

WRIGHTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

At the Meeting of the Council of the Parish of Wrightington held on Monday 21 March 2016 at Appley Bridge Village Hall at 7.30pm the following were present:

Councillors: Mr F Hodgkinson (Chairman), Mr F Johnson, Mrs J Burton, J Clinch and Mr P Gartside. The Parish Council invited the applicant for the vacant Appley Bridge Ward Councillors post on the Parish Council, Mr Christopher House, to sit with them so that he could get a feel for the Meetings before his formal appointment to this position.

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 – Reported that the obstruction and parking problems in the lay-by near Fairy Glen and Coalgate Cottages is horrendous. The builders fencing, the numerous large boulders and the planted trough are preventing safe access and egress from the lay-by and creating a significant obstruction. Concern was expressed about the extreme poor state of the road surface at the roundabout at junction 27 of the M6. A replacement bus-stop sign is still required near Gibson's Garage, Mossy Lea Road, following the accident at New Year, as some bus drivers are failing to stop to allow passengers to leave, or board, the bus. The manhole cover in the carriageway in the same vicinity requires attention as it is causing a noise nuisance. Many of the grids/road gullies on Appley Lane North, from the junction with Skull House Lane down to the Mill Lane junction, are blocked and compacted with debris and detritus. The garden of no. 56 Appley Lane North was flooded during recent heavy rainfall as a result. A representative of ABCAGE was present to inform the Parish Council that a meeting has been arranged, in the Village Hall, on Tuesday 5 April at 7.00pm, with Mr Fell, the owner of the proposed Biomass Factory site at West Quarry, in connection with the future planning proposals for the West Quarry, Appley Bridge. The representative reported on earlier discussions with Mr Fell where he said he did not want to see any more demonstrations like those already seen and, that he did not expect the strength of feeling which was displayed. He says he does not really want to put a tallow and oil factory on the site however, as the planning permission for this expires next month, he will be taking steps to widen the entrance to the site to keep the planning permission live. He is now proposing to put solar panels on the site. The Chairman suggested that there could be the possibility of an explosion if the heat from the proposed solar panels reacts with the methane which is still leaking from the site. It was also suggested that having meetings or negotiations with landowners can afford the landowner the opportunity of finding out people's reactions, objections, issues, or potential reasons for refusal, which can then be addressed, responded to, or mitigated, in a subsequent planning application when submitted. This then makes objecting to the proposals very difficult. It was reported that ABCAGE feel they are in control of what goes on in Appley Bridge and they are not going to let things slip through again. They see the meeting and negotiations as a positive step and that they have proved that if the residents stand together as a community, they can achieve things. The Council explained that a similar situation had arisen with land owned by a Pension Fund in Appley Bridge and, negotiations took place about what was needed, or would benefit Appley Bridge. Following this, proposals were revealed which allowed for development of the Pension Fund owned Green Belt land, together with additional parking in the Parish which would fulfil the need identified by the negotiations. The Parish Council strongly object to developers and land owners who think that they can do what they want with Green Belt, contaminated, or otherwise undeveloped land, if they give the residents of Wrightington and Appley Bridge something they want or need in return eg: as this particular land owner has said, he will create a car park to ease parking problems on Appley Lane North. The representative confirmed that she did not feel she was being naive in dealing with the landowner and stated that this is the reason the Parish Council, and other neighbouring Parish Councils had been invited to attend the ABCAGE arranged Meeting, to discuss these problems all together. The Chairman suggested that Mr Fell should be attending a Parish Council Meeting to outline his proposals rather than the other way round. The representative confirmed that ABCAGE had told Mr Fell they would be informing all the Parish Councils and, that he will be outlining his proposals at the Meeting on 5 April at the Village Hall. Mr Fell would like to explain in more detail the proposals he has for solar panels and small industrial use on the site. This is about putting everything out on the table and for those attending to take it away with them to think

