

# WRIGHTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

At the Meeting of the Council of the Parish of Wrightington held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at Mossy Lea Village Hall at 7.30pm the following were present:

Councillors: Mrs J Burton (Chairman), Mr A J Shaw, Mr F Hodgkinson, Mr F Johnson and Mrs K Jukes.

## 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 July Meeting and asked that we all treat each other with respect and respect everyone's points of view. ABCA asked if it would be possible to invite the Police to the next Meeting as there is some anti-social behaviour occurring at The Meadows, shot guns have been heard in the evening and hares have been found. Borough Councillor Jukes reported that she would speak to the Super Intendant on this matter as there are also discussions surrounding drug dealing on the car park. A resident asked if there had been any answers received in relation to the question of dewatering at East Quarry. There has been no response received by the Parish Council. A West Lancs. BC officer had been asked to ask the same question on behalf of the residents and the Parish Council. Has the Borough Council not received a response? Borough Councillor Jukes reported on her attendance at Multi-agency meetings to discuss the quarry and agreed to follow this up.

Open Forum closed at 7.35pm.

31. **APOLOGIES** - Were received and accepted from Councillor House. Apologies were also reported from Borough Councillor Whittington.
32. **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.**
33. **MINUTES** – The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2023 had been circulated in advance of the Meeting, they were proposed, seconded and accepted as a correct record on a majority vote, and signed by the Chairman. Councillor Jukes abstained.

## 34. 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) West Lancs. BC response to suggestion of putting dye in East Quarry over the summer months – Discussed by the multi-agency group, and with the owner, and the indication is that dye would not be considered again due to perception of efficacy and cost – **It was reported that the cost implications of adding a dye fall to the landowner, who also has the final decision about whether to add the dye. It was reported that the Environment Agency is represented at the multi-agency group and they did not favour the addition of the dye, although many members thought it was a good idea. It was reported that in the past East Quarry naturally emptied once the stream was prevented from discharging into it but, as soon as the discharge recommenced, the quarry refilled. Flooding at Millbank approx. 30 years ago was reported. The landowner installed a bridge/wall and a drain and the Council installed a weir to prevent future flooding. The bridge now separates the total volume of water either side of Wrightington Fish Ponds. A second flood has occurred since then. It was reported that there is a natural aqua spa/spring under East Quarry which means that when the quarry is emptied, it could refill again. It was confirmed that the Environment Agency has granted a licence to dewater the quarry by 70%, with a**

condition that pumping can only take place over a 12 week period. This permission was granted 2+ years ago. The landowner said a ramp was required to dewater safely, which has been installed. The landowner has now applied for a Certificate of Lawfulness to drain, fill and re-water the quarry to a depth of 1m. The situation remains unchanged. For the immediate future, and in the interim, it was suggested that the fence around the quarry should be secure to deter people from going in there. It was confirmed that there is very little that the Parish Council can do to influence this situation. It was confirmed that the Parish Council has done a good job in fighting and challenging this for the past 2 years, but the question remains, who is responsible if there is another fatality? It was confirmed that all the agencies involved in discussions about this site are taking it seriously. It was reported that East Quarry, unlike others in the area, is a granite quarry. Heat transfer to granite is half of what it would be in a sandstone quarry. Therefore, the water will be much colder, hence the sudden cold water shock. Action is required before there is another death in the quarry. Residents were advised to report any breaches in fencing to West Lancs. BC.

