

WRIGHTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

At the Meeting of the Council of the Parish of Wrightington held on Monday 19th February 2024 at Mossy Lea Village Hall at 7.30pm the following were present:

Councillors: Mrs J Burton (Chairman), Mr F Johnson, Mrs K Jukes, Mr H Carey and Mr A Shaw. Also in attendance 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 those present to the February Meeting and asked that we all treat each other with respect and respect everyone's points of view.

A member of the public thanked the Parish Council for the effort taken in pulling together the objections, from all sources, submitted by the Parish Council to the Chorley Concrete retrospective planning application. Two more residents present echoed this thanks.

- 116. APOLOGIES** – Were received and accepted from Councillors Mrs Nicholson and Councillor House. Apologies were also received from Borough Councillor Whittington. An explanation in relation to accepting apologies and when the 6 month rule becomes operational was outlined.
- 117. 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 - **No 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.**
- 118. MINUTES** – The Minutes of the Budget Meeting, and the Wrightington Parish Council Meeting, held on Monday 15th January 2024 had been circulated in advance of the Meeting, they were proposed, seconded, and accepted as correct records, and signed by the Chairman.

119. CORRESPONDENCE/INFORMATION ITEMS

Items reported to, and noted by, the Council – no decision required: REPORT 1 – page 5 – ACCEPTED.

Items requiring discussion, observations or action by the Council:

- a) Event Notification – Ride Across Britain – 7th-15th September 2024 – Land's End to John O'Groats - Day 5 (Wed 11th Sept) passing through Wigan, Wrightington & Heskin – **Noted.**
- b) Info. and details of Personal Security Briefings available to Parish Councillors from Counter Terrorism Policing – **Noted.**
- c) Invitation from West Lancashire Borough Council to share your views on their Draft Housing Strategy for 2024-2029 and Action Plan – **Resolved** – **The Parish Council are happy to leave the details to the professional officers in relation to the final agreed Housing Strategy. One point raised was that it would be a good idea if empty homes or buildings could be considered for refurbishment into much needed housing provision. Therefore, a policy of renovating and reusing such buildings rather than demolishing them would be beneficial.**
- d) Confirmation West Lancashire Borough Council has been notified of the Parish Council Vacancy created by the loss of a Councillor. The Notices of Vacancy have been displayed. The Council await confirmation from the Borough Council that there has been no request for an election – **Resolved** – **Once confirmation has been received from the Borough Council the post will be advertised in the Notice Boards in the normal way.**
- e) Late items received which may require discussion/action/observations – i) Confirmation that the West Lancs. BC Clean and Green Operations Manager will meet with Parish Council representatives on Friday 1st March 2024 at 3pm, at Mossy Lea Village Hall, to discuss grass cutting and litter bin provision – The Chairman, Clerk and Councillor Johnson will attend. Councillor Jukes will forward any concerns she may have as she is unable to attend the Meeting – **Noted.** ii) Details of free Foot Health Care at a clinic in Southport which trains Foot Health Practitioners – **Details in the village halls and Notice Boards.** iii) A letter from a

resident raised the following points – a) A request for 30mph speed limits on all Wrightington country lanes – Borough Councillor Jukes will pursue this as she has already raised speeding as an issue on Church Lane and Moss Lane. Toogood Lane and Tunley Lane will also be added to this report, as this route, along with Mossy Lea Road, is used to create a circular route often used like a racetrack. b) Inclusion in the Parish Council Newsletter advice to pedestrians, joggers, cyclists etc. to wear fluorescent clothing to assist with being seen in the dark. c) Follow up LCC promise of a kissing gate on the public footpath from Tunley Moss to Moss Lane, which has never materialised. d) Could the Parish Council apply for a grant to extend or create a footpath on the left hand side of Moss Lane, from the LCC Depot to the top of Moss Lane? e) Request to advertise Wrightington Pensioners Tuesday Social Club in the Parish Council Newsletter, along with details that the Pensioners hall is available for hire. f) A request for a donation to help with Wrightington Pensioners Hall upkeep. Confirmed an application for a donation needs to be for a more specific purpose – **The Clerk will pursue these matters.**

