

WRIGHTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

At the Meeting of the Council of the Parish of Wrightington held on Monday 17th April 2023 at Appley Bridge Village Hall at 7.30pm the following were present:

Councillors: Mrs J Burton (Chairman), Mr F Hodgkinson, Mr F Johnson, Mr A Shaw, Mrs K Jukes, and Mr C House. Also present were members of the public.

OPEN FORUM

(At this point in the Meeting members of the public present can report, ask questions, raise issues and make observations on parish matters or items appearing on the Agenda. Reports will also be received from the Police, Borough and County Councillors if attending – Once open forum is closed the Chairman will only suspend standing orders to allow public participation in extreme circumstances.)

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked that everyone's points of view be treated with respect. A resident present wished to address points raised in correspondence items g), f) and a) in that order. Correspondence g) – It was reported that activity by Northern Diver on land on West Quarry has been taken despite enforcement notices regarding use of the illegal access off Appley Lane North and the fact the land on which the hardstanding had been put should have been reinstated. It was also understood the trees removed were protected by the Forestry Act. They have also not been very nice to residents they have dealt with. Correspondence f) – is felt to be inaccurate as the land is not redundant landfill and the licence has not yet been surrendered. The land is the subject of an on going court case. No monitoring has been done on the site for a year and it is therefore inaccurate to say there is no gas or leachate. It is understood gas wells 6, 7 & 8 produce gas higher than the trigger levels, hence the court action and, that not all gas wells have been revealed. Some have been removed, some damaged or severed and several have disappeared. Overall responsibility remains with Maybrook as the licence holder for the land. Clearing the land by Northern Diver caused some residents' distress. The residents feel the reclamation process should be followed and the land returned to agriculture. It was reported the proposed swimming pool is on the site of an existing leachate tank, partly on landfill land and partly on the curtain of land put there following the explosion which occurred in the 1980's. It was reported that the land is Green Belt and a landfill site. Proposals for storage are inappropriate, they do not fit with the West Lancs. BC and LCC planning documents and policies. Correspondence a) – Residents remain concerned about the impact removal of the baled waste will have on their health and the air quality. The Council were asked to remind Maybrook of the consequences of not removing the waste properly.

The Council were asked how the follow up to correspondence from the Parish Council can be accessed. It was confirmed that the body of, or salient points from, relevant correspondence will appear on the website as supporting information to the Agenda, the Parish Council will discuss their response to any correspondence at the time when the item is discussed on the agenda.

Residents were again present to discuss the impact the popularity of the White Lion public house has on parking problems on Mossy Lea Road. Residents reported anomalies with what permission is visible on West Lancs. BC planning portal and what is present on the site of the White Lion. It was confirmed that between 2009 & 2017 car park availability was reduced, without permission, by approx. 50% due to the erection of enclosed permanent huts, with heating and lighting. It was reported the car park can accommodate 48 cars whilst the pub has been extended to accommodate 200 people, hence, more cars parked on the road than on the car park. It is claimed development has been undertaken without planning permission. The question of whether a check was made prior to the granting of planning permission in 2017 was raised, as it was for significantly more than what was granted permission in 2009. The Chairman asked Borough Councillor Jukes if she could assist the residents. Borough Councillor Jukes confirmed that she had emailed the enforcement officer, who has visited the site and instructed the landlady to put the bottle bin back to the rear of the property and, that it must not be used after 8pm. The landlady has confirmed that the huts/booths were erected on the original footprint of a garden at the rear of the public house. The landlady is aware of the parking problems however, Councillor Jukes has raised this matter at top level at LCC as she is concerned there will be a fatality. It was reported that the outside as it is now, was added in 2020-2021. There are now 8 booths and a substantial outdoor seating area. Borough Councillor Jukes has requested a multi-agency Meeting to discuss this. It was confirmed that during Covid-19 permitted development rights were relaxed to allow temporary structures. It was reported that the covered structures and additional huts have been added in the last 2 years. Borough Councillor Jukes

confirmed she has requested that LCC undertake a site visit. The Parish Council asked the enforcement officer to check the site following the March Meeting. No reply received to date.

