

# WRIGHTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

At the Meeting of the Council of the Parish of Wrightington held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2018 at Appley Bridge Village Hall at 7.30pm the following were present:

Councillors: Mr Hodgkinson (Chairman), Mrs Burton, Mr F Johnson, and Mr J Clinch.

## 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.)

An Appley Bridge resident, Katie Jukes, very vocally expressed strong concerns and objections to the appointment of Julian Finch as a Wrightington Parish Councillor because of a conflict of interest caused by his objection to the current ABCA planning application to site a metal container on Canal Bank, adjacent to his home. Ms Jukes said it was a matter of integrity. Other members of the public present appeared to support Ms Jukes' comments. The Chairman explained that Mr Finch's application and CV was quite impressive and that, based on this the Parish Council had invited him to attend Parish Council Meetings as an observer for several months before progressing his application. The Clerk explained that Mr Finch is not yet a Parish Councillor and, that even if he was; he would be entitled to express his own opinion/response to a planning application to West Lancs. BC and it would be hoped that he would then go on to express an interest in the application at a Parish Council Meeting and take no part in the decision. These rules apply to all Parish Councillors. Ms Jukes asked if a good CV is all it takes to become a Parish Councillor. The Chairman confirmed that a CV is a good starting point but it takes more than that to become an effective Parish Councillor. The Council were asked "what if the community do not want him as a Parish Councillor?" It was explained that many in the room were speaking as residents and associates of ABCA (Appley Bridge Community Association) which is a registered charity who look after the interests of the Appley Bridge Community. A resident present stated that ABCA have some concerns about Mr Finch. It was explained that ABCA own The Meadows site, off Canal Bank. There are apparently not many documents available to show the exact boundaries of their ownership. It was stated that Mr Finch bought pockets of land from ABCA in the past but that he will not provide details and therefore, the exact boundary cannot be established. The Clerk, having read the online documentation submitted with the planning application, asked if there is any issue regarding ownership of the piece of land on which the proposed metal container will be sited, as she believes it is owned by the Canals and River Trust who are prepared to grant a licence for this use provided the Borough Council grants planning permission for it to be sited there. It was confirmed by those present that this is correct. The land on which ABCA propose to site the 10' x 8' container belongs to the Canals and River Trust. In view of the contentious nature of this matter the Chairman informed those present that, the Parish Council would not be submitting any views on this application and will leave the decision to the professional officers at West Lancs. BC. Mr Finch then addressed the Council, and those present stating that, when he submitted his application to join the Parish Council he had absolutely no knowledge of the proposed planning application by ABCA. He further confirmed that he had himself been an active member of the Community Association in the 1990's for approximately 10 years. Any documentation he has refers to a different piece of land he secured ownership of many years ago and has nothing whatsoever to do with the piece of land currently under discussion and the subject of a licence between the Canals and River Trust and ABCA, for which he has no documentation at all which would assist them.

Another member of the public, stated that she could not understand why discussions had become so heated, nor what they had to do with Parish Council business, and that she was attending to discuss issues relating to Appley Bridge Quarry and the nuisance that she, and many other residents had experienced over recent months, during the very hot weather. It was reported that residents of Ashfield Terrace have been plagued by swimmers, children climbing over their fences and through their gardens, have been subjected to verbal abuse, littering, drink and drug related issues and associated parking problems. The residents have set up a local community group and have contacted the Police and their Local Councillor, and feel that something more should be done before another fatally occurs. The residents believe that if there was a co-ordinated approach from all agencies then something could be done about it. The Chairman explained that under The Mines and Quarries Act the quarry owners have a legal duty to ensure that the site is secure and to prevent entry, and that they are therefore liable to take appropriate action to