120. EAST QUARRY – update – Response from West Lancashire Borough Council confirming that the multiagency Operational Water Safety Meetings will recommence in Spring. Further details of the response in supplementary information. Reported - The first meeting will take place on 6th March 2024 and the 3 Borough Councillors are involved in the Meetings. Concern was expressed that the Borough Council does not appear to be pressing these matters. Borough Councillor Jukes confirmed that this has been flagged up with the officers and with the Chief Executive – **Noted.**

121. WEST QUARRY & THE PAD – update - To note correspondence the Parish Council has been copied into by residents in Appley Bridge who have been pursuing non-compliance and further activities at West Quarry by Northern Diver. To note the update from West Lancashire Borough Council (details in the supplementary information). To note the Enforcement Notice issued to anyone with an interest in this land by West Lancashire Borough Council on 2nd February 2024 – Without planning permission, the undertaking of engineering operations on the land, together with details of what is required to remedy the breach of planning control, and the timescales for compliance. Notice to take effect on 4th March 2024 unless an appeal is made against it beforehand – **Noted.** It was reported that the Stop Notice now issued to Northern Diver supersedes the Enforcement notice issued. If activity is not stopped, legal action will be taken. Any breaches witnessed, should be reported. It was reported that a recent fire on the site was very dangerous due to the methane leaking onto the site – **Noted.** Reported that consideration of the retrospective planning application by Chorley Concrete has been deferred again, due to late information in relation to safety matters received from Network Rail. The stability of the concrete bays has been raised, the fact there is no sump to drain the site, drainage appears to be onto Network Rail land, lighting at the site could pose a risk to Network Rail staff using this route, and there is no barrier to stop HGV's falling onto the railway line should an incident occur. Councillors agreed that these dangers are already present, on a daily basis, and will ask the Borough Council who will accept responsibility should an accident or incident occur. It was reported that the Borough Councillors have written to Health & Safety at Network Rail to make their concerns known. **Resolved** – **The Parish Council will report the concerns expressed for the safety of rail staff and commuters using this route should an incident occur which could affect the stretch of railway line adjacent to the Chorley Concrete operations at West Quarry.** Councillor Jukes thanked the Parish Council for their support with this matter.

122. HIGHWAYS AND ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

- Additional warning signage will be requested for rural roads. Beware of Horses, Pedestrians in the Road and Farm Machinery signs.
- The Council will suggest the creation of a footway/path, through the woods adjacent to the carriageway on Moss Lane. The land is owned by LCC and could be strimmed and a hard compacted surface used to create a safe route for use by walkers, joggers, cyclists etc.
- Councillor Johnson confirmed that many issues reported remain outstanding. Road sweeping, side-dressing of the footways, overgrown hedges and narrowing pavements/footways are all issues in the village.

- Grass verges are overgrown on Mossy Lea Road, between Derby House and Tunley Lane and from Raby Fold Farm down the hill towards the hazard markers.
- It was reported that local farmers have employed contractors to cut their hedges on Moss Lane, Courage Low lane, Tunley Lane and Church Lane. The contractor has improved sightlines in a number of places. The private contractor appears to be using the same machinery used by the Borough Councils contractors. This will be reported at the forthcoming meeting.
- Pot holes are being reported but nothing is being done to repair them. Pot holes are evident on Moss Lane, Hall Lane, Church Lane, Tunley Lane, Mossy Lea Road and Dangerous Corner.
- Water from a drain/gully on Toogood Lane, reported previously. Work was carried out as a result of the report, but water is still bubbling up adjacent to where the work was undertaken.
- The strip of grass at the edge of the footway on Mossy Lea Road, adjacent to the BP Garage, does not exist anymore. It has been churned up & needs remedial work or should be removed and tarmacked to provide a hard surface for parking.
- The Chairman would like to arrange a Memorial sponsored walk from Mossy Lea Village Hall to Harrock Hill and back, in memory of Councillor Frank Hodgkinson. Money raised will be donated to North West Air Ambulance. The walk is approx. 4 miles. Refreshments will be served at Mossy Lea Village Hall after the walk. Councillor House and Mr Lee Burton have agreed to lead the walk. The Chairman suggested this could take place on Easter Monday, 1st April 2024. All Councillors present agreed that this is a good idea and plans should progress.
- The Council will request additional copies of bus service 311 timetables for the village halls, and possibly large print for the notice boards. The Council will ask Andy Burnham to consider re-routing the 635 bus service from Wigan to Wrightington Hospital, so it becomes a circular route from Wigan, through Shevington, along Mill Lane and Appley Lane North, on to Hall Lane and then Wrightington Hospital, then returning to Wigan via Back Lane and Shevington. This would make services and facilities in Wigan more accessible to residents of Appley Bridge who attend doctors, dentists, opticians and use supermarkets in Shevington and/or Wigan.