Borough Councillors Jukes reported that the illegal entrance to West Quarry off Appley Lane North is also with West Lancs. BC. With regard to removal of part of the tree screening installed at West Quarry Borough Councillor Jukes reported that this is a health & safety issue as the screening protects houses from noise, dust and debris from the Quarry.

137. **APOLOGIES** – Were received and accepted from Councillor Alexander. Councillors House & Shaw had apologised to the Chairman prior to the commencement of the Meeting as they would need to leave the Meeting before it closed.
138. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – Members were asked to consider any personal/prejudicial interest they may have to disclose in relation to matters under discussion at the Meeting - **Councillor Mrs Jukes declared a change in her pecuniary interest due to the fact that she is currently in a legal dispute with Northern Diver, the now owner of part of West Quarry, which remains on-going. No further declarations were made at this point in the Meeting however, should a Councillor feel he/she has any interest in later matters he/she will declare it at that point.**
139. **MINUTES** – The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 20th March 2023 had been circulated in advance of the Meeting and were accepted as correct record, and signed by the Chairman. Councillor Mrs Jukes abstained from voting.

140. **CORRESPONDENCE/INFORMATION ITEMS**

Items to be reported to, and noted by, the Council – no decision required: REPORT 1 – page 6 – **Noted.**

Items requiring discussion, observations or action by the Council:

- a) Response from the Environment Agency in relation to questions asked about the safe removal of the baled waste from West Quarry – **The EA do not hold a risk assessment or method statement for removal of the baled waste. Any waste stored must be done so as not to cause pollution to the environment. Responsibility and duty of care lies with the holder of the facility and is the responsibility of the operator. When removed, reasonable measures must be taken to prevent escape of the waste. If the duty of care is not met the EA would consider taking enforcement action. There is no general requirement to prepare a risk assessment or method statement prior to removal of the waste, nor to submit one to the EA. If the EA become aware that the baled waste is being removed they will conduct site visits to ensure all duty of care responsibilities are being followed. The Council remain concerned about removal which should be structured. The Parish Council will remind Maybrook of the consequences of not removing the waste properly and confirm that the EA will conduct site visits during removal of the waste. At this point it was confirmed that the Parish Council do not support any of the illegal activities on West Quarry. The Parish Council support the draining and filling of East Quarry only. They do not support Maybrook the business or the business owner or any activity on West Quarry.**
- b) Copy of West and East Quarries Community Update for April 2023 – **Noted, on the website.**
- c) Request for a map showing where the baled waste is stored following the report/enquiries to Environmental Health officers at West Lancs. BC – **The Clerk provided a google earth view.**
- d) Confirmation from LCC that the baled waste is a matter for the Environment Agency to address – **The storage of the waste is in breach of planning control but LCC are not taking enforcement action as the EA are progressing their prosecution through the courts.**
- e) Confirmation from LCC that multi agency meetings have recently resumed for 2023 where the issues of security and dewatering of East Quarry can be discussed – **Borough Councillor Jukes confirmed the meetings have started up again with BC Jukes, BC Bailey and BC Whittington attending as the Appley Bridge and Parbold quarries are all linked.**
- f) Responses from Northern Diver to questions in relation to activity on land they have purchased at West Quarry – **They understand the land is Green Belt but consider it to be a redundant landfill. Confirmed that the portion of land they have purchased has been partially**

