

# WRIGHTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

At the Meeting of the Council of the Parish of Wrightington held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2023 at Appley Bridge Village Hall at 7.30pm the following were present:

Councillors: Mr A J Shaw (Acting Chairman), Mr F Johnson and Mrs K Jukes. Councillor Burton arrived later in the Meeting.

## 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.)

Members of the public present had nothing to raise at this point.

19. **APOLOGIES** - Were received and accepted from Councillor Mrs Burton (who will be arriving late to the Meeting), Councillor House and Councillor Hodgkinson.
20. **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 declared a pecuniary interest due to the fact that she is currently in a legal dispute with Northern Diver, the now owner of part 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.**
21. **MINUTES** – The Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023 had been circulated in advance of the Meeting, they were proposed, seconded and accepted as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

## 22. CORRESPONDENCE/INFORMATION ITEMS

Items reported to, and noted by, the Council – no decision required: REPORT 1 – page 4 – ACCEPTED

Items requiring discussion, observations or action by the Council:

- a) A verbal update was provided by the Clerk outlining that the purpose of the Multiagency Meetings is to discuss the Quarry together with LCC, West Lancs. BC, Lancs. Fire & Rescue, the Police, and Borough and County Councillors. Borough Councillor Jukes confirmed this. A suggestion that Councillors look for ideas and possible alternatives to draining the quarry at this stage, which may be able to assist with the problems in the short term and/or deter visitors from swimming, was discussed. Suggestions were, putting dye in the water or the introduction of invasive insects or unfriendly plants/vegetation. Councillor Jukes confirmed that a vegetable dye had been put in East Quarry about 5-6 years ago and the anti-social behaviour and swimming in the quarry was notably quieter. It was confirmed that the dye would have a limited life and would need to be repeated over the summer months and there would be a cost involved of approx. £400-£500 per application, which would last 1 month. The multi-agencies are looking at this option but ultimately whether this happens will be up to the quarry owner. The introduction of insects or plants may impact on the existing environment and/or water quality. Councillors agreed that the summer season is short, maybe only 2-3 months, and this could potentially save lives. Following discussion the Parish Council **Resolved: If it is safe to put the non- hazardous dye in the water the Parish Council will support this.** The Clerk will inform West Lancs. BC and LCC (cc Borough Councillors)
- b) Email thanks for copies of correspondence in relation to the quarries sent to a resident, + a request that the Parish Council respond on behalf of residents where required, proposing that residents take the lead in preparing the response which would be checked/reviewed by the Parish Council to confirm they are happy with the content which, once agreed, would be sent from the Parish Council, not the residents – It was suggested that this would alleviate pressure on the Parish Council and the work of the Clerk. Residents do not feel the information received by the Parish Council is coming to them quickly enough for them to respond before it comes

before the Parish Council. The request is that items on specific subjects go to one person who will disseminate it. No sensitive information or correspondence will be released. The Chairman suspended Standing Orders to allow the author of the email to speak on this matter. He reported that the residents want the opportunity to assess the responses received from agencies contacted, in particular in relation to the Quarries in Appley Bridge, allow their experts to look at it and come back to the Parish Council with a response which will be assessed by the Council before being sent off by the Parish Council. The Meeting was resumed. The Chairman suggested and it was **Resolved: On the next Agenda for further discussion.**

