

# WRIGHTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

At the Meeting of the Council of the Parish of Wrightington held on Monday 15 April 2013 at Appley Bridge Village Hall at 7.30pm the following were present:

Councillors: Mrs Burton (Chairman), Mr F Hodgkinson, Mr F Johnson, Mr P Gartside.

## 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.)

Public Present: The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Meeting. Three parents of children attending Dancing Classes in the Village Hall were present to represent dancers and parents who are disappointed with the decision not to allow tap dancing on the new wooden floor in the main hall. The Dancing Teacher was also present to support the parents. Having looked at the Parish Council financial statements and past Minutes those present wanted to know how the new floor had been funded. They were of the opinion that the majority of the cost had come from payment for use of the hall for dancing classes. It was explained that this is not the case and that the facts they had been given were not entirely correct. Following an unsuccessful bid to West Lancs. BC for funding towards a new floor, the Parish Council began accumulating funds for work in the village hall over the past couple of years and that, once work in the kitchen had been completed, the new floor and painting in the main hall were the next stage. The Chairman explained that in 2007 the Parish Council paid a substantial sum to remove the safety flooring from the main hall, sand back the soft wood pine floor boards to remove all traces of glue and adhesive and, to lacquer the floor with a high quality lacquer. This decision was taken as a result of repeated and on-going requests and complaints at Village Hall Committee Meetings from the Dancing Teacher who stated that the safety flooring was ruining ballet shoes and marking clothes. After a very short period of time the surface of the wooden floor was showing signs of damage caused by the friction from the metal taps on tap dancing shoes. After only 2 years it was necessary to sand the floor surface again and re-lacquer at a cost of several hundred pounds. Had the village hall only been used on a general everyday public basis with associated footfall, and for ballet dancing or ballroom dancing classes, it would not have been necessary to undertake this work for another few years or, had the safety flooring not been removed it would not have been necessary to undertake any maintenance work at all. However, the on-going use for tap dancing classes resulted in the lacquer and top surface of the flooring being literally scraped away. Plans to undertake the same maintenance work to the floor towards the end of 2011 were put on hold as, upon investigation, it became apparent that the floorboards were already extremely thin in places, many so damaged and splintered that they needed replacing completely. The estimated minimum cost of the remedial maintenance work was in the region of £1200.00 provided nothing unforeseen arose at the time the work was undertaken. The work would then again require repeating after 2-3 years if the tap dancing classes continued. The decision was therefore taken to investigate the cost of removing the old floor and replacing it with a brand new, engineered wood floor, which would prove more durable and would require less maintenance if used appropriately in the future. The new floor would be more beneficial to all village hall users, especially the ballet dancing class pupils whose shoes would undoubtedly be plucked by the splintering floorboards, the jujitsu and karate students who practice barefoot, the Pensioners and Women's Institute who also use the village hall regularly and, would be a safer floor removing the risk of splinters when used for children's parties. The only compromise which would have to be reached following the installation of the new floor would result in either, the use of the small meeting room at the bottom of the Village Hall for tap dancing classes or, a temporary/portable surface which could be laid on-top of the new floor when required for tap dancing. Both of these options would ensure the new floor would be a cost effective, long-lasting, low maintenance and completely usable surface for all village hall users and anyone else in the Appley Bridge and Wrightington community who may wish to book the hall for a party or other social event. The Chairman pointed out that the Dancing Teacher hires the village hall on the same basis as any other village hall user and does not pay any inflated rates for exclusive use therefore, any decisions regarding maintenance and upkeep of the building must take account of every village hall user's needs not one specific user. The Parish Council did attempt to arrange a meeting with the Dancing Teacher to discuss the new flooring requirements prior to ordering

