

WRIGHTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

At the Meeting of the Council of the Parish of Wrightington held on Monday 17th February 2020 at Mossy Lea Village Hall at 7.30pm the following were present:

Councillors: Mr F Hodgkinson (Chairman), Mrs J Burton, Mr F Johnson, Mrs K Jukes, Mrs R Critchley and Mr C House. Also present were several members of the public and Jacqui Sinnott-Lacey.

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, District and County Councillors if attending – Once open forum is closed the Chairman will only suspend standing orders to allow public participation in extreme circumstances.)

Jacqui Sinnott-Lacey – West Lancashire BC Chief Operating Officer present. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Meeting and thanked Ms Sinnott-Lacey for attending. Ms Sinnott-Lacey explained a recent Borough Council restructure will be in place from April 2020, looking at making West Lancs. BC more customer focused. She will take any issues away and look at how the BC can change to address these. The BC will be looking for feedback on the forthcoming Local Plan Review. She reported that the Boundary Commission will be reviewing West Lancashire, looking at the population and political representation across the Borough, it is unlikely to include a review of Parish Boundaries. The Boundary Commission will compare results for West Lancs. to other local authorities and will consult on their findings, asking for the views of the Borough and Parish Councils and residents. It was reported that WRC and WRD do not appear to be represented on Wrightington PC and that Wrightington appears to have 4 wards according to West Lancs. BC. It was reported that this is likely to be for Borough purposes but is not for Parish Council purposes. Boundary issues within Appley Bridge e.g.: Calico Brook and the fact that part of Appley Bridge is in Wigan and part in West Lancs. were raised, which causes difficulties. It was reported transport locally is also an issue which is complicated by the Wigan and West Lancs. boundary with LCC responsible for this on the West Lancs. BC side. It was confirmed that a lot of the Boundary Commission review will be done digitally but it will include consultations following which, collating figures and responses will be done in a database. However, they will try to keep local communities together where possible. Ms Sinnott-Lacey will inform West Lancs. BC officers that the Parish Council would like an input in to this. It was reported that there is confusion as to which authority deals with which service i.e.: West Lancs. BC or LCC, and that sometimes the service provider can change if a service is delegated. It was felt it may be easier with a Unitary Authority. Ms Sinnott-Lacey reported on wider discussions looking at a combined authority for Lancashire, discussions on this will move up the list over the coming months as there could be benefits attached to doing this. Ms Sinnott-Lacey explained that hopefully by making savings the BC can put things back in to service provision. She confirmed that the biggest challenges in the organisation relate to cultural changes and improving customer services. Concern was expressed about the reduction in opening times at recycling centres. It was confirmed that there is pressure from West Lancs. BC on LCC to make recycling centres more accessible and amenable to reduce fly tipping which has increased around recycling centres since reducing opening hours. Residents present felt the biggest issue is poor communication, various types of which are necessary to ensure everyone is notified e.g.: It was in The Champion about the Local Plan but Appley Bridge residents do not receive The Champion. Ms Sinnott-Lacey said there will also be links on the West Lancs. BC and LCC websites. The Clerk reported the issue of graffiti on Mill Lane which she had reported to West Lancs. BC who, after investigation, said they are not responsible. The Clerk then contacted LCC who said this is a Borough Council function and they will pass the report on to them. An example of the confusion caused. Councillor House raised the issue of highway safety on Mill Lane which is used by motorists as a rat run, with poor footway provision and a blind junction out of Herons Wharf. The Council has suggested traffic lights, a one-way system, and a no right turn out of Herons Wharf, without success. Ms Sinnott-Lacey confirmed that this could be raised with LCC but that West Lancs. BC can do nothing about this. It was reported that council operatives are using 2 rural villages as a short cut to access the Skelmersdale recycling centre. Councillor Burton reported on her attendance as a Bridleways Officer, at a meeting at LCC where the forthcoming Transport Plan was discussed and asked if there is any way the Borough Council can support Mill Lane as a quiet lane, which would give pedestrians and cyclists' priority over cars and other vehicles. Residents present asked how to get an area re-designated from industrial to a conservation area? This can be requested as part of the Local Plan

discussions. Ms Sinnott-Lacey agreed to feed responses to the issues raised back through the Parish Council and confirmed that she would be happy to attend a meeting again in the future. The Chairman thanked Ms Sinnott-Lacey for attending the Parish Council Meeting and she left the Meeting.

