

WRIGHTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

At the Meeting of the Council of the Parish of Wrightington held on Monday 17 September 2012 at Mossy Lea Village Hall at 7.30pm the following were present:

Councillors: Mrs Burton (Chairman), Mr J Clinch, Mr F Johnson, Mrs D Hanlon and Mr I McRae. Also present Borough Councillor Mrs Baybutt and Borough/County Councillor Ms Evans.

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.)

County Councillor Ms Evans – Reported on the LCC Capital Programme of works for 2013/14 and details of a Mossy Lea Road flood mitigation project to address drainage issues near Raby Fold Farm and, resurfacing of Whittle Fold Lane, Courage Low Lane, Toogood Lane and Moss Lane with surface dressing to Bannister Lane and Robin Hood Lane and a horizon scheme for Appley Lane South being looked at. Pavements will be attended to on Church Lane and patching and surface dressing will be undertaken on Finch Lane. Residents parking at Mossfields will be included for 2013/14. Councillor Ms Evans has been in contact with the Environment Agency, the Highways Agency and United Utilities to discuss flood risk aspects and observations/objections which could influence planning decisions. It was reported that no Parish Representative attended the recent Three Tier Forum Meeting.

Borough Councillor Mrs Baybutt – Has raised hedgerow and environment issues with Andrew Burrows, LCC. Flooding remains a problem on Toogood Lane and water is still coming through the tarmac on the footways. The drains were pumped out but this did not resolve the problem. The water flowing down both sides of the carriageway on Toogood Lane will be lethal in winter. It was reported that the blocked drain on Moss Lane, causing flooding problems on Courage Low Lane, was cleaned out but is now blocked again and the junction will be very dangerous if the problem continues into the freezing weather. Councillor Mrs Baybutt requested specific planning objections to the application for a wind turbine at Stoneleach Farm in order to successfully call in the application for consideration by the Planning Committee. Mrs Burton confirmed submission of objections on behalf of the British Horse Society as the turbine would be too close the riding track and would discriminate against riders with epilepsy. The issues of damage to wildlife habitats and the necessity for a bat and bird survey were also raised. The Parish Council still believe an environmental impact statement should be required and that risk assessment from a health and safety point of views should be taken into account. Serious concerns remain about opening the floodgates for further applications and the cumulative effect of more applications in the future.

Public Present – Councillor Johnson reported that a number of drainage, pot-hole and highway issues have been discussed with LCC Officers, including the inadequate pipe and culvert at the edge of the playing field adjacent to Mossy Lea Village Hall. The stop-tap cover near street light No.187, Mossy Lea Road, has sunk. A motorist visiting a Mossfields resident was told that she could not park on the car park by another resident. The large rhododendron bushes on Robin Hood Lane need cutting back, stakes in the grass verge on Appley Lane North still need removing, boulders at Harrock Hill continue to give cause for concern and the entrance to the car park at Mossfields needs significant cutting back and clearing.

52. **APOLOGIES** - Were received from Councillor Mr Hodgkinson (holidays).
53. **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. There were no declarations at this point in the meeting.
54. **MINUTES** – The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 16 July 2012 had been circulated in advance of the Meeting, were accepted as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
55. **UPDATE/PROGRESS WITH ISSUES RAISED AT THE PREVIOUS MEETING** – Accepted.
Minute 46 – Parish Council Vacancy – RESOLVED: that following receipt and circulation of additional information and, in accordance with discussions at the July Meeting, Mr Peter Gartside be appointed to the vacant position of Appley Bridge Ward Councillor, Wrightington Parish Council

with immediate effect. Mr Gartside signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office and joined the Parish Council for the remainder of the Meeting, completing his Declaration of Interest in due course

56. CORRESPONDENCE/INFORMATION ITEMS

Items reported to, and noted by, the Council – no decision required: REPORT 1 – page 4 – ACCEPTED.