123. TO BEGIN REVIEWING PARISH COUNCIL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES PRIOR TO ADOPTION AT THE MAY MEETING – Councillors discussed and approved the following policies and procedures: Grants Policy – agreed for approval in May. Co-option Policy – The Clerk used NALC, SLCC and Euxton PC documents to produce a combined Policy – It was agreed that the Parish Council will adopt the Euxton PC co-option policy, amended to reflect Wrightington Parish Council’s needs, in May. Model Standing Orders – The Clerk explained that much of the Model Standing Orders is already familiar to Parish Councillors. The Model Standing Orders just put everything down in black and white for ease of use and reference. Councillors agreed to adopt Model Standing Orders, amended to reflect Wrightington Parish Council’s needs, in May. Financial Regulations – The Clerk reported that NALC are currently in discussions to review the Model Financial Regulations. Councillors agreed to discuss these when available. Existing Financial Regulations will remain in place for the moment.

124. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES – Nothing to report. Councillor Shaw left the Meeting at 9.00pm.

125. VILLAGE HALLS

MOSSY LEA – Notification West Lancs. BC has secured funding to introduce recycling banks across the Borough and a suggestion that the car park has been identified as a potential location to place a recycling bank for small waste electrical and electronic equipment such as chargers, toasters, radios, hair dryers etc. Similar to a clothing bank – **Resolved** – **The Parish Council will decline this offer as there are a number of concerns in relation to these.** The Clerk reported that the Craft Group, who meet in the Village Hall, would like to make some baffles for the walls in the hall to help absorb the echo/sound, and make the hall more user friendly for people with hearing difficulties who are affected by this – **Resolved** – **The Parish Council are happy for the Craft Group to proceed with this.**

APPLEY BRIDGE – Update on car park repairs. The Clerk is currently drawing up the specifications with the help of a contractor. Once specifications are complete a number of contractors will be asked to quote for this work. Quotations will be reported to the Parish Council at their next Meeting – **Noted.**

Confirmation that a Capital Bid has been submitted to West Lancashire Borough Council for £1100.00 towards the installation of electric hand driers at Mossy Lea & Appley Bridge Village Halls – **Noted**.
 British Gas contract renewal – Confirmation that a 3 year contract for Appley Bridge Village Hall has been renewed with British Gas, and a 3 year contract for Mossy Lea Village Hall with British Gas Lite – **Noted**.
 Notification that there will be an increase in BT prices for the provision of Broadband from 1/4/24 – **Noted**

126. PLANNING To discuss the following applications:

- 1) 2024/0007/FUL Proposed change of use to No 2-4 Ashfield Terrace to convert the existing detached dwelling back into a pair of semi-detached houses. 4 Ashfield Terrace, Appley Bridge - **Resolved** – **No objections**.
- 2) 2024/0086/FUL Variation of condition 5 of planning permission 2018/0632/FUL relating to the lighting schedule. Tunley Moss Farmhouse, 10 Tunley Moss, Wrightington - **Resolved** – **The Council has no objections in principle to these proposals, provided that the neighbouring property owners have been contacted, and that any concerns or objections raised by them have been taken into account when making the decision.**
- 3) 2024/0097/PND Application for determination as to whether prior approval is required for the demolition of one outbuilding (building B). 14 Speakmans Drive, Appley Bridge – **Resolved** - **The Council object to the demolition of this outbuilding. The remains of the building are now totally integrated into the Green Belt at this location therefore; the removal of the building would detract from the aesthetics of the Green Belt in this area, and would have a detrimental impact by altering the existing street scene.**

127. LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS – Nothing to report.

128. ACCOUNTS - To receive the following list of accounts for Approval together with late ones received since the agenda was prepared:

For Payment:

