

# WRIGHTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

At the Meeting of the Council of the Parish of Wrightington held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at Mossy Lea Village Hall at 7.30pm the following were present:

Councillors: Mr Hodgkinson (Chairman), Mrs Burton, Mr Johnson, Mrs Jukes, and Mrs Critchley.

## 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.)

Councillor Horridge, Shevington PC, attended to ask for any further information regarding proposals at the quarry in Appley Bridge as, from a cross border point of view, there are concerns. The Parish Council confirmed that they had not received any direct communication as a body on this matter as yet but agreed to keep Shevington PC in the loop if they do. It was confirmed by Councillor Critchley that there had been a Meeting with the Community Association, which she had attended as a Parish Council invited representative, where the plans were laid out and information on how the waste will be brought in was given. The Chairman explained that it was for the owner of the Quarry to give out any information. Mr Maxwell, a resident of Appley Bridge, suggested that it was in the interests of the residents to know any information which had been gained at this stage. The Clerk confirmed that Mr O'Dowd had invited the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and the Clerk to view his proposals as none of them could attend the scheduled meeting with the Community Association that evening and, it was felt that having this information was important to the Parish Council and would be reported back at this Parish Council Meeting. The Clerk confirmed the following information was given whilst viewing the proposals – that East Quarry will be emptied, a process which will take 93 days weather permitting, that the imported inert waste would be brought in by rail to the pad at West Quarry and then transported, via an underground tunnel, to East Quarry, that East Quarry will be filled in segments with a structured build as each segment is filled, that a roundabout and zebra crossings are proposed, and that the proposals included shops fronting Appley Lane North. It was reported that the current existing businesses on the East Quarry side would be re-locating across the road so that all the industry was on West Quarry, along with a commuter car park for use by those accessing the railway station, following which double yellow lines will be requested on Appley Lane North to alleviate parking problems. Councillor Burton confirmed that she had voiced her personal opinion when viewing the proposals that Appley Bridge is an industrial area, providing many jobs for local people, and she feels it should remain so, and that some residents may not want shops. Councillor Jukes asked about the ramifications of having a private meeting with the quarry owner and whether it is appropriate or normal practice for the Chairman and Vice-Chairman to meet with developers. It was confirmed that this was not a private meeting with the Parish Council and the quarry owner, but simply an opportunity for the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Clerk to view the proposals being put before the Community Association later that day. Had they not attended, they would not have been able to report back to the Parish Council or the residents present, who quite rightly stated that they have a right to know. Councillor Jukes continued to voice her opinion on this matter at which point the Chairman asked her to refrain from doing so, as her actions following the previous meeting were not considered appropriate behaviour by a Parish Councillor. Councillor Jukes asked the Chairman to explain what he meant by this, however, the Chairman confirmed that this would become evident and be dealt with as it arose on the Agenda. Councillor Jukes reported that she had not attended the Community Association Meeting, despite being invited and confirming that she would attend. She felt it was useless to attend if she could only present her own views and not represent the views of the residents of Appley Bridge. The Clerk explained to Councillor Jukes that it would have been impossible for her to report the views of the residents as they are currently unaware of Mr O'Dowd's proposals as they have not yet been presented in a public consultation/meeting. Councillor Jukes did not appear to understand that she could have attended as an observer on behalf of the Parish Council reporting back at this Meeting as Councillor Critchley has in fact done. Any views given on the night could only have been her own views as, at this present moment in time, we are unaware of the residents' views on the proposals as they have not been made public. Again this seemed to cause some confusion and Councillor Jukes went on to say that she questioned the integrity of the Parish Councillors who viewed Mr O'Dowd's plans and said it could be construed that they are in the pockets of Mr O'Dowd. At this point Councillor Burton informed

