

WRIGHTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

At the Meeting of the Council of the Parish of Wrightington held on Monday 15th January 2024 at Appley Bridge Village Hall at 7.30pm the following were present:

Councillors: Mrs J Burton (Chairman), Mrs Nicholson, Mr Johnson, Mrs K Jukes, Mr Carey and Mr House. Also in attendance were 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 January Meeting and asked that we all treat each other with respect and respect everyone's points of view.

A member of the public read a prepared statement of views on the Officers Report for the forthcoming Planning Committee Meeting where the retrospective planning application by Chorley Concrete will be discussed. He reported factual errors in the report and the omission of a number of residents' objections. Development in Green Belt is only permitted where it enhances the land, these proposals do not satisfy this criteria. The impact on transport routes is incorrect. When located at Skull House Lane, Chorley Concrete exited the village via Back Lane, not Appley Lane North. Traffic movements at the time of the survey were underestimated, and could increase by a further 50%. Noise levels are reported as average levels, therefore the assessment is flawed. The report omits the reasons for refusal of other applications due to the excessive increase in vehicle movements. There will be significant damage to the amenity of residents. The operating hours are not as restricted as when they operated from Dawber Delph, nor are they as restricted as other local businesses operating hours. It was questioned if it was realistic to expect Chorley Concrete to restore the site to its pre-development state in 5 years. A resident reported that statistically, on the Borough Council website, 50 objections to the application are from residents with a WN6 postcode, whilst 13 letters of support have been received from residents outside this postcode i.e.: 26% appear to support the application, whilst 74% object to the proposals. The Chairman confirmed that she had spoken to residents in the village about this application rather than looking at postcodes on observations submitted. Open Forum closed at 7:52pm.

102. APOLOGIES - Were received and accepted from Councillor Shaw.

103. 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 - **No 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.**

104. MINUTES – The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 18th December 2023 had been circulated in advance of the Meeting, they were proposed, seconded, and accepted as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

105. 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) Confirmation from the Clean & Green Operations Manager that he is happy to attend a Parish Council Meeting – suggestion of a separate meeting to discuss this – Some gully emptying has taken place in recent months. **A daytime Meeting with the officer will be arranged for Councillors to discuss these issues in more detail. The Operations Manager will then be invited to attend a future Meeting.**
- b) Responses from those offered a share of the Biodiversity Grant – The Meadows would like a wildlife camera. The Scouts some bird box/bird feeder making kits. Pingawings some heavy duty squirrel proof suet ball bird feeders, along with stock for these and some wildflower seeds. Plus information on Hedgehog Awareness signs – **Resolved - The Clerk will source and**

purchase all the items requested by the 3 organisations offered a share of the grant.

Information on Hedgehog signs and highways was noted.

- c) Letters from residents in relation to the Parish Council decision on the retrospective planning application discussed at the last meeting at the White Lion – **It was confirmed that the Parish Council are not the planning authority but merely a consultee. The Borough Council make the final planning decisions. No confirmation has as yet been received to say the double yellow lines are guaranteed. School parking/traffic has seen some changes.**
- d) Capital Bid request for submission of proposals – Using quotations for purchase and installation of electric hand driers in the village halls if the Council think this is a suitable project – **Resolved – The Clerk will submit a Capital Bid for 2024/25 for the purchase/installation of hand driers at both Village Halls at a total cost of £1650 +VAT. The Capital Bid will be for £1100 and the Parish Council will contribute £550 towards the project.**
- e) Late items received which may require discussion/action/observations – Nothing to report.

106. EAST QUARRY – Confirmed the Parish Council has received the recent East Quarry update from LCC, also sent to residents. Maybrook Developments appealed against LCC non-determination of the application for a Certificate of Lawful Development, East Quarry, Appley Bridge. LCC believed that the application would need to be subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment and therefore permitted development rights could not apply. The Secretary of State has now determined that the proposed infilling of East Quarry would be an Environmental Impact Assessment development and therefore cannot be permitted development. The appeal relating to the lawful development certificate application has therefore been dismissed – **Noted. The Parish Council will confirm with the Borough Council that they would like to endorse what has been said in a previous email, and encourage the Borough Council to use the window of opportunity which is now available to them, to determine the short term and long term intentions of the owner of East Quarry in relation to improving security at, and de-watering, East Quarry before summer 2024. The Parish Council believe there is now an opportunity for the landowner to work on improving and enhancing security at East Quarry which would not only assist with any de-watering activities he undertakes, but will also reduce accessibility to the quarry going forward. The Parish Council would like to encourage the Borough Council to pursue this with the owner before the warmer weather begins in summer 2024. More robust and adequate fencing and security would deter visitors to the site in 2024.**