Autocross Euroshel Ltd – Repairs to Bus Shelter – Appley Lane North	£1,782.00
NetWise UK Set up Website, domain name, email addresses etc.	£1,498.80
Petty Cash Office Sundries	£50.00
Mr F Johnson Reimburse cost of window cleaning – MLVH	£40.00
Mrs C A Cross Clerk’s Salary – Net of NI & Pension Contributions	£1,099.39
HM Rev. & Customs Tax & NI	£131.08
D/D NEST Pension Contributions	£60.93
D/D BT Broadband MLVH & ABVH	£57.48
D/D E.on Mossy Lea Village Hall	£194.34
D/D Waterplus Water usage ABVH (Jan)	£23.04
D/D Waterplus Water usage MLVH	£56.24
D/D Waterplus Water usage ABVH (Feb)	£38.99
D/D British Gas Gas supplied ABVH	£482.41
D/D British Gas Gas supplied MLVH (estimated as closing balance – could change)	£384.62

Receipts:

West Lancs. BC Part of Capital Bid	£3,232.81
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Resolved: Payment and Receipt of the above accounts is approved. Resolved - The Clerk presented Councillors with a financial report (Attached) indicating the impact of the above payments on the Parish Council finances - Resolved: The financial report was accepted and expenditure is on track.

129. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED: The next Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 18th March 2024 at Appley Bridge Village Hall at 7.30pm

Minutes 116 to 129 will be accepted as a correct record and signed by the Chairman at the Meeting to be held on Monday 18th March 2024.

Members of the Public and Press are welcome to attend

Meeting Close: 9.15 pm

Chairman:

Date:

Members of the Public and Press are welcome to attend

REPORT 1

- a) Notification planning permission granted for two storey side extension, with extensions to the front and rear dormers, and a single storey rear extension following the demolition of detached garage. 315 Mossy Lea Road.
- b) Notification Certificate of Lawfulness permitted for single storey side extension. 1 Tunley Lane.
- c) Notification planning permission refused for proposed rear single storey extension with flat roof. 39 Church Lane.
- d) Notification application withdrawn for proposed replacement detached dwelling. The Poplars, Tunley Lane.
- e) Posters of Local Councillors Contact Details and BC Bailey's monthly surgery – Notice Boards.
- f) Info. forwarded to the Clerk in relation to an online Booking system for halls, community centres etc. from LemonBooking.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION TO SUPPORT THE FEBRUARY 2024 MINUTES:

Agenda item: East Quarry

“The multiagency Operational Water Safety Meetings for East Quarry will recommence in spring to discuss developments etc. The group and its partners is committed to doing what it can. We can offer advice and encouragement to the land owner, but if we have no appropriate legal tools, we cannot legally require the land owner to take specific courses of action.

As previously set out, East Quarry presents a hugely complicated set of factors and so any dewatering must be carefully planned and managed so as not to create more or greater risks. It is up to the landowner to ensure their land is maintained in a safe way and in line with the legal requirements. It is also for the owner to determine what the future plans are for the site. The door remains open for them to seek specific advice from any of the multiagency partners including the Planning Teams at West Lancashire Borough Council and Lancashire Borough Council. Again we can give advice and encouragement but it is for the owner to determine the short, mid and long term development and management of the site. We will continue to monitor the site to ensure that the owner meets their legal obligations, but cannot require a higher standard.”

Agenda item: West Quarry

“I write further to the Council's position statement dated 4th December 2023 to provide a further update on the matters relating to the enforcement investigations concerning West Quarry.

Given the continued levels of public interest, we wish to provide further reassurance that the points made previously by all parties raising their concerns continue to be taken very seriously.

The Council served a Temporary Stop Notice (TSN) at the above site including recorded and hand delivery to all those we believed to have an interest in the land (at the time) on the 20th December 2023. The TSN came into effect on the day it was served (20th December 2023) and expired on the 17th January 2024.

In the interim of the TSN, the Council's enforcement investigations have continued, and this includes the serving of a Section 330 Notice 'Power to require information as to interests in the land'. This was a necessary step which informs the formal action the Council will now take, ensuring that it is only served on those responsible for the works carried out. Discussions between interested parties and the Council's Legal team have been ongoing to establish the change of ownership in the land. The new access has also been raised direct with LCC Highways Authority, who are undertaking their own investigations in regards to if any agreement/permissions are in place which permitted works to be carried out within the highway as controlled by them.