about. It was confirmed that there is no Agenda for the Meeting yet, however, ABCAGE see this as an open communication to discuss suggestions rather than proposals, in a controlled meeting, and it was reported that Mr Fell is offering something to the Community which no one else has. He says he would rather have solar panels than a factory, however, he is still proposing to begin work on the entrance a direct result of which will be to keep the current planning permission for the tallow and oil factory alive. Councillors still think that Mr Fell will find out what other Parish Councils and the residents will be prepared to accept and, using those responses, will formulate his proposals which will then be very difficult to object to as any concerns or worrying issues will have been dealt with or mitigated. It was felt that this is a rather unusual way of doing things. The Chairman, indicated that if Parish Councillors wish to attend the Meeting as individuals or residents, to listen, then that is fine, however, it is inappropriate to attend as representatives of the Parish Council, as it is not possible to have an input into the discussions and proposals until the Parish Council are made aware of them and can establish the views of the residents of Appley Bridge and Wrightington on the proposals, otherwise, any views or input they may have will be personal views/input and, they could be misconstrued as pre-judging the proposals which are outlined, before they are presented to the Parish Council for discussion in the form of a planning application. It was stressed that the Parish Council will always support the residents of Appley Bridge and work in their best interests, however, they would find it difficult to support proposals for solar panels because of the dangers associated with the methane gas leaking from the site. Councillor Horridge, from Shevington PC confirmed that they briefly discussed this matter at the Shevington Parish Council Meeting and, that he will be attending the meeting at the village hall. Any views he gives will be his personal views not those of the Parish Council.

Discussions then turned to the IKO factory and the 17 planning applications submitted and approved. The site and the factory are considered an eyesore. The Council suggested contacting the Borough Councillors for their support and to call in any applications to which there are objections so that a decision can only be made following full discussion, and a site visit, by the Planning Committee. It was also thought that, as these would be commercial applications it may be that only other businesses will be notified therefore, it is important to be vigilant.

126. APOLOGIES - Were received from PC Lodge.

127. 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.

128. MINUTES – The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 15 February 2016 had been circulated in advance of the Meeting and were accepted as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

129. UPDATE/PROGRESS WITH ISSUES RAISED AT THE PREVIOUS MEETING – Budget Meeting, Work Place Pension – In response to the question of whether the pension scheme is in place yet, the Clerk reported that the staging date for Wrightington Parish Council to have a pension in place is early 2017 and, that now the decision had been taken which pension scheme to put in to place, further action will only be taken nearer to the 2017 date.

Land ownership details – The Chairman agreed to check land ownership details with the Land Registry in relation to derelict land on Mill Lane and the wooded area of land on Moss Lane.

Carr House Lane – reflective markers have still not been erected. The Clerk reported her last correspondence is being dealt with by LCC as VIP mail. It was also confirmed that the previously reported ice sign near the junction of Whittle Bottoms/Carr House Lane, is still on the floor.

Obstruction of Public Footpath 21 – The makeshift stile has not been removed despite numerous reports. The Clerk was instructed to write to LCC Legal Dept. to inform them that the Parish Council are considering serving a s136 notice on LCC to ensure they fulfil their obligations to remove the obstruction. There are also branches, litter and dog fouling bags along this route.

Old road r/o BP Garage – Councillor Johnson reported discussions with West Lancs. BC over the litter, overgrowth and neglect of this route which was cleared and re-opened as part of the gateway project at the junction of Crow Orchard Road/Mossy Lea Road, by West Lancs. BC. He was informed by West Lancs. BC, that this is an unadopted road. He will continue to pursue this.

Appointment of Parish Councillor – Following his attendance at the first 3 Parish Council Meetings of 2016, the Parish Council asked Mr House if he wished to continue with his application to be an Appley Bridge Ward, Wrightington Parish Councillor. Mr House confirmed he wished to proceed and it was **Resolved** – **That Mr Christopher House be appointed as a Wrightington Parish Councillor, Appley Bridge Ward, with effect from the Council Meeting on 18 April 2016.**