107. WEST QUARRY & THE PAD – update - To note correspondence the Parish Council has been copied into by residents in Appley Bridge who have been pursuing the following matters: Non-compliance and further activities at West Quarry by Northern Diver – **Noted.**

108. HIGHWAYS AND ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

- Councillor Johnson reported on blocked road gullies, poor grass cutting and side dressing of pavements not being undertaken. The overgrowth is now narrowing the useable width of the pavements, and pedestrians are sometimes forced to walk in the road. Hedges need cutting back and grass verges need strimming. Weed spraying should be undertaken if necessary.
- The damaged post and litter bin on Appley Lane North, opposite Skull House Lane, has been passed to LCC as it is the post which requires the attention.
- Flooding at the junction of Skull House Lane/Appley Lane North has again been a problem. Residents have reported this to LCC. Borough Councillor Juckes is escalating this to the next level at LCC.
- The litter bin on the fence, inside Mossy Lea playing fields, has gone and needs replacing.

109. CONFIRMATION OF PARISH PRECEPT FOR 2024/25 – Following detailed discussions at the Budget Meeting held on Monday 15th January (prior to this Meeting) it was **Resolved – The Parish Requirement for 2024/25 is £22,300.00 - £625.00 (Council Tax Support Grant) = £21,675.00 Parish Precept. Therefore, Wrightington Parish Council will Precept upon West Lancashire Borough Council for £21,675.00 for the financial year 2024/25.**

110. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES - Nothing to report.

111. VILLAGE HALLS

MOSSY LEA – Nothing specific to report.

APPLEY BRIDGE – The Clerk will try to obtain quotations for work to the car park. It was reported that the security light on the car park appears to be faulty again – The Clerk will contact the installer. The broken no ball games sign will be removed from the front of the village hall and salvaged if possible.

British Gas contract renewal – for discussion/approval – **Resolved** – **The Clerk will get the best deal for both Village Halls, preferably for a fixed 3 year contract, to assist with budgeting.**

It was confirmed that following discussions at the Budget Meeting the contract for Grounds Maintenance at the Village Halls was awarded to the current contractor, Mr Dale Burton.

112. PLANNING The following application were discussed and observations as detailed:

- 1) 2023/0922/FUL Retrospective planning application for: - Erection of 3no cement silos, 2no. round metal cylinders, 5m high retaining wall, storage bays. Installation of 12no high lamp posts, diesel tank with metal hoarding surround. Erection of portacabin to be used as temporary site office, temporary storage tent. Construction of settling pit, wash pit. Appley Lane North, Appley Bridge – The Parish Council has looked at the Officers Recommendations and it is unusual to see a temporary permission for 5 years proposed. **Resolved** - **The Parish Council object to these proposals on the following grounds: If permitted, the application would allow for a significant increase in HGV movements along Appley Lane North, an additional 90+ vehicle movements per day, not including vehicles bringing raw materials onto the site. These will double the already existing HGV movements using this route. Where school related traffic, buses, & other commercial vehicles use the same route, highway safety will be compromised by the significant increase in vehicle movements. The HGV movements associated with Chorley Concrete are not only 9 times louder than an ordinary car movement, but also have additional problems. The HGV's used are volumetric vehicles which do not have air suspension; therefore, they are known to cause significantly more noise & vibration on the roads &, due to their weight, significantly more damage to the carriageway. Many homes on Appley Lane North are extremely close to the carriageway, with little & in some cases no garden frontage to put distance between them & the vehicles using the road. The impact of the noise & vibration can be clearly heard, & felt, inside these homes. The Council feel that doubling the number of HGV movements on Appley Lane North & surrounding roads is unacceptable. Previous applications for less vehicle movements per day have been refused. The Council object to the lengthy operating hours, between 6am and 7pm, 6 days per week. The Council are of the opinion that these operating hours are totally unacceptable & too disruptive in this village setting. Previous permissions have had restricted hours of operation, to cause less disruption & reduce nuisance in the village. It is understood that some of the proposed development which has already taken place on this site has encroached onto Green Belt Land. The Parish Council are totally opposed to the erosion of Green Belt land in any way, shape or form, & request that if this is the case remedial action is taken to restore the Green Belt land to its former state. The Parish Council also believe that the proposals would have a detrimental impact on the openness of the Green Belt at this location. Further objections relate to the close proximity of the application site to the former landfill site. The Council shares the Environment Agency concerns in relation to the risk of contamination & pollution which could result if a proper risk assessment, & mitigation of the identified risks is not undertaken. There is also a risk of explosion if the former landfill site continues to leak leachate & landfill gas, which is currently inadequately monitored by faulty, damaged or removed infrastructure from the adjacent land. This should**