Items requiring discussion, observations or action by the Council:

- a) Notification that the Audit Commission has appointed BDO LLP as external auditor for the Parish Councils accounts for the next 5 years from 2012/13 – NOTED.
- b) Editorial from Tunley URC re: History Celebrations in Wrightington – THE CHAIRMAN REPORTED ON A WONDERFUL EVENING. THE REPORT WILL BE FORWARDED FOR INCLUSION ON THE WEBSITE.
- c) Guide for Councillors – Openness and Transparency on personal interests from West Lancs. BC – WILL BE EMAILED TO ALL COUNCILLORS.
- d) Response to issues raised re: publication of Register of Interest Forms – RESOLVED: PARISH COUNCILS ACCEPT PUBLICATION OF INTEREST FORMS ON WEST LANCS. BC WEBSITE PROVIDED SIGNATURES ARE OBLITERATED. FORMS WILL BE SCANNED AND SENT TO WEST LANCS BC IN DUE COURSE.
- e) Notification that Mossy Lea VH will be required for the Police and Crime Commissioner Election on 15 November 2012 – NOTED.
- f) Notification of LCC Parish & Town Council Conference on 10 November at County Hall – RESOLVED: COUNCILLOR GARTSIDE WILL ATTEND ALONG WITH THE CLERK.
- g) Confirmation the contribution towards amenity grass cutting has been cut for next year – RESOLVED: THE PARISH COUNCIL WILL TAKE ACCOUNT OF THIS DURING BUDGETING DISCUSSIONS PRIOR TO SETTING THE PRECIPET FOR NEXT YEAR.
- h) Information re: naming the small street of Mossy Lea Road – RESOLVED: THE COUNCIL WILL AWAIT THE RESULTS OF INVESTIGATIONS BY WEST LANCS BC.
- i) Response from Borough Councillor Mrs Baybutt to Parish issues raised previously – NOTED. COUNCILLOR JOHNSON REPORTED ON DISCUSSIONS WITH A REPRESENTATIVE OF TUNLEY URC IN CONNECTION WITH TREES ON THE CHURCH CAR PARK SIDE OF CHISNALL AVENUE AND THE FACT THAT IT MAY NOW BE TIME TO CUT THEM. IT WAS CONFIRMED THAT THE RIGHT OF WAY NEAR ALL SAINTS SCHOOL WILL BE MONITORED AS NO GATE SHOULD BE PUT ACROSS THIS RIGHT OF WAY.
- j) Notification from West Lancs. BC on proposed War Memorial Repairs – THE PARISH COUNCIL SUPPORT THE PROPOSED WORK AND HAVE CONFIRMED THIS FACT.
- k) Notification of introduction of West Lancs. BC Council Tax Support Scheme – RESOLVED: THAT WHILST OPTION 'C' SEEMS TO BE THE MOST EQUITABLE PROPOSAL, THE COUNCIL WILL ASK HOW THE PERCENTAGE FIGURE WILL BE DERIVED AND WHO WILL BE IMPACTED BY THE PROPOSALS.
- l) Notification of a new voluntary organisation for Parents/Carers of children with disabilities – DETAILS WILL BE PLACED IN THE NOTICE BOARDS.
- m) Info. from LCC and Lancs. Constabulary indicating their approach to engagement and enforcement of 20 mph areas – NOTED.
- n) Request from the Open Spaces Society for donation towards court costs to support members – RESOLVED: NO DONATION WILL BE MADE AT THIS TIME.
- o) Response to request for PACT Meetings in the Parish – A PROMISING RESPONSE. EVENING MEETINGS WOULD BE BETTER, ON A ROTA BASIS BETWEEN WARDS.
- p) Ideas for Schools Competition – Bird & Bat Watch – ONGOING.
- q) Late items received which may require discussion/action/observations – i) Response to request to remove branch from land at junction Moss Lane/Hall Lane – NOTED. ii) Request from Shevington PC to lay a wreath at the Appley Bridge Remembrance Day Service and to use the Community Centre for a Community Meeting – THE PARISH COUNCIL HAS NO OBJECTIONS TO THE LAYING OF A WREATH BUT WILL ENQUIRE AS TO THE NATURE AND CONTENT OF THE MEETING. Councillor Mrs Burton reported an email from a Shevington PC Councillor asking whether Wrightington PC would have any objections to the extension of planting to include Appley Bridge Railway Station – THE CHAIRMAN

CONFIRMED THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTIONS. iii) Items reported to the 3 Tier Forum – NOTED. iv) Current position with regard to upgrading public footpath 21, Moss Lane to Mossy Lea Road – NOTED.

57. 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.

