

# WRIGHTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

At the Meeting of the Council of the Parish of Wrightington held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at Mossy Lea Village Hall at 7.30pm the following were present:

Councillors: Mrs J Burton (Chairman), Mr F Hodgkinson, Mr F Johnson, Mr J Chambers, Mr A J Shaw, Mrs K Jukes, and Mr R Alexander. Also present were 14 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 everyone to the meeting and asked that everyone's points of view be treated with respect. The Chairman reminded Councillors that Open Forum is for the public to speak and any discussions by Councillors will take place under the agenda item. A resident asked the Chairman to answer questions on the legal advice taken and reported at the December Meeting in relation to the alleged Breach of the Code of Conduct by the Vice-Chairman. The Chairman confirmed the advice was obtained by the Clerk in a phone call to the Monitoring Officer at West Lancs. BC. The Chairman asked the resident to put his questions in writing and they would be dealt with as an agenda item. The resident confirmed that he was making a statement for Open Forum pre agenda item 5. He reported on reading out a series of questions at the December Meeting which the Chairman did not respond to at the Meeting and the fact that he has on several occasions now requested a written response prior to this Meeting. The Clerk had responded confirming that a verbal response would be given on this Agenda. The resident quoted The Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 s100B(3), which says that copies of the Agenda and any reports on the Agenda shall be open to inspection by members of the public at the offices of the Council, together with the Local Government Act 1972 which reiterates the same. The resident claimed that by not responding in writing and only making a verbal response at this Meeting this fails to meet the requirements of the legislation and the Minuted agreed response, and that the Chairman is failing in her duty to the residents and to Parish Councillors. The Chairman confirmed that she would not be answering the questions and that this matter would be dealt with under the agenda item this evening. A resident asked why the Budget Meeting had been cancelled. The Clerk confirmed that the Agenda had been sent out, however, the Budget information and calculations to support the Agenda were not complete until Friday when the information was sent out. Some Councillors did not feel they had enough time to consider the information before this evening and as a result the Budget Meeting was cancelled. The resident asked if the Budget Meeting would be open to the public. It was confirmed that the Budget Meeting will be open to the public but that there will not be an Open Forum. If this is the case, the resident will not be able to submit his concerns in relation to the Budget. It was confirmed that the Precept will be required before the February Parish Council Meeting and therefore the Budget Meeting will need to be held prior to this. Moving on, the resident asked where the Chairman got the fact that some Parish Council do not hold an Open Forum from. The Chairman confirmed that over the years she knew that some Councils did not do this. The resident confirmed that all 22 West Lancs. Parish Council hold an Open Forum. The Chairman agreed that this is good. He referred to a further question he raised at the Meeting which the Chairman asked that he put in writing, he did, but no response has been received. The question related to a funding request from the WI for a projector stand and the subsequent discussion by Parish Councillors on the purchase of a projector and screen for use by all Village Hall users. The Chairman apologised for not responding to the resident's questions in writing. The resident moved on to comments from Councillor Shaw at the October Meeting in relation to making decisions, and asked him to explain why personal opinions when making a decision could have more importance than public opinion and, whether the role of a local Councillor is to represent their constituents or promote personal opinions. Councillor Shaw did not want to comment on this matter. He further asked if the Public Forum had any value to the constituents present? The resident reported that in November the Clerk was informed that the Parish Council financial records were incorrect and not published on the website, this remains the situation today. This was noted by the Clerk. It was reported that since 2020 the Parish Council has only published the AGAR required by External Auditors, prior to this the Financial Statement and Balance Sheet had also been published. He asked the Parish Council if they felt the AGAR gave sufficient information to indicate that the Parish Council is managing public funding with appropriate diligence? As there is no budgetary Finance Committee to oversee budgetary expenditure all Councillors are expected to make decisions and have a