- c) Response from LCC to inconsiderate parking emails on Mossy Lea Road. Confirmation that LCC would not consider introducing formal parking restrictions on Mossy Lea Road – **Noted.** Those present felt double yellow lines would help towards better traffic management. Borough Councillor Jukes reported that she has been dealing with this for over 12 months and is escalating it to higher people in LCC. 2 non-injury crashes outside the White Lion were reported over the Bank Holiday weekend. Councillors and residents concern is for the safety of children. Councillor Jukes confirmed that the LCC Enforcement Officer has acknowledged that there is a problem at this location. **Resolved: The Parish Council are not happy with the response received and support Councillor Jukes' request for a site visit with all agencies, and the School, and Landlady of the White Lion, to see what can be done.**
- d) Confirmation from West Lancs. BC that they are still replacing life expired litter bins in the Borough, purchasing new post mounted litter bins, and replacing life expired dog waste bins with dual purpose ones. Confirmation they were unaware of Canal & River Trust proposals to remove litter bins on canal banks, but that they will continue to empty the one at Appley Bridge going forward – **Noted. Councillor Jukes reported that she had arranged a Meeting with a representative of Canal and River Trust to request that they adopt or repair the un-adopted Canal Bank. The Meeting was cancelled. Councillor Jukes will pursue this and report back to the Parish Council. The Clerk has passed Borough Council officers contact details to Canal & River Trust so they can liaise directly on the subject of the bin.**
- e) Report/ complaint in relation to the poor state of the playing field and play area adjacent to Mossy Lea Village Hall + confirmation that this has now been cut – **Noted. It was confirmed the field was cut in April and now in June, however, this time period is too long. It was reported that West Lancs. has a No Mow May policy i.e.: they do not cut in May due to wildflowers. Councillors do not think this should apply to playing fields as this presents a Health & Safety issue for children. Borough Councillor Jukes confirmed that she is also looking into this along with dog fouling on the play area and grass verge cutting.**
- f) Information on the King's Award for Voluntary Service, nominations for 2024 – **Noted.**
- g) Details and invitation to attend the Mayor of West Lancashire's Civic Sunday Service, Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2023, 2.15pm leaving Coronation Park, for a Service at 2.30pm – **The Chairman will attend as the Parish Council representative and Councillor Jukes will attend as a Borough Councillor.**
- h) Late items received which may require discussion/action/observations i) Invitation from ABCA to attend a Thank You presentation at The Meadows on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> June – **The Chairman and Clerk will attend.** ii) Additional information which will be passed to West Lancs. BC for inclusion on their data base of another volunteer who regularly litter picks in the Parish – **Noted**

## 23. HIGHWAYS AND ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

- It was reported that it is 1 year since the roads were swept in Mossy Lea, however, this should be on a 12 week rota. This is an LCC function delegated to the Borough Council. Borough Councillor Jukes reported that this is a patch problem which she will pursue.
- It was reported that Stoneygate Lane, South Drive, North Drive and Graham Avenue have all had surface dressing works approx. 1 year ago, but the surface is now eroding away. Manse Avenue and Hall Lane (M6 junction to Moss Lane), along with Mossy Lea Road just after the BP garage where flooding used to occur, have a similar carriageway surface erosion issue. Borough Councillor Jukes has requested a site visit. Some of these areas have been marked for action previously but the marking has now faded and no work been done.
- A request that gullies be emptied on Courage Low Lane will be submitted.

- Councillor Burton wished to thank Borough Councillor Bailey for Meeting her on site at Hall Lane where parking tickets had become an issue for residents and carers – Noted that Borough Councillor Bailey is trying to help with this situation.

**24. PARISH COUNCIL VACANCIES FOLLOWING THE ELECTIONS** – Confirmed 2 vacancies for Appley Bridge Ward Councillors following the elections. Councillors discussed widening the display of vacancy notices. This will be placed on the Parish Council website, in the Notice Boards, and passed to the local Churches to display on their Notice Boards. **Resolved: The deadline for applications is 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023. Applications will be discussed at the Parish Council Meeting on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2023 where a decision will be made. Any updates on this will be given at the July Parish Council Meeting.**

**25. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES** – Councillor Jukes reported attending the Richard Durning’s Trust AGM – which was very complicated. The Clerk reported attending the West Lancs. BC Clerk’s Meeting – and reported that advice from the Police is that for them to be effective, incidents of any kind should be reported when they are occurring and not left for report at/following a Parish Council Meeting. Councillor Burton reported that over the past 2 years a number of complaints have been made against Councillors and the Clerk. At the time of these, both the Chairman and the Clerk have sought advice from the Monitoring Officer at West Lancs. BC and LALC on how to deal with these, and acted in accordance with the advice. The most recent complaint against the Chairman has now been investigated and it has been confirmed that there has been no breach of the Code of Conduct and that no further action will be taken. In addition to this the Chairman received a complaint from one Parish Councillor against another Parish Councillor. The Chairman tried to resolve this matter with mediation but one party did not respond therefore, she has now closed this complaint. The Chairman asked all those present to move on from this now, so that other Parish residents can return to attending Parish Council Meetings without the aggression and bullying that has been evident for the past 2 years.