Councillor Jukes that she was on very dangerous territory and that she was extremely upset, offended and insulted by this remark. Councillor Burton again confirmed that neither she nor the Chairman could express the views of the Parish Council whilst viewing the proposals, as they are as yet unknown. The Clerk confirmed that this would have been exactly the case for Councillor Jukes who could have attended the Community Association Meeting but could not have expressed the views of the residents of Appley Bridge because they are similarly as yet unknown. A member of the Community Association present reported that Mr O'Dowd had approached them to brief them of his proposals as a tenant of his building. They thought it appropriate to view the proposals and accepted his offer to meet. Having been told they could invite any other interested parties they invited the Parish Council. It was reported that this was not intended to be a public meeting. They were told that these were early ideas and proposals and are not as yet formulated. The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Clerk had been told that any interested parties could attend the Community Association Meeting, however, this proved not to be the case and some people were told they could not attend. The Clerk reported that it could be construed that the Community Association had a private meeting with the developer and felt it would be unlikely that any minutes of their meeting would be available in the future. The question was again raised – How can we know what the public think of the proposals if they are not made public. The Parish Council agreed to request that Mr O'Dowd or his representative, attend the next Parish Council Meeting to outline his proposals and answer questions on them and also request that he arranges a public consultation on the proposals once firm plans have been drawn up. Both these presentations will allow the residents of Appley Bridge to express their views and give their feedback on the proposals. Mr Mather, a resident of Appley Bridge, asked whether permission was required to empty the quarry. The general feeling was that as the land owner it is probably up to him whether he wants a quarry full of water or an empty quarry however he will need permission to fill it. The Chairman confirmed that if a commuter car park is created on West Quarry the Parish Council will support the request for yellow lines on Appley Lane North. Councillor Jukes asked again that the Chairman's spurious comments be explained during in open forum, however, the Chairman felt this unnecessary and again confirmed that this matter would be dealt with in the appropriate place on the Agenda.

**124. APOLOGIES** – Were received and accepted from Councillor House (illness).

**125. 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.**

**126. MINUTES** – The Minutes of the Budget Meeting and of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2019 had been circulated in advance of the Meeting and were accepted as correct records, and signed by the Chairman.

**127. UPDATE/PROGRESS WITH ISSUES RAISED AT THE PREVIOUS MEETING - Noted.** Moss spraying at Mossy Lea Village Hall will be undertaken by Fir Tree Fishery.

**128. CORRESPONDENCE/INFORMATION ITEMS**

Items reported to, and noted by, the Council – no decision required: REPORT 1 – page 5 – Accepted. Item e) – Reason for refusal of grit bins, is because Skull House Lane is on the priority gritting route. Items h & i) – The Chairman confirmed that this is the item to which he referred in Open Forum. Councillor Jukes's attendance at Shevington PC and subsequent correspondence with Wigan BC officers was not authorised by the Parish Council. It was confirmed that Councillor Jukes should have requested permission at the previous Parish Council Meeting to attend Shevington PC meeting and speak as a Wrightington Parish Councillor. Furthermore, any correspondence should be undertaken through the Clerk unless otherwise authorised by the Parish Council. In addition to this it was pointed out to Councillor Jukes that she is a member of Wrightington Parish Council, as Appley Bridge and Wrightington Parish Council does not exist. She is an Appley Bridge Ward Councillor on Wrightington Parish Council, which serves the whole of Wrightington, Mossy Lea Ward and Appley Bridge Ward. Councillor Jukes apologised for using the incorrect title. Councillor Jukes confirmed her view that there should be stronger cross-communication with Shevington PC on cross border issues. Councillor Burton confirmed that cross communication has always taken place on any matter affecting both Parishes.

In light of these misunderstandings, Councillor Critchley enquired about the possibility of induction training for new Councillors. The Clerk will report back on this at the next Meeting.

Item j) – Standing Orders were suspended to allow a resident present to ask about the contents of the letter regarding liability and responsibility in relation to trees. It was confirmed that this only referred to trees which are the responsibility of the Parish Council and not all trees. The meeting re-convened.

Items requiring discussion, observations or action by the Council:

- a) Current position with the easement to help with flooding on Mossy Lea Road – **The deed has been agreed, now awaiting agreement to the plan forming part of the Deed – Noted.**
- b) Copy email sent to Highways LCC regarding the stone bridge over the River Douglas – **Missing coping stones on the bridge – The Council will ask for clarification of where the coping stones are and when they will be replaced.**
- c) Email regarding the West Lancs. BC maps notice board on the Mill Lane side of the bridge – The board referred to belongs to West Lancs. BC – **Noted.**
- d) Info. and details on the Great British Spring Clean Up 2019 – Last year the schools tidied their own grounds. **Last year there were 3 volunteers in Mossy Lea who litter picked but none in Appley Bridge. It was reported that there is a lady in Appley Bridge and a gentleman on Robin Hood Lane who regularly litter pick voluntarily. The Community Association has organised some litter picks with the help of the guides and other volunteers – The Clerk will liaise with the Community Association and West Lancs. BC re: the provision of bags to collect the litter, borrowing some litter pickers, and collection points for collection of bags once litter picking is complete.**
- e) Notification that, and invitation to bid for, CIL monies available to fund infrastructure projects in West Lancashire and for info/updates on existing schemes – **3 schemes are already on the list for Wrightington i) Improved drainage at Mossy Lea playing fields ii) Improvements to the play area/field at Appley Lane South iii) Park and ride facilities and accessibility improvements in Appley Bridge – Resolved – The Parish Council continue to support these 3 priorities i) and ii) to be pursued by West Lancs. BC as owners of the playing fields/play areas and iii) by Network Rail.**
- f) Late items received which may require discussion/action/observations – i) Confirmation from West Lancs. BC that the recycled plastic picnic benches chosen by the Parish Council for Mossy Lea play area are suitable and that they are happy to install them provided the Parish Council are happy to contribute toward future maintenance and upkeep of the benches – **Resolved – The Parish Council agree to responsibility for ongoing maintenance and upkeep and will now order 2 x recycled plastic picnic benches in black and green.** ii) Request from CPRE to support a deposit return system on bottles, cans and cartons and support a litter free future – **Resolved – the Parish Council will support this as a body and Councillors may do so as individuals if they wish.** iii) Nomination papers were distributed to Parish Councillors for completion and submission, for their respective wards, in the forthcoming Parish Council elections. Completed and approved nomination papers must be submitted by 4pm on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2019 to be considered. The Clerk reported an email enquiry from Mr Julian Chambers regarding joining the Parish Council. The Clerk advised Mr Chambers to apply to join the Parish Council in the same way that existing Councillors will re-apply for their office. All election and nomination details were given to Mr Chambers so that he could apply. The Clerk can be contacted for advice on completing the nomination papers if required – **Noted.**

