

WRIGHTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

At the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 17th January 2022 at 7:30 pm, at Appley Bridge Village Hall, the following were present:

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

OPEN FORUM

The Chairman welcomed those present to the January 2022 Meeting and asked that everyone treat each other with respect when asking or answering questions, and respect everyone's views.

A resident present asked that the Parish Council support the request in Correspondence item g) for throw lines to be installed at East Quarry. It was reported that the RNLI and other agencies consider throw lines very important. It was confirmed that it would be great if the Parish Council could support this so that they could be installed in time for summer this year.

A resident present asked why the West Lancs. Local Plan was not on the agenda as a consultation closes on Thursday 27th January 2022. It was confirmed that the current consultation is an Issues and Options consultation and, that the Parish Council is a consultee in the same way that residents and other agencies are. It was reported that this item had been on the Parish Council agenda for discussion previously and, that a copy of the Issues and Options documentation had been emailed to Parish Councillors for their consideration and feedback. The consultation is about the issues and options which will be explored in the Local Plan and not about specific sites. At the time of consideration, the Parish Council had no feedback, possibly because Councillors believed that the document contained all the issues and options they wished to see in the Local Plan. The resident did not see how the Parish Council could submit the views of the parishioners if they had not consulted them. It was stressed that the Local Plan is a West Lancs. BC initiative in which the Parish Council as a body, is a consultee. It was West Lancs. BC who were consulting on this document. The Parish Council displayed posters in their Notice Boards giving details of the consultation to assist with advertising/highlighting it. Councillor House was disappointed by the criticism displayed towards the Parish Council by Appley Bridge residents, particularly as apologies had been received this evening from 3 of the 4 Appley Bridge Ward Councillors. It was suggested that any criticism about the advertising or conduct of the consultation should be made to West Lancs. BC. The resident wished it to be Minuted that the Parish Council had no views on the Issues and Options document consulted upon. The consultation documents were noted by the Parish Council.

A resident asked if it would be possible to install mirrors opposite the junction with Mill Lane on Appley Lane North, and opposite the junction with Heron's Wharf on Mill Lane. When exiting Mill Lane turning right on to Appley Lane north, it is impossible to see if anything is coming over the bridge from Appley Lane South. Similarly, when exiting Heron's Wharf turning right onto Mill Lane, the railway bridge obstructs sightlines. The Council will make a request to LCC. Speeding vehicles and increased vehicle movements on Appley Lane North were again reported as compromising highway safety. It was reported that County Councillor Fillis had promised some assistance from LCC in early 2022 to address these problems. The Council will request that a speed survey is undertaken on Appley Lane North and a 20mph speed limit in the vicinity of Finch Lane and All Saints Primary School. It was reported that the Parish Council are hoping to purchase a Speed Indicator Device for use in Appley Bridge in the next financial year. Concern was expressed that if the plans to introduce the Climate Change Levy go ahead in Greater Manchester, this will impact on roads in the Parish and will result in increased traffic as motorists try to avoid the charges by using routes outside Greater Manchester.

97. APOLOGIES - Were received from Councillors Shaw (isolating), Chambers (Covid), and Alexander (unwell). A member of the public submitted apologies from Councillor Jukes.

98. 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.**

99. **MINUTES** – The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 13th December 2021 had been circulated in advance of the Meeting. **Resolved** – **The Minutes were accepted as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.**