58. HIGHWAYS AND ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

- Councillor Mr Johnson has reported the following to Andrew Burrows and Andrew Davies, LCC Officers, over the past few months: Flooding and drainage issues near Mossy Lea Village Hall – Water flowing from field entrances on Mossy Lea Road – Pot hole at the bottom of Raby Fold Farm driveway – Accident black-spot near the caravan at 372 Mossy Lea Road – Grass cutting and side dressing of footway from Raby Fold Farm down to hazard markers and at the opposite end of Mossy Lea Road, from 100 to Crow Orchard Garage – The smooth road surface near Raby Fold Farm, and possible future resurfacing, was also discussed.
- Public Footpath 23B, on Mossy Lea Road opposite Diglake Farm, the footpath signpost is broken.

59. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES – Councillor Mrs Burton attended the Induction Service for the new Vicar at St James’s Church.

60. REMEMBRANCE DAY ARRANGEMENTS – The Clerk confirmed that the Road Closure Order has been applied for and Policing requested. It will now be determined who will be conducting the service and once confirmation of the road closure is received invitations will be sent as necessary and details for the day will be sent to the uniformed organisations taking part. The Village Hall will be booked and pop, crisps and refreshments will be purchased as required. Councillor Mrs Burton requested permission to lay a wreath for the horses lost during the wars – **RESOLVED: THE PARISH COUNCIL HAS NO OBJECTIONS TO THIS.**

61. WEST LANCASHIRE LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION – Following electronic presentation at the commencement of the Meeting – **RESOLVED: NO SPECIFIC RESPONSE REQUIRED.**

62. VILLAGE HALLS

MOSSY LEA – Cheques received for Zumba/Pilates classes, £210 & £230 – Cheque presentation to Cancer Research UK from Coffee Mornings and other fund raising - £1714.57 – NOTED. The Clerk reported a request for a 17th Birthday Party – **RESOLVED: IT WILL BE CONVEYED THAT THE BOOKING SECRETARY IS ON HOLIDAY AND THAT, FOLLOWING VANDALISM RECENTLY, VILLAGE HALL PROTOCOL HAS CHANGED AND PERMISSION WILL NO LONGER BE GRANTED FOR YOUNG PERSONS BIRTHDAY PARTIES FOR INSURANCE PURPOSES.** Investigations in to the possibility of Computer Classes remain on-going.

APPLEY BRIDGE – Nothing specific to report.

COUNCILLORS EXPRESSED THEIR DISAPPOINTMENT AT THE WEBSITE AT THE MOMENT WHICH REQUIRES UPDATING. THE CLERK WILL CHECK THIS WITH THE WEB CO-ORDINATOR AND REPORT BACK AT THE NEXT MEETING.

63. PLANNING To discuss the following applications:

Planning Applications during summer recess for ratification – REPORT 2 – page 5 - RESOLVED: DECISIONS APPROVED.

Applications received for discussion at this meeting:

- 1) 2012/0569/FUL Installation of one small scale 11 kw Gaia wind turbine, mounted on a free standing (Case 1192693) 18m high lattice mast on a 5m2 concrete base. The turbine is twin bladed with a blade diameter of 13m. Stoneleach Farm, 7 Toogood Lane, Wrightington. **PARISH COUNCIL RESPONSE DETAILED AT SCHEDULE 1 – Page 6.**
- 2) 2012/0889/FUL Removal of wall and roof cladding at East elevation of DPC Warehouse to expose (Case 1193414) existing foundational supports for new storage tanks. Rebuilding East wall with new dwarf blockwork wall and SFS cladding. Construction of bunded area for new storage tanks. IKO Plc, Appley Lane North, Appley Bridge. **NO OBJECTIONS.**

3) 12/00802/FUL Proposed change of use of former public house to dwelling with side and rear extensions and front porch and erection of garage/store/gym building. The Brook House, Barmskin Lane, Heskin, Chorley – THE COUNCIL OBJECT TO THESE PROPOSALS AS IT WOULD RESULT IN THE LOSS OF A VALUABLE COMMUNITY FACILITY AND AMENITY IN THE AREA. THE PROPOSALS WOULD CONSTITUTE OVER DEVELOPMENT OF THE SITE AND WOULD RESULT IN A BUILDING OUT OF CHARACTER WITH THE AREA. FURTHERMORE, THE PARISH COUNCIL ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY ADVERTISING OF THE FACT THAT THE BUSINESS IS FOR SALE WHICH MEANS THAT THE COMMUNITY HAVE NOT BEEN AFFORDED THE OPPORTUNITY TO OBJECT TO THE CLOSURE AND CESSATION OF THE PUBLIC HOUSE.

64. LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS – Notification of 68th AGM, Saturday 10 November, County Hall, Preston. COUNCILLOR GARTSIDE WILL ATTEND. – Councillors Courses on Risk Assessment, Employment and Community Engagement with Case Studies – Info. on Annual Conference – End of year Accounts – NOTED. Councillor Mrs Burton reported that at the recent LALC Area Committee Meeting it was requested that an increase be made to the Honorarium paid to the Secretary – Members believe that the increase should be met from the account balances held by LALC.

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

Payments during summer recess for ratification – REPORT 3 – page 5 - PAYMENTS APPROVED.

For Payment this month:

Eon.	Electricity supplied ABVH	£115.44
Mrs C A Cross	Reimburse cost of fluorescent light for MLVH	£5.40
Mrs C A Cross	Clerk's Salary – Net	£586.43
HM Rev. & Customs	Tax due by Clerk	£0.80

RESOLVED: That payment of the above accounts be approved.

66. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED: That the next Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 15 October 2012 at Appley Bridge Village Hall at 7:30 pm.

Minutes 52 to 66 will be accepted as a correct record and signed by the Chairman at the Meeting to be held on Monday 15 October 2012.

Members of the Public and Press are welcome to attend

Meeting Closed: 10:50 pm

Chairman:

Date:

REPORT 1

- a) - Notification permission granted for detached outbuilding to provide replacement garage, study and WC. 53 Appley Lane North.
 - Notification cert. of lawfulness granted for use of land as residential garden. Tunley Farm, Tunley Lane
 - Notification permission granted for first floor side extension. High Gables, 110 Appley Lane North.
 - Notification permission granted for retention of pitched roof incorporating window at side to replace existing flat roof over detached garage at rear. 113 Skull House Lane, Appley Bridge.
 - Notification permission granted for alterations to front including new vehicular access to provide off road parking. 62 Appley Lane North, Appley Bridge.
 - Notification permission granted for erection single storey detached boat house. Lake House, Moss Lane
- b) Notification decision to grant planning permission for outline proposals for East Quarry, Appley Bridge, be delegated to Borough Planner in consultation with Chair & Vice Chair of Planning Committee.
- c) Info. on Mobile Vehicle Activated Signs.
- d) Confirmation that Karen Collins is attending CPRE NW Regional Group Workshop on behalf of WPC.

- e) Notification of pilot scheme in West Lancs. To ascertain gaps in services for local people requiring support, what works and what is required to ensure more inclusivity.
- f) Notification of publication of Lancs. Fire & Rescue Service Performance Report and Action Plan 2012.
- g) Notification of application for vehicle licence for 1 vehicle and 1 trailer by GJL Transport Ltd, operating centre at Dawber Industrial Park, Skull House Lane.
- h) Notification of adoption statement for the Central Lancashire Core Strategy.
- i) Notification of consultation on options for future housing land in Wigan Core Strategy.
- j) Notification of supplementary planning documents form Salford City Council.
- k) Invitation to attend, West Lancs. CVS, AGM, 9:30am Tues. 6 November, West Lancs. College.
- l) Copy CPRE Countryside Voice.

REPORT 2

The following applications received, observations were as follows:

- 1) 2012/0850/NMA – Non material amendment to planning permission 2012/0576/FUL – Resiting of garage. Grove Villa, Hall Lane, Wrightington – NO OBJECTIONS.
- 2) 2012/0545/FUL – Installation of ring type slurry store including removal of existing banking to raise (Case 1182773) levels of existing field. Aspinall House Farm, 2 Appley Lane South, Appley Bridge – NO OBJECTIONS.
- 3) 2012/0804/FUL – Single storey front extension. 19 The Grove, Appley Bridge – NO OBJECTIONS. (Case 1182765)
- 4) 2012/0709/FUL – Single storey rear extension, two storey front extension and relocation of door from (Case 1182769) rear garage elevation to side elevation. 10 Dawber Delph, Appley Bridge – NO OBJECTIONS.