130. 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) Response from LCC to request for waiting restrictions in the cul-de-sac at Mossfields – **Noted**
- b) Copy confirmation of the order for Diversion of part of public footpath No.9, Wrightington – **It was confirmed that the Parish Council objected to the proposed diversion as it crossed the middle of the field and there have been a number of incidents reported involving public footpath users and cattle in fields they have to cross. The Parish Council will also point out that the street names on the plan attached are incorrect.**
- c) Confirmation that West Lancs. BC budget meeting agreed that Council Tax Support Grant and Concurrent Grant will be reduced by 10% per year for the next 3 years – **Noted.**
- d) Notification there is s106 money available to be spent on creating new or improving areas of existing public open space in Wrightington and a request for suggestions – **The Council feel the money could be used to improve poor and failing existing public open space adjacent to the football pitch/playing fields, Appley Lane South. Equipment at this site is both sparse and old and, would benefit from an injection of funds in the form of new equipment which would be available for use by young people in both Wrightington and Upholland. The Council will enquire whether Upholland Parish Council wish to discuss a joint project to improve play space at Appley Lane North.**
- e) Update from LCC with regard to the withdrawal of subsidies for local bus services – **Noted.**
- f) Notification from ABCAGE of a Meeting with Mr Fell in connection with the future planning proposals for the West Quarry, Appley Bridge, on Tuesday 5 April at 7.00pm at Appley Bridge Village Hall and a request for representatives of the Parish Council to attend – **It was confirmed that Councillors can attend this meeting as Individuals/residents to listen only.**
- g) Request for Councillors to sign the online petition to Save Parbold Library – **Councillors can sign the online petition if they wish and posters will be displayed in the Notice Boards.**
- h) Request for support in fighting the proposals to lose the direct service to Piccadilly and Manchester Airport with effect from 1 April 2016 – **Resolved: The Parish Council support the objections to the loss of the service to Piccadilly and Manchester Airport.**
- i) Commemorative Medal for schools/councils for HM Queen Elizabeth II 90th Birthday – **Noted**
- j) Request for your support to advertise that a new Channel 4 Series – Fill Your House For Free – is looking for people in our area who need a bit of help giving their home a facelift – **Noted.**
- k) A leaflet from Preston Care & Repair, an independent home improvement agency working across Preston, Chorley, South Ribble and West Lancs. supporting older, disabled and vulnerable people with home repairs, adaptations and improvements – **Noted, on file.**
- l) Late items received which may require discussion/action/observations – i) Email from a resident suggesting that it would be more beneficial for Wrightington to fall under Wigan BC rather than West Lancs. BC – **The Clerk will confirm, that Wrightington did fall under Wigan many years ago until boundary changes were made. Wrightington and part of Appley Bridge now fall under the demise of West Lancashire BC and Lancashire County Council. The Parish Council agree with many of the statements however, there is little they are able to do to alter the geographic boundaries, which means that the Parish must remain in West Lancashire.** ii) Email request for financial support from Age UK to enable the Luncheon Club at the Community Centre, Appley Bridge, to continue – **Resolved** – **The Council are not in a position to make a donation at this time.**

131. HIGHWAYS AND ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

- 1) A dog waste bin is required at the entrance to the public footpath on Broadhurst Lane.

- 2) Hedges on Moss Lane, the responsibility of Wrightington Country Club, need cutting back.
- 3) Check on the current situation re: the boulders, trough and fence in the lay-by Hall Lane.
- 4) Stone/boulders on grass verges in front of 3 homes on Robin Hood Lane, need removing.
- 5) There are large boulders on the grass verge also requiring removal on Carr House Lane.
- 6) There is a large pot-hole under the bridge on Mill Lane which requires attention.

132. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES - Nothing to report.

133. ACTION REQUIRED TO SATISFY AUDIT REQUIREMENTS - Resolved: The Parish Council confirmed the following action has been taken throughout the year to satisfy audit requirements: i) The Risk Assessment/Management Plan/Register – were reviewed and adopted at the May 2015 Parish Council Meeting. ii) The effectiveness of the Internal Audit was confirmed – the Internal Auditor is both competent and independent, has no relationship with the Clerk or Councillors. The Audit trail is detailed, planned and the broad scope of the internal audit covers all aspects of the Councils business including financial, administrative, practical and procedural matters. Any issues arising from both the internal and external auditors are reported to the Parish Council at the earliest opportunity and the appropriate action taken. The Parish Council confirmed the continued appointment of Mrs MacDonald as the Parish Councils Internal Auditor.

134. VILLAGE HALLS

MOSSY LEA – £45.00 Craft Classes. £40 Birthday Party. £30 Boot Camp classes Monday evenings 6.30-7.15pm. £30 Ladies Lunch. West Lancs. BC booked the hall as a Polling Station on 5 May 2016 and 23 June 2016. Age UK attended Coffee Morning to determine what services are required in the village, and how they can help with service delivery to satisfy the requirement.

APPLEY BRIDGE – It was confirmed that ivy needs removing from tree trunks and the stone wall around the hall. There are also a lot of leaves which need removing and the area around the hall needs a considerable tidy up before the planters are put on the railings to enhance the hall.

The Clerk reported receipt of the non-domestic rate bills for both village halls for 2015/16 – Nil.

The Clerk confirmed that the defibrillators and the baby changing stations will be installed in the village halls shortly, along with stickers to indicate their location.

135. 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.