100. **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) Request from residents opposing the planning application to demolish the Corner House and build 9 dwellings, for Parish Council assistance in registering the Corner House as an Asset of Community Value with the Borough Council which, if successful, will provide the opportunity for the community to purchase the Corner House. Plus, an enquiry to see if the Parish Council would be interested in being one of the parties involved in the Community Ownership of the Corner House by means of a Public Works Loan – **Councillors confirmed that there are 5 public houses/restaurants in Mossy Lea and 3 in Appley Bridge. There are 5 halls in Mossy Lea all taking bookings and 4 in Appley Bridge. All of these venues are working hard to keep going. It is a nice idea but there are several similar places in the Parish offering similar facilities. It was reported that a public house in Colne was registered as an ACV but funding to purchase it was difficult to acquire. A committee would need to be formed to appoint a manager and run the Corner House. It is also believed that a considerable amount of work is needed at the Corner House which will need to be factored in as well as purchase costs. It was confirmed that even if the Corner House is registered as an Asset of Community Value the current owner does not have to sell it to the Community Group. Resolved** – **The Parish Council will support an application for the Corner House to be registered as an Asset of Community Value, submitting the nomination papers, however, the Parish Council cannot commit to this project financially.**
- b) Response from LCC to report of poor carriageway surfacing on Stonegate Lane and Finch Lane and confirmation both lanes will be re-inspected in early 2022 – **Noted.**
- c) Notification from NWAS that registration of defibrillators will need to be moved over to The Circuit and that, guardians must commit to inspect the defibrillators weekly, or when it has been used, to ensure they remain in a rescue ready state. Confirmation of guardians required – **Guardians are required to inspect the equipment and make a weekly report on the Circuit to ensure all defibrillators are ready for use. Councillors Johnson and House are currently inspecting and reporting back on the 6 defibrillators in the Parish. To agree to check and report on the circuit weekly is quite a commitment. The Clerk confirmed that if Councillors struggle the caretaker has agreed to check the defibrillators at both village halls on his weekly visits and report back to the guardians if this will help. Councillors agreed to check the status of the defibrillators and when they are all rescue ready the Clerk will register them on the Circuit going forward.**
- d) Request from West Lancs. BC for submission of topics to be considered by the Council as part of its work plan for 2022/23 – **Following discussion it was Resolved** – **the Parish Council will suggest that more consideration be given to the grass cutting contracts undertaken by West Lancs. BC. as a devolved function from LCC. To find a professional and efficient contractor who will undertake grass cutting in accordance with the highway verge cutting schedule, who will be vigilant enough to realise that a meter swathe is not always sufficient at a dangerous junction and use their initiative to cut back to the fence line to ensure that sightlines remain unobstructed. A contractor who will also strim around the street furniture as part of the grass verge cutting process or where space is limited and the grass verge cutter cannot access, to ensure that hazard warning signs or markers are clearly visible to the motorist approaching them. If this work could be undertaken regularly, efficiently and effectively on each occasion, this would reduce the number of complaints received by both the Borough and the County Council, would improve highway safety for both motorists and pedestrians and, would indicate to the electorate that the Borough Council are as proud of the Borough as those who live in it and, that they take pride in keeping the Borough as neat and tidy as possible.**
- e) Consultation from West Lancs. BC on amendments to the Councillors Code of Conduct – **Resolved** – **The Parish Council has no objections to the amendments proposed.**

- f) Consultation from West Lancs. BC on the revised Whistleblowing Code - **Resolved** – **The Parish Council has no objections to the proposed amendments to the code.**
- g) Info. and request for discussion on whether the Parish Council will engage with life-saving common sense and require the owner of East Quarry install life-saving throwline stations at appropriate points around East Quarry prior to the onset of better weather in spring – **Councillors have followed the links in the email and looked at other neighbouring authorities. If these are supplied they are generally provided by the Borough Council and are joint initiatives with other service providers e.g.: fire and rescue service. Resolved** – **The Council will ask the Borough Councillors and the County Councillor to approach their respective authorities and ask that they require the landowner to install these.**
- h) Request for Capital Schemes for 2022/23 from West Lancs. BC – closing date 11 Feb 2022 – confirmation that bids can be submitted for SPID's – **Resolved** – **following discussions at the Budget Meeting the Parish Council will submit a Capital Bid for £4000 towards the purchase of 2 SPID's, one for use in each ward of the Parish. The remaining £2000 will be contributed by the Parish Council.**
- i) Late items received which may require discussion/action/observations for the next Agenda –
- i) Email from Appley Bridge WI asking if it would be possible to plant a tree to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee as part of the Queen's Green Canopy at Appley Bridge Village Hall – **The Clerk reported that she was going to suggest that the Parish Council approach the Community Association with a request for the Parish Council to plant a tree as part of the Queen's Green Canopy at The Meadows, as the Village Hall already has several mature trees which require on-going work to maintain them. Furthermore, the Village Hall site belongs to West Lancs. BC and their permission would be required. Councillors present agreed that planting a tree at The Meadows is a good idea and asked the Clerk to pursue this. It will be suggested to the WI that they may wish to do the same.** ii) Email from 1st Wroughtington & Heskin Scout Master asking if the Parish Council knew of any land in Mossy Lea where the Scouts could plant trees to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee as part of the Queen's Green Canopy – **The Parish Council will suggest they contact West Lancs. BC, with a view to maybe planting trees along the bottom perimeter fence of the playing field adjacent to Mossy Lea Village Hall.** iii) An email received from ABCA requesting an update on the current situation with improvements to the play area at Appley Lane South – It was reported that there was mention of meeting/site visit with Borough Council officers to discuss this matter - **The Clerk agreed to check correspondence as the Parish Council do not think that the Meeting involved them. If no reference can be found, the Clerk will ask the Borough Councillors to look into this matter further and report back to the Council.**