Notification of Amendments to:

2010/1149/COU & 2010/1150/LBC – Conversion of former barn and shippon into two dwellings. South Tunley Farm, Tunley Lne. Amendment to create 2 units rather than 3, access proposed off Mossy Lea Road.

2010/1161/COU & 2010/1162/LBC – Conversion of former stables into one dwelling. South Tunley Farm, Tunley Lne. Amendment is, access proposed off Mossy Lea Road.

THE PARISH COUNCIL RESPONSE TO THE ABOVE IS: THEY OBJECT TO THESE PROPOSALS ON THE GROUNDS THAT AN ACCESS ROAD TO THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS AT SOUTH TUNLEY FARM FROM MOSSY LEA ROAD WILL HAVE A DETRIMENTAL IMPACT ON THE VISUAL AMENITY, AND WILL UNACCEPTABLY ALTER THE EXISTING STREET SCENE, OF MOSSY LEA ROAD. THE PROPOSED ACCESS ROUTE HAS ALWAYS HAD AN HISTORIC MULTI-PURPOSE USE BY PEDESTRIANS, JOGGERS, CYCLISTS, HORSERIDERS AND PEOPLE WITH PRAMS WHOSE PERSONAL SAFETY WILL BE SEVERELY COMPROMISED BY THE VEHICULAR ACTIVITY ASSOCIATED WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF ADDITIONAL DWELLINGS AT SOUTH TUNLEY FARM. THE ROUTE COULD BECOME A RAT-RUN FOR PEOPLE WISHING TO CUT ACROSS FROM MOSSY LEA ROAD TO TUNLEY LANE WITHOUT USING THE MOSSY LEA ROAD/TUNLEY LANE JUNCTION WHICH ALSO THEREFORE RAISES THE ISSUE OF POLICING THE ROUTE. THE ACCESS ONTO MOSSY LEA ROAD WILL COMPROMISE HIGHWAY SAFETY FOR VEHICLES EXITING ONTO MOSSY LEA ROAD AND FOR MOTORISTS USING MOSSY LEA ROAD, BOTH OF WHOM MAY BE UNABLE TO ADEQUATELY VIEW SITELINES. THE COUNCIL BELIEVE THE FOOTPATH SHOULD BE UPGRADED TO A BRIDLEWAY THEREBY PROTECTING AND CONFIRMING ITS HISTORIC USE AS A TRACK OR LANE FOR THE PAST 60+ YEARS BY LOCAL RESIDENTS. THE UPGRADING WOULD ALSO PROVIDE A VALUABLE PARISH AMENITY FOR USE BY WALKERS, CYCLISTS, HORSE RIDERS AND, A SAFE ROUTE FOR PARENTS AND CHILDREN ATTENDING THE LOCAL SCHOOLS.

REPORT 3

Paid during the summer recess:

Mark Wilson	Supply & fit 2 x 7foot flag poles (1xMLVH, 1xABVH) (original cheque cancelled – incorrect payee)	£30.00
Ainscough Bldg Supplies	Toilet Seat – ABVH	£25.06
United Utilities	Water Supplied at ABVH	£72.00

Dave Proe	Amenity Cutting + MLVH £15 + ABVH £160	£329.00
Mrs C A Cross	Clerk's Salary (Net)	£586.23
HM Revenue & Customs	Tax Due by Clerk	£1.00

SCHEDULE 1

2012/0569/FUL – Installation of one small scale 11 kw Gaia wind turbine, mounted on a free standing 18m high lattice mast on a 5m2 concrete base. The turbine is twin bladed with a blade diameter of 13m. Stoneleach Farm, 7 Toogood Lane, Wrightington.

Taking account of the large number of objections expressed by the parishioners of Wrightington, and the relevant Planning Policies, the Parish Council **strongly object** to this planning application on the grounds that the proposals would contravene a number of national and local planning policies.

The proposals would constitute inappropriate development within the Green Belt, in accordance with Planning Policy DS2, which prevents such development unless very special circumstances can be demonstrated. The Parish Council believe that the applicants Design Statement does not demonstrate sufficient benefits to the environment and the community to outweigh the detriments associated with granting permission for the wind turbine and therefore, does not demonstrate the special circumstances required for such a development in Green Belt. It is a fact that many renewable energy projects, when located in the Green Belt, will be considered inappropriate development. These proposals would have a serious detrimental impact on the openness of the Green Belt, and result in a significant loss of visual amenity for the residents, the community and the Parish as a whole.

