

WRIGHTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

At the Meeting of the Council of the Parish of Wrightington held on Monday 19 January 2015 at Mossy Lea Village Hall at 7.30pm the following were present:

Councillors: Mrs J Burton (Acting Chairman), Mr G Horrobin, Mr F Johnson, Mr J Clinch and Mr P Gartside. Also present PC Lodge.

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.)

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the January Meeting and wished them all a Happy New Year.

Residents Present – asked for the assistance of the Parish Council with regard to problems associated with parked cars, which appear to be going further up Appley Lane North than ever. They understand why this is happening, as it is cheaper to travel from Appley Bridge than from neighbouring Parishes however, with the increase in parked cars, and the Lorries and buses which use this route, it is sometimes impossible for residents to exit their driveways. A request was made for a white line to be installed across the driveways of 124-126 Appley Lane North which would not only allow these residents to come out of their driveways, but would also provide a passing place for vehicles on this route. The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council totally support the residents of Appley Lane North in looking for ways to address parking problems and have also enlisted the support of the Police with this matter. The Council will write to LCC requesting a white line and to Rosie Cooper MP for support.

Ms Jayne Bradbury – A representative of Escalibur International Pension Fund – attended the meeting to address the Parish Council, and residents present, about their proposals to alleviate parking problems in Appley Bridge associated with the Railway Station and the School on Finch Lane. Ms Bradbury informed the Council that she had been approached by All Saints School and Church, by Network Rail and by residents of Appley Bridge, with a request to facilitate something which would ease parking problems in Appley Bridge. It was reported that approx. 90-110 vehicles are now parking on Escalibur owned land near the school. Ms Bradbury would like to push forward proper infrastructure for the school, improve the Appley Lane North/Hall Lane road junction (surveys have revealed that traffic lights would be the most appropriate solution at this junction) and assist with parking problems at the railway station. Land near the railway station, which could have provided additional parking, was sold off some years ago. It was confirmed that more people are now using the rail links to Manchester since parking charges in the City were increased. It is also reported that the road, and footway, sweepers find it difficult to clean in the Parish due to the number of parked vehicles. Ms Bradbury reported that Escalibur has had a number of surveys undertaken and they feel they could address all the issues. Ms Bradbury confirmed that, following contact with West Lancs. BC who suggested they consult with residents, they will be writing to all residents in Appley Bridge asking for volunteers to become part of a forum to discuss the options for solutions to the parking problems. Ms Bradbury has also met with the school and with County Councillor Fillis. They would now like to work with the Parish to identify solutions. LCC will cost the schemes, Escalibur will determine what grants are available to fund the schemes and, if they still need to generate funding, they will look at development of their land in Appley Bridge to raise the money required. Ms Bradbury confirmed that she will be in post for the next 18-24 months and will be looking to progress this matter whilst she is still in control of the land in question. Ms Bradbury stated that whilst she is happy to undertake the work, the Community need to be a driving force behind this. Ms Bradbury is happy to provide survey results to support progress. It was confirmed that the land at the Quarry cannot be used to ease parking problems as, for approx. the next 40 years there will continue to be gas emissions. It was confirmed that if it is found that grants are available to support the provision of the proper infrastructure in the Parish then there may not be a need for development. Escalibur are looking for some pro-active solutions and would like to work with the Community to solve these problems. The Chairman asked if Escalibur would consider giving the land to the School. Ms Bradbury said that the School could not afford it as it would cost approx. £4million to put in the planned infrastructure which wasn't completed when the full scheme associated with the school was abandoned many years ago.

Councillor Mrs Burton suggested that if the land currently used for parking at school was given to them then the School could look for grants to help them create better parking provision. Ms Bradbury said that Escalibur would like to work with the Community, identify possible solutions and ask the community to