- stripped to reveal all gas wells and have put together a plan to develop the land as per the plan they have distributed. Confirmed they have shown a swimming pool to compliment their deep dive tank currently used by the Royal Navy, Royal Marines and the Army for training. The pool would be used for basic training and rescue qualifications rather than Brinscall pool which they currently use. Military use will be infrequent leaving time for community use. Proposals will include storage buildings. Details of other prospective purchasers for other land on West Quarry were given and the possibility of a new station car park mentioned. They reported that Chorley Concrete will be moving to the pad and rail sidings. Was suggested that local authority planners and interested parties could meet to see if a plan can be developed for the benefit of everyone. It was confirmed that the Parish Council will await a formal planning application for discussion/observations.
- g) Further information from residents in relation to more recent activity by Northern Diver – **Reports of land clearance, removal of trees, use of illegal entrance off Appley Lane North to carry out further unapproved work. Confirmation residents will be contacting West Lancs. BC Arborist. Tree felling work was reported of trees believed to be protected by the Forestry Act also, that it is unlawful between March and September to clear land which could result in destruction of ground nesting birds – Noted by the Council.**
 - h) Notification the External Audit of accounts for the year ending 31/3/23 will take place on Friday 3rd July 2023 by PKF Littlejohn LLP – **Noted by the Parish Council.**
 - i) Confirmation that the recent litter pick in Appley Bridge went well + a request that the Parish Council ask West Lancs. BC street cleaning to clear rubbish near the railway station – **Noted. The Council will ask the Clean & Green Team to clear Station approach.**
 - j) Request for a donation towards the purchase of a defibrillator to be sited outside St James Church Hall, Church Lane – **Several Councillors were in favour of supporting this request and suggested a donation of £100, which 4 Councillors would also match, was made. It was confirmed that this would address the lack of coverage at the Whittle Bar end of Mossy Lea. It was proposed, seconded and Resolved – That the Parish Council will support this project with a donation of £100.**
 - k) Response from PCSO to residents reports of parking problems on Mossy Lea Road – **Confirmation the PCSO understands residents’ concerns but it is difficult for the Police to resolve this problem. The addition of school parking means there is always going to be a problem. The Police can only deal with parking on pavements if it is obstructing pedestrian access i.e. if they had to walk in the road, which is un-acceptable. The problem requires intervention from the local authority to look at double yellow lines to allow residents safe access/exit from their driveways. It was confirmed, the Parish Council has been reporting incidents of parked vehicles for over a year and the PCSO has responded to the reports when able to do so. It was confirmed that the bus stop is being blocked by parked vehicles and some disabled people cannot get past the vehicles obstructing the pavement. The Council will contact Police personnel higher than the PCSO.**
 - l) Request from Trainline for a link from the Parish Council website to the Trainline page – **The Parish Council agreed to adding the link to the Parish Council website.**
 - m) Late items received which may require discussion/action/observations for the next Agenda –
 - i) LCC response to reported activity by Northern Diver at West Quarry – **Reported that the items raised are matters for West Lancs. BC to consider. Confirmation the planning permission for landfill activities at West Quarry has expired, as the aftercare period has been completed, therefore future proposals will not prejudice the restoration of the site as restoration works have been completed. The expectation is that West Lancs. BC will consult the Environment Agency on any planning applications due to the site being a former landfill, and the fact there will still be a permit in place covering management and monitoring of landfill gas and leachate – It was suggested that restoration has not been completed because West Quarry was supposed to go back to agricultural land.** ii) Resident’s request to contact Mr O’Dowd to request a response to the Parish Council letter – **The Clerk reported that a response has been received from Maybrook this afternoon. The resident will be informed of this and a copy of the response sent to him. Councillors echoed the statement made earlier that they do not support Maybrook as a business, Councillors primary concern is keeping people safe. It was reported that when the ramp**

