

WRIGHTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

At the Meeting of the Council of the Parish of Wrightington held on Monday 20th February 2023 at Appley Bridge Village Hall at 7.30pm the following were present:

Councillors: Mrs J Burton (Chairman), Mr F Hodgkinson, Mr F Johnson, Mrs K Jukes and Mr House.
Also present were 11 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 member of the public referred to an email sent by the Chairman to Parish Councillors following her visit to West Quarry to look into reported gas leaks. The Chairman confirmed she spoke to the landowner that day. (Councillor Mrs Jukes left the Meeting during these discussions). It was reported that the landowner said he was working with the Environment Agency (EA), however, earlier that month the EA told the landowner there was no evidence he was taking any action. The resident explained how it is believed the landowner deliberately misled the Chairman, the Parish Council and the Clerk. It was reported the gas pipes are on top of the land, are seamless and robust and, it is impossible for tree roots to pierce them without killing the trees. The resident confirmed that everyone is now aware of the court action against the landowner and his company which was scheduled for the end of January. The landowner did not attend as he was unwell and this will re-called again in March. It was reported that the Parish Council is the only public body still supporting this person and his company. It was requested that the Parish Council reconsider the decision they took at the January Meeting, 3 days short of 6 months since their initial decision on this matter. Another resident reported on the opening dialogue which resulted in an onsite Meeting with the Vice-Chairman at West Quarry in 2021. The resident read aloud the information from February 2020 and February 2021 contained in publicly available reports from the EA. The 2020 report was given to the landowner by the EA. and it is believed he knew what was required and undertook to do the work. The 2021 report was also read aloud. It was reported that since the 2011 EA audit, 10 years prior, extracts of which were read aloud, it was clear that site management was not being maintained properly. 5 days prior to the Chairman's visit to the site, reported methane levels exceeding the satisfactory limits had been reported on 6 occasions. The Vice-Chairman was shown the leaking gas pipes, the boreholes (in particular borehole No.9), they discussed the report on the combustible baled waste which was given to the landowner requiring him to remove the waste to a suitable site for disposal, this was not undertaken. EA action followed in 2020 which stated that the waste must be removed by 15/11/20, the baled waste remains on site. It was reported that there are 8 gas monitors around the village, in November 2021 they could only get 4 of them operating and those 4 became out of date in May 2022. Some residents felt that the Parish Council did not want to know. The resident does not understand why the Vice-Chairman agreed to meet on site but has done nothing about it, he feels that he neglected his duty as a Parish Councillor and does not understand why there is no case to answer against him.

It was pointed out that this kind of aggressive behaviour is bullying and intimidating and it was reported that many residents do not want to attend Parish Council Meetings because of the bullying and aggression. Another resident reported that West Quarry and Parbold Quarry are bound together and that the Parish Council has a duty to represent the residents and by dismissing the residents' concerns they are breaching the Code of Conduct. It was reported that no monitoring is taking place. The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council had reported the combustible waste stored on West Quarry, the methane leaks and tree works on the site. The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council are not backing or supporting the landowner or his company. The Parish Council supported the proposals for a Certificate of Lawfulness to drain, fill to within a meter of the current water level and then rewater East Quarry. The resident stated that the first line of democracy is the Parish Council and that they should represent the public present. The Chairman took this on board. The resident said it was clear that members of the Parish Council are not following the Code of Conduct regarding disclosure and requested a written response to this.

Open Forum closed at 7.57pm, the Meeting was convened and Councillor Mrs Jukes returned to the room

108. **APOLOGIES** - Were received and accepted from Councillors Chambers (prior commitment), Alexander (unwell) and Shaw (unwell). Councillor House expressed his disappointment at his previous apologies being questioned. Councillor Jukes reported that because the agenda is a summons to attend, it is a legal requirement and part of the protocol because it is a summons, to give a reason for not attending. The Clerk asked Councillor Jukes to forward the source of this information for her records.
109. **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 Jukes 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. Councillor Mrs Burton declared an interest in discussions on grounds maintenance 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.**
110. **MINUTES** – The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 16th January 2023 and the Minutes of the Budget Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 30th January 2023 had been circulated in advance of the Meeting and were accepted as correct record, and signed by the Chairman. Councillor Mrs Jukes abstained from the vote.
111. **ALLEGATION OF ILLEGALITIES IN PARISH COUNCIL PROCESS** – Questions for the Parish Council to answer. The Parish Council confirmed the following: Q4 – Yes, the transcript is a true and accurate record of the statement made by the Clerk, at the January meeting. Q5 – Yes, that during the November meeting when approving the (disputed) October Minutes, due process was followed by permitting a Councillor not having been present for the whole of the October meeting, to propose that the minutes were a correct record of the ENTIRE October meeting. Councillor Mrs Jukes abstained from the vote.
112. **AMENDMENTS TO THE FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE** – The Council discussed the benefits, advantages and disadvantages of having a working finance sub-committee. The Clerk confirmed that there will be changes to reporting of the accounts and budgets going forward from the new financial year. It was suggested that a Meeting could be held 10-15 minutes before the Parish Council Meeting to discuss financial issues. The Chairman suggested that this could be achieved whilst discussing the accounts as an agenda item. It was proposed, seconded and **Resolved** – **That the Finance Sub-Committee will continue with all serving Parish Councillors on it and any issues or questions in relation to finances or the accounts will be dealt with as part of the agenda item during Parish Council Meetings.**

113. **CORRESPONDENCE/INFORMATION ITEMS**

Items to be reported to, and noted by, the Council – no decision required: REPORT 1 – page 5.