101. HIGHWAYS AND ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

- An update on litter bin replacement will be requested.
- A salt/grit bin will be requested at the junction of Church Lane and Smithy Brow.
- Litter picks on Moss Lane and Courage Low Lane will be requested.
- A tyre has been fly-tipped on Moss Lane, 50 yds. past the LCC depot.
- The public footpath off Hill House Fold Lane is overgrown with brambles. The route is now completely impassable and footpath users are going on to farmers land to walk this route.
- Councillor Johnson reported - the culvert at the bottom of Broadhurst Lane has been renewed. The yellow water on Broadhurst Lane has been dealt with. The grass has been cut around the hazard markers on Mossy Lea Road. The fly-tipping and soil on the old road adjacent to the BP garage has not been touched and the area looks very neglected. There is still ivy in and around the bus shelter on Wood Lane. The promised new litter bins and dog fouling posters are still required. The sensitive issue which caused problems at Mossfields has settled down as the perpetrator is now in prison. Residents are worried the situation may arise again when the prison sentence is over. The dilapidated bench on the land at the junction of Mossy Lea Road and Boundary Lane is now confirmed as being on LCC highways land – details of this will be forwarded to West Lancs. BC who initially raised this issue. Councillors feel that the bench just needs new wooden slats, however, the Parish Council is reluctant to undertake this work as it implies that they are responsible and are then likely to be responsible going forward.

102. **PARISH PRECEPT FOR 2022/23** - Following detailed discussions at the Budget Meeting held prior to this Parish Council Meeting, it was **Resolved** – **The Parish Requirement for 2022/23 is £20,300.00 - £613.00 (Council Tax Support Grant) = £19,687.00 Parish Precept. Therefore, Wrightington Parish Council will Precept for £19,687.00 for the financial year 2022/23.**

103. **REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES** - Nothing to report as the LALC Area Committee Meeting was cancelled. The Clerk reported that she had now completed, and passed, the Cyber Awareness Course she had enrolled on.

104. **VILLAGE HALLS**

MOSSY LEA – Quarterly Meeting - £60 + Craft Classes £75 + £30 from Children’s party – **Noted.**

APPLEY BRIDGE – Floor work completed – **Noted.** Banking provision for the Village Hall Committee – **It was suggested that the Treasurer could look at other banks and ask for a Clubs and Societies Account similar to the one held by Mossy Lea Village Hall Committee.** An email has been received in relation to the siting of a memorial bench in the grounds of Appley Bridge Village Hall. Councillor Burton confirmed that she had been involved in these discussions and reported them several months ago to the Parish Council. The family are now ready to purchase and install the bench. **Resolved - The Council has no objections to the siting of the memorial bench in the grounds of Appley Bridge Village Hall. The dates would need to be checked with Joan who holds the diary for village hall bookings. The flags are still available from Mrs Burton if required. The family will be advised to take the advice of the person installing the bench as to whether the tree roots may affect the balance of flags, and that concreted into the ground and set in a bed of gravel as an alternative would also be fine. With regard to the style of the bench the Parish Council are happy for the family to choose something which is in keeping with the area and the village hall and grounds.**

Notification new yoga classes at both village halls have been postponed - **Noted.**

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

- 1) 2021/1446/FUL Conversion of existing workshop/domestic storage building into ancillary accommodation with a link extension incorporating a terrace and WC. Internal alterations and associated external works. 23 Appley Lane North, Appley Bridge – **Resolved: No Objections.**
- 2) 2021/1309/FUL Notification of an amendment to proposed conversion of former workers cottage into separate dwelling including extensions and associated external works. 14 Speakmans Drive, Appley Bridge. A new certificate of ownership has been received **Resolved - The Council continue to object to these proposals as they would constitute an intrusion into the Green Belt. The development would be detrimental to the existing street scene and would be out of keeping with other houses on Speakmans Drive. This is a private road with a limited number of houses. Construction traffic will find it extremely difficult to negotiate and undertake work, whilst the additional traffic movements created as a result of the addition of another dwelling with have a detrimental impact on the lane and the amenity of neighbouring residents. Concern has also been expressed about the loss of wildlife habitat currently provided by the air raid shelter and derelict building. Further concerns have been raised into drainage, not only from an additional dwelling but also from the proposal to raise the driveway to No.14. Any surface water run-off will run down from No.14 and any impact from the excess water will be felt by neighbours lower down the lane or through whose gardens the water course flows. It is also understood that any permitted development rights the applicant had, have already been used on previous development and extensions at No14 Speakmans Drive. This will constitute inappropriate development in the Green Belt which will affect the openness of the Green Belt at this location.**
- 3) 2022/0016/PNT Development by Telecommunications Code System Operator - Proposed 16.0m Phase 8 Monopole C/W wraparound Cabinet at base and associated ancillary works. Telecommunications Equipment, Land Adjacent To 243, Mossy Lea Road, Wrightington – **Resolved - Parish Council object to these proposals as they do**

