

At the Annual Meeting of the Wrightington Parish Council held on Monday 18th May 2026 at Appley Bridge Village Hall at 7.30pm the following were present:

Councillors: Ms K Jukes (Chair), Mrs J Burton (Vice Chairman), Mr. L Burton, Mr Hugh Carey, Ms A Fletcher, Mrs H. Ainscough and Mr J Ashurst, Clerk

Members of the Public were also present

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 Chair welcomed those present to the Annual Meeting of the Wrightington Parish Council being held on 18th May 2026 and asked everyone to treat each other with respect, and respect everyone's points of view by opening the meeting at 7.30pm.

Several members of the Public wished to speak and firstly congratulated Cllr. Jukes on her reappointment to the West Lancs Borough Council.

Ian McCleod, the Managing Director of Northern Diver wished to speak having previously requested permission. At this point Cllr. Jukes left the Meeting. Mr. McCleod asked to distribute documentation and wished to point out the benefits of the car park on Appley Lane North which he argued would be a great benefit both to Northern Diver and the Community as a whole by alleviating any parking problems on the main road. Members of the public were welcome to inspect the arrangements.

Cllr Jukes rejoined the Meeting at 7.35 then promptly left again when another Speaker commented that Northern Diver had allegedly consistently operated outside of the law as regards access to the car park which had been built allegedly on designated green belt land and not adhered to enforcement conditions.

Another Speaker commented that there was no justification for a Helipad and the safety aspect was an issue.

Another Speaker commented that if permission for a car park was not granted then parking on the road would be an issue.

Another Speaker commented that Northern Diver had already expanded the building and asked why they did not just move.

At this point Cllr. Jukes returned to the Meeting at 7.45 and closed Open Form.

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN AND DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

Cllr. Jukes was proposed by Cllr. Fletcher and seconded by Cllr. Ainscough. **It was resolved unanimously** that Cllr. Jukes be appointed Chairman which she accepted and signed the Declaration of Acceptance Form accordingly.

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN AND DECLARATION OF

ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE Cllr. Ainscough was proposed by Cllr. Jukes and seconded by Cllr. Fletcher. Cllr. L. Burton was proposed by Cllr. J. Burton but without a seconder the nomination could not go forward. Consequently, **it was resolved unanimously** to appoint Cllr. Ainscough as Vice Chair which she accepted and signed the Declaration of Acceptance Form accordingly.

3. **APOLOGIES** – Cllrs. H. Kelsall and S. Roberts
4. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** Cllr Juckes declared an interest as follows:
In the interests of openness and transparency I, Cllr K Juckes, wish it to be recorded that I was in a land dispute which was legally decided in November 2023.
5. **ADOPTION OF NALC MODEL STANDING ORDERS** (adjusted to fit the Parish Council's needs), **ACCOUNTS & FINANCIAL REGULATIONS, AND COUNCILLORS CODE OF CONDUCT, TOGETHER WITH VILLAGE HALL CONSTITUTIONS, COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE, PUBLICATION SCHEME & INFORMATION AVAILABLE UNDER THE PUBLICATION SCHEME, RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN, RISK MANAGEMENT REGISTER, ASSET REGISTER, TRAINING POLICY, ANNUAL AUDIT PLAN, DOCUMENT RETENTION POLICY, GRANT POLICY & DATA PROTECTION POLICY.**

It was resolved to adopt last year's practice to accept the policies and procedures as is and to review the policies throughout the year starting with the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations at the next Meeting.
6. **TIMETABLE OF WRIGHTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS FOR 2026/27**

The following timetable of Meetings is recommended for 2026-2027:

2026

18 May Appley Bridge Village Hall, Appley Lane North, Appley Bridge
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 7.00 PM

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL 7.30 PM

15 June Mossy Lea Village Hall, Mossy Lea Road, Wrightington - 7.30pm

20 July Appley Bridge Village Hall, Appley Lane North, Appley Bridge –
7.30pm

17 August Mossy Lea Village Hall, Mossy Lea Road, Wrightington - 7.30pm

21 September Appley Bridge Village Hall, Appley Lane North, Appley Bridge -
7.30pm

19 October Mossy Lea Village Hall, Mossy Lea Road, Wrightington - 7.30pm

16 November Appley Bridge Village Hall, Appley Lane North, Appley Bridge -
7.30pm

21 December Mossy Lea Village Hall, Mossy Lea Road, Wrightington - 7.30pm
2027

18 January Appley Bridge Village Hall, Appley Lane North, Appley Bridge -
7.30pm

BUDGET MEETING 6.30 PM

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 7.30 PM

15 February Mossy Lea Village Hall, Mossy Lea Road, Wrightington - 7.30pm

15 March Appley Bridge Village Hall, Appley Lane North, Appley Bridge -
7.30pm

19 April Mossy Lea Village Hall, Mossy Lea Road, Wrightington - 7.30pm

17 May Appley Bridge Village Hall, Appley Lane North, Appley Bridge -
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 7.00 PM
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL 7.30 PM