ensure the site is made safe. He suggested that the Borough Councillors and County Councillors are made aware of all the facts and encouraged to take action against the quarry owners and, that unfortunately the Parish Council has no jurisdiction to do so. However, it was confirmed that for many years the Parish Council has been asking that the site be made secure, has reported incidents to the Police, the Borough Councillors and the County Councillor to try to assist with this matter. It was confirmed that the Police have been really good in the past and taken names and addresses of those causing the nuisance, however, the landowner would not press charges. The Parish Council will contact County Councillor Iddon to see what can be done in the future to address this problem. Mrs Roper, a resident of Appley Lane North, reported concerns about speeding traffic on Appley Lane North. There are no speed monitoring devices and no traffic calming measures along this road which is used not only by cars but by HGV's and tractors on a daily basis. The residents have started a petition which will be sent to LCC requesting the installation of two pedestrian crossings along Appley Lane North 1) near Apple Hey and the Village Hall and 2) near The Grove. The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council has recently requested that yellow Community Concern signs be displayed on Appley Lane North; these are designed to raise awareness for motorists. Mrs Roper also reported overgrown vegetation obstructing the footways near the bus stop and junction of Stoneygate Lane, which is also obstructing sightlines for motorists exiting Stoneygate Lane. The Council have written to the homeowners in the past with little success, but, will this time ask LCC to contact them with a request to cut back the vegetation. The Council will support the residents request for pedestrian crossings on Appley Lane North; again, this is something the Parish Council has requested in the past but not with the support of a petition from the residents. The Council will ask LCC to consider putting a 20mph speed limit on Appley Lane North and will ask them to undertake a speed survey. It was further reported that parking along Appley Lane North continues to be a problem with parked vehicles often parking on the pavement and causing an obstruction. The Parish Council reported that they will be installing a barrier at the entrance to Appley Bridge Village Hall to ensure that the car park is available for village hall users. The Parish Council agreed that this could restrict parking for parents dropping off and picking up children from All Saints School, but confirmed that a key would be made available to one or two parents who will be responsible for unlocking and locking the barrier at these times. Parking is becoming a problem for village hall users whose hire charges include the use of the car park. Many users are then forced to park on the road. It is hoped that the barrier will alleviate these problems. Mrs Roper then asked about the use of s106 money at the Appley Lane South play area. The Parish Council confirmed that they have been asking West Lancs. BC to use any available s106 for our area at this site as they believe that play provision is adequate at Mossy Lea and that any/all s106 should now be directed to the Appley Bridge site. CIL money can only be used for infrastructure projects by the Parish Council, with strict criteria which must be adhered to. The Clerk explained that the idea of a skate park was raised by West Lancs. BC. The Parish Council confirmed to West Lancs. BC that play provision at Mossy Lea is adequate but suggested that any projects, which may include this suggestion, should be centred at Appley Bridge play area. West Lancs. BC when suggesting the skate park to the Parish Council did not provide any information regarding, funding, future maintenance and responsibility or any consultation related issues. A member of the public asked for the reason the Parish Precept had risen by 5% and what the Parish Council intend to do with this money. The Clerk explained that the increase will be used to progress some of the anticipated projects at the village halls i.e.: barrier, windows, work to the fallen section of wall. Also, that Appley Bridge Village Hall has recently been painted all through inside. There will also be normal increases in utility bills and annual expenses. These, together with the decrease in concurrent income and grant income from the Borough Council, and no contribution anymore from LCC towards amenity grass cutting, means that the Parish Council has to make cost cutting exercises where they can, increase the Precept and look to increase the village hall uses to fill the funding gap which results from local government funding cuts. Mrs Roper suggested that some Parish Councillors had made them feel unwelcome at the Meeting. The Chairman confirmed that members of the public are welcome to attend meetings to discuss Parish issues/matters, however, some issues raised this evening and the manner in which they were raised, set the tone of the meeting from the outset. The Clerk agreed to forward a timetable of Parish Council Meetings to the Chairman of the Community Association. Most of those present then left the Parish Council Meeting.

**34. APOLOGIES** – Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor House.

**35. 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.**

36. **MINUTES** – The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2018 had been circulated in advance of the Meeting, were accepted as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.
37. **UPDATE/PROGRESS WITH ISSUES RAISED AT THE PREVIOUS MEETING** – Nothing to report that will not be dealt with elsewhere on the agenda.
38. **CORRESPONDENCE/INFORMATION ITEMS**  
Items reported to, and noted by, the Council – no decision required: REPORT 1 – page 5 – ACCEPTED. It was reported that Tunley Lane was closed without notice for work prior to the Ironman Event.

Items requiring discussion, observations or action by the Council:

