

WRIGHTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

At the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 21st March 2022 at 7:30 pm, at Appley Bridge Village Hall, the following were present:

Councillors: Mrs J Burton (Chairman), Mr A Shaw, Mrs K Jukes, Mr F Hodgkinson, Mr F Johnson, Mr R Alexander and Mr C House. 9 members of the public.

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, Borough 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 those present to the March Meeting and asked that we all treat each other with respect and respect everyone's points of view. Councillor Jukes interjected and asked that the Chairman ask Councillors to respect members of the public and fellow Councillors. Councillor House stepped in at this point and apologised for the comments he made at the January Meeting. They were inappropriate and regretful and he confirmed that the pressure of the situation got the better of him. He hoped that going forward everyone can work together for the benefit of both wards. The Chairman and other Councillors thanked Councillor House for his comments and apologies.

County Councillor Rob Bailey, attending as a member of the public, introduced himself and confirmed that he is LCC Lead Member for Highways and Transport and, that if there is anything he can do to progress any issues to which the Parish Council does not have an answer, he is happy to take those away with him. A member of the public requested copies of correspondence items f) & g) on the agenda – this was agreed. It was reported that a car park has been constructed on West Quarry, with an entrance that does not have planning permission. BC Jukes confirmed that she has been in contact with West Lancs. BC Enforcement Officer, who agrees that groundwork has been undertaken and they are now monitoring this. Residents can report any matters of concern at the site to BC Jukes or direct to West Lancs. BC. BC Jukes also reported a site meeting at Appley Lane South play area which is a source of concern and complaints re: upkeep and the state of the area. Officers agree the area is tired however, West Lancs. BC leases this land and the current contract allows for the land to be taken back by the landowner with 6 months' notice. West Lancs. BC is now negotiating a new contract, requesting a minimum 10 year lease. Before they can commit to spending any large sums of money on the play area they need the security of a longer lease. West Lancs. BC is not reluctant to spend money on the area if a long lease can be obtained.

121. APOLOGIES – No apologies were received.

122. 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 - **Councillor Jukes disclosed that she is still in a legal dispute with Maybrook Investments. Councillor Burton declared an interest in groundwork discussions at the village halls. No further 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.**

123. MINUTES – The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 21st February 2022 had been circulated in advance of the Meeting. Councillor Johnson requested that at Minute 113a) the location be amended to Wrightington Fisheries. **Resolved – Following this amendment, the Minutes were accepted as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.**

124. 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) Request from a member of the public that the Minutes of the January Meeting be amended – **The Chairman confirmed that the Minutes had been accepted by the Parish Council as a correct record and that no amendment would be undertaken.**
- b) Report from Clerk to questions raised at the February Meeting – **The Clerk confirmed her annual salary amount for 2021/22. Reported that the precept was increased to cover part of the increase in salary, towards the increase in utility bills forecast by the forthcoming**

rise in gas and electric prices and towards the investigations into extending Mossy Lea Village Hall i.e.: to see what is possible, plausible and acceptable to West Lancs. BC as the owners of the hall. Councillor Jukes reported that any large items of expenditure should be put on the agenda.

