

WRIGHTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

At the Meeting of the Council of the Parish of Wrightington held on Monday 18th October 2021 at Mossy Lea Village Hall at 7.30pm the following were present:

Councillors: Mrs J Burton (Chairman), Mr F Johnson, Mr F Hodgkinson, Mr A Shaw, Mrs K Jukes, and Mr C House. Also present 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 September Meeting and asked that everyone treat each other with respect when asking or answering questions and respect everyone's views including Councillors'. A representative of ABCA, who look after The Meadows, was present and asked the Parish Council to assist in contacting the Canals and River Trust in relation to the poor state of the car park at canal bank. Some of the parking spaces are obstructed by a large bale of hay and a mound of clay taken out of the canal. It was reported that anti-social behaviour has become a problem here, with fires being lit, drug dealing taking place and vandalism at The Meadows. The PCSO is aware of the problems. The Parish Council were asked to contact Canals and River Trust to highlight the problems and to support the ABCA reports. Councillor Jukes reported land ownership issues here some time ago and that she is now in touch with higher bosses as there is a significant amount of work being undertaken from both the Wigan and Parbold direction. This particular section of the canal is blight and needs attention.

It was suggested that the Parish Council could ask Old Hall Brass Band to do a Christmas Concert again at Appley Bridge Village Hall. This would be something positive in the village. Exploring the possibility of moving the band around the pubs in the village to help/support the local businesses, with some financial input from ABCA to support this, was suggested. The Council will liaise with the Brass Band.

It was reported that families in the village are sad that the village is split by the proposals and possible future proposals for the Quarries. Following a request from a member of the public present the Clerk read aloud correspondence item 5d), which mentions the Parish Council response to the planning application for the installation of a ramp at East Quarry and the suggestion that a separate Appley Bridge Parish Council be formed. It was confirmed that Wrightington PC had no objections to the ramp if it would ensure that the quarry could be emptied safely. It was confirmed that Shevington PC did not submit an objection to the planning application. It was reported that whilst the Parish Council had no objections to the planning application some Parish Councillors did attend the planning committee meeting at which this was discussed and spoke against the application. Some of the residents present confirmed that they were in favour of draining the quarry. They have young children and have experienced first-hand the nuisance and anti-social behaviour that occurs every summer from those swimming in the Quarry. It was reported that residents are policing some of the shops locally to prevent theft, nuisance and anti-social behaviour. They have been followed home by large groups of youths. Some store owners have to employ security to address these problems. A member of the public present confirmed that the abstraction licence granted is to drain 70% of the water out of the quarry, the owner will then have to obtain permission to drain the remainder. It was agreed that there is no quick fix for the problems but, that the quarry is currently dead space which is causing problems in the village. It is felt that everyone should be involved in discussions on the future of the quarry. A resident clarified that the quarry owner has already installed part of the proposed ramp without planning permission and feels that enforcement measures should be taken to make him remove it or put a planning application in. The problems over summer of youths coming to the village to use the site illegally are problems for everyone, which result in damage to other amenities, intimidation, verbal abuse and theft. A statement from the Premiere Shop manager at Randalls Corner, outlining the problems he experienced, the nuisance, the theft, the intimidation, the racial abuse and the threats of shooting he received, was read aloud. The loss of business as regular and elderly customers stopped going to the shop. Theft of £150-£200 worth of stock per day, the cost of employing security at £140 per day, makes business unsustainable. The installation of panic buttons and additional CCTV cameras for security and the safety of staff. When a resident approached the youths waiting for a train back to Liverpool he was the subject of an assault with a brick which required stitches. Eccleston Delph was reported as being a good facility and an example of what can be done with a quarry. It was suggested that the short term solution is to fence the site properly and provide adequate security. Councillor Hodgkinson reported that

in 1992 the quarry was virtually emptied, the feeder stream stopped and the water drained away. As soon as the dam at the top was re-opened the quarry quickly filled up again. Therefore, it can be assumed based on local knowledge, that it could be drained again.

An update on improvements to the play equipment at Appley Lane South was requested. It was reported that it was believed that approx. £50,000 was available for an improvement scheme prior to the retirement of the two Borough Council officers involved. The Clerk provided an update. There is no £50,000 available, only £18,000 at this stage for some minor upgrades which will hopefully be completed before the end of the financial year. The Clerk confirmed to West Lancs. BC that the offer to purchase 2 x recycled plastic picnic benches by the Parish Council, for siting on the play area remains in place.