also be risk assessed & mitigating action be taken. In addition to the above, the Council would like to draw attention to the fact that there is no mention in the application description of the additional activity associated with Gaskell's Haulage, which is also known to be operating from this site without the benefit of planning permission & whose vehicle movements will add to the numbers already quoted. The wording of the planning application is limited specifically to Chorley Concrete & should not be applicable to any subsidiary company which is also operating from the same site. Therefore, a separate planning application should be required for Gaskell's Haulage, giving details of their activities, the numbers of vehicles & vehicle movements associated with this operation, what they will be bringing onto the site & what they will be removing, & including documentation to prove that all materials will be handled in the correct manner. This should then be assessed as a completely different application along with the impact this will also have on Appley Bridge. Health hazards associated with this type of development have also been highlighted & the Council share the residents' concerns about the long-term health implications of this type of development.

Resolved – Councillor Carey will attend the Planning Committee Meeting at which this application will be discussed. The Clerk and Councillor Carey will compile the response that he will deliver on behalf of the Parish Council, which will be circulated to Parish Councillors for agreement.

- 2) 2023/1043/FUL Retrospective application for erection of pergola at first floor over existing balcony area. White Lion, 117 Mossy Lea Road, Wrightington - **Resolved** – No objections. Councillor House left the Meeting at 8.50pm.

113. LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS – Area Committee Meeting, Thursday 18th January, 7pm, at West Lancs. BC offices – The Chairman will attend.

114. ACCOUNTS - To receive the following list of accounts for Approval together with any late ones received since the agenda was prepared:

For Payment:

ElanCity Ltd	2 x SPID's	£5819.05
LCC	Posts and installation. Installation of SPID's	£1973.40
Mrs C A Cross	Reimburse Printer Ink Cartridges	£19.35
Mrs C A Cross	Reimburse Christmas Tree Lights & Batteries – ABVH	£38.47
Mrs C A Cross	Clerk's Salary – (incl. backpay) Net of NI & Pension Contributions	£1477.18
HM Rev. & Customs	Tax & NI due	£235.64
D/D NEST	Pension Contributions	£111.83
D/D BT	Broadband MLVH & ABVH	£57.48
D/D E.on	Appley Bridge Village Hall	£20.61CR
D/D Waterplus	Water usage ABVH	£22.21
D/D Waterplus	Water usage MLVH	£109.15
D/D British Gas	Gas supplied ABVH	£552.49
D/D British Gas	Gas supplied MLVH	£248.60

Receipts:

West Lancs. BC	CIL	£1940.57
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Resolved: Payment and Receipt of the above accounts is approved. **Resolved** - The Bank Reconciliation Statement to 31/12/23 was accepted. The Clerk presented Councillors with a financial report (Attached) indicating the impact of the above payments on the Parish Council finances - **Resolved:** The financial report was accepted and expenditure is on track.

115. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED: The next Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 19th February 2024 at Mossy Lea Village Hall at 7.30pm

Minutes 102 to 115 will be accepted as a correct record and signed by the Chairman at the Meeting to be held on Monday 19th February 2024.