and laying the new floor but, were informed that she was at the time visiting her daughter in America and the Parish Council could not be given a date for her return. The Parish Council made the decision to proceed with their proposals, whilst finances were in place, thus ensuring that the Village Hall was a safe environment once again. The Parish Council has never said that tap dancing cannot take place in the Village Hall but, that classes should be suspended until a suitable alternative location or surface could be found to tap dance on. The Chairman and Clerk met with the Dancing Teacher and the Chairman believed that an amicable solution had been agreed upon with the small meeting room/library being used for tap dancing classes however, within days of this promising meeting, this solution was unacceptable to the dancing school. A parent present confirmed that it was she who said that the small room was unsuitable. A further suggestion to consolidate tap classes and relocate them to Mossy Lea Village Hall was considered unprofessional as it would be encroaching on another dancing teachers patch. The suggestion of a temporary roll out or snap lock floor must now be looked at. The Chairman confirmed with the Dancing Teacher that she books the village hall for 15 hours per week and the Parish Council pointed out that the Dancing Classes are run/operated as a commercial business and the Parish Council cannot be seen to be financially supporting a specific business as it would not be fair to other business users in the village hall or small businesses in the Parish. The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council has always supported the Dancing Classes, with preferential hourly rates in the past and the use of cupboards and a locked storage room however could not agree to purchase the roll out flooring as originally requested by the Dancing Teacher when this solution was suggested. Those present believe that the Parish Council have underestimated the strength of feeling of the Appley Bridge Community in relation to the service provided by the Dancing Classes. If the classes close there will be nothing for the children to do in Appley Bridge. The parents feel that a portable floor would not be a suitable solution as it would be required to be laid and taken up 4 times per week and would cover the whole floor in the main hall. Parents, and the Dancing Teacher, suggested that a compromise could be reached between the Parish Council and the Dancing School with regard to on-going maintenance of the floor on an increased and more intensive basis than originally planned. The Parish Council also confirmed that proper glass mirrors should be avoided as they present a health and safety risk however, it would not be appropriate for mirror-board alternatives to be permanently on display in the village hall as other village hall users would be uncomfortable with this. Those present think that it was unfortunate that the Parish Council did not consult the Dancing Teacher at the planning stage as she did not appreciate that tap dancing would not be allowed on the new floor. The village hall is a village facility, a community building for use by the community, a fact which was not disputed by the Parish Council however, the Dancing School pay for the same use of the facility as other village hall user do and that consideration had to be given to all users. The Parish Council purchased the best and hardest wearing flooring they could afford with the money they had available. The dancing classes keep the children off the streets, provide exercise for the children, improve their confidence and provide a social activity and, the school represents the North West in many competitions. A number of emails have been received from disgruntled parents, the tone of which is quite upsetting considering the Parish Council put a considerable amount of time and effort into running and maintaining the village halls in the Parish. Mrs Monk spoke strongly in support of the Parish Council confirming the considerable amount work undertaken in the Parish by Parish Councillors and by the Parish Council as a body. The Parish Council must be seen to support everybody and do not want to lose the dancing classes and would therefore be happy to reach a suitable compromise if necessary taking legal advice with regard to entering into a watertight repair and maintenance agreement with the dancing teacher as an absolute last resort. The Chairman suggested, and it was agreed by the Dancing Teacher and Parents present, that they would contact temporary flooring contractors and invite them to the village hall to give a practical demonstration of how the temporary surfaces would/could be laid. The Chairman agreed to attend these meetings. If it is determined that this would not be a suitable solution further discussions will be entered into to try to reach a suitable compromise. Parents present and the Dancing Teacher left the Meeting.