The meeting returned to Open Forum and the Council were asked to explain the protocol for discussing agenda items. It was confirmed that members of the public present can raise, question, discuss or ask about any item on the agenda at this point in the Meeting but once Open Forum has closed no further discussion from the public should be entered into unless the Chairman lifts Standing Orders to allow this. The public asked how they go about arranging a public Meeting. A request should be made to Borough Councillors, the village hall can be booked through Mrs Joan Rogers free of charge and the Council agreed to put posters on the Notice Boards and details on the website. Borough Councillors have been asked with no response. The Parish Council will request a meeting be arranged. Details of the Call for Sites will be put on the website. It was suggested that if communications were improved more people would engage, would know what is going on in the Borough and would have more of an input in to it. The Clerk was asked to obtain exact figures for people who live in/are eligible to vote in Mossy Lea and Appley Bridge in a Parish Council election. The Clerk explained the election process and, that if there are insufficient candidates nominated to fill the number of ward vacancies available an uncontested election takes place and all nominees are appointed without the need to vote, remaining vacancies are then filled by co-option. Councillor Jukes reported that she had requested the Agenda Item on the Local Plan and Call for Sites and suggested that the Parish Council should contact the local schools to inform them of the call for sites consultation and encourage them to contribute to the Local Plan process from an environmental perspective e.g.: suggesting walking to school, car sharing or a walking bus. The Parish Council will ask that it be included that, land owners should be asked to leave trees and hedges in place to preserve wildlife habitats. Councillor Burton elaborated on her attendance at the LCC meeting and discussions on the Transport Plan and went on to explain that in her capacity as the BHS Bridleways Officer she has contacted Wigan Council as she believes the right of way from Mill Lane to The Waters Edge should become a bridleway. If it was upgraded to this status it would be better maintained, it would be wider and, it would be a better route for pedestrians, disabled people and cyclists. Residents present said they did believe it was a bridleway up to the bridge but when the footpath maps were updated it was designated as a footpath because it was easier and cheaper. The footpath is in Wigan. The residents present thanked Councillor Burton for the information and suggestions and supported everything she said in relation to upgrading this route to a bridleway but reported that some residents have extended their gardens on to part of this route now. Councillor Burton confirmed that residents should be encouraged to look for green lanes or quiet lanes as well as upgrading footways to bridleways and confirmed that there are a lot of horses in the area and it was a huge achievement to have the old mineral line in Standish modified and upgraded to a multi-purpose route for use by everyone. The Parish Council will ask that a policy be included to ensure that planning officers take a proactive role in encouraging or insisting that developers include the installation of solar panels and energy efficient boilers in any development going forward, applicable to developments of any size including singular dwellings. That the Borough Council encourages and facilitates where possible community heating plans/schemes.

That an increased number of electric car charging points be included in the new local plan proposals. The Parish Council will request that the site of the old railway pad off Appley Lane North, which should have been removed once the infill of West Quarry, Appley Bridge, was completed but which was never removed, be put back into Green Belt. The application to retain the pad in 1995 was refused and the site was put in to the Green Belt. A subsequent application granted permission for capping of the quarry and landscaping, including the Green Belt site of the pad, but this was never implemented. The Parish Council would like the decision to take the pad out of the Green Belt granted in the existing Local Plan to be overturned and want to see the site of the pad put back as a Green Belt site in the forthcoming revised Local Plan. Those present asked that if a public meeting is going to be held could the Parish Council pay for leaflets to advertise the Meeting. It was confirmed that lobby groups in the past have always paid their own expenses on such things. The Council were asked to outline any plans they have for VE Day celebrations. The Clerk reported that there is to be an Artisan Market on Friday 8th of May with a VE day theme at Mossy Lea Village Hall which will coincide with the Scarecrow Festival theme in Mossy Lea over the same weekend, followed by an event at Tunley URC on the Sunday afternoon. The Parish Council has arranged a Brass Band Concert at Appley Bridge Village Hall on Sunday 10th May in collaboration with Old Hall Brass Band, which will commemorate VE Day and where cream teas will be served and the hall/grounds dressed with bunting and flags to mark the occasion. Councillor Jukes

reported that events will be taking place over the 3 days involving the schools and residents. No further information was given on this. A representative of the Stop Parbold Hill Campaign was present to expand on the request for financial assistance towards the expert reports commissioned by them to help fight the planning applications for Parbold Quarry. The Parish Council were thanked for their support and objections to the planning applications. It was reported that the Environment Agency has now withdrawn their objections. The group felt it was important to challenge the premise of the planning application i.e.: that the work is required to remove the need to continue pumping leachate from the site, however, the reports commissioned indicate that they would still need to pump leachate out even if they did the importation and infilling works and, that adding to the moving slope will make the problems worse. The fees for the reports amounted to £6900.00 which is payable by the end of February.