Members of the Public and Press are welcome to attend

Meeting Close: 9.00 pm

Chairman:

Date:

REPORT 1

- a) Notification of review of West Lancs. BC Financial Inclusion Strategy & an invitation to comment.
- b) Information from the LCC website on the Lancashire Devolution Process.
- c) Information from LCC on the Warm Spaces Scheme, Battery Recycling & Digital Poverty.

Meeting Protocols: Please note the following procedures to ensure the smooth running of the meeting:

- Members of the public will only be able to speak during the Open Forum section of the meeting. If you wish to speak during this section please email the Clerk by 5pm on the day before the meeting, with brief details of the subject matter being raised. The Chairman will ask the member/s of the public to speak. Before speaking, the member of the public should state their name. Time permitting the Chairman will ask if members of the public wish to raise anything else, however, dependant on time, this may need to be held over until the next meeting. Each member of the public will be able to speak for a limit of three minutes.
- Parish Councillors wishing to speak are asked to please raise a hand and the Chairman will invite him/her to speak.
- To vote, members should raise their hand as appropriate.

Wrightington Parish Council - Monthly Financial Report - to January 2024

		Budgeted 2023/24	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Expenditure To date	Balance Remaining	VAT
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	£1,055.84	£1,055.84	£1,055.84	£1,096.61	£1,477.18			
Employee HMRC + Pension Payments				£31.51	£78.50	£78.30	£78.30	£78.30	£78.30	£78.30	£78.30	£100.36	£285.35	£11,876.18	£1,733.52
Employer HMRC + Pension Payments		£300		£22.88	£30.71	£30.71	£30.71	£30.71	£30.71	£30.71	£33.85	£62.13	£333.83	-£33.83	
Insurance Premiums		£2,000.00			£1,581.15								£1,581.15	£418.85	
Donations		£300.00			£100.00								£100.00	£200.00	
LALC Subscriptions		£550.00		£485.17									£485.17	£64.83	
CPRE & Open Spaces Subs & OPSTA		£110.00			£60.00			£10.00		£45.00			£115.00	-£5.00	
SLCC & any other subs		£150.00													
Remembrance Day Expenses (+10%)		£61.26									£39.13		£39.13	22.13	
Remembrance Wreaths		£30.00									£25.00		£25.00	£5.00	
Audit (External + Internal)		£425.00						£25.00	£210.00				£235.00	£190.00	£42.00
Election Expenses (uncontested)		£1,500.00						£3,607.42					£3,607.42	-£2,107.42	
Admin	Stationery/ICO)	£1,200.00			£35.00		£50.00					£19.35	£339.84	£860.16	
	Copying)														
	Training)									£70.00					
	Printer)														
	Newsletter)														
	Mobile Phone)							£81.25							
	Broadbnad/Landline)							£84.24							
Office Equipment															
Mileage		£250.00													
Honarium to Web Co-ordinator		£240.00													
Bus Shelters - Litter Bins		£500.00													
Signs - Seats		£500.00				£235.00							£235.00	£265.00	
Notice Boards		£500.00													
Parks & Open Spaces		£500.00													
Defibrillators & Defib Boxes		£1,000.00													
MLVH	Running Costs	£5,000.00											2006.01	£2,993.99	
	Gas			£160.54	£117.69	£122.47	£44.32	£33.69	£32.57	£157.04	£27.18	£236.77			£69.92
	Electricity			£149.64			£132.59			£141.66					£21.19
	Water - Paid from VH Account														
	Broadband			£23.00	£23.00	£23.00	£23.00	£23.00	£50.90	£23.95	£23.95	£23.95			£47.55
	Sanitary Products			£21.67			£25.50	£27.00	£13.50		£39.00				£25.43
	Window Cleaning			£40.00			£40.00	£20.00	£40.00	£40.00					
	Extinguishers														
	Gas Safety Cert.						£60.00								
	Cleaning Materials						£23.55				£21.88				
	Work at the VH	£1,500.00					£105.00			£60.00			£625.00	£875.00	
	Drain Cleaning										£60.00				£12.00
	Electrical Safety Cert.								£400.00						£80.00
	Honarium to VH Officers	£400.00		£400.00									£400.00	£0.00	
	MLVH - Planting & Maintenance	£700.00			£53.00				£185.75		£185.71		£424.46	£275.54	