**26. VILLAGE HALLS**

**MOSSY LEA** – Discuss transition of Internet services due to cessation of Plusnet Business Broadband - The Clerk will obtain information and report back. The Parish Council discussed the poor maintenance of the play area adjacent and the request that the Borough Council do a cut and lift when cutting the playing field. The Clerk will ask what the Borough Council does at other playing fields and report that when the grass is very dry it is slippery and turns to tinder, which is dangerous during spells of hot weather.

**APPLEY BRIDGE** – Discuss transition of Internet services due to cessation of Plusnet Business Broadband – The Clerk will obtain information and report back. Quotation received for cleaning out gutters and installation of gutter brush following CCTV inspection of drains – The quotation for this work is £140 to clean gutters all around the hall + £280 to fit approx. 50m gutter brush – **Resolved: The contractor be instructed to go ahead with the work at a Total Cost of £420.00.** Progress following drain survey in relation to development at Lowther Terrace – The Clerk reported that this matter is on-going and that West Lancs. BC and the Parish Council will need to sign an agreement in relation to this to protect all parties during the work – **Resolved: If the Borough Council are in agreement then the Parish Council are also. Either the Chairman or the Clerk can sign the agreement in due course.** The Clerk will try to contact the estates department at West Lancs. BC, with a request for assistance with the pot-holes on the car park.

**27. PLANNING** To discuss the following applications: None received to date of compiling agenda.

**28. LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS** – Reported the Area Committee Meeting will take place Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at 7.30pm at West Lancs. BC offices.

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

**For Payment:**

CSI Sec. Systms Ltd	Call out to replace faulty security light – ABVH	£72.00
Dale Burton	Half yearly maintenance ABVH (2 <sup>nd</sup> part 2022/23)	£340.00

	Moss Treatment ABVH 2022/23	£88.00	
	Moss Treatment MLVH 2022/23	£53.00	
	Bench repair/restore/install Boundary Lane	£235.00	£716.00
Mrs C A Cross	Clerk's Salary – Net of NI and Pension Contributions.		£1055.84
HM Rev. & Customs	Tax & NI due		£53.74
D/D NEST	Pension Contributions (employer + employee)		£55.27
D/D Plusnet	Internet ABVH		£23.62
D/D Plusnet	Internet MLVH		£27.60
D/D British Gas	Gas supplied ABVH		£118.95
D/D British Gas	Gas supplied MLVH		£70.60
D/D British Gas	Gas supplied ABVH		£74.65
D/D British Gas	Gas supplied MLVH		£52.97
D/D Waterplus	Water usage ABVH		£43.51
D/D Waterplus	Water usage MLVH		£47.83
D/D Waterplus	Water usage ABVH		£43.78
D/D Waterplus	Water usage MLVH		£67.72
D/D E.on	Electricity usage ABVH		£162.93

**Receipts:**

West Lancs. BC	1 <sup>st</sup> half Concurrent Grant		£1,190.50
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**Resolved: Payment and Receipt of the above accounts is approved. The Clerk presented Councillors with a financial report (Appendix 1) indicating the impact of the above payments on the Parish Council finances. Resolved: The financial report was accepted.**

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

**RESOLVED:** That the next Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at Mossy Lea Village Hall at 7:30 pm.

Minutes 19 to 30 will be accepted as a correct record and signed by the Chairman at the Meeting to be held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

Members of the Public and Press are welcome to attend

Meeting Close: 8.40pm

Chairman:

Date:

**REPORT 1**

- a) Notification permission in principle refused for 1 detached dwelling between 5 & 9 Mossy Lea Rd.
- b) Notification listed building consent granted for proposed work to chimneys and roof of grade II listed building. 9 Whittle Lane, Wrightington.
- c) Notification permission granted for single storey side extension, including associated alterations. 5 Toogood Lane, Wrightington.
- d) Notification consent subject to conditions for tree work at Aspinnall House Farm, 2 Appley Lane South, Appley Bridge.
- e) Notification outline permission refused 3/4 bedroom detached house. 6 Finch Lane, Appley Bridge
- f) Notification permission refused for removal of existing single storey pitched roof over kitchen area and replacement flat roof with walk out area and glazed balustrade with dwarf parapet wall. Robin Nook, 2 Robin Hood Lane, Wrightington.
- g) Notification permission granted for single storey rear extension. 156 Appley Lane North, Appley Bridge.
- h) Notification of planned daily road closure – Lees Lane, Roby Mill, 4/7/23 to 5/7/23 to enable new customer connection on behalf of BT.
- i) Notification of Travel Plan Supplementary Planning Document – pre draft consultation and the Local Plan Review. Both from Wigan Council. Circulated to Councillors, no comments received.
- j) Copy Open Spaces Society Summer 2023 edition of Open Space.