The scale, appearance and visual impact of these column type structures would have a significant adverse impact on the skyline and the rural nature of the area and, would be completely out of character with the existing street scene resulting in a visually intrusive blot on the landscape. The presence of the wind turbine would detrimentally affect the amenity and quality of life of local residents. Residents homes would also be closer to the structures than the 'Distances to Resident's Homes' Bill, currently in progress in the House of Lords, would permit.

The installation of wind turbines in the Green Belt constitutes a significant development and should require community consultation and the commissioning of a full and complete independent Environmental Impact Assessment taking account of all relevant legislation, planning policy, the views of the local authority and the views of the local community who would have to live with the environmental impact of the proposals in the long term.

The Parish Council do not consider that the environmental benefits associated with energy production from this renewable source outweigh the detriments to the wider environment of Wrightington. Account should be taken of the recent High Court Judgement which concluded that the right of local villagers to preserve their landscape was more important than the Government's renewable energy targets. There will be no social or economic benefit to the community, no jobs will be created and, any reduction in the farms carbon footprint and any "greening" of the local environment would be minimal. National Planning Policy Statement 1 states that "the planning policy system operates in the public interest to ensure the development and use of land results in better places for people to live, the delivery of development where communities need it, as well as the protection and enhancement of the natural and historic environment and the countryside". These proposals would ruin the beautiful landscape of Wrightington, described by West Lancashire Borough Council as an Area of Landscape History of County Importance, rather than resulting in a better place to live. To minimise the impact of developments the Borough Council advise that proposals should avoid uncharacteristic or visually intrusive development, should avoid interference with long distance views from high points accessible to the public and should avoid the introduction of tall columnar constructions. The proposals would therefore contravene Borough Council policies. The development is neither wanted nor needed and would benefit no-one else in the community only the applicant.

The proposals would detract from the natural and visual amenity of the countryside and would seriously affect wildlife and their habitat. The current database held by Lancashire Environment Record Network lists numerous locations close to this site where bats, and their roosts, are present and therefore to ensure that adequate account is taken of biodiversity and to comply with planning policy it is imperative that a Bat Survey is undertaken prior to any development of this nature. There are also owls, herons, curlews, and lapwings present in the vicinity whose habitat and daily activity would be impacted by the proposals.

The proposed site of the wind turbine would impact on public footpath users accessing the public rights of way running either side of the proposed location of the turbine and also the riding track in this vicinity. Therefore, the Council believe that a full Health Impact Assessment should be conducted to assess the health and wellbeing implications associated with the noise, vibration and flicker/strobe effects produced by the wind turbine. A site specific Noise Survey should be undertaken as research indicates that the noise produced by wind turbines is constant, monotonous and, as well as being heard when in close proximity to the turbines, also carries some considerable distance and would therefore affect homes and residents on Courage Low Lane, Toogood Lane and Tunley Lane, as well as further afield. Research also indicates that vibration and the flicker/strobe effect produced can result in an increased incidence of headaches, migraines, nausea, dizziness, sleep disorders, stress and anxiety. These proposals would also discriminate against epilepsy sufferers as it is a recognised fact that the flicker/strobe effect can be extremely debilitating and can actually induce an epileptic seizure in sufferers. It is also possible that the horses could be startled by the flicker/strobe effect caused by the moving blades causing accidents/ incidents which could result in injury or harm to both horse and/or riders using the riding track. Therefore, it is essential that a site specific Health Impact Assessment and a Health & Safety Risk Assessment is undertaken.

The West Lancashire Local Plan 2012-2027, currently under consultation, contains a Policy, EN1, directly detailing the proposed criteria for Wind Energy Development and stating that account must be taken of:- singular or cumulative impacts on landscape character and value, the impact on local residents (including flicker noise and shadow flicker), the ecological impact including migration routes of protected bird species, impacts on land resources including agricultural land, impacts on the historic environment and assets, community benefits and, impacts on aviation navigation systems and communications.

The Planning Committee should ensure that they are not responsible for setting a precedent by granting planning permission for the wind turbine and thus opening the floodgates for further similar applications in the Parish which could ultimately be in contravention of the terms of the West Lancashire Local Plan 2012-2027 and the Distances to Resident's Homes Bill.