## 129. HIGHWAYS AND ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

- It was reported that all the signs on the highway from junction 27 of the motorway, along Crow Orchard Road, Hall Lane and Appley Lane North are either obstructed by overgrown vegetation or are dirty and need cleaning.
- The grid outside the Methodist Church on Skull House Lane has sunk and needs attention.
- The Council will again request the yellow speed concern signs in the Parish.
- Many of the following on Councillor Johnsons list still need to be addressed: Grass needs strimming around hazard markers on Mossy Lea Road – 2 gullies are blocked at the bottom of Broadhurst Lane – 2 blocked gullies in front of 386 Mossy Lea Road are causing flooding –

chevrons are missing on the bend on Church Lane – road gullies are blocked at the Mossy Lea Road/Church Lane junction – 2 gullies remain blocked on Raby Fold Farm Drive – the Wrightington name sign outside 162/164 Mossy Lea Road is in poor condition – the bus shelter near Chisnall Avenue needs cleaning – bollards have been damaged at the end of the old road adjacent to BP garage – carriageway is breaking up at the junction of Mossy Lea Road/Boundary Lane – the request for double yellow lines at the junction of Manse Avenue and Mossy Lea Road remains in place.

- Public footpath 21 is overgrown, muddy and, there is a lot of dog fouling along the route.
- It was confirmed, Mossy Lea School has a new Head Teacher (Mr Percival). It is now partnering with St George's School, Chorley. The school admissions are going well.
- Update on the upgrading of footpath 21, Moss Lane to Mossy Lea Road, to a bridleway.
- Councillor Burton asked if it is possible to obtain posters from crime-stoppers for display around the village with regard to knife crime. The Clerk will make enquiries.

**130. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES** – The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Clerk attended the offices of Mr O'Dowd, the owner of East and West Quarry, to view the plans/proposals for the Quarry which Mr O'Dowd was presenting to the Community Association at a meeting that evening, which none of the above could attend. Councillor Critchley attended the Meeting at the Community Association where the plans/proposals were presented. A report on this matter was given in Open Forum. Nothing more to add.

**131. ACTION REQUIRED TO SATISFY AUDIT REQUIREMENTS - Resolved: The Parish Council confirmed the following action has been taken throughout the year to satisfy audit requirements:** i) The Risk Assessment/Management Plan/Register – were reviewed and adopted at the May 2018 Parish Council Meeting. ii) The effectiveness of the Internal Audit was confirmed – the Internal Auditor is both competent and independent, has no relationship with the Clerk or Councillors. The Audit trail is detailed, planned and the broad scope of the internal audit covers all aspects of the Councils business including financial, administrative, practical and procedural matters. Any issues arising from both the internal and external auditors are reported to the Parish Council at the earliest opportunity and the appropriate action taken. It was **Resolved** – **That Mrs Stewart be appointed to undertake the 2018/19 Parish Council Internal Audit.**

### **132. VILLAGE HALLS**

**MOSSY LEA** – Yoga- Tuesdays £140.00. Children's party £40.00. Reiki £20. Sunday Embroidery Class £50. Councillor Johnson agreed to open and lock the village hall for the Yoga class on Thursday.