was installed at East Quarry, it failed to mention that the buffer of trees had been removed, therefore, the view of the open water is clearly visible and the current fencing is inadequate. Councillor Juckes has raised this matter with the authorities, the Police and Fire and Rescue Service. The question of when the de-watering will start will again be asked of Mr O'Dowd. iii) Response from Maybrook (Mr O'Dowd) to the Parish Council letter – The Clerk read aloud the response received saying that damage to the fence around East Quarry has been consistent but that it is repaired, the fence along Dawber Delph being the worst affected. The same fence has been in place when all the fatalities have occurred which suggests that the fence alone is not enough to prevent these tragic events happening. Photographs were included to show how entry has been gained and damage to the palisade fencing, demonstrating the lengths individuals will go to, to gain access to the quarry, putting themselves at risk. A sustainable solution is required to remove the risk of trespass. A number of points need to be addressed i.e.: anti-social behaviour, theft, impact on residents and 3 deaths in the quarry. Over 170 quarry related incidents reported to the Police over the past 3 years, between April and September. Risks exacerbated by the use of social media. The most serious risk being cold water shock. The Police consider that the owners have used their best endeavours without success and the risks can only be addressed by altering the physical environment of the quarry to make it less attractive. Draining the quarry will only provide an interim solution as it will always re-fill and will require constant pumping which is not sustainable and pumping equipment will be liable to damage. Confirmed that Maybrook is working with West Lancs. BC at a multi-agency level to monitor and repair fences. Confirming that an application was made to LCC to dewater, fill and rewater the Quarry in August 2022, LCC made no response and an appeal has now been lodged with the Planning Inspectorate for non-determination. During draining and filling, management would be in accordance with existing health and safety legislation as it would become an operational worksite. This work would result in a social dissociation with the site and remove the motivation to visit the site. These would be pro-active steps to prevent accidents and protect the well-being of the community. Safety of individuals is the top priority. Implementation of measures to permanently deter individuals from wanting to access the site and removal of the risks that exist are crucial – The Parish Council will ask again when de-watering will commence. iv) Photographs and report from ABCA that the Parish Councils Cherry Tree planted as part of the Queen's Green Canopy to mark her Platinum Jubilee is doing very well and should blossom soon – **Noted.**

141. ACCEPTANCE OF ANNUAL AUDIT PLAN FOR THE FORTHCOMING YEAR AND REMINDER TO REVIEW DOCUMENTATION IN PARISH COUNCILLOR'S INFORMATION PACK - Resolved - The Parish Council act in accordance with the terms of the Local Government Act 1972 and the Localism Act 2011 and accept the Annual Audit Plan for the forthcoming year. Documents in the Parish Councillors information pack will be reviewed by Councillors. Documentation will be re-adopted at the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council to be held in May 2023.

142. HIGHWAYS AND ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

- Councillor Johnson reported that very little attention has been given to any of his reported highway issues e.g.: pot-holes, poor carriageway surfaces and kerb edges breaking up. The carriageway around the Junction 27 roundabout is in a very poor condition and flooding on the roundabout is dangerous for motorists. The Council will determine who is responsible for this section of carriageway i.e.: Wigan MBC, LCC or Highways England. It was reported that West Lancs. BC used to road sweep the roundabout but this has not been undertaken for a considerable time. Mossy Lea Road has not been swept for over 12 months.

143. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES – Nothing specific to report

144. VILLAGE HALLS

MOSSY LEA – new hot water boiler installed – **Noted. It was reported that a new water meter**

cover in the pavement outside the village hall is required.

APPLEY BRIDGE – security light on front of hall replaced, as faulty. Light replaced under warranty, awaiting invoice for work to replace it – **Noted. No response from West Lancs. BC to date in relation to the pot-hole in the car park.**

The Clerk reported that British Gas have been in contact regarding the contract for both Village Halls. They have suggested signing up to British Gas Lite which will fix the contracted price when the current contract ends, however, should the supply price drop by the time the contract is renewable the contract will be renewed at the lower price. It was suggested that a smart meter may be required to sign up and that all management of British Gas Lite must be done online. This matter will be discussed on a future agenda when more information has been obtained.

