WRIGHTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

At the Meeting of the Council of the Parish of Wrightington held on Monday 15th April 2024 at Mossy Lea Village Hall at 7.30pm the following were present:

Councillors: Mrs J Burton (Chairman), Mr F Johnson, Mrs K Juckes, and Mr H Carey. 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 April Meeting and asked everyone to treat each other with respect, and respect everyone's points of view. There were no items raised by Members of the public. Open Forum closed at 7.35pm.

- **137. APOLOGIES** Were received and accepted from Councillors Mr A Shaw (unwell) and Mrs Nicholson (work) and Councillor House (work). Apologies were also received from Borough Councillor Whittington.
- 138. **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.
- **MINUTES** The Minutes of the Wrightington Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 18th March 2024 had been circulated in advance of the Meeting, they were proposed, seconded, and accepted as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

140. 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) Notification the External Audit of accounts for the year ending 31/3/24 will take place on Monday 1st July 2024 by PKF Littlejohn LLP **Noted by the Parish Council.**
- b) LCC response to your request to review their reply to the suggestion of creating a pedestrian footway/pavement on Moss Lane, Wrightington for note or action Councillors were disappointed with this response. Borough Councillor Juckes confirmed that she had recently spoken with the Police and Crime Commissioner, Andrew Snowden, and raised the issue of speeding vehicles on Moss Lane, Tunley Lane and Church Lane. He confirmed that the Police cannot change the speed limit on these roads and advised that BC Juckes contact Lancashire County Council as the highway authority. The Clerk will forward a copy of the LCC response to BC Juckes and copy County Councillor Fillis in.
- c) Confirmation that new litter bins will be installed in a number of the locations suggested by the Parish Council (details of locations in the supplementary notes). Installation should be completed within the next 8 weeks The Clerk confirmed that the proposed litter bin on Appley Bridge Village Hall car park will still be emptied by West Lancs. Borough Council. The Council will be advised to put the bin on the grass, just over the wall, and at the rear of the barrier, so users will not need to use the car park to access it.
- d) Response to grass verge cutting issues raised (details in supplementary notes) **Noted.**
- e) Updated details on the multiagency operational water safety meetings for East Quarry It was confirmed that the first Multi-Agency Operational Meeting was on Friday 12th April 2024. The previous Meeting was the Borough-wide Strategic Water Safety Meeting on 6th March 2024. BC Juckes confirmed that there were no Agendas or Minutes for these Meetings until she insisted they were taken. BC Juckes will try to obtain copies of the

- Minutes of these Meetings. If this fails the Clerk will make a Freedom of Information request for these documents.
- f) Response on behalf of Andy Burnham (Mayor of Greater Manchester) to suggestion of changes in the route of the 635 bus to include Mill Lane and Appley Lane North for note. (details in supplementary notes) The Council will thank the representative for their response but suggest that they could trial the re-route on some services in order to obtain the customer data required to make any changes to the route/service.
- g) Late items received which may require discussion/action/observations -i) Info. and editorial about the funding which will be used to complete pot-hole and drainage work now that the decision has been made to stop HS2 reaching the North – Noted. Funding is limited. The only way to get work done is to keep reporting the pot-holes as they arise. It was noted that, often workmen will address the deep pot-hole at a location but leave smaller ones around it. The Council will request that the proposed mini re-surfacing schemes are done properly, with preparation of the site being important before filling, thus ensuring the repair lasts longer. Mossy Lea Road, Crow Orchard Road and Hall Lane all have potholes requiring attention. ii) Feedback on the Frank Hodgkinson Memorial Walk – This was reasonably well attended despite the weather, and raised almost £500 for North West Air Ambulance. It was suggested that the newly sited bench on the grassed area on Mossy Lea Road, near Boundary Lane, could be dedicated to Councillor Hodgkinson's memory. In addition, the Parish Council agreed that it would be appropriate to award Councillor Hodgkinson "Freedom of the Parish" posthumously, in recognition of his service to the Parish Council and the Parish of Wrightington. Councillors agreed that this would be a lovely gesture and that the Certificate could be displayed in the Village Hall as well as with his family. The Parish Council would however, prefer to put a new bench on Mossy Lea Playing Field, a memorial/remembrance bench to remember those who lost their lives during the pandemic and for Councillor Hodgkinson also. The Clerk will look into the cost implications and enquire whether West Lancs. BC will agree to a licence for a bench on the playing field. This would be supported by the Borough Councillors.
- 141. EAST QUARRY update To report that the first Multi-Agency Operational Meeting took place on Friday 12th April 2024.
- 142. WEST QUARRY & THE PAD update Northern Diver To note the response submitted to the Appeal, Reference APP/P2365/C/24/3339918 (detailed in supplementary notes) Noted. The Council were thanked for submitting a comprehensive response to the appeal. Update Chorley Concrete none received Noted.
 Standing Orders were suspended to allow Members of the public to provide an update on a Meeting with Borough Council Planning Officers. Residents have met with officers and will continue with a follow up meeting in a month. Officers now accept the strength of objections from residents and the importance of the information being provided by the residents. They agreed that the officers recommendation/report will be updated to take account of this. The Borough Council have also not received any recent update from Chorley Concrete. The residents will forward a copy of the Minutes of the previous Meeting with officers, and the Minutes for the most recent Meeting, when they are available, to the Clerk. The Meeting resumed.