Items requiring discussion, observations or action by the Council:

- a) Email from a resident thanking the Chairman and Clerk for their service to the Parish Council – **Noted.**
- b) Statements from Councillors Shaw and Johnson, to be read aloud, not intended for discussion – **Noted.**
- c) Notification from LCC of an appeal by Maybrook Investments Ltd in relation to non-determination of the application for a Certificate of Lawful Development, East Quarry, Appley Bridge – Councillor Mrs Jukes left the Meeting during these discussions. **Resolved** – **Nothing further the Parish Council wish to add.** Councillor Mrs Jukes re-joined the Meeting.
- d) Response to suggested SPID assessment sites following site visits with the LCC officer, the Chairman and the Clerk – **The Clerk confirmed the 3 locations: 1) near the play area on Mossy Lea Road, on the village hall side of the road 2) approaching the Tunley Lane junction from the Derby House direction, on the Tunley Lane side of the road 3) on Appley Lane North, just slightly further down than the entrance to Bradley’s Farm, on the same side as the farm. The Clerk confirmed that once the engineers have agreed the**

locations the Parish Council will need to consult with the homeowners on Appley Lane North, adjacent and opposite, before proceeding. The Clerk reported that in a recent conversation with the PCSO she had highlighted the speeding vehicles on Appley Lane South. The PCSO, who is recently trained in the use of the speed gun, will be asked to target Appley Lane South in the future. It was also suggested that a possible future location for the SPID could be on Wood Lane, near the Windmill Garage – **Noted.**

- e) Further Information on the cost implications to the Parish Council of putting “Jazz in the Village” at Appley Bridge Village Hall – **Following discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council will not be proceeding with this at this time.**
- f) Late items received which may require discussion/action/observations for the next Agenda – i) confirmation from ABCA that the Cherry Tree donated by the Parish Council for the Meadows, to commemorate the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee has now been planted – **Samples of plaques and wording will be obtained by the Parish Council.**

114. CONFIRMATION OF PARISH PRECEPT FOR 2023/24 – Following detailed discussions at the Budget Meeting held on Monday 30th January it was **Resolved** – **The Parish Requirement for 2023/24 is £21,300.00 - £625.00 (Council Tax Support Grant) = £20,675.00 Parish Precept. Therefore, Wrightington Parish Council will Precept upon West Lancashire Borough Council for £20,675.00 for the financial year 2023/24.**

115. PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE – PARISH COUNCIL DEDICATED EMAIL ADDRESSES
– Deferred, as the 2 Councillors studying the information received have sent apologies.

116. HIGHWAYS AND ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

- Report received from a visitor to West Lancashire of damage caused to his car as a result of hitting a pothole on Crow Orchard Road, opposite St Joseph’s Church, and a request for any evidence of correspondence from the Parish Council to LCC on this matter – The Clerk will forward any reference numbers she can find related to Parish Council reports. It was confirmed that the road surface in this area is also dangerous for cyclists and motorcyclists.
- The surface of the carriageway on the motorway roundabout and on the main route to Parbold is in a very poor state of repair.
- Blocked gullies on the motorway roundabout continue to cause flooding. Some of the gullies are in West Lancashire, whilst some come under Wigan MBC.
- The carriageway at the junction of Boundary Lane and Mossy Lea Road is in poor condition
- The Clerk confirmed that, using the Biodiversity Grant received, the Parish Council could supply each primary school in the Parish and The Meadows, with a Hedgehog House, bird boxes, nest boxes, bug houses and bird feeders. The Clerk will purchase these.
- Councillor Johnson reported on the lack of road sweeping on Mossy Lea Road. He does not believe it was swept in September as reported by West Lancs. BC and has monitored it. According to his records it was last swept in June 2022. It was confirmed that Broadhurst Lane and the footpath opposite the playing field on Mossy Lea Road were swept last week, but not the main road through Mossy Lea.
- A litter pick is required on Mossy Lea Road, from the BP garage to Derby House.
- The dog waste bin near the junction of Chisnall Avenue and Mossy Lea Road has been removed. The Clerk will check if this is going to be replaced by a multi-use litter bin.