112. APOLOGIES – No apologies required.

113. 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 Ms Jukes declared an interest in the request for a donation from the Stop Parbold Hill Campaign as she is part of this group. Councillor Mrs Burton declared an interest in a planting and work item for discussion at Village Halls. 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.**

114. MINUTES – The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 20th January 2020 had been circulated in advance of the Meeting. Councillor Jukes requested that they be amended to state that “The Chairman pointed out that taking comments after Open Forum is closed, is contrary to Parish Council policy ...” and that “2 members of the Millbank Flood Group left the meeting because they could not speak”. Proposed, seconded and Resolved – with these amendments the Minutes were accepted as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

115. UPDATE/PROGRESS WITH ISSUES RAISED AT THE PREVIOUS MEETING – Councillor Jukes wished it to be clarified in Minute 103(e) – that discussions on the Local Plan will not take 5 years but rather, that this is likely to be the most important item discussed by the Parish Council in the next 5 years, but, that the New Local Plan will be in place by 2023.

116. CORRESPONDENCE/INFORMATION ITEMS

Items reported to, & noted by, the Council – no decision required: REPORT 1 – page 6 – ACCEPTED.

Items requiring discussion, observations or action by the Council:

- a) Clarification that the 3 year work programme for the play area at Appley Lane South is for capital improvements which would involve the extension of the playground or addition of extra equipment. Confirmation maintenance issues have been passed to Environmental Services. Confirmation the bench will be replaced – **Noted.**
- b) Info. from Lancashire Volunteer Partnership in relation to Remembrance Day marshalling and the role of Volunteer Uniformed Community Champions – **The Council will contact West Lancs. BC to see if they can recommend anyone.**
- c) Confirmation that LCC are responsible for the old road adjacent to BP Garage and that they have no intention of moving the debris left at the end of the path/road – **Councillor Johnson reported that LCC confirmed they did this work. The debris was scraped off to see what the surface was like underneath but it is now too costly to remove it. It was explained that this is a well used route, they may look to remove it in spring. A litter pick will be requested along this route.**
- d) Notification that the boundary wall on the right hand side of Appley Bridge Village Hall is being pushed over in 2 places from the hall side – **Work has been undertaken and the wall assessed as safe. A sapling has been removed from inside the village hall grounds the stump requires plugging to prevent re-growth at a cost of £20.**
- e) Request for a donation of £750 from Stop Parbold Hill Campaign towards the cost of analysts’ reports commissioned to help fight the proposals. Plus, a letter of support for this request from a resident of Appley Bridge who is concerned about the impact of the proposals – **It was**

confirmed that the Parish Council has not budgeted for this. Normal donations are £25, £50 or £100. Resolved – A donation of £100 be made to Stop Parbold Hill Campaign.

- f) Notification of this year's Great British Spring Clean, 20th March – 13th April from Keep Britain Tidy and, confirmation that West Lancs. BC is keen to work with community groups to organise clean up areas – **The Parish Council continue to support this, however support in the past has been disappointing. The Council will forward information to the schools and suggest they get involved by tidying the school grounds. It was reported that there is litter everywhere in the village and litter picks will be requested along the following routes: Mossy Lea Road, Rookery Fold, Carr House Lane, Church Lane, Tunley Lane, Toogood Lane, Courage Low Lane, Moss Lane, Hall Lane, Fairy Glen and Mill Lane.**
- g) Info. from BHIB re: safety guidelines for organising VE Day events – **Noted.**
- h) Information session for villages who want to know more about the Lancashire Best Kept Village Competition on Monday 24th Feb, 7.30pm at Salmsbury Memorial Hall – **Noted.**
- i) Letter from the Officer Commanding Base Support Squadron at RAF Spadeadam in Cumbria regarding the upcoming 80th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain and asking for your support in marking this historic occasion in some way – **Resolved – if a Battle of Britain flag is available 2 will be purchased and flown at both village halls at the appropriate time.**
- j) Late items received which may require discussion/action/observations i) Notification of West Lancs. BC VE Day Parade through Ormskirk, Sunday 10th May, 10am, – **Noted.** ii) Holding response from LCC to request for an update on work to relieve flooding near 15 Mossy Lea Road – **The Council will raise this again, copying LCC Chief Executive in to the correspondence.** iii) Initial notification of temporary road closure Town Lane, Heskin, 30/3/20-6/2/20 to allow BT investigations to be carried out - **Noted.** iv) Confirmation the Parish Council has reported graffiti on Mill Lane, Appley Bridge, to LCC as West Lancs. BC say it is not their responsibility – **Noted.**

