

WRIGHTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

At the Meeting of the Council of the Parish of Wrightington held on Monday 19th July 2021 at Mossy Lea Village Hall at 7.30pm the following were present:

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

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.)

The Chairman chose to hold the Meeting outdoors as large numbers were expected to attend and, to facilitate social distancing for those who wished to continue to adhere to Covid-19 guidelines despite relaxation in regulations from today's date. The Chairman welcomed everyone present to the Meeting. It was reported that Shevington PC called an emergency meeting in their summer recess to discuss anti-social behaviour and to let their residents know about planning application LCC/2021/0027 – for construction of a new access track to provide safe access to the water at East Quarry. Councillor Jukes confirmed her involvement in this closed meeting, on Wednesday 14th July. Councillor Jukes reported that Shevington PC were upset that they had not been consulted on the application and have submitted their objections to the planning application. Residents do not feel that tonight's Wrightington PC Meeting gives them enough time to object, they are disappointed the Parish Council did not consult them and have to date not submitted any observations. The LCC planning officer's recommendation is for approval. It was reported that there is a mix of opinions in the village on this matter. The Parish Council were asked if they were made aware of the application at the Meeting with Northern Diver. The Chairman confirmed that the Council was represented at the Northern Diver meeting as she felt she did not want to let people down. The discussions in relation to a ramp at the meeting were about health and safety issues. Councillor Jukes explained her involvement in the process of arranging that meeting. Disappointment was expressed at the promises made by County Councillor Fillis when he attended the Parish Council Meeting, none of which have been delivered. It was agreed that the village seems split on developments at East Quarry. Those present outlined their objections to the planning application for the access track – it was reported that the traffic assessment is incorrect, there is no valid report to support the volume of material required to create the ramp, a previous application for importation of inert waste to West Quarry limited the number of vehicular movements to 4 per hour, this application will increase that number, trucks are now bigger and heavier and vehicle numbers are increased, previous applications suspended vehicle movements at peak times e.g.: school times, parked vehicles on the S-bends on Appley Lane North opposite The Mount already cause priority issues with HGV's using this route causing gridlock and/or obstructions to pavements, 5 HGV movements per hour equates to 10 journeys per hour which is 1 vehicular movement every 6 minutes on a narrow lane with children walking to school. There have been 2 accidents in the last 18 years with vehicles turning over. The application is only for part of the ramp required by the applicant; the remainder will need further importation of materials. The residents feel the application is dishonest and underplays the amount of infill required and vehicle movements necessary to complete the work. It is felt that an application should be submitted for what is needed in full rather than part of the permission required. The residents are prepared to give accurate, factual information. The residents believe this issue has split Appley Bridge because Maybrook have said the only solution is to drain and fill the quarry. Those present believe the problem is the influx of visitors to an insecure site. They feel Maybrook are doing the minimum they need to do to secure the site. Councillors also believe the application has split the village. The water is dangerous. Other residents do not attend Parish Council Meetings to give their views because they are frightened of doing so in front of people who attend with opposing views. The Chairman closed open forum at 8.14pm.

33. APOLOGIES – None required.

34. 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 Jukes disclosed that she is currently in a legal dispute with the owner of West

Quarry. 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.