- c) Response to statement made by Cllr Jukes at the February Meeting – statement copied to Councillors – **The Chairman felt this item had been addressed by Councillor House’s apology at the start of the Meeting. No further comments were made.**
- d) LCC response to PC request to attend the PC Meeting to explain response to the request for 20mph speed limit on Appley Lane North – LCC do not think it necessary to attend a PC Meeting at this time. Response read aloud at the PC Meeting – **Councillors confirmed there had definitely not been any yellow safety signage erected. The Council will request some signs to put up themselves.**
- e) LCC response to PC request to attend the PC Meeting to explain the response to the request for mirrors on Mill Lane and Appley Lane North + additional signage – LCC do not think it necessary to attend a Meeting at this time. Response read aloud at the PC Meeting – **Some Councillors feel this response is inadequate. That many motorists using Mill Lane are unaware that the Heron’s Wharf exit exists and are unaware of the dangers associated with exiting the junction. Pre-emptive action is required to prevent an accident. Standing Orders were lifted to allow CC Bailey to report that mirrors are not standard issue by LCC. He reported that LCC can undertake a review of the junction but results depend on the individual circumstances at the junction and the views of residents. CC Bailey agreed to take this matter back to LCC and look at working jointly with Wigan MBC to improve the safety at the junction. The Meeting resumed.**
- f) LCC Planning Officer response to questions raised re work taking place as permitted development at East Quarry, Appley Bridge – Read aloud at the PC Meeting – **Councillors reported that the concrete pad was constructed in February 2021 before development using permitted development rights was suggested. A copy of this response was requested by Councillor Jukes who, left her seat and approached a member of the public who wished to speak. The Chairman confirmed that open forum was now closed. Councillor Jukes felt residents’ comments were important. Councillor Shaw asked for confirmation that Open Forum was closed. Councillor Alexander suggested that it could help the debate if the Council are fully informed. Councillor Jukes agreed to take this matter up as Borough Councillor. Copy to Councillor Jukes.**
- g) Response from WLBC Officer to enquiry about throw lines at East Quarry – Read aloud at the PC Meeting – **Noted. Copy to Councillor Jukes.**
- h) Response from Shevington PC to request for upgrading footpath off Mill Lane to a bridleway. Confirmation they will not be taking this further – Read aloud at PC Meeting – **Noted.**
- i) Copy of the revised Members Code of Conduct as approved by WLBC in February 2022. Together with Guidance documents to assist with interpreting the code. Request for confirmation of adoption of the revised Code of Conduct going forward – **Resolved – The Parish Council are happy to adopt the revised Code of Conduct circulated by West Lancs. BC going forward.**
- j) Notification of/invitation for 2 representatives to attend the forthcoming Platinum Jubilee County Service at Blackburn Cathedral, Sunday 29th May 2022 at 4.00pm – **Councillor Jukes agreed to attend on behalf of Wrightington Parish Council.**
- k) Notification from WLBC of planned Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Celebrations in March and June and request for info. on any events planned by the PC – **Noted.**
- l) Update on progress with a separate Parish Council for Appley Bridge – **requested by Councillor Shaw. Councillor Jukes thought that this meant the Clerk would be giving an update, however, this is not a matter being pursued by the Clerk. Councillor Jukes reported that it would be good for the record, to determine Parish Councillors views on this proposal, to take this matter forward. Most Councillors present, except the Chairman who was not asked for her views and one Councillor who remained neutral, felt it would be beneficial to have separate Parish Councils for Appley Bridge and Wrightington (Mossy Lea), whilst one Councillor could see the arguments from both sides. Some Councillors feel most of the Meeting time is taken up discussing issues in Appley Bridge.**

Both areas are developing and expanding but in different ways and one Parish Council Meeting for both areas may not provide sufficient time for full discussion of matters in both wards. Councillor Jukes agreed to report back to the Parish Council any progress in taking this matter forward to the Borough Council.

- m) Late items received which may require discussion/action/observations for the next Agenda – i) Suggestion by Councillor House to help support the Ukraine in the current crisis – **The Council is open to suggestions, possibly opening the village halls as donation stations – next agenda.** ii) Notification that your topic suggestion of grass cutting in the Borough was not the topic chosen by the committee to take forward for work in 2022/23. Work on fly tipping and grot spots was the topic chosen – **The Parish Council agreed these were also issues in the Parish.** iii) Invitation from Scarisbrick PC to attend the Civic Service, 15/5/22 – **The Chairman will confirm whether she, and her husband, will be able to attend this service.**

125. HIGHWAYS AND ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

- The public footpath from Hill House Fold Lane to Robin Hood Lane is very overgrown.
- The requested litter pick on Moss Lane has been completed.
- Councillor Johnson reported the following: the hazard markers on Mossy Lea Road, have been damaged for months with the concrete exposed and a possible trip hazard – Councillor Johnson also understood the footpath would be side dressed (CC Bailey will pursue these matters) – the 3 bus shelters in the village need cleaning and the 1 on Wood Lane may still require attention – West Lancs. BC have started to replace some of the litter bins as promised – Councillor Johnson has requested road channel sweeping on 3 occasions on Mossy Lea Road and Hall Lane, to date this has not been done.