Members of the Public and Press are Welcome to Attend. Meetings will be held on the third Monday of the month and commence at 7.30pm, unless otherwise stated in the timetable

7. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

It was proposed by Cllr. Jukes and seconded by Cllr. Carey that all Committees be abolished. **It was unanimously resolved** to abolish all Committees.

8. APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

It was resolved to abolish the Borough Liaison Committee

It was resolved that the Representative for the Village Hall (National VH group) would be Cllr. Carey.

It was resolved that the Representative to the Appley Bridge Community Association would be Cllr. Carey.

It was resolved that Representatives to LALC's West Lancs Area Committee would be the Clerk and Cllr. Jukes.

It was resolved that Cllr. Jukes would be the Representative to the Richard Durning Charity.

It was resolved that Cllr. Jukes would check with former Cllr. Johnson if he still wished to continue as a Rep on the Peter Lathom Charity

9. MINUTES *The amendment to The Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 16th March 2026 regarding Minute 157 work at the ABVH was unanimously agreed.*

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 20th April 2026. Cllr Jukes requested an amendment regarding the vote relating to 36 Manse Avenue to show that it was Cllr. J Burton who requested the named vote. **It was resolved** that the Minutes would be amended accordingly and signed at the next Meeting as a true record

10. PLANNING MATTERS

1. **Plan App. 2026/0300/FUL Northern Diver Building, East Quarry, Appley Lane North.** At this point Cllr. Jukes left the Meeting at 8.10 pm. and Vice Chair Cllr Ainscough took over. Debate followed but was curtailed by the proposal from Cllr. Carey seconded by Cllr. Fletcher that the Council make no comment at this time awaiting a response from professional agencies. **It was unanimously resolved** to do this. Cllr Jukes returned to the Meeting at 8..20
2. **Plan App.2026/0314/FUL Spodley Brook Farm House, Finch Lane.** Council raised no objection.
3. **Plan App. 2026/0362/PIP Verian, Tunley Lane, Wrightington.** Council raised no objection

4. **Plan App. 2026/0282/FUL 10 Finch Lane, Appley Bridge.** Council raised no objection.
5. **Plan App. 2026/0288/FUL 33, Skull House Lane Appley Bridge** Council raised no objection.
6. **Plan App. 2026/0108/ FUL 36, Manse Avenue Wrightington . Permission Refused.**
7. **Plan App. 2025/1035/FUL 372 Mossy Lea Road, Wrightington. Permission Granted**
8. **Plan App. 2025/0978/FUL Sandhole Farm, 7, Wrightington Bar. Permission Granted.**
9. **Plan App. 2026/0289/FUL Land at Blackthorn House, Skull House Lane Appley Bridge** Council raised no objection
10. **Plan App. 0146/LDP 8 Carr Lane Wrightington Decision Refused/Granted (Split)**

11. CORRESPONDENCE / INFORMATION ITEMS.

Items to be reported and noted by the Council – no decision required: REPORT 1 on page 3. **It was resolved** to accept the Report apart from item b) which was deferred to the West Quarry item on the Agenda.

Items requiring observations, discussions or action by the Council:

- a) E mail from West Lancs' Cathy Murphy regarding acceptance of Concurrent Grant Funding of £2381.00 for 2026/27. **It was resolved** to accept this
- b) E mail from Clear Councils regarding renewal of WPC Council's Insurance Policy. **It was resolved** to renew this
- c) Late items received which may require discussion/action/observations.- None

12. EAST QUARRY Nil report.

13. WEST QUARRY AND PAD

At this point Cllr. Juckes left the meeting again at 8.35pm . The Email from West Lancs' Paul Chadwick dated 5/5/26 regarding East and West Quarries at Appley Bridge was again referred to and its contents debated. A proposal was made by Cllr. Carey and seconded by Cllr. Ainscough that the Clerk be instructed to write to West Lanc's Paul Chadwick respectfully requesting written, statistical, photographic and cartographic evidence of your monitoring of the enforcement criteria in relation to Appeal Reference 3339918. The Council wishes to be able to make an informed decision as to the reliability of the enforcement process and procedures enacted by WLBC. This information is respectfully requested but the Council wishes to inform you that in the event of the information not being forthcoming, an application will be made for it under the Freedom of Information Act.. A copy of the request to be sent to all 3 Borough Councillors. **It was unanimously resolved** to do this

Non Specific Agenda Items Cllr. J. Burton raised the issue of Agenda items being placed repetitively on the Agenda without the specific issue being identified. Consequently, an issue was being debated and voted on before Councillors and the Public had been made aware that this was going to happen and before Councillors had been given the opportunity to look at the problem as they were supposed to do.