not believe that this is an appropriate site/location for a 16m high monopole. The close proximity to the Pensioners Hall and adjacent homes gives cause for concern. Adjacent structures will be dwarfed by the proposed 16m high monopole. Concern was also expressed that the wraparound cabinet could obstruct sightlines for motorists exiting Chisnall Avenue onto Mossy Lea Road. Motorists have to stop slightly short of the junction to see around the bus shelter but, it is believed that the cabinets associated with the monopole will close that window of vision and obstruct sightlines making exiting Chisnall Avenue dangerous. The location is close to a facility used by pensioners, a restaurant, and the local primary school which gives cause for concern. There are many less conspicuous locations in the Parish where such a high structure could be erected with little impact, however, the pole will detract from the rural nature of the area, will have a detrimental impact on the street scene and the location is considered inappropriate. The Parish Council therefore objects to this location for the proposed monopole and associated cabinets.

For Information:

4) 2021/1515/LDP Certificate of Lawfulness proposed integral garage conversion. Worthington Farm, Finch Lane, Appley Bridge – Cannot comment on this – **Noted.**

106. LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS – West Lancs. Area Committee Meeting – Thursday 13th January 2022, 7pm at West Lancs. BC – **Cancelled.**

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

For Payment:

Joseph Noblett	Christmas Tree – ABVH		£42.00
Old Hall Brass Band	Donation		£100.00
Jason Smith Building	Floor work – ABVH		£930.00
Fire Eqpt Services	Fire Extinguisher Service - MLVH		£41.23
CSI Security Systems	External Light – ABVH		£660.00
Mrs C A Cross	Clerk’s Salary – Net		£822.56
HM Rev. & Customs	Tax & NI due by Clerk	£3.48	
	NI due by Parish Council	£12.29	£15.77
D/D Plusnet	Internet ABVH		£21.60
D/D Plusnet	Internet MLVH		£26.39
D/D E.on	Electricity MLVH		£44.32
D/D British Gas	Gas supplied ABVH		£553.27
D/D British Gas	Gas supplied MLVH		£379.51

Receipts:

West Lancs. BC	Contribution to Capital Bid ABVH		£5000.00
ABVH Committee	Quarterly Transfer		£1000.00

Notification Non-domestic Rate Bill for ABVH and MLVH is Nil after Small Business Relief is applied.

Resolved: Payment and receipt of the above accounts, together with the Bank Reconciliation Statement up to 31 December 2021, are approved.

108. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved - That the next Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 21st February 2022 at Mossy Lea Village Hall at 7:30 pm.

Minutes 97 to 108 will be accepted as a correct record and signed by the Chairman at the Meeting to be held on Monday 21st February 2022.

Members of the Public and Press are welcome to attend

Meeting Closed: 9.25 pm

Chairman:

Date:

Minutes – Wrightington Parish Council

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REPORT 1

- a) Letter of thanks from Victim Support for your donation of £25.00.
- b) Notification from LCC that the reported overgrown hedges on Mill Lane have been logged with an order to inspect and cut back any encroaching vegetation.
- c) Important notification that the highly pathogenic avian flu, transmissible to humans, has been identified in non-commercial premises at Upholland on 7th January 2022. Info. for public – do not go near or pick up any sick or dead birds anywhere, rather report the sighting to DEFRA.
- d) Notification of a temporary road closure on Wood Lane, Heskin outside 341 for approx. 30m between 9am Monday 14th February until 5pm on Friday 18th February to allow Network Plus on behalf of Electricity North West to carry out installation of a new customer connection.
- e) Notification of temporary Sunday road closure on Bank Brow, Upholland on Sunday 6th March, 8am until 4pm to enable tree cutting and overhead cabling works on behalf of BT.
- f) Confirmation from LCC that the roadside seat on the grassed area on Mossy Lea Road, near the Boundary Lane junction, is sited within the LCC adopted highway verge.
- g) Email introduction from MW Landscapes Ltd, who clean bus shelters in neighbouring Parishes.
- h) CPRE – Lancashire Voice Winter edition – Fieldwork Winter Edition and Countryside Voices Winter Edition.

Meeting Protocols: Please note the following procedures to ensure the smooth running of the meeting:

- Members of the public will only be able to speak during the Open Forum section of the meeting. If you wish to speak during this section please email the Clerk by 5pm on the day before the meeting, with brief details of the subject matter being raised. The Chairman will ask the member/s of the public to speak. Before speaking, the member of the public should state their name. Time permitting the Chairman will ask if members of the public wish to raise anything else, however, dependant on time, this may need to be held over until the next meeting. Each member of the public will be able to speak for a limit of three minutes.
- Parish Councillors wishing to speak are asked to please raise a hand and the Chairman will invite him/her to speak.
- To vote, members should raise their hand as appropriate.