126. ACTION TAKEN/REQUIRED TO SATISFY AUDIT REQUIREMENTS - It was noted that: The Parish Council confirms the following action has been taken throughout the year to satisfy audit requirements:

i) The Risk Assessment/Management Plan/Register – was reviewed and adopted at the May 2021 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. It was **Resolved** – **That Mrs Stewart be appointed to undertake the 2022/23 Parish Council Internal Audit.**

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

128. VILLAGE HALLS

MOSSY LEA - Nurses who Walk £30. NW Regional Meeting £60. Confirmation the village hall committee agreed at a recent meeting that the caretaker hourly rate will rise in line with the national minimum wage hourly rate increase to £9.50 per hour with effect from April 2022. Notification the village hall will be used in the forthcoming elections as a polling station on 5/5/22 – **Noted.**

APPLEY BRIDGE – Hall rearranged to allow for possible use by a play group. Increase in caretaker hourly rate to be confirmed at the next village hall committee meeting. **The Chairman thanked Mrs Rogers, Mrs Armstrong, the Clerk and the Caretaker for the many hours spent at the village hall recently tidying out cupboards, disposing of rubbish and rearranging the use of the hall to allow for additional users storage.**

At this point the Chairman, having declared an interest in the following matter, left the room and Councillor House became Acting Chairman. The response from Councillor Johnson following inspection of Moss removal at ABVH was read aloud. **The Chairman asked if Councillor Jukes would apologise to the Parish Council and the contractor. Councillor Jukes refused to apologise to either. Councillors present reported that the contractor had done an excellent job. Councillor Shaw requested clarification as to why the contractor had not been paid if he had undertaken the work and, suggested that if payment had been held back due to the views of 1 Parish Councillor, then someone did owe the contractor an apology. The Chairman confirmed that he would apologise on**

behalf of the Parish Council for withholding payment last month. Councillor Jukes confirmed she was now satisfied with what the contractor had done but would not apologise.

Details/discussion of work quoted for at MLVH and ABVH for 2022/23. 1 quotation already received, plus quotations from 2 other contractors obtained by Councillor Jukes – **Councillor Jukes had obtained 1 quotation for the work and was awaiting a second one. This will be discussed at the April Meeting. Councillors commented that as the quotations are for several jobs at the Village Hall, technically 3 quotations were not required for work/jobs under £500, as per the Councils Standing Orders.**

The Chairman re-entered the room to continue with the Meeting and Acting Chairman stood down.

129. PLANNING The following applications were discussed and commented upon:

- 1) 2022/0179/FUL Single storey rear extension. 25 Stonemill Rise, Appley Bridge - **Resolved: No Objections.**
- 2) 2022/0125/FUL Conversion of existing workshop/domestic storage building into ancillary accommodation. Porch extension incorporating a WC. Internal alterations and associated ancillary work. 23 Appley Lane North, Appley Bridge - **Resolved: No Objections.**
- 3) 2022/0202/FUL Front and rear single storey extension, loft conversion to 2 bedrooms with windows, render finish and rooflights, replacement windows throughout. Alston Heys, Carr House Lane, Wrightington - **Resolved: No Objections.**
- 4) 2022/0129/FUL Retrospective permission for 2no timber framed outbuildings to the rear of the property. Sprodley Brook Farm House, Finch Lane, Appley Bridge - **Resolved: No Objections.**

For Note by the Council: 2022/0203/LDP -Demolition of existing garage. Extension of existing driveway. Construction of new garage and gym under domestic permitted development rights for outbuildings class E. Alston Heys, Carr House Lane, Wrightington – **Noted.**

130. LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS – copy slides from the Community Road Watch presentation at the Area Committee Meeting – **Noted.** Next Area Committee Meeting, 21st April 2022 at West Lancs. BC offices - **The Chairman reported that she will be unable to attend but will submit her apologies directly.**

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

For Payment:

Mr Dale Burton	Chemical/Mechanical moss removal ABVH		£285.00
Petty Cash			£50.00
Mr F Johnson	Reimburse cost of window cleaning MLVH		£35.00
DTG Plmbg & Htg	Emergency repairs to leaking toilet MLVH		£90.00
Dale Burton	2 nd half yearly grounds maintenance ABVH		£340.00
Mrs C A Cross	Reimburse Broadband/Landline Charges		
	Apr 2021-Sept 21 (6 x £26.99= £161.94) (50%)	£80.97	
	Mobile Tel. Charges for 12 months = £120 (50%)	£60.00	£140.97
Mrs C A Cross	Reimburse Mileage Expenses 2021/22		£219.60
Charnock Richard PC	Reimburse Broadband/Landline Charges		
	Oct 21-Mar 22 (1x26.18 +5 x 24.99=£151.13) (50%)		£75.57
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
E.on	Electricity MLVH		£106.03CR
D/D Plusnet	Internet ABVH		£21.60
D/D British Gas	Gas supply ABVH estimated to: 7/2/22		£381.64
D/D British Gas	Gas supply MLVH estimated to: 7/2/22		£221.28
D/D Plusnet	Internet MLVH		£26.39
Waterplus	Water supply MLVH		£41.51
D/D British Gas	Gas supply ABVH customer reading to 1/3/22		£310.69
D/D British Gas	Gas supply MLVH customer reading to 1/3/22		£306.14

Receipts:

MLVH Committee End of year transfer £3000.00

Councillor Jukes checked the petty cash book and receipts before payment was approved.

Resolved: Payment and receipt of the above accounts are approved.

132. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Councillor Jukes raised the following:- She had asked the acting Clerk of last month's meeting if the website co-ordinator could attend the Parish Council Meeting to discuss the website. This request was not acted on as it was not made at the Meeting. The Chairman did not feel it was necessary and asked Councillors what they wanted to ask the website co-ordinator. The Clerk will ask how long it will take to update the website, removing all out of date content, and what if anything, the Parish Council can do to assist, to make the site more user friendly or to upgrade it. Councillor Jukes asked for a copy of the recording of the Budget Meeting and January Parish Council Meeting – The Clerk reported that this was not possible as she had forgotten to take the recording device to the Meetings. Councillor Jukes asked if her statement, read aloud at the February Meeting would be included in the Minutes of this Meeting. This will not be the case as it was not discussed at this Meeting and the Parish Council has already agreed the Minutes of the February Meeting, compiled by the acting Clerk, as a correct record. The Clerk reported that the statement would remain on file with the Agenda documents for the February 2022 Meeting. The Chairman confirmed that if Councillor Jukes wanted to discuss the statement further this should have been done when Correspondence item d) was reached. It was considered that Councillor House's apology had resolved the issues raised in the statement. Councillor Jukes asked if the statement could be put on the website or put out in some way. The Council did not think that this was necessary as it was read aloud at the February Meeting.

Resolved - That the next Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 11th April 2022 at Mossy Lea Village Hall at 7:30 pm. (2nd Monday as the 3rd Monday is Easter Monday)

Minutes 121 to 132 will be accepted as a correct record and signed by the Chairman at the Meeting to be held on Monday 11th April 2022.

Members of the Public and Press are welcome to attend

Meeting Closed: 9.00 pm

Chairman:

Date:

REPORT 1

- a) Notification planning permission refused for proposed conversion of former workers cottage into separate dwelling including extensions and associated external works. 14 Speakmans Drive, Appley Bridge.
- b) Notification planning permission refused for conversion of existing workshop/domestic storage building into ancillary accommodation with a link extension incorporating a terrace and WC. Internal alterations and associated external work. 23 Appley Lane North, Appley Bridge.
- c) Notification outline planning permission granted for demolition of existing agricultural buildings and erection of 3 dwellings with access and layout, all other matters reserved. Sandhole Farm, 7 Wrightington Bar, Wrightington.
- d) Notification planning permission granted for single storey extension to the rear of the property, to be used as a family room/lounge (retrospective). 23 Stonemill Rise, Appley Bridge.
- e) Notification prior notification – Telecom Details – refused for development of proposed 16.0m Phase 8 monopole C/W wraparound cabinet at base and associated ancillary works. Land adjacent 243 Mossy Lea Road, Wrightington.
- f) Acknowledgement of receipt of your report of obstruction of public footpath No.7 (Hill House Fold Lane).
- g) Notification the Great British Spring Clean 2022 will take place between 25th March and 10th April 2022.
- h) Notification of submission of Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan Document on behalf of Bolton Council, Bury Council, Manchester City Council, Oldham Council, Rochdale Council, Salford City Council, Tameside Council, Trafford Council and Wigan Council. (sent to Councillors for information).