145. PLANNING To discuss the following applications:

- 1) 2023/0201/OUT Outline Application for 3 or 4 bedroom detached house. All matters reserved. 6 Finch Lane, Appley Bridge – **Subject to Councillor Jukes looking to confirm that this is not in Green Belt it was Resolved – The Council has no objections in principle to the proposals for the site unless it is on Green Belt Land.**
- 2) T/2023/0036/TPO As per attached Arboricultural Impact Assessment. Aspinall House Farm 2 Appley Lane South, Appley Bridge - **Resolved – No Objections.**
- 3) T/2023/0029/TCAT1 Oak - Remove x2 limbs back to stem over hanging property, branches are co dominant and overhang garage quite substantially and might be susceptible to failure in strong winds potentially causing considerable damage. 28 Ashfield Terrace, Appley Bridge - **Resolved – The Council will leave this to the Arborist.**
- 4) 2023/0221/FUL Variation of condition 2 of planning permission 2018/0508/FUL relating to approved plans. Northern Diver Ltd Northern Divers Building, East Quarry, Appley Lane North, Appley Bridge – Councillor Jukes took no part in these discussions or voting, have declared an interest earlier in the Meeting - **Resolved – No Objections.**
- 5) 2023/0234/LBC Listed Building Consent - Proposed works to chimneys and roof of grade II listed building. 4) 2023/0160/PNC Notification – Change of use from Agricultural building to storage of building. 9 Whittle Lane, Wrightington – Councillor Shaw took no part in these discussions or voting having declared an interest - **Resolved – No Objections.**
- 6) 2023/0205/FUL Proposed single storey side extension, including associated alterations. 5 Toogood Lane, Wrightington - **Resolved – No Objections.**
- 7) 2023/0226/PIP Application for Permission in Principle -Proposed 1no. detached dwelling. Land Between 5 And 9 Mossy Lea Road Wrightington - **Subject to Councillor Jukes looking to confirm that this is not in Green Belt it was Resolved – The Council has no objections in principle to the proposals for the site unless it is on Green Belt Land.**
- 8) 2023/0299/PNP Application for determination as to whether prior approval is required for details – Erection of a monopitch, open fronted steel portal framed agricultural building. Lane Farm, Mossy Lea Road, Wrightington – The Clerk will ask if a decision on this can be deferred until the next Agenda. This was not possible. Views of the Council were – **Resolved - No objections to the erection of the agricultural building provided that it is used for agricultural purposes only.**

Councillor House left the Meeting during planning discussions and Councillor Shaw left the Meeting at the end of planning discussions.

146. LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS – Notification that the April LALC Area Committee Meeting has been cancelled – **Noted.**

147. ACCOUNTS - To receive the following list of accounts for Approval:

For Payment:

LALC	Annual Subscriptions	£485.17
Mr F Johnson	Reimburse cost of window cleaning MLVH	£40.00
Amazon	Toilet Rolls and Hand Towels – MLVH & ABVH	£52.00

Mrs C A Cross	Clerk's Salary – Net	£946.19
HMRC	Tax Due	£13.20
D/D NEST	Pension Contributions (employer + employee)	£41.19
D/D Plusnet	Internet MLVH	£27.60
D/D Plusnet	Internet ABVH	£23.62
D/D Waterplus	Water usage ABVH	£39.32
D/D Waterplus	Water usage MLVH	£43.66
British Gas	Supply at MLVH	£226.19
British Gas	Supply at ABVH	£304.77

The Clerk presented Councillors with a financial report (Appendix 1) indicating the impact of the above payments on the Parish Council finances. Resolved: The financial report was accepted and payment of the above accounts is approved.

148. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED: That the next Meeting of the Parish Council will be on Monday 22nd May 2023 at 7.00pm Annual Parish Meeting & 7.30pm Annual Meeting of the Parish Council at Mossy Lea Village Hall.

Minutes 137 to 148 will be accepted as a correct record and signed by the Chairman at the Meeting to be held on Monday 22nd May 2023.

Members of the Public and Press are welcome to attend

Meeting Closed: 9.08 pm.