Councillor Jukes confirmed that she did a walkabout at the playing field which has been neglected and is a disgrace. She will be pushing for improvements. Councillor Jukes confirmed that she has reported the recent erection of a large metal structure in front of Northern Diver and has asked the Borough Council Enforcement Officer to investigate this.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and for their input and closed Open Forum.

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Shaw to the Parish Council as a Mossy Lea Ward Councillor.

63. **APOLOGIES** - Were received and accepted from Councillors Mr J Chambers (work) and Mr R Alexander (illness).
64. **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.**
65. **MINUTES** – The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 20th September 2021 had been circulated in advance of the Meeting – Councillor Jukes did not agree with the Minutes as she was not happy with the way the applicant for the Parish Council vacancy was treated. The Clerk confirmed that this was irrelevant when considering if the Minutes were a correct record of the proceedings of the previous meeting. It was proposed, seconded and **Resolved** – on a majority vote, that the Minutes were accepted as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

66. **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) Parish Council briefing on Local Plan by West Lancs. BC – Virtual Briefing Monday 1st Nov – In person Briefing Thursday 4th Nov, West Lancs. BC offices, 10.30 am — **Noted.**
- b) Confirmation of the conclusion of external audit of the Parish Council accounts for the year ending 31/3/21 by PKF Littlejohn LLP with no matters arising requiring attention/action - **Agreed: The completed audit with no matters arising requiring attention/action is accepted & approved.**
- c) Email complaint from Parish Council applicant in relation to the process and appointment of a Mossy Lea Ward Councillor on Wrightington PC at the September Meeting – **The Chairman explained that proper procedure was followed at the July and September Parish Council Meetings. At the July Council Meeting where applications were initially discussed, (by a full Council with all then serving Parish Councillors present), the Council resolved to appoint an Appley Bridge Ward Councillor at that Meeting and defer appointing a Mossy Lea Ward Councillor until the September Meeting. At the Meeting of the full Parish Council in September, (with all then serving Parish Councillors present), the Minutes of the July Meeting were accepted as a correct record. At the September Parish Council Meeting both applications were considered. Proposals were made, and following the proper democratic process a vote was taken. On a majority vote the successful applicant was appointed to the role of Mossy Lea Ward Councillor on Wrightington Parish Council. The Clerk was instructed to explain this process to the complainant.**

- d) Email from a resident of Appley Bridge who attended the July Parish Council Meeting requesting that the suggestion for a separate Appley Bridge Parish Council be taken forward – Read aloud. **Councillor House confirmed he would not be taking part in this process and that he represents everyone in his position as Parish Councillor. Councillor Jukes confirmed she would go with the wishes of the electorate. It is now obvious that Appley Bridge is divided over the future of East Quarry. The process for creating a new Parish Council was briefly outlined and requires a percentage of the electorate to petition the Borough Council to undertake a Community Governance Review to see if a new/separate local Council should be created. The Clerk was instructed to forward the information on this process to the originator of the email and suggest he contact the Appley Bridge Ward Councillors on the Parish Council to discuss taking this forward, with the exception of Councillor House. On the next Agenda.**
- e) Consultation from West Lancs. BC on the Draft CIL Funding Programme for 2022/23 for comments or observations – **No comment.**
- f) Late items received which may require discussion/action/observations for the next Agenda – i) notification of an immediate road closure at Broadhurst Lane, Wrightington, 18/10/21-22/10/21 to enable urgent drainage works to be undertaken by LCC – **Noted.**