- b) 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 – **The Clerk explained LALC's advice on this matter. Looking at the legalities and problems this could involve. It was reported that the public has no right to correspondence before it has been considered by the Parish Council. Relying on advice/expert knowledge from an expert the Parish Council has not appointed or instructed, could be problematic. If the advice proved wrong, where would that leave the Parish Council if they have acted upon it? Said expert may not be in receipt of all the facts and therefore not in a position to give appropriate advice. The advice may not be reported or relayed to the Parish Council accurately. It was confirmed that it would not be good governance and the Parish Council could face criticism if something goes wrong. Parishioners' correspondence should not go out in the Parish Council's name as it may not necessarily represent the views of all the electors the Parish Council represents. The formation of a resident's group could address this issue. They could formulate a response, which they could send on their own behalf, and copy the Parish Council in for information purposes. Following discussion it was proposed, seconded and Resolved – On a majority vote, that the Parish Council accepts LALC's advice. The Council will not be sending out correspondence received before it has been discussed by the Parish Council. The Council will not be putting its name to any correspondence drafted by anyone outside the Parish Council.**
- c) Response from LCC to inconsiderate parking on Mossy Lea Road. Request for a site meeting declined. Confirmation that another site visit has been undertaken by LCC noting a level of sporadic parking consistent with that expected for a village population. Confirmation that further site visits will be conducted over the coming weeks, at various times of the day and week. LCC will update the Parish Council once site assessments are complete, in early August – **Borough Councillor Jukes reported that she is escalating this and taking this matter to the top at LCC. It was confirmed that it is critical that LCC continue to visit the area and assess the issues. LCC has a duty of care to the residents. Obstruction of footways by parked vehicles is also an issue. The safety of the school children is paramount. The Parish Council will express their disappointment as this response.**
- d) Response to grass cutting issues at Mossy Lea playing field – Confirming there is not a "No Mow May" policy. Accepting that maintenance to date has not been to a satisfactory standard. An assurance that everything has been done to ensure the situation is not repeated – **Noted. By the time the second grass cut took place in June, the grass was too long, not having been cut in May. Grass verge cutting in general is very poor. There is ragwort in some of the grass verges which is now flowering and could affect adjacent farmer's fields, and the verges are encroaching on to the footways in a number of places. It was suggested that the Parish Council could put a program of grass verge cutting in place and Precept to cover the cost of this however, this would result in a form of double taxation. Councillor**

**Burton, having already spoken to West Lancs. BC about this matter, as her son and a neighbour have cut back some grass verges in the area to assist with obstruction of sightlines, agreed to continue to pursue this with West Lancs. BC and LCC.**

- e) Request for a donation from Divine Days CIC towards young people performing dance in Disneyland, Paris – **Resolved – no donation. The Parish Council should look to benefit Charities or organisation within the Parish.**
- f) Invitation to submit the name of a Parish Councillor you would wish to see appointed to serve on the Borough Council Standards Committee – **Resolved – No nomination at this time.**
- g) Request for your views, if any, on the West Lancs. BC Governance Framework Review – **Resolved – No comments will be submitted on this matter.**
- h) Request for your views, if any, on the West Lancs. BC Draft Council Plan 2023-2028 – **Resolved – No comments will be submitted on this matter.**
- i) Late items received which may require discussion/action/observations – i) Letter from the Minister for Levelling Up & the Minister of State for Prisons and Probation highlighting opportunities for local authorities to engage with Community Payback – **Noted.**

### **35. HIGHWAYS AND ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS**

- The Parish Council will obtain a price from their contractor to move the SPID's around the Parish, either every 3 or 6 months. Request a price per moving.
- The Clerk reported that consultation letters have been delivered to all homes in the vicinity of the proposed location of the SPID on Appley Lane North. Once the consultation period has closed, the Clerk will determine the next stage for installation of posts to support the SPID's.
- It was reported that another vehicle has gone through the hedge on Moss Lane. It was suggested that this route is being used as a racing circuit for high performance cars. Days, times and possibly registration numbers of vehicles would assist with this matter. Once this information has been obtained Borough Councillor Juckes will pursue this matter.
- Some of Councillor Johnsons' items have been addressed whilst others remain outstanding.
- It was reported that during recent heavy rainfall, Heyes Street, Appley Bridge, was flooded.
- Double yellow lines on Dobson Close have faded and now parked vehicles are obstructing access for emergency vehicles.

**36. PARISH COUNCIL VACANCIES FOLLOWING THE ELECTIONS** – The Clerk explained the process, policy and procedure going forward. It was reported that All Saints Church and St James's Church have supported the Parish Council by advertising the vacancies.

**37. PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE** – The Clerk reported that this item has been placed on hold since the elections. This will need to be re-visited in the near future.