143. HIGHWAYS AND ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

- Borough Councillor Juckes reported on a conversation with Andrew Snowden (Police & Crime Commissioner) in relation to potholes, some of which have been repaired, others which have not, and the poor quality of the repairs, which are unsatisfactory. It was reported that a site visit will be requested.
- It was reported that Officers will assess damage to the sign on Tunley Lane and appropriate action will be taken.
- The bus shelter opposite the BP garage on Mossy Lea Road needs cleaning. The Clerk will request a quotation for cleaning from Wrightington Windows, and if acceptable to Councillors, will instruct them to clean the bus shelter.

- A grass cutting request around the bench on the grass on Mossy Lea Road, near the junction with Boundary Lane, will be submitted to West Lancs. BC.
- **144. CONTINUING THE REVIEW OF PARISH COUNCIL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES PRIOR TO ADOPTION AT THE MAY MEETING** Councillors discussed and approved the following policies and procedures: <u>Info. & Data Protection Policy</u> Reviewed and will remain unchanged. <u>Training Policy</u> Reviewed and will remain in place unchanged. <u>Village Hall</u> Constitutions (ML & AB) Reviewed and will remain in place unchanged.
- 145. ACCEPTANCE OF ANNUAL AUDIT PLAN FOR THE FORTHCOMING YEAR It was noted that: The Parish Council confirms the following action has been taken throughout the year to satisfy audit requirements: i) The Risk Assessment/Management Plan/Register was reviewed and adopted at the May 2023 Parish Council Meeting. ii) The effectiveness of the Internal Audit was confirmed the Internal Auditor is both competent and independent, has no relationship with the Clerk or Councillors. The Audit trail is detailed, planned and the broad scope of the internal audit covers all aspects of the Councils business including financial, administrative, practical and procedural matters. Any issues arising from both the internal and external auditors are reported to the Parish Council at the earliest opportunity and the appropriate action taken.
- **REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES** <u>Civility & Respect Training</u> The Clerk reported that she has now completed the 3 modules of this training and felt the information was useful, and the training informative **Noted.**

147. VILLAGE HALLS

MOSSY LEA – Nothing specific to report.

<u>APPLEY BRIDGE</u> – Update on car park repairs – The Clerk reported that the contractor is unable to complete this work until early 2025, however, should he have a cancellation before that time, he will come back to the Parish Council, review the cost of the work, and drop onto this job if it is still agreeable. Councillors discussed this and <u>Resolved</u> – to book the work into the contractor's diary for early 2025 but agree to the work being carried out earlier if at all possible. New hot water boiler required in the kitchen – The Clerk reported that the boiler is now rusty and leaking and is un-repairable. Councillors <u>Resolved</u> – that a new boiler, the same as the one recently purchased for Mossy Lea Village Hall, is purchased and installed at Appley Bridge Village Hall.

