deadline for any response to RVBC of 13 March 2024.</p> <p>(cont)</p>	

	Members discussed the matter and determined that no comments would be submitted.	
19.	AOB	
a)	<p><u>B4RN</u></p> <p>The Chair had raised the issue of promotional banners with senior B4RN representatives. She had stated that, whilst banners / posters were not allowed in the village, it may be possible to canvass landowners to allow their display on Slaidburn Rd, Grindleton Road and the border with Sawley (but not on Sawley Road, Main Street or from the bridge up to the village). To do otherwise would be to breach precedent and open the floodgates for other requests.</p> <p>The Chair reported that 161 residents had now signed up for the B4RN initiative, with a final target of around 260 required. B4RN representatives were seeking to access a different system of government funding, which may prove beneficial to the local scheme. Most affected landowners had now agreed in principle to the project, and the next step would be to secure wayleaves (contracts between the landowner and the grantee, in this case B4RN, to allow a right of access across the land and installation of the necessary infrastructure).</p>	
b)	<p><u>Possible criminal damage on Main Street</u></p> <p>The Chair reported that, regrettably, a number of incidents of criminal damage had been reported around a specific location of the village. The police were aware of the situation, and a number of residents had sought to improve their own personal security through the acquisition of CCTV.</p> <p>It was agreed that members would continue to monitor the position.</p>	
c)	<p><u>Christmas bridge lights</u></p> <p>Members were pleased to learn that the resident who had arranged for display of the Xmas lights on Grindleton bridge had indicated her willingness to repeat the exercise next year. The resident had suggested that – were GPC funding to become available – she could use this money to work with Bowland High School / the LCC Youth Bus on the project in 2024. Members were grateful for the residents’ efforts to date, and had already indicated that they would reimburse her for any expenditure incurred on physical items (such as new lights), but they did not feel able to support any request to pay the resident for her time spent on the project.</p> <p>Resolved Chair to feed back members’ stance to the resident in due course</p>	Chair
d)	<p><u>Request received</u></p> <p>The Chair had received a request from a local resident for the Parish Council to consider the establishment of a woodland burial site. Due to time pressure, and</p>	