**38. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES** – Councillor Burton reported her attendance at the recent LALC Area Committee Meeting which was postponed on the night and has been re-scheduled for 27<sup>th</sup> July 2023. The Chairman reported on her attendance, along with the Clerk, at the ABCA thank you event at the Meadows. It was confirmed that this was a very enjoyable afternoon. The Chairman confirmed what an asset The Meadows is in the village and that ABCA should be very proud of everything they have achieved there. The Chairman thanked ABCA for the invitation to attend.

### **39. VILLAGE HALLS**

**MOSSY LEA** – Nothing to report.

**APPLEY BRIDGE** – No response has been received from West Lancs. BC in relation to the report about potholes in the car park – **Borough Councillor Juckes will pursue this matter.**

Discussions on the transition of Internet services due to cessation of Plusnet Business Broadband at both Village Halls - **The Clerk reported that BT has quoted £23.95 per month, excluding VAT, for fibre broadband at each village hall. Resolved – The Council will accept this price for a plan at both village halls for the next 24 months. New equipment will be required.**

**40. PLANNING** The following applications were discussed:

Notification that: The appeal hearing in relation to the application for a certificate of lawful development for infilling East Quarry with imported material to a level of around 1 metre below the current water level, will take place at 10am on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2023 – **Postponed until further notice – Noted.**

- 1) 2022/1193/LDC Notification of an amendment to the proposals for a Certificate of Lawfulness – use of land for parking of not more than 16 cranes associated with a crane hire business, the parking of heavy goods vehicles associated with the haulage business, together with ancillary servicing, repair and office accommodation. Marsden Crane Hire, 38 Church Lane, Wrightington. Amendment – additional information supplied, evidence provided for the 10 year period dating from 2012-22, a cover letter and crane hire list – **Resolved - The Parish Council do not feel that there have been any material changes in the application since they submitted their original observations. Therefore, the Parish Councils objections to the application for the Certificate of Lawfulness remain the same: The Council object to the application for a Certificate of Lawfulness for the proposed use. The site is too small and it's rural location means it is totally unsuitable for the size of the vehicles proposed, the weight of the vehicles proposed and the volume of cranes and heavy goods vehicles associated with this business. The proposals are excessive for the size and location of the site. The large vehicles accessing and exiting the site often block this narrow country lane causing highway safety issues. The nuisance caused to the residents by the washing of vehicles near to the entrance of the site is unacceptable. The number of vehicles proposed and the length of time it takes to wash down each vehicle will result in a significant loss of amenity to neighbouring residents. The noise, the generator used to power wash the vehicles, and the water run-off from the site after vehicle washing are a nuisance to the residents living around the site. Furthermore, there is no mention of a separation tank, through which the water containing oil, diesel and other detritus from washing the vehicles should go through. Instead the water run-off from cleaning the vehicles is allowed to flow onto the carriageway and into the existing drainage system, including any contaminants which are washed off the vehicles. The Parish Council would like to ask officers to check the licence granted in 1990 for commercial use of the site and determine to what extent the terms of the licence have been breached. The Council also believe that the views of the residents who have to live close to this site and witness the breaches, the pollution, and the nuisance on a daily basis, should be taken into account when making any decision on the proposals. The Parish Council therefore object to the certificate of lawfulness as they believe that the site is not big enough to handle the size, weight and excessive number of vehicles proposed. They feel that the nuisance and loss of amenity to the residents should be given serious consideration. They object to the potential harm to the drainage and the potential environmental issues which could result from the proposals. The Parish Council believe that the certificate of lawfulness should not be granted but, that the proposals should be the subject of a full planning application.**
- 2) 2023/0445/FUL Erection of new single storey extension to the side and rear with a new porch. Demolition of existing garage, external store, conservatory and porch. 3 Broadhurst Lane, Wrightington – **Resolved – No objections.**
- 3) 2023/0527/FUL Proposed single storey extensions to side and rear of existing household dwelling, including front porch, and demolition of existing side and rear extensions, along with remodelling and replacement of existing roofs. 1 Tunley Lane, Wrightington – **Resolved – No objections.**
- 4) 2023/0530/FUL Double and single storey rear extensions and first floor extension over garage. 115 Mossy Lea Road, Wrightington – **Resolved - The Council has no objections in principle to these proposals provided the neighbours adjacent have no objections and, provided the proposals do not exceed the permitted percentage**