The Parish Council thanked Mrs Monk for her support in earlier discussions. A resident of Mossy Lea Road has recently tripped on a raised plate/grid in the pavement and injured her shoulder. A similar incident, involving a different resident, had occurred earlier in the week. It is understood that both residents will be pursuing this matter with LCC. It was confirmed that the footways in the Parish are in a terrible state, particularly on Mossy Lea Road and Church Lane. Councillor Johnson will determine exact

locations and report back to the Clerk for report to LCC. A grid in the carriageway on Courage Low Lane, just past No2, is raised and a trip hazard. The footway near the double gates at Mossy Lea Primary School also requires attention. The litter bin on Mossy Lea Road, opposite RIVAJ, needs replacing it has rusted away. Further problems associated with parked vehicles on Mossfields car park were once again reported. It would appear that some homeowners are monopolising the car park and a number of verbal exchanges have recently taken place. If this matter does not improve the Police will eventually be involved. The Clerk read aloud some correspondence to the County Councillor which indicates that the proposed scheme to increase/improve parking provision at Mossfields has made very little progress over the last 12 months as it has been sat on a West Lancs. BC officers desk. The Parish Council feel that this inactivity is disgusting and will report it to the Managing Directors at West Lancs. BC, for investigation. The Borough and County Councillors will be copied into this report.

- 145. APOLOGIES** – Were received from Borough Councillors Mrs Baybutt and Ms Evans.
- 146. 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 Mrs Burton declared an interest in Planning Application 2013/0300/FUL – 1 wind turbine at Wrights Covert.
- 147. MINUTES** – The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 18 March 2013, circulated in advance of the Meeting, were accepted as correct and signed by the Chairman.
- 148. UPDATE/PROGRESS WITH ISSUES RAISED AT THE PREVIOUS MEETING**  
Minute 137 – Councillor Hodgkinson reported that the School Governors at St Joseph’s School will be writing to parents parking inconsiderately and, if appropriate action is not taken to resolve the problem, details will be referred to the Police.

**149. CORRESPONDENCE/INFORMATION ITEMS**

Items reported to, and noted by, the Council – no decision required: REPORT 1 – page 6 – ACCEPTED.

Items requiring discussion, observations or action by the Council:

- a) Notification that the external Audit of accounts for the year ending 31 March 2012 will take place on 8 July 2013 – NOTED.
- b) Notification applications are open for VIP Community Grants Programme 2013 – THE CLERK WILL TRY TO PUT TOGETHER A SUITABLE APPLICATION.
- c) Notice of the Making of the Order for Diversion of part of public footpath No.5, Wrightington – RESOLVED: THE COUNCIL ONLY ACCEPTED THE ORIGINAL DIVERSION ON THE BASIS THAT THE NEW ROUTE WOULD BE USABLE BY THE DISABLED. THIS DIVERSION DOES NOT TAKE ACCOUNT OF THIS FACT AND IS STILL NOT USABLE BY THE DISABLED OR USERS WITH MOBILITY ISSUES. FURTHERMORE, THE ORIGINAL FOOTPATH ROUTE WAS A FIELD PATH WITH BEAUTIFUL VIEWS OF THE COUNTRYSIDE AND THE POND. THE HOMEOWNERS ARE NOW TRYING TO MAKE THE POND INTO A GARDEN FEATURE WHICH IS TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE. PUBLIC FOOTPATHS ARE ABOUT GIVING MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE COUNTRYSIDE, THE VIEWS AND LOCAL AMENITIES. THE VIEW IS NOW TOTALLY OBSTRUCTED BY THE VERY HIGH, ALMOST SOLID, FENCE. THE ACTIONS ALREADY TAKEN WITH REGARD TO THIS PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY HAVE COMPLETELY CHANGED THE CHARACTER OF THE LAND AND CONSTITUTE A CONSIDERABLE LOSS OF AMENITY TO PUBLIC FOOTPATH USERS. THE PARISH COUNCIL WILL ONLY RECONSIDER REMOVING THEIR OBJECTIONS TO THE PROPOSALS IF THE VERY TALL FENCE IS LOWERED BY A MINIMUM OF 50% SO THAT AT LEAST SOME OF THE VIEWS OF THE COUNTRYSIDE CAN STILL BE SEEN WHEN WALKING THIS ROUTE.
- d) Response from Head teacher, St Joseph’s Primary School to complaints re: parking – NOTED.
- e) Response to highways issues reported at previous meetings NOTED.
- f) Letter of introduction from Mr Andy Williamson, MD of IKO, Appley Bridge – ON FILE.