choose the best solution. They will then go to LCC to see what is available to deliver the chosen scheme. If grants are available to cover the cost of solving the problem - happy days, if not then Escalibur will undertake some development on their land to provide sufficient funds so that scheme “washes it’s face”. Public Present - were extremely sceptical of these proposals and feel that Escalibur are using these problems as a means of getting permission to develop land which would not otherwise be successful in gaining planning approval for development. It was once again stressed that the land they are proposing to use to create additional parking in the Parish, or for development to fund this provision, is all Green Belt land. The road they are proposing to use to access the new parking provision would also form an access road to sites for development which are currently owned by Escalibur. It was reported that none of the promises made when planning permission was granted for the quarrying, ie: giving the land back to the community as amenity land and for parking once quarrying had ceased, have ever been fulfilled, and probably never will be. The reality of the situation is that, if the proposed solutions are likely to cost millions of pounds, it is highly unlikely in the current economic climate that LCC will have sufficient funds to contribute, nor will there be sufficient grant funding available to pay for the infrastructure suggested therefore, the only way to fund this would be from development of Green Belt land, owned by Escalibur, in the Parish. The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council do want to help the residents who want to see solutions, and they also want to help the school, however the Parish Council represents the whole Community and it is highly likely that the residents of Appley Bridge will not want to see Green Belt land developed. The Parish Council will take on board the views of the whole Community, as/when proposals are submitted to provide solutions to these longstanding problems by Escalibur, and following public discussions at Parish Council Meetings, will make any decisions accordingly. Residents of Mossfields have been informed that the fruit trees are TPO’d - the Clerk will request confirmation of this fact. Some of the residents of 8-12 Mossfields would have liked the grass replacing with parking provision. Councillor Horrobin agreed to ask a resident of Mossy Lea Road to cut back hedges which are overhanging the pavement. There is a sunken manhole cover in the carriageway on Mossy Lea Road, between the village hall and Broadhurst Lane. Recent slurry sealing of footways in the Parish is patchy where vehicles have crossed the footway to access a driveway too soon after laying. The large white van which used to park on Mossy Lea VH car park is now parking on the block paved area at the front of what was the recruitment office. A sign is required at the entrance to the cul-de-sac at Mossfields indicating that there is insufficient room to turn around in there. The 113 bus service remains unreliable, with delays resulting in long waits by passengers when the buses do not run to timetable. PC Lodge – Confirmed that the Police have been trying to assist with parking problems/issues in the Parish both on Appley Lane North and Skull House Lane. They realise that this is a huge problem and have ticketed motorists, issued warning letters and have asked the Traffic Team at the Police to liaise with LCC to try to help with this matter. The two main issues are cost and the fear of displacing the problem elsewhere. Parking restrictions will not be put in place just to prevent parking. PC Lodge accepted that a white line in front of 124-126 Appley Lane North would provide a passing place. It was confirmed that parking enforcement is no longer a Police matter as it now falls under the remit of West Lancs. BC who tend to concentrate on Town Centres. It was suggested that parking permits may be a good idea. PC Lodge confirmed that she had recently issued a lot of tickets on Skull House Lane where vehicles were parked completely on the pavement and causing an obstruction. PC Lodge confirmed that she had spoken to the manager of the LCC depot on Moss Lane regarding gritting in the vicinity of horses and asked that drivers be more mindful of horses and riders. His response was that riders need to be more visible, particularly at this time of year, as it is sometimes difficult to see them. The Chairman confirmed that all she wanted was them to have some consideration and maybe stop gritting until the horses have passed. There were 5 horses gritted on the occasion in question which could have led to a bolting situation and resulted in a serious accident. PC Lodge reported the crime statistics for last month – only 4 incidents in the month, which is quite positive for this time of year.

101. APOLOGIES - Were received and accepted from Councillor Mr F Hodgkinson (family matters). Councillors Mr Horrobin and Mr Clinch will have to leave early due to prior commitments. Apologies were also received from County Councillor Fillis.

102. 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.