- a) Response from CC Fillis to enquiries re: possible activity at East Quarry – **Noted. It is rumoured that someone has been asked to price for a car park at West Quarry and that East Quarry could be filled with waste by rail from London. Speculation at the moment.**
- b) Copy correspondence from CC Fillis re: activities in/around the Quarry at Appley Bridge - **All agencies are trying to do something. This matter will be pursued further.**
- c) Correspondence from Appley Bridge Community Association informing the Council that the next meeting is on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> July at Fir Tree Fisheries at 7pm – **Noted.**
- d) Invitation to attend the West Lancs. BC Civic Sunday Service, 9 September 2018, 2pm at St Anne’s Church, Prescott Road, Ormskirk – **Wrightington PC will give their apologies.**
- e) Request for renewal of OPSTA membership, £10 – **Resolved – Renew at the next Meeting**
- f) Response to flooding/drainage issues Appley Lane North/Lowther Terrace – **Noted on file.**
- g) Confirmation from CIL/s106 & Research Officer that CIL money can be used for improvement of a community hall – **The Council will obtain quotations for new plastic windows to replace the very large arched ones. Gray outside, white inside.**
- h) Late items received which may require discussion/action/observations –
  - i) Request for confirmation of how many wreaths are required for Remembrance Sunday – **The Clerk will confirm the numbers and types required.**
  - ii) Confirmation that PS Appleton is organising policing Remembrance Events this year and that he is currently looking at staffing needs – **Noted.**
  - iii) Email regarding speeding traffic in Appley Bridge – **Noted and confirmed that the Parish Council share these concerns and have requested Community Speed Awareness signs be erected along Appley Lane North.**
  - iv) Email from Appley Bridge Community Association (ABCA) raising the following issues, which had already been discussed in detail having been raised by those present in Open Forum:
    - a) Suggestion that the request for a grit bin did not appear in the PC Minutes – **The Clerk confirmed a grit bin had been requested following the Annual Parish Meeting at which the request was made and this will appear in the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting.**
    - b) Report of complaints received regarding footways on Appley Lane North being obstructed by overgrown hedges, particularly near Stoneygate Lane – **This will be reported to LCC.**
    - c) Problems relating to the quarry, young people swimming in it and increasing anti-social behaviour – **The Council will enquire what can be done to address this.**
    - d) Residents requesting safe crossing points on Appley Lane North – **The Parish Council will support these requests.**
    - e) Confirmation a representative of ABCA will attend to answer questions on the current planning application for a container on the canal bank – **Noted.**
    - f) Request for a copy of the Parish Council Minutes so that they can report back any relevant issues – **Minutes will be supplied once ratified.**
    - v) Email from a resident who is looking to co-ordinate a litter pick in Appley Bridge – **The PC will help in any way they can.**
    - vi) An expression of interest in joining Wrightington Parish Council, Appley Bridge Ward, from Katie Jukes – **The Clerk will request further information to support the application for discussion at the September Meeting.**

39. **HIGHWAYS AND ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS**

- A litter pick will be requested on Moss Lane.

- There is ragwort on either side of the Courage Low Lane/Moss Lane junction which, if not removed, will begin to affect the farm land on both sides of the road.
- CC Iddon reported at the LALC Area Committee Meeting that LCC would be weed-spraying.
- There is Japanese Knotweed on Mossy Lea Road, opposite Derby House.
- There is Japanese Knotweed on Courage Low Lane, opposite No.2.
- There is Ragwort in the gateway planting near the BP garage and motorway roundabout.
- The gateway planting near the BP garage needs cutting down as it is obstructing sightlines.
- The grass cutting contractor has not done as good a job this time as he did in earlier grass verge cuts in the Parish and some areas have been missed.
- Sam Brawn, from Ironman, telephoned Councillor Mrs Burton as her business was affected again by the change in route for this year's Ironman event. Marshalls would not let her customers down Courage Low Lane, however, escorts were given to anyone going to the stables but residents were confined to their homes for most of the day.
- Councillor Johnson reported the following: The culvert at the bottom of Broadhurst Lane, which is running over the road, is causing surface damage to the carriageway. Clear water is still running down the lane from the septic tank at Tree Tops, Broadhurst Lane. Grass needs strimming around hazard markers Mossy Lea Road. Footways in the Parish have still not been swept. Chevrons are missing from the road sign on the first bend on Church Lane. Road gullies are blocked at the Mossy Lea Road/Church Lane junction. The 2 road gullies at the bottom of Raby Fold Farm driveway are blocked. The road gully near Rigby's Bridge is only taking water slowly. No further action yet with regard to flooding at 15 Mossy Lea Road. The public footpath up to Harrock Hill is very overgrown and un-walkable in places.

40. **REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES** – Nothing to report.

41. **ANNUAL NEWSLETTER** – Agreed for distribution. Councillor Hodgkinson will contact the Clerk when the Newsletters are printed and ready for delivery.

#### 42. **VILLAGE HALLS**

**MOSSY LEA** – Machine Embroidery £50. The Parish Council agreed that the window cleaner had done an excellent job and that the windows will now be cleaned, inside and outside, every 3 months. Councillor Johnson will confirm this with the window cleaner. The footpath which goes down the side of the village hall is very overgrown with vegetation from 323 Mossy Lea Road which needs cutting back.