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certain amount of acumen of financial planning and reading of spreadsheets. The resident asked if any Councillor could explain budgetary control over the financial year with only details of income and expenditure items given at Meetings, having no knowledge of whether expenditure is on budget, overspent or underspent. How is financial monitoring undertaken? Councillor Shaw pointed out that discussion on this matter had now gone well beyond the 3 minutes normally permitted and looks like a cross-examination of the Chairman, which he feels is abhorrent. The question of respect was raised and the Chairman confirmed that she was getting quite upset about this exchange and felt that some members of the public were getting quite aggressive. The Chairman confirmed that if things did not calm down she will ask members of the public to leave. The Chairman requested that questions on finance be put in writing and these would go on the next Agenda. The resident informed the Parish Council that he would be taking this to the Standards Committee and the Monitoring Officer. The Chairman again expressed her feelings of being intimidated by the behaviour occurring. Another resident said she felt that Councillor Shaw had started the aggressive behaviour. She reported being disparaged by this situation and that if a response by email has been promised, why has this not been given and, that residents are losing confidence as things are either dealt with a month later, or not dealt with at all. The events in question go back to October. The resident felt there are a lot of problems with the way business is being conducted, with data breaches, and the situation cannot go on. The Chairman invited other members of the public to speak about anything else on the agenda. A resident wished to speak about the agenda item which requests the Parish Council withdraw their support for draining and filling East Quarry. The resident asked the Parish Council to withdraw their support due to environmental issues, heavy traffic, loss of wildlife. Another resident said that in light of recent events with the illegal draining and the current court cases against the landowner, this brings in to question the facts in the responses to the questions put to the landowner via the Parish Council. It is believed that this is a strong decision which will impact the whole village, that support should be withdrawn, that this should go to full planning so that noise and environmental impact surveys must be done and the impact on Appley Bridge should be properly considered. The question of whether the agenda item referring to the allegation of illegalities in Parish Council process could be discussed in the public forum was raised. The Chairman declined this request. The member of the public said that in the past agenda items have been moved into the open forum to give those present the opportunity to give their opinion. The Chairman confirmed that this would be discussed as an agenda item. Another resident expressed support for withdrawing Parish Council support for draining and filling East Quarry due to environmental issues and the impact this will have on the village. A different resident then reported his objection to the Parish Council withdrawing their support for draining and filling the Quarry, stating that 3 people have now died in the Quarry and he does not feel it is right not to support a scheme which will protect peoples lives. With the warmer weather every summer, and the amount of young people visiting the Quarry who are putting themselves at risk, there is a moral duty to prevent this from happening. Also, residents are sick and tired of the anti-social behaviour which goes along with ever increasing numbers of visitors to the Quarry each year, enough is enough. Another resident in support of withdrawing Parish Council support confirmed that, it is a tragedy that some people have died, but that one solution would be to utilise the space as a resource for Appley Bridge. A manned space with safety precautions in place, used for open water sports could be a good solution for a site which is at the moment a death trap. It was reported that the support would be to rewater the Quarry once drained and filled, to a depth of 1m, which would retain the resource and look of the Quarry, but remove the dangers associated with jumping in it. It was pointed out that someone had been prevented from responding to a comment, whilst someone else was allowed to respond. The Chairman apologised for this and allowed the resident to respond. The resident felt that raising awareness of the dangers of going to the Quarry on the radio has encouraged visitors to the site. Also, that improved fencing, life saving equipment and keeping the gates to the site closed, would help ease the problems. Whilst reducing the water level to 1m would reduce the impact, there are other issues to consider like flooding and traffic amongst others. The resident would also like the Parish Council to withdraw their support for draining and filling the Quarry. It was pointed out that it is still possible to drown in a meter or less of water and that this will not reduce the attraction of the site. Furthermore, the owner does not have a licence to drain the Quarry, only to dewater it by 70%. It is felt that rewatering the drained and filled site over simplifies what will need to happen. It is potentially 10 years of noise, traffic and impact on the highways and the village, in order to achieve this.

Open Forum closed at 8.05pm.

**87. APOLOGIES** - Were received and accepted from Councillor House (unwell). Councillor Mrs

Juckes reported that it is necessary for the Parish Council to accept a Councillor's apologies reporting that he has been absent for 3 Meetings. The Clerk confirmed that all illnesses are not visible. Councillor Chambers reported his apologies for not attending the December Meeting.