Confirmation that both village halls have received the small business relief for their Non-Domestic Rate Bill for 2024/25 – **Noted.**

The Clerk reported that the Capital Bid submitted to West Lancs. BC earlier this year has been successful – Resolved – That the contractor be instructed to go ahead with purchase and installation of electric hand-driers at each village hall.

- **148. PLANNING** The following applications were discussed and observations as detailed:
- 1) 2024/0215/PNH Application for determination as to whether prior approval of details is required extension of dwellinghouse. Extension extends beyond the rear wall of the original dwellinghouse by 3.6m. Maximum height of extension 3.65m. Height of eaves of extension 2.34m. 38 Toogood Lane, Wrightington **Resolved No objections.**
- 2) 2024/0232/FUL One ½ storey side extension to form a garage and studio bedroom above, to the approved new dwelling (2022/1365/FUL). Land to east of 4 Tunley Lane, Wrightington Resolved No objections in principle to these proposals, however, this is going to be a large building/dwelling and the additional garage would make the volume of building even bigger. The Parish Council do not understand why a garage was not included in the original application, unless of course to do so would have made the building volume unacceptable.
- 3) 2024/0235/FUL Replacement of a 2,000L liquid oxygen storage tank with a larger 10,000 litre tank. Speciality Oxygen Services Ltd. Unit 14, Conway Industrial Estate, Skull House Lane, Appley Bridge The Parish Council are concerned about the installation of a tank 5 x bigger than the existing one. The Council will leave this decision

to the professional officers. Borough Councillor Juckes will also look into this application and report back to the Parish Council.

- 4) 2023/0957/NMA Non-material Amendment(s) to planning permission 2022/0346/FUL relating to changing the external finishes from rendered blockwork to sandstone matching the existing, and the addition of a new door. 2 Canal Bank, Appley Bridge Resolved No objections.
- **149. LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS** Area Committee Meeting Thursday 18th April 2024, at 7pm, in West Lancs. BC offices The Chairman will try to attend.
- 150. ACTION REQUIRED TO SUPPORT THE APPOINTMENT OF A NEW CLERK The Clerk confirmed that the A3 printer will be passed to Wrightington PC. The laptop was purchased by Charnock Richard Parish Council, with a contribution from Wrightington Parish Council and will be retained by Charnock Richard PC. The Clerk will suggest that Charnock Richard PC make a contribution back to Wrightington PC towards the purchase of computer equipment. The mobile telephone and Broadband contracts are in the name of Charnock Richard PC, with Wrightington PC paying a contribution towards them. Again, these contracts will be retained by Charnock Richard PC. It will therefore be necessary for Wrightington PC to provide a mobile telephone and broadband, along with a laptop, to the successful applicant for the post of Clerk. The Clerk will look into prices and contracts and report back at the next Meeting.

 The Clerk reported that 1 application has already been received, and discussions have taken place
- **151. ACCOUNTS** To receive the following list of accounts for Approval together with any late ones received since the agenda was prepared:

with another applicant who will be submitting her application before the deadline – **Noted.**

For Payment:

CSI Security Systems Replacing faulty security lights ABVH							
LALC	Annual Subscriptions	£522.93					
Mrs C A Cross	Clerk's Salary – Net of NI &Pension Contributions	£1,133.77					
HM Rev. & Customs	Tax & NI	£96.70					
D/D NEST	Pension Contributions	£60.93					
D/D BT	Broadband MLVH & ABVH	£57.48					
D/D Waterplus	Water usage MLVH	£46.20					
D/D Waterplus	Water usage ABVH	£39.76					
D/D British Gas	Gas supplied ABVH (estimated)	£515.41					
D/D British Gas	Gas supplied ABVH (after submitting meter reading)	£117.58					
D/D British Gas Lite	Gas supplied MLVH (£286.89 + £175.92 = £462.81 see below)	£175.92					
D/D CPRE	Annual Subscriptions	£60.00					

<u>Resolved</u>: Payment of the above accounts is approved. The Clerk presented Councillors with a financial report (Attached) indicating the impact of the above payments on the Parish Council finances - <u>Resolved</u>: The financial report was accepted and expenditure is on track.

