

WRIGHTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

At the Meeting of the Council of the Parish of Wrightington held on Monday 20 July 2015 at Mossy Lea Village Hall at 7.30pm the following were present:

Councillors: Mr F Hodgkinson (Chairman), Mrs J Burton, Mr F Johnson, Mr P Gartside and Mr J Clinch.

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, District and County Councillors if attending – Once open forum is closed the Chairman will only suspend standing orders to allow public participation in extreme circumstances.)

Public Present – 2015/0626/SCR - Screening Opinion – Proposed solar development. Land to the South-east of the junction with Courage Low Lane/Tunley Lane. It was confirmed, this is not a planning application and therefore there is nothing to object to. It was also reported that one of the landowners is not happy with the proposals. Discussions will be considered when making observations under planning. Reports that HGV's are using Skull House Lane as a short cut, and damage to trees as a result, will be reported to LCC. It appears that Satellite navigation systems are sending drivers on the shortest route.

Agenda item 5(g) - Email correspondence re: a suggested Biomass Factory at West Quarry. Large numbers of residents present understand that the original planning permission for the biomass factory was granted in 2013 (08/13/0140/NM1). The residents are very concerned that safeguards should be put in place to ensure the area is protected from smells, pollution, increased HGV movements and anti-social working hours. The type of processes proposed are likely to involve burning/recycling of plastic, large vehicles carrying oils, fumes and pollution from proposed smoke towers. It was confirmed that the Parish Council objected strongly to the application in 2013. Despite numerous objections LCC granted permission for recycling of cooking oil and a later amendment was approved to allow for recycling of tallow. Residents at the meeting have not seen any notices and no-one, including the Parish Council, seems to have been contacted about these proposals. If notices have been posted on the gates at the entrance to the site they are unlikely to have been seen as the gates are set back from the road by about 25 feet. LCC confirmed that notification of this has appeared in newspapers however, the ones referred to are not freely circulated in this area. Those present asked whether an Environmental Impact Assessment has been undertaken. The Parish Council confirmed that it was understood, and was part of the planning permission for quarrying that the pad be removed once quarrying ceased and, that the land be handed over to the community. Despite the Parish Council reminding LCC, and West Lancs. BC, of this fact on several occasions, this has never been done. LCC have confirmed that the applicants have followed the correct planning procedures to date. It was suggested that the health and safety implications of the proposals need to be considered due to the levels of methane gasses which still exist under the site. Those present agreed that this will be a factory in Lancashire but, all importation is likely to come from Greater Manchester. The Clerk agreed to provide the County Councillor, Borough Councillors and MP's contact details to anyone requesting them at this meeting. The Council stressed that it is important that residents lobby these Councillors and the MP to request their support in objecting to these proposals. It was reported that the land was originally owned by Mainsprint who have now sold it to Halliwell Jones. Network Rail operatives have been erecting fencing recently. The question of who monitors methane levels at the site and whether the levels have been checked since planning permission was granted for this type of activity, where highly combustible materials are created, was raised. Has this factory ever been tested anywhere else or has Appley Bridge now become a test site? The residents were encouraged to contact local Councillors so that they become aware of the strength of public opinion and objections. The Parish Council will contact Mrs Jukes if an application is submitted over the summer break. There is a facebook page – ABRAGE – providing up to date information on this application.

Crime in Appley Bridge – It was reported that a device is being located near vehicles which prevents them locking. Once the owner goes into the house, thieves are removing personal items from the vehicle.

Ironman Event – It was confirmed that Wraynet provides the emergency communications service for this event. It was reported that their attitude towards contestants and Marshalls was disgusting and they even removed security, support and Marshalls once night time fell. It is felt that they adopt a very unprofessional approach to this event and show many examples of poor practice.

Mossfields – It was reported that there is a new housing officer at West Lancs. BC and complaints should be reported to the Tenant Liaison Officer. The Parish Council will ask the Borough Councillors to support a tenant who feels intimidated and bullied by the actions of another tenant.

The grass verge on the left hand side of Stoneygate Lane has been missed during the recent grass verge cut. The public footpath from Stoneygate Lane to Finch Lane is now narrowed by overgrowth from farmland adjacent. These matters will be reported to the relevant officers.

35. **APOLOGIES** – Were received from the Police.

36. **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.

37. **MINUTES** – The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 15 June 2015 had been circulated in advance of the Meeting, were accepted as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

38. **UPDATE/PROGRESS WITH ISSUES RAISED AT THE PREVIOUS MEETING** - Nothing specific to report that will not be dealt with elsewhere on the Agenda.