35. **MINUTES** – The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 21st June 2021 had been circulated in advance of the Meeting. **Resolved** – **The Minutes were accepted as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.**
36. **UPDATE/PROGRESS WITH ISSUES RAISED AT THE PREVIOUS MEETING** – Nothing to report that will not be discussed on the agenda.
37. **CORRESPONDENCE/INFORMATION ITEMS**
Items reported to, and noted by, the Council – no decision required: REPORT 1 – page 6 – ACCEPTED.
- a) Response to questions from the public to Mr O’Dowd – **The Clerk read aloud the collective response and two example responses to the emails submitted for note by those present. The Parish Council cannot quantify or qualify the facts or figures in the responses, therefore, any further questions need to be sent directly to Mr O’Dowd. Councillor Chambers believes the problems will not go away as there will still be some water left in the Quarry after dewatering.**
 - b) Discussion on how the above information and responses received will be disseminated – **The collective response and the responses to the individual emails submitted will be displayed on the Parish Council website. A notice will be placed in the Notice Boards giving details of how to access them on the website. Residents are advised to direct any response, observations or further questions on this subject to Mr O’Dowd.**
 - c) Response from the Police confirming that no email exists from the Police informing Mr O’Dowd that he needs to provide security at East Quarry – **Noted.**
 - d) Request from Councillor Chambers to discuss a protocol for attending outside Meetings – **It was confirmed that attendees are there to listen, observe, fact find and report back to the Parish Council whilst remaining neutral. Unless they have delegated powers, any opinion given will be the individual’s personal opinion. In relation to the Meeting at Northern Diver – the Clerk confirmed this had been forwarded to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman by virtue of their office. The Chairman confirmed discussions at the meeting related to health and safety and security of the site. A planning application had not been submitted at this stage. No suggestions were made for a protocol for attending meetings outside of the Parish Council going forward.**
 - e) Request from Councillor Chambers to discuss notification of planning applications – **Councillor Chambers felt that details of the application for the ramp at the Quarry should have been available to Councillors earlier. This cannot be rectified retrospectively however going forward, Councillors will be notified of planning applications as notifications are received. It was confirmed that all planning applications can be accessed online by Councillors on the Borough/County Council websites.**
 - f) Request from Councillor Chambers that the PC contact Northern Diver in relation to information submitted by them to accompany planning application LCC/2021/0027 – **Councillor Chambers raised concerns that the contents of the letter of support for the application are incorrect. The interpretation of the letter caused confusion. Northern Diver are not the dedicated first responders to any incidents, this is the role of the Police or Lancs. Fire & Rescue Service but, because they have the means and equipment to do so, being so close to the Quarry, they often are. This is not a service they are employed to provide, this was made clear at the Meeting – The Council noted this, no further action.**
 - g) Email from a concerned resident in relation to Facebook posts and Councillor involvement in relation to the planning application LCC/2021/0027 – **Councillor Juckes reported that one of the aggrieved parties, who cannot attend the Meeting, is aware that the Clerk has received a request to remove the email from circulation as it amounts to libel, and in circulating it, the Parish Council is also implicated. The Clerk confirmed that the email in question had only been sent to Parish Councillors along with a specific request not to share or forward the contents. It is the person who has passed this information on who has circulated it. It**

was suggested that by putting it on the Agenda this was circulating the information. The Chairman confirmed that it is not possible to identify anyone, or the concerns raised in the email, from the Agenda item. Councillor Jukes ensured that the comments made were Minuted and had no further comments.

- h) Details of current site suggestions for Appley Bridge and Mossy Lea in the current Local Plan Review – **It was confirmed that all site suggestions currently submitted in Appley Bridge are parked as Green Belt and the only site in Mossy Lea not parked as Green Belt is possible development of the Corner House in 6-10 years – The Council noted this.**
- i) Annual reminder about the LCC Public Rights of Way – Local Delivery Scheme 2021-22 – **Resolved – The Council will not be part of the Local Delivery Scheme 2021-22.**
- j) Details of the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Beacons celebrations 2-5th June 2022 – **Noted.**
- k) Details/consultation on the Leeds & Liverpool Canal Towpath and Links improvement scheme – **The Council support the improvement scheme proposed.**
- l) Confirmation from the defib store that due to the worldwide shortage of consumables no deliveries have been received/made since June and there is no date for a next delivery – **Noted by the Council. The cheque will be cancelled. The Clerk will check with NWS re: taking the defibrillator off line for the moment and enquire whether compatible consumables are available.**
- m) Request by Clerk to undertake an online E-learning Cyber Awareness Course launched by SLCC, over a 6 month period – Cost £49 +VAT – suggest sharing the cost with CRPC – **Resolved – The Council will share the cost of the course with Charnock Richard PC.**
- n) Late items received which may require discussion/action/observations – i) Notification of the Lancashire Fire and Rescue Consultation on their risk management plan for the next 5 years – **September Agenda.** ii) Report of email received regarding anti-social behaviour and vandalism in Appley Bridge, and East Quarry, and a Shevington PC Meeting to discuss this – **Wrightington PC were not invited, it was a closed meeting to discuss the above and the current planning application at East Quarry. Councillor Jukes confirmed this was not a Parish Council Meeting.**

38. HIGHWAYS AND ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

- Councillor Johnson reported on the list he compiles monthly which has had little response or action from LCC in most cases. Councillor Jukes requested a copy of the list so that she can progress these in her role as Borough Councillor.
- Reports/request for assistance with highway matters from a resident of Charnock Richard – Request for “No HGV’s” signs on Carr House Lane, Whittle Bottoms and Mill Lane. Not sure that HGV’s can be specifically prohibited. Agreed that sometimes it is the satellite navigations system at fault and not necessarily the HGV drivers.
- Parked vehicles obstructing site lines when exiting Carr House Lane, adjacent to the Corner House. It is possible the parked vehicles were associated with work at a house at this location.
- Grass verge cutting – very poorly cut this time, the blade is not sharp enough and cutting is sporadic, long grass in some areas remains high and creates a danger for motorists. The Council feel this is a waste of money and a different contractor should be used next year.
- Bus Shelter still needs clearing of overgrowth on Wood Lane – Clean and Green Team, WLBC

39. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES – Councillor Burton attended the LALC Area Committee Meeting where the Environment Strategy was discussed and someone will attend the meeting if you require more information. Next Meeting October.

