

WRIGHTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

At the Meeting of the Council of the Parish of Wrightington held on Monday 18 January 2016 at Appley Bridge Village Hall at 7.30pm the following were present:

Councillors: Mr F Hodgkinson (Chairman), Mr F Johnson, Mrs J Burton and 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 – Mr Christopher House introduced himself as the applicant for the vacant Appley Bridge Ward Councillors post on Wrightington Parish Council. He is a local postman and regularly speaks to residents as he conducts his deliveries. He provided the Parish Council with copies of photographs of the inadequate fence on Mill Lane, opposite 32 Mill Lane, which is a health and safety issue as there is a significant drop into the canal which is very dangerous with the fence in its current state. It was also reported that the house opposite has been re-possessed and the hedges need cutting back.

99. **APOLOGIES** - Were received and accepted from Councillor Mr Clinch (illness) and PC Lodge.

100. **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.

101. **MINUTES** – The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 21 December 2015 had been circulated in advance of the Meeting, following amendment of Minute 91(g) changing the word ‘Banks’ to ‘Skelmersdale’, the Minutes were accepted as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

102. **UPDATE/PROGRESS WITH ISSUES RAISED AT THE PREVIOUS MEETING** – Minute 91(b) - It was confirmed that no response has been received from West Lancs. BC Housing Officers to the reported nuisance caused by the tenant of No.12 parking on the space allocated for the tenant of No.11. The Parish Council feel that this is unacceptable and that the tenant of No.12 should be confronted by Housing Officers and, the Council believe she is in breach of the implied conditions of her tenancy agreement with regard to parking, and should therefore be given notice to quit.

Carr House Lane – It was reported that no preventative measures have been taken to date with regard to the edge of the carriageway falling away in to a significant drop on Carr House Lane. This is still considered to be a health and safety issue, requiring urgent attention.

103. 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 LCC are proposing to introduce a 40mph speed limit on Robin Hood Lane, from just short of Hall Lane junction to just around bend where it meets Moss Lane – **Noted.**
- b) Confirmation from LCC that a joint inspection with the Parish Council is acceptable to the applicant and LCC to ensure works on the proposed diverted route of Footpath 5, Boars Den, are as promised and, a request that the Parish Council agree to withdraw their objections based on the action proposed – **Resolved** – **The Parish Council withdraw their objections.**
- c) Response from War Memorial Trust Conservation Officer to the request for info. on ownership of the War Memorial at Appley Bridge – **It was confirmed that this is on land belonging to Mainsprint. Land Registry records will confirm this.**
- d) An invitation from the Mayor of West Lancs. BC to her “Celebrating Women in West Lancashire” event on 26 February at 6pm at Ormskirk School – **Apologies.**
- e) Press Release – Views sought on a Combined Authority for Lancashire – **The Council believe that this will be a replacement for LCC and possibly a way of drawing down additional**

funding from Central Government. The Council believe all tiers of local government should be working together already. It is obvious that eventually all funding from Central Government will stop and local government tiers will be expected to raise their own funding. The Parish Council have mixed feelings on a proposed combined authority. It may be beneficial provided adequate funding is drawn down with it and, provided it doesn't just create another tier in local government. The proposed area of the combined authority may be too large to be workable and, the proposals may mean the demise of Parish Councils. The Parish Council would like more information before making a decision on this subject. This will be revisited at the next Meeting.