67. HIGHWAYS AND ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

- Councillor Johnson reiterated items from his list of matters to report including – Overgrown grass verges obstructing hazard markers, Mossy Lea Road – Blocked drains, Broadhurst Lane – Blocked culvert, Broadhurst Lane – Yellow water flowing down carriageway from Lower Broadhurst Farm – Fly-tipping on the old road r/o BP garage.
- Speeding vehicles Mossy Lea Road, Moss Lane, Toogood Lane, Courage Low Lane, Appley Lane North and Appley Lane South remain an issue. Speed markers/roundels on the road will be requested on Mossy Lea Road when turning right out of Boundary Lane.
- SPID's – Solar powered, permanently located SPID's are approximately £3000, which includes purchase of the SPID and payment to LCC for associated highway engineering works required to locate them. LCC will need to approve locations and grant a licence to put the SPID there. They will need to install the necessary street furniture to locate the SPID on. The cost of moveable SPID's will also be investigated. It was reported that many neighbouring Parishes have acquired SPID's using CIL money. The Council will request that LCC put the mobile SPID on Mossy Lea Road and Appley Lane North.
- Councillor Jukes reported meeting with County Councillor Fillis over a number of traffic issues around Appley Bridge and Mossy Lea. CC Fillis feels double yellow lines near Appley Bridge Village Hall will only displace the parked vehicles. All Saints School on Finch Lane is the only school with no 20mph flashing school lights, Councillor Jukes is looking into this. Councillor Jukes has requested Community Speed Concern signs on Appley Lane North, Appley Lane South, Hall Lane and Skull House Lane. Visitors to the Vale Methodist Church are parking on a hairpin bend which is very dangerous. Councillor Jukes has discussed this with the Minister and approached businesses nearby to ask if their car parks can be used by visitors to the Church. The exit from Courage Low Lane onto Moss Lane is difficult to negotiate, it is steep and sightlines are poor. Councillor Jukes will look into these matters.
- It was agreed that County Councillor Fillis be invited to the November Parish Council Meeting.
- It was reported that ivy and overgrowth remains in the bus shelter on Wood Lane.
- An update on litter and dog waste bins will be requested.
- A request will be made for dog fouling posters.
- Progress with Covid-19 benches and a letter box for Mossy Lea VH are on-going.
- Anti-social behaviour at Mossfields remains an issue. The nuisance is now a regular occurrence. Residents are frightened to come forward with information for fear of repercussions. The Parish Council will contact the Borough Council for an update. Councillor Jukes reported that the Police and the Borough Council are involved and that there is an on-going Police investigation. An update is hoped for this week.
- Parked vehicles on Mossy Lea Road, remains an issue, obstructing the footway in some cases.
- It was confirmed that the Clerk has forwarded the information and contact details in relation to the offer of allotments from a local resident to the Borough Council to pursue.

- 68. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES** – The Chairman attended the LALC Area Committee Meeting on zoom which was very useful and informative. The Clerk attended the LALC Finance Workshop which provided some useful updates and information on effective management of Parish Council finances.
- 69. REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY – 14th NOVEMBER 2021 – Confirmed** – Attendees will meet at the War Memorial at 10.30 am, the Remembrance Service will start at 10.45 am and the Act of Remembrance at 11.00 am. Refreshments will be available afterwards at Appley Bridge Village Hall. 300 Orders of Service will be printed and available for collection at the Community Centre along with the wreath for the occasion. The necessary invitations/notifications will be sent out.
- 70. VILLAGE HALLS**
MOSSY LEA – £50 for use of the hall by Ladies Who Walk. Quotation to upgrade CCTV system – confirmation - cameras will have night vision and quality is sufficient to be used as evidence in court – **Resolved – Unanimously, that the upgrade to the system, including the addition of an extra internal camera proceed.** Confirmation from West Lancs. BC Estates and Valuation Manager, proposals to extend the hall seem acceptable in principle but formal consent can only be given once plans and elevations have been supplied – **Resolved – Unanimously, that this project be taken forward. Plans will be required to submit to West Lancs. BC for approval. Councillor Hodgkinson agreed to assist with this.**
APPLEY BRIDGE – Supply and Installation of a 165w Flood light, PIR, Time clock, sundries – to illuminate the car park. £520.00 + VAT – **Resolved – Unanimously, that work to install improved outdoor/car park lighting proceed.**
- 71. PLANNING** To discuss the following applications:
- The following applications received/reported at the September Meeting were circulated to Councillors for observations to be ratified at this Meeting.
 No observations were submitted as insufficient responses were received from Parish Councillors:
- 1) 2021/1057/FUL Retention of concrete silo; Industrial Canopy Shelter; Site office; Storage silo, Water Storage Tank; Shipping Containers and Weighbridge. Chorley Concrete Ltd, Skull House Lane, Appley Bridge. **No observations submitted.**
 - 2) 2021/1071/PNH Application for determination as to whether prior approval of details is required – Extension of dwellinghouse. Dimensions from rear wall of original dwellinghouse – 6m, max height 3.7m, height to eaves 2.35m. 132 Appley Lane North, Appley Bridge. **No observations submitted.**
- Councillor Jukes reported that she had called in application 2021/1057/FUL for discussion by the planning committee. It was suggested that if Councillor Jukes knew that there were concerns or objections to the proposals the Parish Council should have been made aware of this.
- The Clerk asked whether there was a particular reason that the majority of Appley Bridge Ward Councillors were not responding to emails. It was confirmed that some Councillors preferred to respond by telephone, which is also acceptable. However, if changes are required to prompt responses the Clerk will need to know this. If a response to an email is required the Clerk will make this clear in her email.
- Observations are required on the following application/s
- 3) 2021/1077/FUL Proposed single storey rear Orangery extension. Highmoor Lodge, Broadhey Lane, High Moor, Wrightington. **Resolved: No Objections.**
 - 4) 2021/1173/FUL Proposed Rear Extensions, roof modifications and detached Garage. Westgate, 10 Robin Hood Lane, Wrightington. **Resolved: No Objections. Councillor Jukes abstained from voting.**
- 72. LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS** – Finance Workshop, 14th October – attended by the Clerk – useful and informative. Reminder about the LCC Parish & Town Council Conference, Saturday 13th November 2021, County Hall, Preston 9.30-2.30 or virtually on Microsoft Teams – **The Clerk has registered to attend this on Microsoft Teams. Noted.**