88. **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 Mrs Juckes declared a pecuniary interest due to the fact that she is currently in a legal dispute with the owner of West Quarry, which remains on-going. 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.**
89. **MINUTES** – The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December had been circulated in advance of the Meeting and were accepted as correct record, and signed by the Chairman.
90. **REQUEST THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL WITHDRAW THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE CERTIFICATE OF LAWFULNESS TO DRAIN & FILL EAST QUARRY, APPLEY BRIDGE** – **Councillor Mrs Juckes left the room during discussions on this subject.** The Clerk reported that the Planning Officer at LCC has made his recommendation to the head of Legal Services at LCC who will make the decision. The Clerk read aloud several emails received from residents who support East Quarry being drained and filled. One of these suggested that a Councillor with an interest in this matter should not be allowed to vote, whilst another one reported the resident feeling uncomfortable expressing their opinion in person due to feeling intimidated by those present who do not wish to see the Quarry drained. It was confirmed that the original decision for the Parish Council to support the proposal to drain and fill East Quarry was made in July 2022. Councillor Shaw proposed that the Parish Council continue to support the proposal to drain, fill and re-water to a depth of 1m, East Quarry. He could not support changing this and another fatality happening in the Quarry this year. Councillor Johson seconded the proposal. Councillor Alexander commented on this matter confirming that he agreed with Councillor Shaw, in that he does not want to see any further deaths in the Quarry. However, he felt draining and filling the quarry is not the only solution, there are alternatives. There is currently no licence in place to drain the quarry and, it may never be possible to do so. Dewatering by 70% will leave 30 feet of water. You cannot tip and spread anything on 30 feet of water. Unless or until the Environment Agency grant a licence to abstract all the water, this is an academic approach and not a realistic approach. A solution needs to be found which is possible, practical and immediate. It was confirmed that the Environment Agency has taken both the company, and the landowner, to court in relation to activities at West Quarry. The feeling is that trying to put 1m of water on top of landfill used to fill the quarry will not succeed, and that the water will be absorbed. It will take considerable time to drain and fill the Quarry and further time for the landfill to settle, all of which could take well in excess of 10 years according to experts in this field. This process will result in continual traffic, noise, dust and inconvenience, and will be a costly process for something which is not an appropriate solution. It was reported that residents of Ashfield Terrace have allowed bushes and trees to grow to obscure their view of East Quarry over the past 10 years. These residents therefore, do not have a view to maintain and object because this is not an appropriate solution. Councillor Alexander felt the simple solution is to bring the owner to task. To erect proper fencing would cost less, take less time and, with the addition of security patrols in the summer months to turn visitors away, would present a better and more immediate solution removing the anti-social behaviour from Appley Bridge. Councillor Alexander proposed an amendment to the proposal that: the Parish Council withdraw their support for draining and filling the quarry, that the landowner continue with his responsibilities, and engage in them, to prevent trespass to the site and to prevent any further loss of life, that the Certificate of Lawfulness is withdrawn and that any proposal to drain and fill the Quarry should be the subject of a full planning application for more scrutiny by professional officers who have more expertise on these matters than the Parish Council. Councillor Chambers supported Councillor Alexander's comments and feels that this is of such a magnitude that it needs to go before full planning. Councillor Johnson suggested that the community is divided on this subject, one third support draining and filling the quarry, one third

would like it to remain as it is and one third do not have a view either way. However, the fact is that 3 people have drowned in the Quarry and no-one wants to see anymore loss of life. The Chairman asked members of the public to refrain from speaking at this point. At the July 2022 Meeting the Police and Fire Service preferred option was draining and filling the quarry. It was confirmed that quarrying ceased in the late 1980's. There is no evidence to support the fact that the preferences for what happens to the Quarry are divided into thirds. At this stage draining and filling is not possible, it is not allowed by the Environment Agency, and may never be allowed. Councillor Hodgkinson reported that the base of East Quarry is not flat, it is on a quite steep slope. The top water level is not parallel to the bottom of the Quarry. Councillor Shaw requested a recorded vote on this matter. Voting in favour of the amendment – Councillors Alexander and Chambers. Voting in favour of the proposal – Councillors Shaw, Johnson, Hodgkinson and Mrs Burton. **Resolved – That the Parish Council do not withdraw their support for draining, filling and re-watering, to a depth of 1m, East Quarry.**  
**Councillor Mrs Juckes re-joined the Meeting.**