- f) LCC Countryside Consultation on stopping countryside services in March 2018 – Discussions took place on extensive work carried out on Chisnall fields with a promise of 100's of trees being planted. To date no planting has materialised. Rights of way through the land have been obliterated and need reinstating. Fewer people are using the route and trees are falling routinely as the land deteriorates. Clarification of the services affected will be sought and the Council will ask whether public footpaths will be affected by the withdrawal of countryside services.**
- g) Enquiry from West Lancs. BC as to whether the Council will be having a Members Allowance Scheme in 2016/2017 – Resolved – The Parish Council will not be having a member's allowance scheme in 2016/17.**
- h) Notification that the Tax Base for Wrightington for 2016/17 will be £1,149.05 for a Band D property and a Request for Parish Precept – Noted.**
- i) Notification of the New Audit Regime from 2017 and a request that the Parish Council consider whether they wish to opt out of the proposals from NALC, SLCC & ADA – The Parish Council discussed the options available in detail and it was Resolved – That the Parish Council will be following the recommendations of the sector led body, as the procurement body, called "The Smaller Authority Audit Appointment Authority Ltd.**
- j) Ideas for applications for Parish Capital Grants from West Lancs. BC – Following discussions it was suggested – That a quotation will be obtained for repainting (gloss and emulsion) the halls, kitchens, toilets, entrances and ceilings of Appley Bridge and Mossy Lea Village Halls and for re-sealing the floor at Appley Bridge Village Hall. A bid will be submitted following discussion of the quotation at the next Parish Council Meeting.**
- k) Request for your views on LCC proposed budget option – Resolved - The Council feel that bad planning and management often leads to the operative on the ground wasting time during the day until it is time to finish. LCC vans are often seen in rural areas, parking for periods of time before making their way to LCC depots. Nobody appears to create a plan of work and, if one is created, no one seems to check up that the correct amount of time has been allocated for the work. The Parish Council believe that poor housekeeping is to blame for a lot of wasted money by LCC.**
- l) Late items received which may require discussion/action/observations i) Photographs of HGV's trying to pass on Appley Lane North – These will be forwarded to LCC. ii) Letter from West Lancs. BC suggesting that vacant Borough Council owned garages could be advertised via Parish Councils – Noted. iii) Confirmation from LCC that the application for the Biomass factory in Appley Bridge has been withdrawn – Noted, however, the Parish Council and residents need to remain vigilant as it may have been strategically withdrawn and could be submitted again at any time. iv) An enquiry from Upholland Parish Council to determine whether Wrightington PC would be interested in securing the 3A bus service, scheduled to be withdrawn in April, as a Parish Based Public Transport Scheme – The Parish Council would need more information before making this decision. Details of the anticipated costs, how drivers would be obtained, insurance and licencing implications and whether residents' bus passes would still be valid for use on the service. Also, a co-ordinator would be required who would liaise with transport providers. Details of how it is envisaged this service provision would work are also required. It was suggested, it may be more cost effective for several residents to get together & book taxis.**

104. HIGHWAYS AND ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

- Councillor Johnson confirmed the reports he had made and progress made with highway matters which he has been pursuing.
- The street light near the post office has been damaged in a car accident and needs attention.
- Enquiries into land ownership on Moss Lane revealed that LCC do not own the small piece of woodland adjacent to the carriageway through which the Parish Council suggested a safe pathway could be made for walkers, cyclists and horse-riders to use as there is no footway on this stretch of Moss Lane. The Clerk was also informed that the trees on this land are subject to a blanket TPO however, the Parish Council did not envisage that any trees would need to be removed. The Parish Council would just be looking for permission for walkers, joggers, runners, cyclists and horse-riders to go through the wood and, over time, a route would be created. Councillor Hodgkinson agreed to check land ownership details at the Land Registry.
- Hedges still need cutting back on Crow Orchard Road, opposite the BP garage, from Back Lane down to the Church. (The Clerk checked LCC website as this had been reported previously and can report that following a pruning request in December an email has been sent by LCC to the land management firm with this request.
- Litter picks need to be requested again on Moss Lane, Courage Low Lane, Toogood Lane, Smithy Brow and Mossy Lea Road.
- Fly tipping still needs removing on Courage Low Lane and Moss Lane.
- Councillor Mrs Burton reported on the prompt action of West Lancs. BC when she recently experienced flooding at her home and requested that a ruined carpet be collected.
- Councillor Mrs Burton reported on the use of Time/Spice Credits in Chorley Borough and suggested that they would be a good thing to roll out in West Lancashire. The Clerk has had experience of Time/Spice Credits and will try to obtain more information.
- It was suggested that more information be obtained about the suggested nationwide litter pick for the Queen's 90th Birthday.

105. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES – Nothing to report.

106. VILLAGE HALLS

MOSSY LEA – £60 Yoga Classes – December 2015. It was reported that problems with the flushing mechanisms in the ladies toilets are becoming more frequent and will result in increased water bills. A quotation of £182.00 has been obtained for the plumber to change the mechanism from a push button to a flush. **Resolved** – **The plumber be instructed to go ahead as soon as possible. 50% of cost to be paid immediately the remaining 50% once the work is complete.** Councillor Johnson reported contacting Age UK regarding delivery of computer classes. Age UK confirmed the hall could be a good outreach facility. Steps will now be taken to ensure that the operating systems and the anti-virus software on the computers is current and up-to-date before work is undertaken to roll out computer courses. The Clerk confirmed that the contractor has quoted £80 to replace downspouts and has suggested putting cages around them to prevent future vandalism. A quotation has been requested for cages. The contractor is trying to source the manmade roof tiles which require replacing.