- 103. MINUTES** – The Minutes of the Meeting of Parish Council held on Monday 15 December 2014 had been circulated in advance of the Meeting, were accepted as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.
- 104. UPDATE/PROGRESS WITH ISSUES RAISED AT THE PREVIOUS MEETING** - Nothing to report which will not be dealt with elsewhere on the Agenda.
- 105. 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) Confirmation work commenced at Mossfields on Monday 5 January 2015 – **The Council question whether the work will be completed within the timescales quoted.**
- b) Notification from LCC of a Claim for a definitive Map Modification Order, Upgrade of Public Footpath 21 Wrightington to a Bridleway, Borough of West Lancashire – **Resolved: The Parish Council completely support this application and will confirm that several evidence forms in support of this have already been forwarded to West Lancs. BC.**
- c) Invitation to 2 reps. of the Parish Council to attend the Mayor’s Civic Dinner & Dance, Friday 27 March 2015, Civic Hall, Ormskirk. Tickets £25 each – **Apologies will be forwarded.**
- d) Notification of proposed changes for disposal of non-household waste which, if approved, will become effective from 1/4/15 – Limiting the quantity which can be disposed of, charges will apply to waste in excess of limits and a permit will be required – **Resolved: The Parish Council do not support this policy. If this policy becomes effective fly-tipping will increase and it will fall to West Lancs. BC to deal with it, at their cost.**
- e) Information for Councillors in readiness for this year’s elections – **Noted by Councillors.**
- f) Information and figures on Council Tax levels and Tax Base and the Council Tax Support Grant amounts for 2015/16 – for use at the Budget Meeting – **Noted for use next month.**
- g) Rural Development Programme January Newsletter – **Noted.**
- h) Consultation on the County Council’s Budget Proposals 2015/16-2017/18 – **Noted.**
- i) Notification of consultations on Onshore Oil and Gas SPD, A Scoping Consultation Outcomes Report and a Screening Statement for Strategic Environment Assessment – for comment if you thing it necessary – **Resolved: Councillors will leave this to the professional officers.**
- j) Correspondence from the Chair of Hilldale Community Association – Re: the possibility of holding a “Hustings” for the forthcoming General Election – **Resolved: As the Parish Council is a non-political body and, with their own elections in May, they will not be getting involved in any plans to arrange Hustings.**
- k) Suggestions/Ideas/Costings for applications for Parish Capital Grants from West Lancs. BC – It was suggested that parking on Appley Bridge VH car park could be deterred initially by the display of clamping signs - **Agreed.** Councillor Johnson reported that welding work will be approx. £320 at each hall, an additional £200 will be included to cover the cost of re-locating the disused gates on galvanised posts to ABVH, Planters are £89.50 each (4 will be required for MLVH and 3 for the relocated gates at ABVH. Initial planting for the first year, including plants and regular watering will be £155 per planter. It is hoped that after the initial installations, plants, planting and watering can be sourced locally. Therefore, Metal work = £840.00, Planters = £626.50, plants, planting and maintenance in the first year = £1085.00 – Totalling £2551.50. **Resolved: Following detailed discussions on this subject the Clerk will submit a bid to West Lancs. BC for the necessary ironwork required to support the provision of planters at both village halls to improve the aesthetics of the exterior for the community and for village hall users. The Parish Council will contribute approx. 30% (£851.50) of the overall cost and a bid for the remaining 60% (£1700.00) will be submitted to West Lancs. BC.**
- l) Late items received which may require discussion/action/observations – i) Consultations on Supplementary Planning Documents on Green Belt and Affordable Housing from West Lancs. BC – **Resolved: The Council will ask that the document provides for protection of Green Belt from development by stealth and that the document ensures that any affordable**

home provision is sustained by the provision of facilities. ii) Info. on West Lancs. BC finances – **Noted.** iii) West Lancs. BC stakeholder survey for completion – **Noted.** iv) Info. on LCC Healthy Streets initiative – **The Council will display posters in their Notice Boards.**

Councillors Mr Horrobin & Mr Clinch left the Parish Council Meeting during this item.

106. 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.

107. HIGHWAYS AND ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

- It was agreed that Councillor Johnson liaise with the contractor (Mr Proe) to spray Mossy Lea VH car park to remove the moss and to add to the Parish Council amenity cutting undertaken by Mr Proe, the section of verges/hedges from Raby Fold Farm down to the hazard markers.
- Councillor Johnson is continuing to pursue tree issues between Chisnall Avenue and the Church car park. Some hedges have been trimmed but more work may be necessary.
- Flooding remains a problem, on both sides of the road, near 9-11 Mossy Lea Road in rainfall.
- The bench on the playing field at the rear of Mossy Lea VH is dilapidated and needs repairing.
- Councillor Mrs Burton remains unhappy with the little/no response regarding the gritting vehicle continuing to grit whilst passing horse-riders. Drivers should be told to stop their vehicles until the horses have passed.

108. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES – Councillor Mrs Burton & Mr Hodgkinson attended the LALC Area Committee Meeting and reported discussions on cutting subsidies to bus services. It was suggested Parishes could buy vehicles and operate a small service, this suggestion was unpopular. It was reported that the 113 bus service remains unreliable. It was explained that when a bus company puts a bid in for a route they must acquire a licence from the Licencing Traffic Commission. LCC have to save £300m over the next 3 years. LALC, as a body, has been asked to support objections to fracking in Lancashire. It was reported that LCC will be running courses for Stewards at Processions in due course. The Clerk reported that an email had been received from a representative of St James’s Church to enquire whether the Parish Council would be prepared to contribute some funding towards the cost of training Stewards. It was suggested that the Diocese should contribute towards stewards training. Councillors attending the Area Committee Meeting were asked if they wished to attend a Meeting at the NFU Hall in Skelmersdale to discuss flooding issues and flood risks. Councillors Mrs Burton and Mr Hodgkinson would like to attend this Meeting.

109. VILLAGE HALLS

MOSSY LEA – Replacement plaque for outside of the hall – Councillor Johnson has pursued this with Mr Martin Ainscough and a meeting will be arranged with Mr Ainscough’s builder to discuss further. Mr Ainscough is willing to pay the costs of the replacement plaque due to the family connections. Councillor Johnson suggested that the Parish Council should consider extending the Village Hall to square the building off, giving much more useable space and making the hall space much bigger. Water is lodging on the car park near the emergency exit doors it is difficult to see how this can be alleviated.

APPLEY BRIDGE – Reminder to ward Councillors, Village Hall Committee Meeting 2 February 2015.

110. PLANNING To discuss the following applications:

- 1) 2014/1191/FUL Proposed roof lift with dormers front & rear, various internal/external alterations (Case 1661545) Pitched roof to garage. 128 Appley Lane North, Appley Bridge. **No Objections.**
- 2) 2014/1402/FUL Re-construction and extension of existing house. 4A, High Moor Lane, (Case 1661547) Wrightington. **No Objections.**
- 3) 2015/0018/PNH Application for determination as to whether prior approval of details is required – (Case 1661550) Extension of dwelling house. Dimensions from rear wall of original house – 4.63m, max height of extension 3.9m, height to eaves of extension 2.6m. 18 Glenside, Appley Bridge. **No Objections.**

111. LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS – Request for nomination for Buckingham Palace Garden Party – Annual Report 2013/14 – Details of Chairmanship Workshop

– **Resolved: The Chairman, Councillor Hodgkinson, and his wife will be nominated to attend the Buckingham Palace Garden Party.**

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

For Payment:

| | | |
|--------------------|--|----------|
| Crossroads Care NW | Donation | £25.00 |
| Working Woodlands | Tree Work at ABVH | £336.00 |
| British Gas | Gas supplied at ABVH | £1136.28 |
| Mrs C A Cross | Reimburse for materials for work at MLVH | £17.99 |
| Petty Cash | | £25.00 |
| Mrs C A Cross | Clerk's Salary – Net | £618.72 |
| HM Rev. & Customs | Tax due by Clerk | £4.20 |

Resolved: Payment of the above accounts is approved.

113. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED: That the next Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 16 February 2015 at Appley Bridge Village Hall. Budget Meeting 7:00pm, Parish Council Meeting at 7:30 pm.

Minutes 101 to 113 will be accepted as a correct record and signed by the Chairman at the Meeting to be held on Monday 16 February 2015.

Members of the Public and Press are welcome to attend

Meeting Closed: 10:30 pm

Chairman:

Date:

Members of the Public and Press are welcome to attend

REPORT 1

- a) Advertising Consent REFUSED/GRANTED (split) for siting of two advertisement flag poles. IKO Plc, Appley Lane North, Appley Bridge.
- b) Notification your complaint re: timetable issues with the 113 bus service, has been forwarded to the Depot Commercial Manager at Stagecoach.
- c) Notification complaint re: gritter passing horses been referred to the Highways Team for investigation.
- d) Notification of temporary road closure on Chorley Road, Parbold, from its junction with Robin Lane to the junction with Bentley Lane, 8am 23 Feb – 5pm 27 Feb, to allow carriageway patching works.
- e) Copy of Minutes of West Lancs. 3 Tier Forum Meeting of 10 December 2014.
- f) Letter of apology for consulting Wrightington PC about the street naming of the former Carmelite Convent Site, Stoney Brow, sent to us in error.