(The Clerk explained that the £286.89 payment to British Gas Light is being Minuted but will not appear on the attached financial report as the payment was taken out of the bank after the March Meeting and in the 2023/24 financial year. The payment of £175.92 will appear on the attached financial report as it will be taken in the current 2024/25 financial year – **Resolved - Noted and approved by the Parish Council**)

152. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED: That the next Meeting of the Parish Council will be on Monday 20th May 2024 at 7.30pm and will be the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council at Appley Bridge Village Hall. This will follow the Annual Parish Meeting at 7.00pm also at Appley Bridge Village Hall.

Minutes 137 to 152 will be accepted as a correct record and signed by the Chairman at the Meeting to be held on Monday 20th May 2024.

Members of the Public and Press are welcome to attend

Meeting Closed: 8.45 pm.

Chairman: Date:

REPORT 1

- a) Notification planning permission granted for proposed change of use to No 2-4 Ashfield Terrace to convert the existing detached dwelling back into a pair of semi-detached houses. 4 Ashfield Terrace, Appley Bridge.
- b) Notification prior approval not required for extension to dwellinghouse. Extension extends beyond rear wall of the original house by 6.10m. Max. height of extension 3.9m. Height of eaves of extension 2.7m. 19 Broadhurst Lane, Wrightington.
- c) Notification permission in principle refused for erection of a maximum of 2 dwellings. Land north of electricity substation, Mossy Lea Road, Wrightington.
- d) Notification an appeal has been made against the West Lancs. BC decision to refuse planning permission for a rear single storey extension with flat roof. 39 Church Lane, Wrightington.
- e) Notification the request for a grit bin on Appley Lane North, or on Canal Bank, (junction area) has been assessed and no works identified as required. This will be monitored.
- f) Copy CPRE Countryside Voice, Spring/Summer 2024 edition.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION TO SUPPORT THE APRIL 2024 MINUTES:

Correspondence c)

Mossy Lea Ward:

1 x free standing - on the grass verge near the entrance to Mossy Lea Playing Fields. - Currently a red dog bin so we can replace that with a litter bin.

1 x free standing near the Bus Stop/Shelter on Mossy Lea Road, opposite the BP Garage. - We can place one at the side of the bus stop.

Appley Bridge Ward:

1 x free standing in the vicinity of Appley Bridge Village Hall, Appley Lane North - We can only place one in the car park as no room on the paths.

1 x free standing in the vicinity of the Scout Hut, Appley Lane North - We can place one by the bus stop

1 x free standing on Skull House Lane, near the junction with Appley Lane North - One opposite there but on a damaged post so we will replace it to a free standing one

1 x free standing near The Boathouse, Mill Lane - We will replace the red dog bin on the tow path

Correspondence item d)

"The contractor was only paid for the 1 cut as that is all they completed. Unfortunately, we are stuck with the same contractor again for this year. We did try to direct award with another contractor but financially it was not viable.

I have met with the current contractors last week ahead of this year's schedules and have given them clear instructions that last year's work (or lack of it) was totally unacceptable. My Area Managers will be micro-managing them this year to ensure the work is being completed and that standards are acceptable.

I am currently waiting for this year's schedule that will be shared with you. I will ask them if they can start the verge maintenance in your ward."

Correspondence item f)

"Thanks for getting in touch about bus services from Appley Bridge to Wigan.

We've now taken the first steps towards taking control of local bus services from last September. Bus services in Wigan were included in the first phase which means all buses in the Wigan area including the 635 service are now running as new Bee Network services.

Currently, the service 635 runs at a frequency of three buses an hour which is a reduction from its pre-pandemic frequency of 12 minutes.