- 91. ALLEGATION OF ILLEGALITIES IN PARISH COUNCIL PROCESS** – It was reported that the Clerk and Chairman have taken advice on this matter. The Clerk reported that advice from LALC says that any Councillor present at the Meeting is eligible to propose, second and vote on any matter on the agenda, unless prevented from doing so due to, for example, having declared an interest in the matter up for decision, whether they were present at the previous Meeting or not. LALC used the example of the Chairman signing the Minutes, whether he was present at the previous Meeting or not, and this also carries over to Councillors. Councillor Alexander felt that there is a degree of illogicality in this statement and asked who to contact at LALC. The Chairman confirmed that at the December Meeting she agreed she would put it on the January Agenda, and that is what she did. Now it has been brought to the Council, a written reply will be issued. Councillors felt that it would be very demanding for the Clerk to respond to every email received. Councillor Alexander said that his understanding was that a member of the Parish Council had volunteered to respond in writing, and has not done so. The Chairman reported receiving emails from some Councillors in relation to this matter and asked whether those Councillors wished to discuss the matter at the end of the Meeting in the absence of the public, or at this point in the Meeting. Councillors were happy for discussions to take place now. Discussions escalated and Councillor Alexander said that he felt threatened by Councillor Shaw. Councillors confirmed that they were happy for this to be discussed in the public forum. The emails related to whether the Chairman had offered to respond to a resident's questions by email, insisting that she did agree to do this and, that a recording of the December Meeting supported this. The Clerk read aloud the emails received from Councillors by the Chairman. The Chairman did not understand why all Parish Councillors had not been copied into all the emails she had received. It was reported that the Chairman and Clerk had now listened to the recording of the Meeting and the Chairman feels that the actions of some Councillors are now putting the Parish Council into disrepute and feels that the Monitoring Officer should be informed. A member of the public interrupted proceedings at this point and the Chairman asked him to leave. Following another exchange, the Chairman asked the resident to leave the Meeting, which he did. The Clerk reported for the benefit of Councillors around the table that, the recording confirmed the Chairman answered 'No' to the resident's request for a written response to the questions raised at the December Meeting, confirming that this matter would be on the next Agenda. When the resident then handed over the questions to the Chairman he said aloud, "there's your questions for the next agenda". The Chairman confirmed that it is now time to involve the Monitoring Officer. Councillor Mrs Juckes agreed saying that she has serious concerns about how the Council is being run and that her name is attached to Parish Council decisions. The Chairman confirmed that all she can do is take professional advice from the Monitoring Officer and LALC on the issues which are raised, and report back to the Parish Council, which is what she has done.

**92. CORRESPONDENCE/INFORMATION ITEMS**

Items reported to, & noted by, the Council – no decision required: REPORT 1 – pages 7 – ACCEPTED.

Items requiring discussion, observations or action by the Council:

- a) Final version of LCC Speed Indicator Devices Policy & Procedures + Advice from LCC not to purchase SPID's until locations have been assessed and determined by LCC – **Noted. The Clerk confirmed a telephone conversation with the LCC officer dealing with this and his advice that the Council do not purchase the SPID's until locations have been agreed.**
- b) Notification from Plusnet that they will be closing their business services over the next 12 months and that they will be working with BT to provide packages going forward – **Noted.**
- c) Information and suggestion of putting “Jazz in the Village” at Appley Bridge Village Hall – **The Clerk will request the anticipated costs to the Parish Council of doing this.**
- d) LCC – Budget Consultation – **The Council feel it is not just about fixing highway issues but, that the quality of repairs to uneven road surface and potholes should be examined.**
- e) Follow up information from LCC from completion of the Public Space Protection Order – Dog Control Survey – re dogs on the play area at Mossy Lea – **Noted.**
- f) Confirmation that ABCA has now purchased a 14' Flowering Cherry Tree to be planted at The Meadows to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on behalf of the people of Appley Bridge from the Parish Council. ABCA will plant the tree and supply the appropriate tree guard to protect it, the Parish Council to supply a suitable plaque to place with the tree – **Noted.**
- g) Appointment of contractor for 2023-2024 for grounds maintenance at both Village Halls – **Councillor Mrs Burton declared an interest in this matter and left the room during discussions. Resolved - Councillor Jukes took the Chair with the agreement of Councillors present. Resolved – A decision on this matter will be deferred pending receipt of the third requested quotation. Quotations will be circulated anonymously once received, making it clear to Councillors if their services have been used previously. Councillor Mrs Burton re-joined the Meeting and took up her position as Chairman.**
- h) Parish Council Capital Grants 2023/24 – **No progress had been made with working up a bid for improvements at the Village Halls therefore, Resolved – The Parish Council will not be submitting a Capital Bid this year but will work on looking at village hall improvements for next year's submission.**
- i) Late items received which may require discussion/action/observations for the next Agenda –
  - i) Request from West Lancs. Footpath Group to display posters in the Notice Boards – **Agreed.**
  - ii) Request from a company to review the Parish Councils utility charges with a view to obtaining the best deal for the Parish Council – **Councillors suggested attendance at a future meeting to take questions from the Parish Council and members of the public.**

**93. WINTER PLANNING/PROGRAMME** – to be compiled and put in place if deemed necessary. Councillors discussed this matter and agreed that the Parish Council should judge and assess each weather front as it comes and take appropriate action in response to the conditions as they arise.

**94. PARISH PRECEPT FOR 2023/24** – The Budget Meeting scheduled prior to this Meeting was cancelled as some Councillors did not feel they had sufficient time to analyse the Budget data/calculations sent to them. **Resolved – That the Budget Meeting is re-scheduled for Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January, at 7pm, at Mossy Lea Village Hall.**

**95. PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE – PARISH COUNCIL DEDICATED EMAIL ADDRESSES**  
– Follow up and report back by Parish Councillors. The Clerk reported the response from the current web co-ordinator in relation to setting up dedicated Parish Council email addresses and the security of passwords. The Council will ask for a projected cost of setting email addresses up so the passwords remain confidential, and also the costs of using a third-party mail server. It was reported that many people feel the website is out of date. The web-coordinator will be invited to attend a future meeting to discuss, and make suggestions, on how to make the website a more pro-active site going forward.

**96. HIGHWAYS AND ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS**

- It was reported that LCC gully suckers have been in Wrightington, Appley Bridge and Upholland recently. Drains in Appley Bridge were reportedly very blocked.
- Flooding is still occurring on the motorway roundabout at J27. Of the 26 gullies around the roundabout there are 4, on the Wigan side of the roundabout, where flooding occurs.

- Potholes on the inside lane of the roundabout at J27 are forcing motorists to swerve to avoid them. This is dangerous for other motorists using this route.

Councillor Shaw left the Meeting at this point. (9.38pm)

- Flooding and potholes on Back Lane need to be reported to Wigan Council.
- The surface of Mossy Lea Road has been damaged and is very uneven in places. Road workings have sunk near Charity Farm. There is a large pothole on Manse Avenue (Councillor Johnson will confirm the location to the Clerk).