APPLEY BRIDGE – The Brass Band would like to pay directly into the village hall account rather than by cheque and would like to enquire whether it may be possible to put up a notice board and some framed photographs of the band. **Resolved** – **Bank details will be obtained from the Treasurer and a notice board and photographs can be put up on the bottom half of the wooden hatch between the hall and the kitchen, provided the hatch can still be opened and closed when required.**

107. PLANNING To discuss the following applications:

- 1) 2015/1294/FUL Installation of a detached timber garden room. Appley House, Hall Lane, (Case 1862109) Wrightington. **Resolved** – **No Objections.**
- 2) 2016/0008/LDP Certificate of Lawfulness – Proposed single storey extensions to side and rear of dwellinghouse. Sunny Mount, Broadhurst Lane, Wrightington. **Resolved - The Council object to the extensions to Sunny Mount as they would enlarge the existing small country dwelling considerably. If allowed, the extensions would constitute over development of this site. The Council believe that a physical check should be made to ensure that the proposed extensions do not exceed the percentage allowed to fall within permitted development rights. If allowed the**

resultant extended dwelling will be out of character with the original dwelling and its rural location. The Council would ask that these matters be taken into consideration before a decision is made.

108. LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS – Request for nomination for the Buckingham Palace Garden Party 2016 **Resolved** – **The Chairman and his wife will be nominated.** – Next Area Committee Meeting Thurs. 21 January 2016 at Derby Street, Ormskirk.

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

For Payment:

Chubb Fire	Servicing and Replacing Fire Extinguishers at ABVH - The Clerk is in discussions with Chubb Fire over the recent service and will report back in due course.	
Keith Platts	Balance for plumbing work + extra work required at MLVH	£275.95
British Gas	Gas use at ABVH (estimated)	£606.54
TWC	Toilet Rolls and Paper Towels for MLVH	£43.20
Mrs C A Cross	Clerk's Salary – Net	£618.72
HM Rev. & Customs	Tax due by Clerk	£4.20
Keith Platts	Payment for work on ladies toilets (50%)	£91.00
	Payment for work on ladies toilets (2 nd 50% - on completion)	£91.00

Resolved: Payment of the above accounts be approved.

110. STANDING ORDERS – Were lifted to allow the Chairman to ask Mr House, the applicant for the vacant Appley Bridge Ward Councillors post, for his opinion on the Parish Council Meeting. There are currently no ward councillors living in Appley Bridge and, it will be beneficial for someone who lives, works, and has a genuine interest in Appley Bridge, to be appointed as an Appley Bridge Ward, Wrightington Parish Councillor. Mr House confirmed that he had enjoyed the meeting and found the discussions very interesting. Mr House was told that if he joined the Parish Council he would also automatically be on the Appley Bridge Village Hall Committee. **The Chairman re-convened the Meeting to close business.**

111. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved: That the next Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 15 February 2016 at Mossy Lea Village Hall at 7:30 pm.

Minutes 99 to 111 will be accepted as a correct record and signed by the Chairman at the Meeting to be held on Monday 15 January 2016, 6pm Budget Meeting – 7.30pm Parish Council Meeting.

Members of the Public and Press are welcome to attend

Meeting Closed: 10:00 pm

Chairman:

Date:

REPORT 1

- a) Confirmation VIP Network Meeting will be on Thurs 21 Jan at 2pm at Mossy Lea Village Hall.
- b) Letter from County Councillor Fillis with an update on the Biomass Factory application at Appley Bridge – anticipated for consideration at Dev. Control Meeting on 20 January 2016. The Committee will have a site visit on Thurs 14 Jan at 10am. On the morning of 18 January at 10am presentations to the Committee will be made. Confirmation he will be attending the site meeting and the presentation meeting and will be raising concerns of local residents at the Development Control Meeting.
- c) Press Release – confirmation that West Lancs. BC is signing the digital skills charter to pledge its commitment to improving basic digital skills in the local community.
- d) Letter of introduction from JRB FastCut Big Area Groundcare.