40. DRAFT NEWSLETTER FOR APPROVAL – the draft copy was circulated for approval. New Councillors details will be inserted once appointed.

41. VILLAGE HALLS

MOSSY LEA – Village Hall Committee Meeting, prior to this Parish Council Meeting at 6.45pm. New guttering and downspouts fitted along with removal, cleaning and re-setting gully pot and downspout into the ground – to alleviate damp issues in the hall and toilets. **The Clerk has requested an updated**

quotation for a hydrogen ready central heating boiler before proceeding with the fitting of new boiler which has already agreed and budgeted for by the Parish Council.

APPLEY BRIDGE – Confirmation the Police have been using the hall during operations at the quarry.

Resolved – an outside tap will be fitted at the same time the central heating boiler service takes place. The Council confirmed that the hourly rate for hire of the hall will remain the same, even for a daily rate booking. This is necessary to be fair to everyone. The Clerk will pursue the installation of Wi-Fi and extra/better outdoor lighting.

Hosepipes will be purchased for both village halls.

42. **PLANNING** To discuss the following applications:

- 1) 2021/0688/FUL Replacement storage building. Marsden Crane Hire, 38 Church Lane, Wrightington - **Resolved: No Objections.**
- 2) 2021/0767/FUL Porch extension to front of property, brick construction (matching existing brickwork). 2 Hinds Head Avenue, Wrightington - **Resolved: No Objections.**
- 3) 2021/0785/FUL Alterations to existing dormer bungalow. 21 Hinds Head Avenue, Wrightington- **Resolved: No Objections.**
- 4) 2021/0793/FUL Extensions & Alterations. 17 Stonemill Rise, Appley Bridge - **Resolved: No Objections.**
- 4) LCC/2021/0027 Construction of a new access track to provide safe access to water area. East Quarry, Appley Lane North, Appley Bridge – **Following earlier discussions which continued at this point, it was Proposed that the Parish Council object to the application on the following grounds: health and safety due to increased volume of heavy traffic on the roads, congestion, noise, dust, pollution and the environmental impact. Lancs. Fire & Rescue have not requested this and state they can deal with any situations from the existing concrete pad. This application is for ¼ of the proposed ramp submitted to the Environment Agency. No ecological survey has been done and therefore the data submitted is out of date and should have been reviewed. Bats, newts, kingfishers and swans are protected and all inhabit the quarry. This proposal could not secure a seconder. Some Councillors feel the ramp is required to safely empty the quarry. It was then proposed, seconded and Resolved on a majority vote: That the Parish Council has no objections to the application.**

At this point in the Meeting members of the public present became vocal, were shouting and criticising Parish Councillors for their decision. They continued to interrupt the Meeting with comments and raised voices. The Chairman asked that this behaviour stop, stating that it was a form of bullying. The Chairman asked those present to leave the meeting due to their interruptions, aggressive behaviour and accusations, informing them that if they did not leave she would telephone the Police for assistance. The Meeting resumed once members of the public left the meeting.

43. **LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS** – Effective Meetings workshop – 15th July, 7-9pm via Zoom attended by the Clerk – **Noted.** Info. on the Parish, Town & Community Council Land Ownership Survey – **Noted.** Letter from Steve Reed MP in relation to proposed planning reforms and the proposed removal of local residents’ right to object to applications in their neighbourhood if the area is zoned for growth or renewal – **The Council support Steve Reed MP in preserving those rights.** Notification of the Boundary Commission Review of Parliamentary Constituencies boundaries and names – **Noted.**

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

For Payment:

JL Hill & Son	Drainage, guttering & downspout work – MLVH		£474.00
Parish & Town Training	– Effective Meetings Workshop – Clerk (50%)		£12.50
Petty Cash			£50.00
Mrs C A Cross	Clerk’s Salary – Net		£822.56
HM Rev. & Customs	Tax & NI due by Clerk	£3.48	
	NI due by Parish Council	£12.29	£15.77

Mr F Johnson	Reimburse window cleaning payment – MLVH	£15.00
D/D Plusnet	Internet MLVH	£26.39
D/D E.on	Electricity Supplied – ABVH	£111.33
D/D E.on	Electricity Supplied – MLVH	£148.91

Resolved: Payment of the above accounts is approved.

The Clerk reported that the computer she uses for the Parish Council, which is her own, has gone down and asked the Parish Council to consider purchasing a laptop for this purpose and to assist with presentations etc. going forward. The Clerk also requested that consideration be given to a separate mobile telephone for work purposes and the Internet account being transferred to the Parish Council rather than in the Clerk's name to be claimed back. It was suggested that the cost of all these could be shared with Charnock Richard Parish Council. Councillors suggested that the Clerk obtain costs for these and report back on a future agenda.