Members of the Public and Press are welcome to attend

REPORT 1

- a) Confirmation of uncontested election of Parish Councillors for Appley Bridge Ward, Wrightington.
- b) Notification of persons nominated in the contested election of Parish Councillors for the Mossy Lea Ward, Wrightington.
- c) Notification permission granted for variation of condition No.2 planning application 2022/0066/FUL in relation to approved plans. 4 Tunley Lane, Wrightington.
- d) Notification permission granted for removal of existing rear extensions/conservatory with replacement orangery extension. 246 Mossy Lea Road, Wrightington.
- e) Notification Certificate of Lawfulness (existing) granted for the outbuilding (former pigsty) is within the domestic curtilage of South Tunley Farm, Tunley Lane, Wrightington.
- f) Notification permission granted for proposed 2 storey dormer front and side extension. 3 The Grove, Appley Bridge.
- g) Notification permission granted for construction of single storey pitched roof extension to side, and single storey flat roof extension to rear of existing bungalow. 164 Mossy Lea Road, Wrightington.
- h) Notification of planned continuous road closure, Jacksons Lane, Bispham, 24/5/2023-26/5/2023 to enable new water connection works to be carried out by Network Plus on behalf of United Utilities.
- i) Confirmation from West Lancs. BC that Wrightington Parish Councils Council Tax contributions from the Precept on a Band D property were 3rd lowest out of 21 in 2021/22, 3rd lowest out of 21 in 2022/23 and 2nd lowest for 2023/24 in the Borough.

Meeting Protocols: Please note the following procedures to ensure the smooth running of the meeting:

- Members of the public will only be able to speak during the Open Forum section of the meeting. If you wish to speak during this section please email the Clerk by 5pm on the day before the meeting, with brief details of the subject matter being raised. The Chairman will ask the member/s of the public to speak. Before speaking, the member of the public should state their name. Time permitting the Chairman will ask if members of the public wish to raise anything else, however, dependant on time, this may need to be held over until the next meeting. Each member of the public will be able to speak for a limit of three minutes.
- Parish Councillors wishing to speak are asked to please raise a hand and the Chairman will invite him/her to speak.
- To vote, members should raise their hand as appropriate.

APPENDIX 1 – Financial Report

Wrightington Parish Council - Monthly Financial Report									
				Budgeted	April	May	June	Balance	VAT
				Annually				Remaining	
Staff Salary (Gross) for 14.5 hrs p wk w/e/f Apr 23				£13,609.70	Net	£946.19		£12,632.00	
Employee HMRC + Pension Paymants						£31.51			
Employer HMRC + Pension Payments				£300		£22.88		£277.12	
Insurance Premiums				£2,000.00					
Donations				£300.00					
LALC Subscriptions				£550.00	£485.17			£64.83	CR
CPRE & Open Spaces Subs & OPSTA				£110.00					
SLCC & any other subs				£150.00					
Remembrance Day Expenses (+10%)				£61.26					
Remembrance Wreaths				£30.00					
Audit (External + Internal)				£425.00					
Election Expenses (uncontested)				£1,500.00					
Admin	Stationery)	£1,200.00						
	Copying)							
	Training)							
	Printer)							
	Newsletter)							
	Mobile Phone)							
	Broadbnad/Landline)							
Office Equipment									
Mileage				£250.00					
Honorarium to VH Officers				£800.00					
Honorarium to Web Co-ordinator				£240.00					
Bus Shelters - Litter Bins				£500.00					
Signs - Seats				£500.00					
Notice Boards				£500.00					
Parks & Open Spaces				£500.00					
Defibrillators & Defib Boxes				£1,000.00					
MLVH	Running Costs		£5,000.00					£4,699.91	
	Gas				£215.42				£10.77
	Electricity								
	Water - Paid from VH Account	£43.66							
	Broadband				£23.00				£4.60
	Sanitary Products				£21.67				£4.33
	Window Cleaning				£40.00				
	Extinguishers								
	Work at the VH		£1,500.00						
ABVH	Running Costs		£6,000.00					£5,629.07	
	Gas				£290.26				£14.51
	Electricity								
	Water				£39.32				
	Broadband				£19.68				£3.94
	Sanitary Products				£21.67				£4.33
	Window Cleaning								
	Extinguishers								
	Work at the VH		£1,500.00						
Planting and Maintenance									
	MLVH		£700.00						
	ABVH		£1,400.00						
Additional Items Budgeted For 2023/24:									
Mark Car Park ABVH				£350.00					
Picnic Tables AB play area incl install				£1,500.00					
Website & Email addresses				£1,000.00					
SPID 's (Capital Bid successful)				£2,000.00					
Remedial work to damp - MLVH				£1,000.00					
TOTAL				£46,475.96		£2,156.77			42.48