117. WEST LANCASHIRE LOCAL PLAN REVIEW –West Lancs. BC is undertaking a 'Call for Sites' exercise from Thurs 13th Feb until Thurs 26th Mar 2020. From sites suggested they will choose which proposed land allocations will eventually be in the new Local Plan. Later in 2020 the Council will make public the info. received on suggested sites as part of the first consultation on the new Local Plan. Confirmation that individuals, or groups of residents can input on the preparation of the Local Plan before firm decisions are made on what will be in it, through the consultation in Autumn 2020. If a group of residents, or the Parish Council, want to pull together ideas of what they would like the Local Plan to do in our area, these can be emailed to the Local Plan mailbox for consideration in preparation for the Autumn consultation – **Resolved – The Parish Council will submit the observations made and discussed at the beginning of the Meeting at this stage. Further observations may be submitted after the March Meeting.**

118. HIGHWAYS AND ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

- Water run-off from the fields at The Mount, Appley Lane North, continues to flood the carriageway. The Council will ask LCC to ask the landowner to install land drainage to assist. The ditch which is supposed to take the water run-off is blocked and needs cleaning out.
- Road gullies on Tunley Lane, near Tunley Moss, are blocked.
- The suggested location for a litter bin on Skull House Lane is on the left hand side near the industrial estate, opposite the cafe.
- Councillor Johnson reported his list of matters which included: The poor condition of the carriageway at the junction of Boundary Lane/Mossy Lea Road. An abandoned vehicle on Rookery Fold. Litter at Rookery Fold. The work undertaken by LCC on the old road r/o BP garage and a litter pick is required. No progress with flooding issues near 15 Mossy Lea Road, on Church Lane, near the village hall on Mossy Lea Road, at the bottom of Broadhurst Lane where the culvert is blocked/damaged under the road and water is running over the road and an exposed electrical cable is evident and, flooding near the bridge on Tunley Lane. A diesel spillage on Mossy Lea Road resulted in sand being spread which now needs sweeping off the road. The poor state of the carriageway on Manse Avenue with pot-holes and rough road joints and the fact that moss collecting on the footways is making them slippery. Litter picks are required on the lanes mentioned earlier in the meeting. A number of missed bin

collections on Broadhurst Lane since the beginning of January, when reported they have been informed the road was blocked preventing access by the collection vehicle.

- Flooding on the carriageway near Rigbye's Bridge, Mossy Lea Road, where water is holding.
- It was reported that residents had been forced to try to free-up blocked drains and road gullies at the junction of Courage Low Lane/Moss Lane. They had to sandbag their properties and try to rod the drains to prevent flooding to their property. All remain blocked and 1 is solid.

119. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES – Councillor Burton attended an LCC Meeting as a BHS Bridleways Officer but has reported useful information obtained at that meeting to the Parish Council. LCC Annual Conference attended by Councillor Jukes who reported an informative and useful event where she obtained leaflets from electricity northwest relating to the 105 priority service available for vulnerable customers (info. will be put on the website). Also reported that they are hoping to establish an Emergency Community Resilience Group in Lancashire to give advice on flooding and ways of dealing with it. Representatives are willing to attend Parish Council Meetings to speak on both these matters.

120. PARISH PRECEPT FOR 2020/21- Following detailed discussions at the Budget Meeting held prior to this Parish Council Meeting, it was **Resolved** – **The Parish Requirement for 2020/21 is £19,300.00 - £613.00 (Council Tax Support Grant) = £18,687.00 Parish Precept. Therefore, Wrightington Parish Council will Precept for £18,687.00 for the financial year 2020/21.**

121. STANDING ORDERS - Resolved: In Accordance with Standing Order No 19, Standing Order No 18 was suspended to allow the remaining items of business to be conducted.

122. VILLAGE HALLS

MOSSY LEA – Reiki £20. Confirmation the hall will be booked quarterly for AA Regional Meetings. The Clerk reported on alternative Broadband providers at lower costs than BT. **Resolved** – **the Parish Council will change their provider to Plusnet.**

APPLEY BRIDGE – It was reported that the barrier will be installed week commencing 9th March. Councillor Burton reported the next village hall committee meeting will be held on Monday 30th March at 8pm. A meeting will be held shortly to discuss new blinds for the windows in the main hall. **Noted.** Confirmation a Capital Grant Funding application for 2020/21 has been submitted to West Lancs. BC towards the cost of 2 replacement Notice Boards, one at each village hall – **Noted.**