**increase in volume from the existing footprint.**

- 41. LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS** – Guide to taking part in D-Day 80, 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024, in commemoration/celebration of the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day – **Noted.**

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

**For Payment:**

DTG Plumbing	Call out and repair leak in toilets MLVH	£105.00
Mr F Johnson	Reimburse cost of Window Cleaning – MLVH	£40.00
Mrs C A Cross	Reimburse cost of toilet seat – ABVH	£23.99
The Wiper Co.	Hand Towels and Toilet Rolls – ABVH & MLVH	£61.20
Petty Cash	Office Sundries	£50.00
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	£55.27
D/D Plusnet	Internet ABVH	£23.62
D/D Plusnet	Internet MLVH	£27.60
D/D British Gas	Gas supplied ABVH	£74.65
D/D British Gas	Gas supplied MLVH	£52.97
D/D British Gas	Gas supplied ABVH	£283.39
D/D British Gas	Gas supplied MLVH	£133.75
D/D Waterplus	Water usage ABVH	£114.75
D/D Waterplus	Water usage MLVH	£47.81

**Resolved:** Payment 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.

- 43. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING**

**RESOLVED:** That the next Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at Appley Bridge Village Hall at 7:30 pm.

Minutes 31 to 43 will be accepted as a correct record and signed by the Chairman at the Meeting to be held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

Members of the Public and Press are welcome to attend

Meeting Close: 9.10 pm

Chairman:

Date:

**REPORT 1**

- Notification Certificate of Lawfulness (existing) granted for existing use for tourism – camping and caravanning. Charity Farm, Smithy Brow, Wrightington.
- Notification permission granted for extension to the rear at ground floor. Alteration of the roof to create 2 dormer windows to front elevation and 1 dormer to the rear. Balcony at the rear. House and garage to be rendered. 1 Toogood Lane, Wrightington.
- Notification permission refused for demolition of an existing single storey motor sales premises and workshop area and the erection of a new build, two storey detached dwelling. AP Cole Car Sales Ltd, Dangerous Corner Garage, Hall Lane, Wrightington.
- Notification of an amended temporary prohibition of through traffic on Lees Lane, Roby Mill, between 9.30am and 3.30pm from Thurs. 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2023 to Fri. 4<sup>th</sup> August 2023 or until completion of works to allow new customer connection on behalf of BT.

Wrightington Parish Council - Monthly Financial Report																	
						Budgeted			April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	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	£1,055.84						
Employee HMRC + Pension Payments								£31.51	£78.50	£78.30	£78.30					£9,229.79	CR
Employer HMRC + Pension Payments						£300		£22.88	£30.71	£30.71	£30.71					£184.99	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		£50.00					£1,115.00	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											
MIVH	Running Costs					£5,000.00										£4,087.09	CR
	Gas							£215.42	£160.54	£117.69	£50.45						£27.19
	Electricity								£149.64							£7.48	
	Water - Paid from VH Account																
	Broadband							£23.00	£23.00	£23.00	£23.00						£18.40
	Sanitary Products							£21.67			£25.50						£9.43
	Window Cleaning							£40.00			£40.00						
	Extinguishers																
	Work at the VH					£1,500.00					£105.00					£1,395.00	CR
ABVH	Running Costs					£6,000.00										£4,736.08	CR
	Gas							£290.26	£225.97	£184.39	£71.10						£38.56
	Electricity									£155.17						£7.76	
	Water							£39.32		£57.07	£114.75						
	Broadband							£19.68	£19.68	£19.68	£19.68						£15.76
	Sanitary Products							£21.67			£25.50						£9.43
	Window Cleaning																
	Extinguishers																
	Work at the VH					£1,500.00				£60.00	£19.99					£1,420.01	£16.00 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											
TOTAL EXPENDITURE						£46,475.96		£2,156.77	£4,319.83	£2,497.85	£1,709.82						150.01
INCOME RECEIVED 2023/24:																	
Precept	1st Part					£10,962.50											
Concort	1st Part					£1,190.50											
						£12,153.00											