# APPENDIX 1

Wrightington Parish Council - Monthly Financial Report									
			Budgeted	April	May	June	Balance	VAT	
			Annually				Remaining		
Staff Salary (Gross) for 14.5 hrs p wk w/e/f Apr 23			£13,609.70	Gross	£946.19	£1,055.64	£1,055.84		
Employee HMRC + Pension Payments					£31.51	£78.50	£78.30	£10,363.93	CR
Employer HMRC + Pension Payments			£300		£22.88	£30.71	£30.71	£215.70	CR
Insurance Premiums			£2,000.00			£1,581.15		£418.85	CR
Donations			£300.00			£100.00		£200.00	CR
LALC Subscriptions			£550.00		£485.17			£64.83	CR
CPRE & Open Spaces Subs & OPSTA			£110.00			£60.00		£50.00	CR
SLCC & any other subs			£150.00						
Remembrance Day Expenses (+10%)			£61.26						
Remembrance Wreaths			£30.00						
Audit (External + Internal)			£425.00						
Election Expenses (uncontested)			£1,500.00						
Admin	Stationery/ICO	)	£1,200.00			£35.00		£1,165.00	CR
	Copying	)							
	Training	)							
	Printer	)							
	Newsletter	)							
	Mobile Phone	)							
	Broadbnad/Landline	)							
Office Equipment									
Mileage			£250.00						
Honorarium to VH Officers			£800.00			£800.00		£0.00	NIL
Honorarium to Web Co-ordinator			£240.00						
Bus Shelters - Litter Bins			£500.00						
Signs - Seats			£500.00				£235.00	£265.00	CR
Notice Boards			£500.00						
Parks & Open Spaces			£500.00						
Defibrillators & Defib Boxes			£1,000.00						
MLVH	<b>Running Costs</b>		<b>£5,000.00</b>					<b>£4,226.04</b>	<b>CR</b>
	Gas			£215.42	£160.54	£117.69		£24.67	
	Electricity				£149.64			£7.48	
	Water - Paid from VH Account								
	Broadband			£23.00	£23.00	£23.00		£13.80	
	Sanitary Products			£21.67				£4.33	
	Window Cleaning			£40.00					
	Extinguishers								
	<b>Work at the VH</b>		£1,500.00						CR
ABVH	<b>Running Costs</b>		<b>£6,000.00</b>					<b>£4,967.11</b>	<b>CR</b>
	Gas			£290.26	£225.97	£184.39		£35.01	
	Electricity					£155.17		£7.76	
	Water			£39.32		£57.07			
	Broadband			£19.68	£19.68	£19.68		£11.82	
	Sanitary Products			£21.67				£4.33	
	Window Cleaning								
	Extinguishers								
	<b>Work at the VH</b>		£1,500.00				£60.00	£1,440.00	£12.00 CR
Planting and Maintenance									
	MLVH		£700.00				£53.00	£647.00	
	ABVH		£1,400.00				£428.00	£972.00	
Additional Items Budgeted For 2023/24:									
Mark Car Park ABVH			£350.00						
Picnic Tables AB play area incl install			£1,500.00						
Website & Email addresses			£1,000.00						
SPID 's (Capital Bid successful)			£2,000.00						
Remedial work to damp - MLVH			£1,000.00						
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>			<b>£46,475.96</b>		<b>£2,156.77</b>	<b>£4,319.83</b>	<b>£2,497.85</b>		<b>121.2</b>
<b>INCOME RECEIVED 2023/24:</b>									
Precept	1st Part		£10,962.50						
Concort	1st Part		£1,190.50						
			£12,153.00						