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

118. VILLAGE HALLS

MOSSY LEA – Sewing/needlework classes recently booked for Wednesdays, along with some 2-day summer schools – **Noted.**

APPLEY BRIDGE – Children’s cookery classes booked on Wednesday mornings from 1st March – **Noted.** Appointment of contractor for 2023-2024 for grounds maintenance at both Village Halls – Councillor Mrs Burton left the Meeting during discussions on this matter. The Vice-Chairman took the Chair. The Clerk reported contacting 3 additional contractors since the last Meeting, no additional quotations have been received. The 2 quotations received were discussed, without identifying who they were from, following

which it was proposed, seconded and **Resolved** – **That the cheaper quotation is accepted and the contract is awarded to Mr Dale Burton.**

119. PLANNING To discuss the following applications:

- 1) 2022/1267/FUL Demolition and rebuild of a building to create a holiday let. South Tunley Hall, Tunley Lane, Wrightington - **Resolved** – **No Objections.**
- 2) 2022/1268/LBC Listed Building Consent - Demolition and rebuild of a building to create a holiday let. South Tunley Hall, Tunley Lane, Wrightington - **Resolved** – **No Objections.**
- 3) 2022/1365/FUL Variation of condition No.2 of planning application 2022/0066/FUL in relation to approved plans. Land adjacent 4 Tunley Lane, Wrightington - **Resolved** – **No Objections.**
- 4) 2023/0022/FUL Re-use and conversion of redundant bothy, with a small single-storey extension for use as a 1-bed residential dwelling with associated means of access, parking with EVCP point, bin storage, private package treatment and landscaping scheme. Barn to the West of Harrock Lane, Wrightington – **Councillor Mrs Burton declared an interest in this application and took no part in the discussions or vote - Resolved** – **No Objections.**
- 5) 2023/0060/LDC Certificate of Lawfulness – former pig sty now outbuilding used as ancillary purposes to the main residential dwelling house. The outbuilding is to be recognised as within the domestic curtilage of the farmhouse. South Tunley Farm, Tunley Lane, Wrightington - **Resolved** – **No Objections.**

APPEAL – Notification of an appeal against the decision of West Lancashire BC to refuse planning permission for the proposed renovation and conversion of an existing outbuilding (former workers' cottage) to a detached dwelling. Re-submission of refused application 2021/1309/FUL. 14 Speakmans Drive, Appley Bridge – **Noted. There has been no change in the Parish Council views on this.**

120. LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS – Confirmation the Chairman has been nominated to go in the draw to attend the 2023 Buckingham Palace Garden Party – **Noted.**

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

For Payment:

Defib Store	Defibrillator consumables	£182.00
Mrs C Hodgkinson	Honorarium – Treasurer MLVH – replace lost cheque	£200.00
Mr G Ross	Web Co-ordinator	£240.00
Petty Cash		£50.00
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	£41.31
D/D Waterplus	Water usage MLVH	£46.39
British Gas	Gas usage MLVH (Jan)	£127.68
British Gas	Gas usage ABVH (Jan)	£285.36
E.on	Electricity usage MLVH	£168.73

Notification from Plusnet increase in charges from 31st March 2023 for line rental and Broadband – **Noted.** The Clerk confirmed that all 6 defibrillators are now in place, pads and chargepaks checked, and all are now emergency ready – **Noted.** The Clerk will obtain a price for a replacement door for the defibrillator at Mossy Lea Village Hall as it is difficult to close – **Noted.** Councillor Jukes checked the receipts and payments in the Petty Cash Book – **which were approved.**
Resolved: Payment of the above accounts is approved.

122. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED: That the next Meeting of the Parish Council will be on Monday 20th March 2023 at 7.30pm at Mossy Lea Village Hall.

Minutes 108 to 122 will be accepted as a correct record and signed by the Chairman at the Meeting to be held on Monday 20th March 2023.

Members of the Public and Press are welcome to attend

Meeting Closed: 9.08 pm.

Chairman:

Date:

REPORT 1

- a) Notification permission granted for proposed pitched roof over existing front dormer, front porch, single storey rear extension and first floor rear dormer extension. 243 Mossy Lea Rd, Wrightington
- b) Notification retrospective permission granted to extend approved gable cladding over 3no. gable end windows. Pesto, 206 Appley Lane North, Appley Bridge.
- c) Notification from the Environment Agency that the trial against the owner of West Quarry did not commence due to his illness. In early March 2023 the trial is set to be re-listed.
- d) Formal notification of a continuous road closure, on Church Lane, Wrightington from 13/3/23 to 17/3/23 to enable new electrical and water connection works to be carried out.
- e) Confirmation from ABCA that the Queen's canopy special cherry tree has been planted at the Meadows and that the Parish Council can now arrange a plaque. ABCA have donated the post and tree guard around the tree.
- f) Report that the dog waste bin at the junction of Chisnall Avenue and Mossy Lea Road has been removed. This is being investigated.
- g) Confirmation from Wigan Council that they are no longer partnered with Love Clean Streets, the reporting system preferred now by LCC.
- h) Notification that Ashley Dalton, representing the Labour Party, has been elected as the MP for West Lancashire at the recent by-election.