The service 635 extends in the evening to serve Wrightington Hospital. This is supplemented by a train service which runs twice an hour from Southport to Manchester via Wigan.

At first, we're not making any changes to services or introducing new ones, instead, our priority is stabilising the network. This is particularly important as we continue to bring buses under local control and deliver the whole of the Bee Network. Over time, as the network stabilises and as we build up detailed customer data, we can start to look at making improvements to our bus services by using detailed passenger journey information to plan the network where there's demand.

I've passed on your suggestion on to Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) about revising the 635 route and asked them to consider this when they look at reviewing the bus network in Wigan.

In the meantime, if you need any journey planning advice, the Bee Network Customer team will be happy to help. They can be contacted on 0161 244 1000 or by emailing hello@beenetwork.com. Thanks again for taking the time to share your feed"

Agenda Item - West Quarry

Response submitted by the Parish Council to the appeal by Northern Diver:

"Wrightington Parish Council support the enforcement notice served by West Lancashire Borough Council on Mr Ian McLeod, for unauthorised engineering operations on land at West Quarry, Appley Lane North, Appley Bridge, and request that the appeal is dismissed for the following reasons:

The Appellant has undertaken significant work on the site without first approaching the relevant regulatory bodies such as West Lancashire Borough Council, Lancashire County Council and the Environment Agency, for advice on how to proceed. As a result, no permission for the work which has been undertaken has been sought, or granted, from any of the aforementioned bodies, and no regard has been given to the site-specific safety requirements of development on a landfill site, and the impact this will have on the amenity, health, and safety, of residents living in the vicinity of the site.

Given that the site is a former landfill site, which remains an active landfill site, covered by an Environment Agency Waste Management Permit, responsibility for which remains with the original grantee of the permit and not the current owners of the land, the Parish Council believe that any damage to, or removal of, any infrastructure originally installed to protect the village of Appley Bridge and it's residents from the potential threats of methane gas, carbon dioxide and leachate leaks, should be repaired or reinstated as a required and as a matter of urgency. This would reduce the risk of explosion, and the risk to health and safety, and would enhance the protection of the residents of Appley Bridge.

The appellant's reasons for appeal against Ground C do not in-fact support or evidence reinstatement of the land. Instead, the actions of the appellant show a total disregard for the comprehensive landscape plan put in place following the completion of the landfill activities at this site. The landscaping plan included tree and hedge planting around the perimeter of the site, including the areas adjacent to Appley Lane North, seeded grassland areas, the planting of trees to create a protection buffer for those homeowners whose gardens back onto, or look over the site. The appellant has removed soils which were brought in to infill areas of settlement and to create an improved restoration profile i.e.: The Cap. The Cap is a mound/dome profile created as a requirement of the final remediation permission, to create and manage surface water run-off, in order to minimise water ingress into the contained waste mass beneath. If the water run-off is not managed properly this can cause damage to the environment by means of pollution to water courses, adjacent land, and residents' gardens, which conflicts with the Environment Agency waste permit conditions. The contouring of the land prior to the excavation works which have taken place was of paramount importance, created quite deliberately to prevent contamination and to improve safety for those living close to the landfill site.

As the landfill site is still active, quarterly monitoring data should still be submitted to the Environment Agency in accordance with the terms of the waste permit for safety reasons. The ground-works undertaken on the site by the appellant have resulted in the damage or loss of monitoring infrastructure and regulatory controls of the landfill site, not only compromising any future monitoring at the site but also the health, and safety, of residents' living in Appley Bridge. In fact, no data has been provided to ensure the health and safety of the residents since March 2022. In addition to this, the monitoring equipment was installed to serve both West Quarry and Parbold Hill Quarry, therefore, removal or damage to said infrastructure will also impact on the Parbold landfill site.