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

**98. VILLAGE HALLS**

**MOSSY LEA** – Replacement hot water boiler – Councillor Alexander reported his findings on the proposed replacement hot water boiler for the Village Hall following which, it was **Resolved** – **The Clerk will order the Burco boiler.**

**APPLEY BRIDGE** – Nothing specific to report.

NB: Both Village Halls required on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February as Polling Stations for the By-Election and on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May for the Annual Elections – **Noted. Councillors agreed that the Polling Booths could be left in both Village Halls between the elections.**

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

Discussed last month as a late application – observations to be ratified:

- 1) 2022/1212/FUL Proposed single storey side extension with associated alterations, including new driveway access from the highway. 5 Toogood Lane, Wrightington - **Resolved** – **No Objections.**

For observations at this meeting:

- 2) 2022/1319/FUL Single storey rear extension and new side chimney stack. 14 Church Lane, Wrightington - **Resolved** – **No Objections.**

**100. LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS** – Notification of Area Committee Meeting, Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2023 7pm, West Lancs. BC offices, Ormskirk – **Noted.**

**101. ACCOUNTS - The following list of accounts for Approval:**

**Paid in December for ratification:**

Chubb Fire	Extinguishers ABVH		£70.92
Mr D Burton	Planters ABVH & MLVH	£325.00	
	Key Safe for MLVH	£10.00	
	Half yearly grounds maintenance ABVH	£340.00	£675.00
LALC	E-learning courses for the Clerk		£45.00
<b>For Payment:</b>			
The Wiper Co. Ltd	Toilet Rolls/Hand Towels – (original cheque made out incorrectly)		£76.80
Mr F Johnson	Reimburse cost of window cleaning – MLVH		£40.00
Fire Equipment Srvs.	Extinguishers – MLVH		£41.74
AB Community Ass.	Reimburse cost of Platinum Jubilee tree for The Meadows		£156.54
Mrs C A Cross	Clerk’s Salary – Net		£959.39
D/D NEST	Pension Contributions (employer + employee)		£41.19
D/D Plusnet	Internet ABVH		£23.62
D/D Plusnet	Internet MLVH		£27.60
D/D Waterplus	Water usage ABVH		£37.75
D/D Waterplus	Water usage MLVH		£37.73
British Gas	Gas usage MLVH (Dec-Jan)		£241.53
British Gas	Gas usage ABVH (Dec-Jan)		£501.49

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

## 102. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

**RESOLVED:** That the next Meeting of the Parish Council will be the Budget Meeting, on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 7pm at Mossy Lea Village Hall. The next Meeting of the Parish Council will then be held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at Appley Bridge Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Minutes 87 to 102 (Parish Council Meeting) and Minutes 103 to 107 (Budget Meeting) will be accepted as a correct record and signed by the Chairman at the Meeting to be held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

Members of the Public and Press are welcome to attend

Meeting Closed: 9.46 pm.

Chairman:

Date:

### **REPORT 1**

- a) Notification permission granted for Conversion of existing barn to residential dwelling. Horse Stone Farm, 50 Church Lane, Wrightington.
- b) Notification permission granted for demolition of existing dwelling and swimming pool and erection of replacement dwellinghouse. Horse Stone Farm, 50 Church Lane, Wrightington.
- c) Notification permission granted for single storey extension to rear of property. Waterside House, Stonemill Rise, Appley Bridge.
- d) Notification permission granted for construction of a single detached two storey dwelling on additional garden land to the east of no.4 Mill Lane, Appley Bridge.
- e) Notification retrospective permission granted for a site storage compound erected adjacent to side car park and fencing. Conway Industrial Estate, Skull House Lane, Appley Bridge.
- f) Notification advertisement consent granted for lighting scheme, 9 floodlights and 60m of festoon lighting. Pesto, 206 Appley Lane North, Appley Bridge.
- g) Notification consent subject to conditions granted for tree work at Hallwood, Robin Hood Lane, Wrightington.
- h) Notification permission granted for conversion of barn to dwelling house with associated works. Earlswood, Moss Lane, Wrightington.
- i) Notification permission granted for proposed front dormer extension and entrance door alterations. 5 Hinds Head Avenue, Wrightington.
- j) Additional information from a resident of Church Lane in relation to the Marsden Crane Hire site.
- k) Notification of overnight simultaneous road closures – Appley Lane South, Appley Bridge, Bank Brow, Upholland and Lees Lane, Dalton – 8/3/2023-10/3/2023 between 10pm and 5am only to enable access to underground joint boxes for desilting and fibre cabling works to be carried out.