- g) Request from Rosie Cooper for any concerns the Council may have about the changes to Funding for Council Tax Benefit – NOTED.
- h) Notification of new Tree Survey Service West Lancs BC offers to land and property owners – NOTED AND TO BE KEPT ON FILE.
- i) Late items received which may require discussion/action/observations – Nothing to add.

**150. HIGHWAYS AND ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS**

- The Parish Council will confirm that a site Meeting to discuss flooding issues in the Parish is still required.

**151. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES** – VIP AGM – attended by Councillor Johnson. A very interesting meeting with discussions on provision of, and funding for, defibrillators in Parishes. Also training available through VIP for first responders.

**152. ACCEPTANCE OF ANNUAL AUDIT PLAN FOR FORTHCOMING YEAR AND REVIEW DOCUMENTATION IN PARISH COUNCILLORS INFORMATION PACK** – RESOLVED: THE PARISH COUNCIL ACT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AND THE LOCALISM ACT 2011 AND, ACCEPT THE ANNUAL AUDIT PLAN FOR THE FORTHCOMING YEAR. DOCUMENTS IN THE PARISH COUNCILLORS INFORMATION PACK WERE REVIEWED. ALL DOCUMENTATION WILL BE RE-ADOPTED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL TO BE HELD IN MAY 2013.

**153. LEASE MOSSY LEA VILLAGE HALL** – RESOLVED: THIS ITEM BE DEFERRED PENDING AMENDMENTS TO THE PLANS INCLUDED IN THE LEASE AND FULL CONSIDERATION OF THE TERMS BY THE PARISH COUNCIL.

**154. 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.

**155. VILLAGE HALLS**

MOSSY LEA – Cheque received for Zumba classes, £80.

APPLEY BRIDGE – Floor and painting in the main hall now completed. The Clerk read aloud emails received relating to the fact that tap dancing cannot be undertaken on the new floor. THE PARISH COUNCIL REITERATED THE FACT THAT TAP DANCING CLASSES HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED PENDING INVESTIGATIONS AND NEGOTIATIONS CURRENTLY ONGOING, TO DETERMINE THE BEST SOLUTION AND A TEMPORARY/REMOVAL DANCE SURFACE SUITABLE FOR TAP DANCING. THE ULTIMATE LAST RESORT WILL BE A BINDING LEGAL AGREEMENT TO ACCEPT A LEVEL OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR REGULAR MAINTENANCE AND FULL LIABILITY FOR ANY DAMAGE TO THE NEW FLOOR SURFACE BY THE DANCING TEACHER. NO TAP DANCING WILL BE ALLOWED UNTIL AN AGREEMENT IS REACHED.

**156. PLANNING** – To discuss the following applications:

- 1) 2013/0263/FUL Erection of six dwellings. Motacraft Engineering Ltd, Mill Lane, Appley Bridge. (Case 1321996) NO OBJECTIONS.
- 2) 2013/0288/FIL Retention of wrought iron gates and railings, and stone gate posts (maximum 3m high). 1 and 2 East Lodge, Hall Lane, Wrightington – NO OBJECTIONS.
- 3) 2013/0300/FUL Erection of a single wind turbine with a maximum blade to tip height of 90m, micro-siting and associated infrastructure including access tracks, areas of hardstanding, control building and cabling. Land East of Wrights Covert, Toogood Lane, Wrightington. COUNCILLOR MRS BURTON DECLARED AN INTEREST AND TOOK NO PART IN DISCUSSIONS OR VOTING AND LEFT THE CHAIR. COUNCILLOR HODGKINSON IN THE CHAIR. THE PARISH COUNCIL OBJECT STRONGLY TO THE PROPOSALS, SUPPORTING ALL THE OBJECTIONS AND OBSERVATIONS RAISED AND SUBMITTED BY THE MANY OBJECTORS.