The Clerk advised as to the correct legal procedure for the compilation of the Agenda for Meetings as stated in various legislation notably the Local Government Act 1972 as currently amended and the Council's own Standing Orders. Some Councillors were still not satisfied, and it was proposed and seconded that the Clerk provide legal representation to show how a correct Agenda should be compiled and adhered to. This was unanimously agreed

14. HIGHWAYS AND ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

a) SPIDS . No report

15. VILLAGE HALLS

Mossy Lea:

The Clerk reported that the new chairs have been out of stock but the order will be progressed and Councillors notified as soon as they are available again

Appley Bridge:

Cellar refurbishment. Still no report from West Lancs so the Clerk was asked to send a reminder to West Lancs' Surveyor, Tom Hill

Gas Bill The latest bill seemed reasonable. Cllr. Carey commented that he would be prepared to check the usage but could not do so without the Username and Password of the account.

Window Cleaning **It was resolved** that the window cleaner would be paid from the Village Hall account

16. FINANCE / ACCOUNTS

It was resolved to approve the following Receipts and Payments for April/May 2026:-

Payments::

J. Ashurst Clerk's Salary (net) to 30th April '26	£1022.79
J. Ashurst Clerk's PAYE for April 2026	£255.60
J Ashurst Employers NIC for April 2026	£129.21
J. Ashurst Clerk's Exes (Mileage) to 18/5/26	£48.02
J. Ashurst Ink Cartridges	£23.96
D/D Waterplus ABVH Water Charges May 2026	£43.91
D/D Brit Gas MLVH Gas Usage April /May 2026	£125.16
Starboard Sys. Monthly Scribe Subscription May 26	£37.20

D/D Unity Bank Bank Charges for April 2026	£7.00
D/D Easyweb Provision of Website Services April 26	£58.08
D/D Eon Next Electricity Charges MLVH Feb/April 26	£193.33
D/D ICO ICO Data Protection Certificate 26/27	£47.00
LALC Membership Fees 26/27	£523.24
Fire Eq. Servs Annual Fire Inspection	£39.34
D/D CPRE Annual Subscription	£60.00
DKL Services Work at ABVH	£3680.00
Thermagas Toilet Work at ABVH	£2261.40
Clear Councils Insurance Policy Renewal 26/27	£2224.58
D/D Brit Gas ABVH Gas Usage Apr/May 2026	£157.23
D/D BT Broadband Services May 2026	£76.68

Receipts:

WLBC Half 26/27 Precept	£11150.00
WLBC CIL Payment 26/27	£2706.39

Monthly Budget Report and Bank Reconciliation

It was resolved to accept the **bank reconciliation as at 31st March 2026**, the **Income and Expenditure Account for 25/26** and **Balance Sheet as at 31/3/26** which were signed by the Chair

It was resolved to accept the **Bank Reconciliation as at 30/4/26** and the **Monthly Income and Expenditure report to 30/4/26** which was signed by the Chair

Annual Insurance Premium for 26/27 **It was resolved unanimously** to accept Clear Councils Insurance Policy Renewal terms for 26/27 at a premium of £2224.58 .

It was noted that The Financial Statement and Annual Governance Statement (AGAR) for the year ending 31 March 2026, will be presented to the Council for approval as an accurate statement of accounts the next Meeting prior to submission to the external auditors.

17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

18. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING Monday 15 June 2026 at 7.30pm At Mossy Lea Village Hall

Members of the Public and Press are welcome to attend

Meeting Closed at 9.07 p.m.

Chairman:

Date

REPORT 1

- a) Reply from Environment Agency regarding Pollution Incident at Leeds/ Liverpool Canal at Appley Bridge dated 8/5/26
- b) Email from West Lancs' Paul Chadwick dated 5/5/26 regarding East and West Quarries at Appley Bridge
- c) Email from West Lancs' Kevin Walker dated 5/5/26 regarding Mossy Lea Road Play Area

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