With regard to the creation of the new entrance to the site the appellant was aware, from correspondence with Lancashire County Council in 2021, that planning permission was required for the works involved in creating a new entrance to the site. Furthermore, the hardstanding created by the appellant from the new access and the use of excavated soil to create the embankment, was stopped by West Lancashire Borough Council, as this was also unauthorised development. There appears to be no evidence to support the appellant's claim that the levelling works, and resultant embankment, were undertaken in consultation with the Environment Agency, or with the appropriate permission or consent of the other relevant statutory bodies.

In response to the appellants Ground F, the Parish Council would state that the domed contour of the site i.e.: the capping off of the site, installed in compliance with the Environment Agency permit conditions, for the protection of the residents of Appley Bridge and beyond, to prevent any contamination to local water courses, adjacent land and gardens, and to assist in the regeneration of the landfill site to agricultural land, was in fact essential for health and safety reasons.

The buffer of planted trees and hedges around the perimeter of the site was not just for screening but was installed in accordance with planning conditions and was designed to help restore the landfill site to nature and to improve the environment and amenity of the land for those living in the vicinity of the landfill site. The felling licence obtained, related to a strip of hedges and trees along the boundary with Appley Lane North. Felling at the site was far more extensive than the licence permitted and the licence required replanting to be undertaken to compensate for the loss of vegetation. If a replanting scheme is required by the terms of the licence, then this should be pursued.

The appellant's appeal under Ground B does not represent a true picture of activity at the site. As already stated, the site had a domed profile for specific reasons, to allow safe and structured management of water run-off, to cap off the contained waste mass brought onto the site as landfill, and to cover monitoring infrastructure installed to ensure the safety of those living adjacent to the landfill site and in Appley Bridge. The levelling and re-grading of the site, uncovering waste in places, and damaging monitoring equipment in others, now poses a significant health and safety risk to the residents of Appley Bridge. Residents, and the Parish Council, are concerned for their safety should an explosion occur or a leak of potentially poisonous substances, which have not been monitored properly since 2022, and continue to be unmonitored due to the damage caused by the unauthorised ground work at this site. In addition to this there are serious concerns in relation to the pollution and contamination of gardens and water courses as a result of the removal of the domed profile of the land, which was put in place to actively reduce the possibility of contamination. It is understood that legal action has been taken by the Environment Agency as a result of this, and that they are also conducting random surface gas monitoring of the re-contoured landfill surface to ensure the residents' safety.

For health and safety reasons, Wrightington Parish Council would request that the appeal is dismissed and that all necessary steps are taken by the appellant to ensure that the site is restored, along with all the necessary monitoring infrastructure, to guarantee the safety of the residents and their families in Appley Bridge."

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				2023/24			- 7		,									To date	Remaining	
Staff Salary	(Gross) for :	14.5 hrs p wk w/e/f A		£15,226.00	Gross	£1,133.7	7													
Employee HMRC + Pension Paymants			,		£63.20												£1,196.97	£14,029.03	(
Employer HMRC + Pension Payments			£450		£94.43	3											£94.43	£355.57	(
Insurance P				£2,134.55															£2,134.55	
Donations				£300.00															£300.00	
Biodiversity																				(
LALC Subsc				£510.00		£522.93	3											£522.93	-£12.93	
	en Spaces Su	bs & OPSTA		£115.00		£60.00	0											£60.00		
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ABVH Running Costs		£4,400.00	£541.50)	£605.21	£3,794.79	£91.49 CR
Gas		= 7,00000)			
Electricity)			
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Work at the VH		£1,500.00	£60.00)	£60.00	£1,440.00	£12.00 CR
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Plumbing work)			
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ABVH - Planting 8	Maintenance	£1,550.00						0	£1,550.00	CR
Additional Items Budgeted F	or 2023/24:									
Car Park ABVH		£1,500.00						£0.00		CR
Picnic Tables AB play area in	cl install	£1,500.00						0	£1,500.00	CR
Website & Email addresses		£0.00								
Hand Driers (Capital Bid if su	ccessful)	£485.00						0	£485.00	CR
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		£41,411.81						£2,731.03	£38,680.78	121.45
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Total known Inc. 2024/25	£25,812.00									
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