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

For Payment:

Victim Support	Donation		£25.00
PKF Littlejohn LLP	External Audit Fee year ending 31/3/21		£240.00
Mrs C A Cross	Reimburse 50% Finance Workshop (Clerk)		£12.50
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
D/D Plusnet	Internet MLVH		£26.39
D/D British Gas	Gas usage ABVH		£48.81
D/D British Gas	Gas usage MLVH		£26.39
D/D Open Spaces	Annual Subscription		£45.00

Receipts:

West Lancs. BC	2 nd Part of the Precept 2021/22	£9343.50
West Lancs. BC	2 nd Part of the Concurrent Grant 2021/22	£1159.00

(Notification payment of CIL money will be made to the Parish Council by 31/10/21 of £4925.70)

Resolved: Payment of the above accounts, together with the Bank Reconciliation Statement up to 30 September 2021, are approved.

74. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED: That the next Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 15th November at Appley Bridge Village Hall at 7:30 pm.

Minutes 63 to 74 will be accepted as a correct record and signed by the Chairman at the Meeting to be held on Monday 15th November 2021.

Members of the Public and Press are welcome to attend

Meeting Closed: 9.10 pm

Chairman:

Date:

REPORT 1

- a) Notification consent granted subject to conditions for T1 – no works, T2 Maple – fell. Reason: poor condition replace with one half standard Birch which will grow in poor soil on banking. T3 Birch – crown thin Reason: to tidy crossing branches. 1 Stonemill Rise, Appley Bridge.
- b) Notification of an appeal against West Lancs. BC refusal of permission for extended dropped kerb and provision of area for parking. 192 Mossy Lea Road, Wrightington.
- c) Notification of an appeal against West Lancs. BC refusal for remodelling of existing house, including new windows, doors, flat roof and front extension. 4 Tunley Lane, Wrightington.
- d) Confirmation from the Clean and Green Team they attended on 6/10/21 to clear vegetation and cleanse the area around the Bus Stop/Shelter, Mossy Lea Road/Wood Lane.
- e) Confirmation that defib batteries and pads do come with a pre-determined shelf life so no benefit in stockpiling and, that it was a worldwide shortage of microchips which caused the problem in obtaining consumables ordered earlier in the year.
- f) LCC consultation on Bus Service Improvement Plan – circulated to Councillors for a response – no responses received – no observations submitted on behalf of the PC. The Clerk and Chairman did contact some residents with details of the consultation who agreed to submit personal responses.
- g) Correspondence from Burscough PC in relation to traffic issues in the Parish + a request to respond to questions on traffic issues, observations required by 5/10/21 – circulated to Councillors for a response – no responses received – no observations submitted on behalf of the PC.
- h) Notification of, and photographs, in relation to a traffic collision at the junction of Tunley Lane and Toogood Lane. Info. and photographs have been sent to LCC with a request for improved signage.
- i) Notification of immediate road closure Courage Low Lane 13/10/21-14/10/21 to enable urgent cabling works following a loss of service, to be undertaken by BT.