- 4) 2013/0313/FUL (Case 132200) Creation of new vehicular access to provide a dedicated vehicular access/egress point for construction traffic to the west of the existing egress from the hospital grounds. Minor widening and strengthening along the existing service road including a circa 40m extension of the service road to the new access/egress point. Formation of a temporary site access road (to the south) mirroring the route of permanent roads, required for servicing the hospital. This route will provide permanent access to the service yard for the new Phase 1 development. Formation of a temporary construction site compound, turning circle and contractor car parking facilities. Wrightington Hospital, Hall Lane. NO OBJECTIONS.
- 5) 2013/0340/FUL (Case 1322002) Raise existing forecourt canopy from 4.5m to 5.2m between ground level and underside of canopy. BP Crow Orchard Service Station, Crow Orchard Road, Wrightington. NO OBJECTIONS.

ADJOINING AUTHORITY APPLICATION – L/2013/0135/AAA – Erection of 39 no. dwellings with associated access and landscaping. Land to the South of 43/44 Herons Wharf, Appley Bridge, Wigan. THE PARISH COUNCIL OBJECT STRONGLY TO THESE PROPOSALS ON THE GROUNDS OF HIGHWAY SAFETY. THE ACCESS TO HERONS WHARF IS ALREADY EXTREMELY DANGEROUS AND THE EXISTING TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES ARE TOTALLY INADEQUATE. LCC, AS THE HIGHWAY AUTHORITY FOR WEST LANCS, SHOULD ALSO BE CONSULTED ON THIS MATTER.

**157. LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS** – March 2013 Newsletter – Info. from NALC on changes to CPRE Annual Subscriptions – No objections to increase in CPRE subs.

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

**Payments:**

Mrs J Rogers	Honorarium – Booking Secretary ABVH	£200.00
Mrs E Armstrong	Honorarium – Treasurer ABVH	£200.00
Mrs C Hodgkinson	Honorarium – Booking Secretary/Treasurer MLVH	£400.00
Aon UK Limited	Annual Insurance Premium	£1584.74
British Gas	Gas supplied at ABHV (new readings submitted)	£1305.69
A Whittaker	Labour cost and additional materials – ABVH Floor	£2735.00
Mr G Melling	Painting main hall ABVH	£1290.00
Mrs C A Cross	Clerk’s Salary – Net	£587.23
HM Rev. & Customs	Tax due by Clerk	Nil

**Receipts:**

West Lancs. BC	1 <sup>st</sup> Half Parish Precept	£7998.00
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RESOLVED: That payment and receipt of the above accounts be approved.

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

RESOLVED: That the next Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 20 May 2013 at Mossy Lea Village Hall, 7 pm Annual Parish Meeting and 7:30 pm Annual Meeting of the Council.

Minutes 145 to 159 will be accepted as a correct record and signed by the Chairman at the Meeting to be held on Monday 20 May 2013.

Members of the Public and Press are welcome to attend

Meeting Closed: 10:35 pm

Chairman:

Date:

## **REPORT 1**

- a) 1) Permission granted for change of use of land from agricultural to form part of residential curtilage of 10 Broadhurst Lane, Wrightington. Land north of Electricity substation, Mossy Lea Road.
- 2) Permission granted for single storey side extension. Long Acre, Moss Lane, Wrightington.
- 3) Approval given for application for determination as to whether Prior Approval is required for the method of demolition of a steel portal framed and cladded building at Morotcraft Engineering and proposed restoration of the site. Motacraft Engineering Ltd, Mill Lane, Appley Bridge.
- b) Notice of County Council Elections, May 2013.
- c) Copy Posters for Rock & River activities – in Notice Boards.
- d) Letter of thanks for comments and feedback during the consultation on the Central Lancashire Transport and highways Masterplan.
- e) Agenda and Minutes for next LALC Area Committee Meeting, Thursday 18 April.
- f) Copy CPRE Fieldwork and Countryside Voice.