Confirmation that all E.on tariffs are 100% renewable energy and choice of 1, 2, 3 & 4 year contracts – **Resolved** – **The Council will renew with E.on for a 4 year contract.**

The Clerk outlined and explained all the prices and quotations received for planting and maintenance of the planters at both village halls, with 3 plantings per year. Further discussions took place on the annual maintenance contract for clearing, tidying, grass cutting and general upkeep of grounds at Appley Bridge village hall and moss removal at Mossy Lea Village Hall car park. Following detailed discussions on this subject it was **Resolved** – **that the contract for planting of planters at both village halls, for an initial tidy up and then an ongoing maintenance contract for tidying the grounds of Appley Bridge Village Hall, for plugging of the trunk of the sapling removed at Appley Bridge Village Hall, for tree work which may prove necessary at Appley Bridge Village Hall and, for removal of moss from the car park at Mossy Lea Village Hall, all be given to the same contractor who can fulfil all these requirements where some of the others can only complete some of the tasks required. The contract was awarded to Mr Dale Burton with immediate effect.**

Councillors Burton and House left the Meeting at this point.

123. PLANNING To discuss the following applications:

- 1) 2020/0034/FUL Replacement windows and doors. 8 Apple Hey, Appley Bridge. **Resolved** – **No objections provided it complies will all the relevant planning legislation for replacement windows and doors in a conservation area.**
- 2) 2019/1291/FUL Demolition of existing extensions, garage and outbuildings. New extensions, garage and internal alterations, associated external works. 203 Mossy Lea Road, Wrightington. **Resolved** – **No Objections.**
- 3) Amended proposals: 2019/0959/FUL – Demolition of existing garage and stable block and erection of one detached dwelling. Horse Stone Farm, 50 Church Lane, Wrightington.

Amendments: Additional drainage information received and the height of the proposed dwelling has been reduced from 6.2m to 4.8m. **Resolved - The Council Objections to these proposals remain in place. They consider the proposals would constitute an over development of the site which already has the farmhouse and permission for a barn conversion. Furthermore, drainage from this site is already significantly inadequate with flooding of the carriageway becoming a regular occurrence as water runs off the site onto Church Lane resulting in flooding to other properties and to the carriageway on Church Lane. The proposed attenuation tanks are unlikely to be able to serve all 3 proposed properties on the site and are not felt adequate to support the additional development proposed. Poor drainage from the site is already a significant issue which needs to be addressed properly.**

124. LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS – LCC Safer Road Users free events for over 60s – Will be posted in the Notice Boards. LALC Annual Conference, Saturday 25th April 2020, Leyland – Councillor Juckes will attend the annual conference.

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

For Payment:

Mr G Ross	Replacement, Web Co-ordinator, original misplaced/un-cashed	£240.00
Mrs C A Cross	Reimburse – 50% cost of Web Accessibility Course	£20.00
Waterplus	Water supplied to ABVH	£85.64
Adexa	Hot Water Heaters – MLVH & ABVH	£324.00
Mrs C A Cross	Clerk’s Salary – Net	£799.80
HM Rev. & Customs	Tax & NI due by Clerk	£26.24
	NI due by Parish Council	£14.77
D/D Waterplus	Water supplied to MLVH	£58.23
D/D E.on	Electricity supplied ABVH	£40.49
D/D E.on	Electricity supplied MLVH	£178.96
D/D British Gas	Gas supplied ABVH	£155.79

Resolved: Payment of the above accounts, together with the Bank Reconciliation Statement up to 31 December 2019, is approved.

126. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED: That the next Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 16th March 2020 at Appley Bridge Village Hall.

Minutes 112 to 126 will be accepted as a correct record and signed by the Chairman at the Meeting to be held on Monday 16th March 2020.

Members of the Public and Press are welcome to attend

Meeting Closed: 10.30 pm

Chairman:

Date:

REPORT 1

- a) Notification permission granted for demolition of existing rear extension and erection of single storey side and rear extensions. 174 Appley Lane North.
- b) Notification Certificate of Lawfulness (Proposed) permitted for proposed new gravel driveway and turning area including removal of 4.5m of frontage hedge. 1 Tunley Lane.
- c) Notification Listed Building Consent granted for change of material of proposed chimney from render to brick, amend position of patio doors on rear elevation & reinstate previously bricked up window. Reinstatement of internal staircase and internal walls. South Tunley Farm, Tunley Lane.
- d) Confirmation the road sweeping request for Broadhurst Lane was completed on 10th Feb 2020.
- e) Acknowledgement of email sent regarding flooding near 15 Mossy Lea Road, confirming the highways service have been asked to investigate the matter.