45. **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.

46. **APPOINTMENT OF PARISH COUNCILLORS** – There are 2 applicants for the Appley Bridge Ward Councillors post, Mr Roger Alexander and Ms Anne Fletcher, and 1 applicant for the Mossy Lea Ward Councillors post, Mr Allan Shaw. It was confirmed that both applicants for the Appley Bridge post are very good candidates, both are articulate and would be beneficial to the Parish Council. It is felt that Mr Alexander's computer experience and website knowledge would be very useful at this time. Councillors agreed that it will be a tough call to choose between the two applicants for the Appley Bridge Ward. The applicant for the Mossy Lea Ward Councillors post has only attended 2 meetings due to illness last month. The Chairman suggested that the applicant should be appointed to the Mossy Lea Ward post this evening as well, as she would not like to think that the Council would discriminate against an applicant on ill health grounds. It was proposed that Mr Alexander be appointed for the Appley Bridge Ward Councillor post and Mr Shaw be appointed to the Mossy Lea Ward Councillor post. Some Councillors feel that this is moving the goalposts set by the Council for applicants to attend 3 meetings and, that there are 2 applicants who have satisfied that who could be appointed to the 2 Parish Council vacancies. The election process as ward Councillors was explained. Councillor Jukes said she would not take part in this. **It was proposed and seconded that Mr Alexander be appointed to the Appley Bridge Ward Councillors post and Mr Shaw be appointed to the Mossy Lea Ward Councillors post provided he attends the September Meeting. An Amendment was made to this proposal, which was seconded, that the Council make a decision to appoint the Appley Bridge Ward Councillor at this Meeting and that a decision on the appointment of the Mossy Lea Ward Councillor is made at the September Parish Council Meeting. Taking the amendment first it was Resolved: on a majority vote that the appointment of an Appley Bridge Ward Councillor will be made tonight and the appointment of a Mossy Lea Ward Councillor in September. Appointment of an Appley Bridge Ward Councillor: - it was proposed, seconded and Resolved: on a majority vote that Mr Roger Alexander is appointed as the Appley Bridge Ward Councillor on Wrightington Parish Council with effect from the September Parish Council Meeting. Ms Fletcher will be informed that she has been unsuccessful at this time.**

47. **DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING**

RESOLVED: That the next Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 20th September 2021 at Appley Bridge Village Hall at 7:30 pm.

Minutes 33 to 47 will be accepted as a correct record and signed by the Chairman at the Meeting to be held on Monday 20th September 2021.

Members of the Public and Press are welcome to attend

Meeting Closed: 10.13 pm

Chairman:

Date:

Minutes – Wrightington Parish Council

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REPORT 1

- a) Notification permission refused for remodelling of existing house, including new windows, doors, flat roof and front extension. 4 Tunley Lane, Wrightington.
- b) Notification certificate of lawfulness permitted for proposed conversion of existing attic space to bedroom, including installation of 2 no. roof windows.
- c) Notification an appeal has been made against the Borough Council decision to refuse permission for retention and renovation of the original two storey stone built property, comprising of new roof tiles, repointing, new windows along with a new door and open pitched porch. Demolition of low quality single extensions and outbuilding. Construction of a new two storey side extension and two storey rear extension with dormer window over a single storey rear ground floor extension. 1 Tunley Lane, Wrightington.
- d) Notification of extension of road closure, Broadhurst Lane, Wrightington – 2/7/21-9/7/21.
- e) Notification that the graffiti has been removed from the fence on Mill Lane, Appley Bridge.
- f) Confirmation that representative details on the Peter Lathom Charity have been updated to reflect the appointment of Councillor Johnson.
- g) Confirmation that your suggested locations for the Library Van will be passed to the operational manager for assessment during possible discussions to alter the route.
- h) Confirmation reported issues with stiles on public footpaths in the Courage Low Lane/Toogood Lane area will be investigated and the landowners contacted.
- i) Confirmation that the public footpaths from Appley Lane North to Finch Lane have been investigated and footpath 3 from the Appley Lane North direction is on the seasonal maintenance schedule, however, footpath 3a from the Finch Lane direction is a vehicular access therefore no vegetation removal will take place at this end as the route is mostly wide enough for 2 vehicles.
- j) Info. on Ash Dieback disease.
- k) Notification that 7 Lancashire Groups have received the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service in this year's announcements.
- l) Invitation to speak at the West Lancs. BC planning committee meeting in relation to the application for a detached house and garage following demolition of the existing building. Land adjoining 15 Church Lane, Wrightington. The Parish Council submitted no objections to this application.

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.