136. PLANNING To discuss the following applications:

- 1) 2016/0151/FUL Two storey front extension. Extension of existing garage and 1st floor extension over. (Case 1900561) Extension over the existing single storey rear extension. 15 The Grove, Appley Bridge. **Resolved: No objections.**
- 2) 2015/1261/FUL Single storey rear extension to create ground floor living space for disabled person. (Case 1900563) 10 Canal Bank, Appley Bridge. **Resolved: No objections.**
- 3) 2016/0265/FUL Proposed replacement detached dwelling and associated external works. Whitehouse, (Case 1900565) Robin Hood Lane, Appley Bridge. **Resolved: No objections.**

Notification – Cannot Comment on this type of application – 2016/0240/LDP – Certificate of Lawfulness – proposed single storey rear extension, 23 Stonemill Rise, Appley Bridge – **Noted.**

137. LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS – Notification that the next Area Committee Meeting will take place on Thursday 21 April 2016 at Derby Street, Ormskirk.

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

For Payment:

LALC	Annual Subscriptions (£551.56)	£463.61
E.on	Electricity use at ABVH	£118.26
British Gas	Gas use at MLVH	£310.43
Mrs C A Cross	Reimburse Cost of Book Tokens for Poster Competition	£60.00
Mrs C A Cross	Reimburse Internet Charges 2015- 2016 (50%)	£60.00
	Mobile Tel. Charges for past 12 months (50%)	£126.00
Mrs C A Cross	Reimburse Mileage Expenses 2015 – 2016	£185.40

Petty Cash		£25.00
Mrs C A Cross	Clerk's Salary – Net	£618.72
HM Rev. & Customs	Tax due by Clerk	£4.20
K & M Ashcroft	Re-locating fencing from MLVH to ABVH + welding	£770.00
D/D BT	Telephone line and Broadband at MLVH	£156.99

Receipts:

HM Rev. & Customs	VAT refund	£1304.47
West Lancs. BS	Refund – Amenity Grass Cutting	£246.84
Old Hall Brass Band	Payment for use of ABVH	£400.00

139. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved: That the next Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 18 April 2016 at Mossy Lea Village Hall at 7:30 pm.

Minutes 126 to 139 will be accepted as a correct record and signed by the Chairman at the Meeting to be held on Monday 18 April 2016 at 7.30pm.

Members of the Public and Press are welcome to attend

Meeting Closed: 10.20 pm

Chairman:

Date:

REPORT 1

- a) Notification permission granted for installation of a detached timber garden room. Appley House, Hall Lane, Wrightington.
- b) Notification permission granted for redevelopment of Richardsons Farm including alterations and extensions to existing farm house, barn conversion and associated external works. Richardsons Farm, Finch Lane, Appley Bridge.
- c) Notification permission granted for single storey office extension to rear and gable of existing property. Auto Time Systems Ltd Northern, North Quarry House, Skull House Lane, Appley Bridge.
- d) Notification permission granted for garage conversion & two storey side extension. 1 Skull House Mews.
- e) Confirmation reported branches, litter and makeshift stile on public footpath 21 will be investigated.
- f) Notification of temporary road closure of Broadhurst Lane, from 8am on Monday 16 May 2016 until 4pm on Friday 20 May 2016 or until completion of works, to allow culvert repair work.
- g) Posters from LCC for the new dementia awareness campaign, supported by Alzheimer's Society.
- h) Notification from County Councillor Mrs Evans that funding has run out for defibrillators and suggested it may be necessary to fundraise to purchase one at an expected cost of £400-£500.
- i) Notification that the next VIP network meeting scheduled for earlier this month has been cancelled.
- j) Copy press release from West Lancs. BC outlining schemes to improve housing for tenants over next 12 months – rents for most tenants will reduce by 1% per annum for the next 4 years. Those in supported accommodation will see an increase of 0.9%. Impact of this will mean £1.4M must be saved in 2016/17 and a further £10M between 2017-2020. Some services will be protected during these cuts and there will be an investment of £12.6M next year including 550 new kitchens installed, 900 new bathrooms installed, £1.6M invested in improved heating arrangements, replacement doors and windows, investment in communal areas of flats and improvement to sheltered housing.
- k) Copy press release from West Lancs. BC outlining the new Strategic Investment Reserve (SIR) to finance new economic regeneration initiatives and support implementation of new leisure strategy. Confirming the new management structure will save £104,000 pa. Notification of a partnership with other Lancashire authorities which will increase revenue from business rates. Also, freezing Councillors allowances and freezing car parking charges for the fifth year running, plus more. To achieve this West Lancs. BC is planning to increase Council Tax by 1.75%, first rise for 7 years.
- l) Copy press release West Lancs. BC outlining the new management structure.
- m) Copy press release West Lancs. BC confirmed adoption of Leisure Strategy & Playing Pitch Strategy.
- n) Dog Fouling Posters for displaying at strategic locations in the Parish.