We understand that works have stopped on site, and this has and is being monitored, but should they recommence, the Council retains the right to consider serving a Stop Notice subject to enforcement action and the undertaking of a liability assessment for compensation.

The Council is aware of the significant ongoing concern and interest within the community regarding this site and will keep residents and interested parties informed. As you will appreciate, this is a complicated and technical matter, and as such, updates will be provided when information is available. We would expect the next update by the beginning of February 2024, but an update will be provided sooner if further relevant information becomes available.”

Wrightington Parish Council - Monthly Financial Report - to February 2024

		Budgeted	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Expenditure	Balance	VAT
		2023/24												To date	Remaining	
Staff Salary (Gross) for 14.5 hrs p wk w/e/f Apr 23		£13,609.70	Gross	£946.19	£1,055.64	£1,055.84	£1,055.84	£1,055.84	£1,055.84	£1,055.84	£1,096.61	£1,477.18	£1,099.39			
Employee HMRC + Pension Payments				£31.51	£78.50	£78.30	£78.30	£78.30	£78.30	£78.30	£100.36	£285.35	£97.58	£13,073.15	£536.55	CR
Employer HMRC + Pension Payments		£300		£22.88	£30.71	£30.71	£30.71	£30.71	£30.71	£30.71	£33.85	£62.13	£60.58	£394.41	-£94.41	CR
Insurance Premiums		£2,000.00			£1,581.15									£1,581.15	£418.85	CR
Donations		£300.00			£100.00									£100.00	£200.00	CR
LALC Subscriptions		£550.00		£485.17										£485.17	£64.83	CR
CPRE & Open Spaces Subs & OPSTA		£110.00			£60.00			£10.00		£45.00				£115.00	-£5.00	DR
SLCC & any other subs		£150.00														
Remembrance Day Expenses (+10%)		£61.26									£39.13			£39.13	22.13	CR
Remembrance Wreaths		£30.00									£25.00			£25.00	£5.00	CR
Audit (External + Internal)		£425.00						£25.00	£210.00					£235.00	£190.00	£42.00 CR
Election Expenses (uncontested)		£1,500.00						£3,607.42						£3,607.42	-£2,107.42	DR
Admin Stationery/ICO	)	£1,200.00			£35.00		£50.00					£19.35	£50.00	£389.84	£810.16	CR
Copying)															
Training	)									£70.00						
Printer)															
Newsletter)															
Mobile Phone	)								£81.25							
Broadband/Landline	)								£84.24							
Office Equipment																
Mileage		£250.00														
Honorarium to Web Co-ordinator		£240.00														
Bus Shelters - Litter Bins		£500.00											£1,485.00	£1,485.00	-£985.00	£297.00
Signs - Seats		£500.00				£235.00								£235.00	£265.00	CR
Notice Boards		£500.00														
Parks & Open Spaces		£500.00														
Defibrillators & Defib Boxes		£1,000.00														
MLVH Running Costs	)	£5,000.00												2575.57	£2,424.43	CR
Gas	)				£160.54	£117.69	£122.47	£44.32	£33.69	£32.57	£157.04	£27.18	£236.77	£320.52		£134.02
Electricity	)				£149.64			£132.59			£141.66			£185.09		£30.44
Water - Paid from VH Account)															
Broadband	)			£23.00	£23.00	£23.00	£23.00	£23.00		£50.90	£23.95	£23.95	£23.95	£23.95		£52.34
Sanitary Products	)			£21.67			£25.50	£27.00		£13.50		£39.00				£25.43
Window Cleaning	)			£40.00			£40.00	£20.00		£40.00	£40.00		£40.00			
Extinguishers)															
Gas Safety Cert.	)							£60.00								
Cleaning Materials	)							£23.55				£21.88				
Work at the VH	)	£1,500.00					£105.00			£60.00				£625.00	£875.00	CR
Drain Cleaning	)													£60.00		£12.00
Electrical Safety Cert.	)									£400.00						£80.00
Honorarium to VH Officers	)	£400.00			£400.00									£400.00	£0.00	NIL
MLVH - Planting & Maintenance	)	£700.00				£53.00				£185.75		£185.71		£424.46	£275.54	CR