**APPLEY BRIDGE** – Confirmation from West Lancs. BC of what they will accept to replace the wall and an email from a resident at the rear of the hall. The Council **Resolved** – **That Councillor Mrs Burton and the Clerk continue to pursue this matter, obtaining quotations, submitting them for approval to West Lancs. BC and, once approved, asking the contractor to proceed with the work.**

43. **PLANNING** To discuss the following applications:

- 1) 2018/0628/COU Siting of metal container for storage of tools and equipment. Car Park, Canal Bank. (Case 2358884) **Resolved: In view of earlier discussions in the Meeting the Parish Council will leave this decision to the professional officers.**
- 2) 2018/0623/FUL Ground and first floor side extension with dormers to front and rear of property. (Case 2358886) 390 Mossy Lea Road, Wrightington. **Resolved: No Objections.**
- 3) 2018/0691/FUL Proposed loft conversion with new dormer to rear elevation. 14 Back Skull House (Case 2358888) Lane, Appley Bridge. **Resolved: No Objections.**
- 4) 2018/0702/FUL Two storey side extension, part single storey side extension. Garage conversion to a habitable room. 21 Manse Avenue, Wrightington. **Resolved: No Objections.**
- 5) 2018/0632/FUL Change of use of existing grazing field to riding ménage 25 x 50m with post and rail perimeter fence for private use. Tunley Moss Farmhouse, 10 Tunley Moss, Wrightington. **Resolved: No Objections.**
- 6) 2018/0703/FUL Infill between two projecting wings of the existing church hall to improve the catering facilities at the hall. St James Sunday School, Church Lane, Wrightington. **Resolved: No Objections.**

44. **LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS** – Notification of the LALC 74<sup>th</sup> AGM, Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2018, Howick House, Penwortham, 10am – Reminder about the

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

**For Payment:**

TWC	Reimburse cost of toilet rolls & paper towels MLVH/ABVH	£57.60	
Mrs C A Cross	Reimburse cost of 2 x Red Ensign flags	£7.70	
Mr F Johnson	Reimburse window cleaning costs MLVH	£35.00	
Printerinks	Inks for new printer and paper	£121.36	
Mrs C A Cross	Clerk's Salary – Net	£751.57	
HM Rev. & Customs	Tax & NI due by Clerk	£6.76	
	NI due by Parish Council	£7.77	£14.53
Royal British Legion	Poppy Appeal – Lamp post poppies	£105.00	
D/D British Gas	Gas supplied MLVH (estimated)	£401.43	
D/D BT	Telephone/Internet Charges MLVH	£170.97	
D/D British Gas	Gas supplied ABVH (estimated)	£46.96	

**Resolved: Payment of the above accounts is approved.**

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

RESOLVED: That the next Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 17 September 2018 at Mossy Lea Village Hall at 7:30 pm.

Minutes 34 to 46 will be accepted as a correct record and signed by the Chairman at the Meeting to be held on Monday 16 July 2018.

Members of the Public and Press are welcome to attend

Meeting Closed: 10.00 pm

Chairman:

Date:

**REPORT 1**

- a) Notification permission granted for proposed part conversions of existing barn/storage building into self contained annexe ancillary to main house. Osprey House, Skull House Lane.
- b) Notification permission granted for proposed new build stables located to the east of the existing Harrock Hall. Creation of gravel track. Harrock Hall, Harrock Lane, Wrightington.
- c) Notification permission refused for first floor extension over existing ground floor extension to rear. Two storey side extension. 321 Mossy Lea Road, Wrightington.
- d) Notification permission granted for removal of existing conservatory and erection of new single storey rear extension. 198 Appley Lane North, Appley Bridge.
- e) Notification permission refused for proposed loft conversion with new dormers to front and rear elevations. 14 Back Skull House Lane, Appley Bridge.
- f) Notification permission for demolition of existing stable block and a part demolition of stable block. To construct a detached dwelling, a detached single garage and bike store. Tunley Moss Stables, Tunley Moss, Wrightington.
- g) Notification of an appeal against the West Lancs. BC decision to refuse permission for the demolition of single storey rear extension and detached garage. Proposed single store rear and two storey side extensions. 5 Carr House Lane, Wrightington.
- h) Confirmation from LCC that overgrown hedges on Mill Lane will be investigated.
- i) Letter of thanks from North West Air Ambulance for your recent donation.
- j) Notification of temporary road closure on Roby Mill/Bank Brow/Appley Lane South, Upholland, 13/8/2018 until 22/10/18 to enable utility works to take place.
- k) Notification of a temporary road closure on Carr House Lane, Wrightington, 31/7/18 until 2/8/18 to enable utility works to take place.
- l) Copy Open Space Summer 2018 + details of the AGM.