**APPLEY BRIDGE** – specifications for the entrance barrier for agreement to proceed – **Resolved** – **A custom made barrier, white with reflective strips, will be ordered and installed by Whitehill Direct at a suitable location at the entrance to the car park, with multiple keys. Total cost approx £900 + the cost of additional signage and multiple keys for village hall users.** It was reported that some of the parked cars belong to residents of Lowther Terrace who access the car park using the side gate – **Resolved** – **a padlock will be put on this gate to restrict access to the car park which, once the barrier is installed, will only be available for village hall users and parents at school times.**

Councillors agreed that roller blinds at the new windows in the village hall are a good idea. Further discussions on this subject will take place in the next financial year.

Notification from West Lancs. BC - the Non-Domestic rate bill for both village halls will be nil – **Noted.**

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

- 1) 2019/0138/FUL Variation of Condition 2 of planning permission 2018/0251/FUL to read: The development hereby approved shall be carried out in accordance with details shown on plans received by the planning authority on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2018 and 15<sup>th</sup> February 2019. Wrightington Hospital, Hall Lane, Wrightington. **Resolved: No Objections.**
- 2) 2019/0098/FUL Application for variation of Condition No10 of planning permission 2018/0941/FUL relating to Regulation 55 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. Richardson's Farms, Finch Lane, Appley Bridge. **Resolved: No Objections.**
- 3) 2019/0139/FUL Single storey rear extension to a semi detached dwelling. 12 Ashfield Terrace, Appley Bridge. **Resolved: No Objections.**

- 4) 2019/0173/FUL To site a shipping container which will be transformed in to an Artisan Style Coffee Shop. To grade and re-level the existing ground conditions to create customer parking facilities. Land adjacent to 51 Skull House Lane, Appley Bridge.

**Resolved: No Objections.**

**134. LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS – Newquay TC National Parking Enforcement Survey – **Noted.****

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

**For Payment:**

|                   |  |        |         |
|-------------------|--|--------|---------|
| Defib Store Ltd   | Replacement pads for Defibs                  |        | £462.00 |
| Mr F Johnson      | Windows MLVH                                 |        | £15.00  |
| Mrs C A Cross     | Reimburse Internet Charges 2018- 2019 (50%)  | £60.00 |         |
|                   | Mobile Tel. Charges for past 12 months (50%) | £87.00 | £147.00 |
| Mrs C A Cross     | Reimburse Mileage Expenses 2018 – 2019       |        | £191.70 |
| Mrs C A Cross     | Clerk’s Salary – Net                         |        | £751.57 |
| HM Rev. & Customs | Tax & NI due by Clerk                        | £6.76  |         |
|                   | NI due by Parish Council                     | £7.77  | £14.53  |
| The Wiper Co.     | Toilet Rolls and hand towels Village Halls   |        | £58.80  |
| D/D E.on          | Electricity use ABVH                         |        | £32.80  |
| D/D British Gas   | Gas use at ABVH                              |        | £341.02 |

**Resolved: Payment of the above accounts is approved.**

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

RESOLVED: That the next Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2019 at Appley Bridge Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Minutes 124 to 136 will be accepted as a correct record and signed by the Chairman at the Meeting to be held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2019.

Members of the Public and Press are welcome to attend

Meeting Closed: 9.35 pm

Chairman:

Date:

**REPORT 1**

- a) Notification an appeal has been made against the West Lancs. BC decision to refuse permission for demolition of existing stable block and a part demolition of stable block. To construct a detached dwelling, detached single garage and bike store. Tunley Moss Stables, Tunley Lane.
- b) Notification that piping of part of the ditch and building of a new headwall before installing the new fence at Courage Low Lane will start within the next 4 weeks.
- c) Confirmation that the wall built in front of 113 Skull House Lane was permitted development.
- d) Confirmation that the clear water running off Treetops, Broadhurst Lane is not from the septic tank and has been reported to LCC by the Environmental Health Dept at West Lancs. BC.
- e) Confirmation that both sites on Skull House Lane i) at the junction with Appley Lane North and ii) near the Methodist Church, do not meet the criteria for the provision of a grit bin as Skull House Lane is on the gritting route.
- f) Notification that works have been completed on public footpaths 2 and 2a and the routes reopened.
- g) Notification of a temporary road closure on Carr House Lane, Wrightington, and Mill Lane, Charnock Richard, from 8am on 25<sup>th</sup> April until 5pm on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April to allow for carriageway works.
- h) Copy correspondence to Councillor Jukes from Paul Collins at Wigan Council regarding potential impact on congestion of the local plan proposals.
- i) Copy correspondence from Councillor Jukes to David Kearsley, Wigan Council, regarding ongoing work at junction 27 and cross border communication.
- j) Details of responsibility and liability for trees by Parish Councils from the BHIB Insurance.