39. **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 of position with regard to local charges at recycling centres – **Noted.**
- b) Confirmation West Lancs. Officers will check the carriageway near Pipe Fold, Broadhurst Lane, for debris – **Noted, on file.**
- c) Response to grass cutting observations submitted after the June Meeting – **The Parish Council are of the opinion that the second cut is no better than the first one. The contractor has gouged the verges in places, missed cutting in others and, the grass has been chewed off in places. This will be reported to West Lancs. BC.**
- d) Response from Highways Manager, LCC, to parking problems on Appley Lane North – **It was reported that Greater Manchester are in the process of requesting that legislation be passed to say it is illegal to park on the pavement. West Lancs. BC seem to adopt a more discretionary approach. As the parking problems seem to be getting worse the Clerk will request an update on the installation of intermittent yellow lines for passing places.**
- e) Request for further info. on suggested strategic infrastructure projects using CIL money – **The Clerk will complete the suggestion forms.**
- f) Request for a Donation from Appley Bridge Pensioners Social Club – **Resolved** – **The Parish Council will donate £100 at their next Meeting in September.**
- g) Email correspondence re: a suggested Biomass Factory at West Quarry – **As this was the subject of detailed discussions with the public present, no further comments were made.**
- h) Invitation from LCC to join a Countrywide Sign Posting Project – **The Council will enquire as to what a contractor can be paid to undertake the work before expressing an interest to take part in this project.**
- i) Notification of, and request for observations on, the Electoral Review of LCC – **The Parish Council agreed that this matter should be left to the Professional Officers.**
- j) Late items received which may require discussion/action/observations – i) A letter from Mr P Dickinson requesting that the Parish Council reconsider withdrawing their objections to the diversion of the public footpath at Boars Den – **The Parish Council objections to the height of the fence erected, the fact that the proposed new exit comes out near the junction with Robin Hood Lane and the fact that the pond, which was originally open to and available to view by everyone, has now been taken into the curtilage of the applicants garden remain. As the Parish Council Objections remain in place it was Resolved: That the Parish Council are not prepared to meet to discuss this matter.** ii) Response from LCC as

to why the 20mph speed limits on Mossy Lea Road are advisory in places whilst being enforceable in others. **The Council will enquire why they are treated differently.**

40. HIGHWAYS AND ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

- It was confirmed that West Lancs. BC volunteers tend to gateway planting at Crow Orchard.
- It was reported that staff at the BP garage have cut the hedges at the Crow Orchard junction so that the garage, shop and forecourt are more visible, however, LCC will be asked to cut hedges bordering Mossy Lea Road between the garage and the old road.
- Metal bollards near Rigbye's Bridge are leaning and require re-setting in the ground.
- Hedges, left hand side of Broadhurst Lane, associated with Sunnymount, need cutting back.
- Two triangular ice signs on Mossy Lea Road need removing and replacing with permanent signs erected on existing poles to improve highway safety during freezing conditions.
- Councillor Johnson will remove a manhole cover leaning against a fence on Mossy Lea Road.
- Parking on the pavements opposite St Joseph's School remains a problem.
- Water is collecting at the edge of the carriageway, close to the bus stop near Raby Fold Farm.
- There are a lot of new house builder/fast food/advertising signs being erected on lampposts. An A-board advertising a food outlet at Huws Gray should not really be on the grass verge on Mossy Lea Road, opposite Boundary Lane.
- The metal bar between the concrete fence posts, adjacent to the ditch at the edge of the carriageway on Courage Low Lane, has fallen out and is now very dangerous.
- The carriageway on Carr House Lane, on the left hand side on the approach to Whittle Bottoms is falling away and considered very dangerous. Bollards or reflective marker posts are required to highlight the edge of the road as it is not clearly visible in the dark.
- The Council understood that the speed limit on Robin Hood Lane would be amended to 40mph in May 2015. This has not happened yet. A progress report will be requested.
- The Council will request a reduction in speed limit on Moss Lane, Courage Low Lane and Toogood Lane.
- Building work to the last cottage in the lay-by on Hall Lane, on the approach to Fairy Glen, has included the siting of some very large boulders and a large planted trough. These will cause an obstruction of the lay-by and, building work is already limiting the use of the lay-by.
- A number of reports of verbal abuse and swearing by both contestants and stewards at the recent Ironman race will be reported. Road closures were also different to those notified.
- It was suggested that an upgrade to the public right of way from South Tunley Farm to Mossy Lea Road from a footpath to a bridleway, for use by walkers, cyclists, horse-riders and disabled people, should be requested. This could be a useful multi-purpose route.

41. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES – Councillors attended the LALC Area Committee Meeting.

42. ANNUAL NEWSLETTER – The Newsletter was handed out for distribution.

43. VILLAGE HALLS

MOSSY LEA – LAG Meeting booked the hall for 6 hours with the addition of Tea & Coffee. Invoices have been issued. – 3 x Children's Parties have been booked 1 each month, July, August and September. – The Clerk will be arranging an Emergency Services Day in the coming months. The aim is to have demonstrations by St John's ambulance on how to use the defibrillators which will be located in each village hall. It is also hoped that the Police and Fire Service will be attending to outline and highlight services which could be available in the Parish.

APPLEY BRIDGE – Nothing specific to report.

Councillor Mrs Burton reported on a conversation with Borough Councillor Mrs Evans who has confirmed that she can possibly obtain a defibrillator which could be located on the exterior of one of the more prominent buildings in the region of Huws Gray, Mossy Lea Primary School, and the Pensioners Hall etc. It is hoped that locating one in this area will serve the majority of residents and people visiting or working in Mossy Lea.

44. PLANNING The following applications were discussed and observations are as detailed:

- 1) 2015/0627/FUL Conversion of existing outbuilding to form ancillary accommodation (incorporating increase to ridge line). Single storey garden room. Quarry Bank Barn, Hill House Fold Lane, Wrightington. **Resolved: No Objections.**
- 2) 2015/0612/FUL Second storey extension to be built on top of an existing single storey extension. This would be 2.93m from the existing house. Also a loft extension. 7 Canal Bank, Appley Bridge. **Resolved: No Objections.**
- 3) 2015/0463/PNH Application for determination as to whether prior approval of details is required – Extension of dwellinghouse. Dimension from rear wall of original dwellinghouse – 3.7m Maximum height of extension - 3.5m Height to eaves of extension - 2.8m. 7 Manse Avenue, Wrightington. **Resolved: No Objections.**
- 4) AMENDMENT – To description of 2015/0362/FUL – To – Demolition of existing linked garage at side and erection of kitchen extension at side with dormer bedroom above including erection of front extension to form entrance porch. 4 Manse Avenue, Wrightington. **Resolved: No Objections.**

RAISE AWARENESS OF: 2015/0626/SCR – Screening Opinion – Proposed solar development. Land to the South-east of the junction with Courage Low Lane/Tunley Lane, Wrightington. **Resolved: The Parish Council would urge planning officers to assess the long term health, nuisance, environmental and ecological implications of this type of application, and request that a full Public Consultation and Environmental Impact Assessment is undertaken prior to the submission of a planning application. Wrightington Parish Council wish it to be recorded that, they are extremely concerned about the detrimental impact these proposals will have on the rural nature of the area, on the quality of life of neighbouring residents, on the loss of habitat for wildlife, on the significant loss of agricultural land and on alterations to the street scene at this prominent rural location.**

45. LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS – Area Committee Meeting Thursday 16 July 2015, Ormskirk. Notification of the 71st AGM, Saturday 7 November 2015, 10am at County Hall – Noted.

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

For Payment:

Mrs C A Cross	Reimburse 50% of cost of Ink Cartridges (with CRPC)	£16.40
British Gas	Gas supplied at MLVH	£56.11
British Gas	Gas supplied at ABVH	£537.69
Collins & Darwell	Printing Newsletters	£100.00
Mrs C A Cross	Clerk's Salary – Net	£618.72
HM Rev. & Customs	Tax due by Clerk	£4.20
D/D CPRE	Annual Subscriptions	£36.00
D/D BT	Telephone charges MLVH	£147.72

Resolved: Payment and receipt of the above accounts be approved. The Clerk reported an input error on the end of year Financial Statement for submission to the external auditors. The Parish Council accepted the error, and the cause, and will confirm this to the external auditors.

47. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED: That the next Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 21 September 2015 at Appley Bridge Village Hall at 7:30 pm.

Minutes 35 to 47 will be accepted as a correct record and signed by the Chairman at the Meeting to be held on Monday 21 September 2015.

Members of the Public and Press are welcome to attend

Meeting Closed: 10:00 pm

Chairman:

Date:

REPORT 1

- a) Notification permission granted for demolition of existing lean to building and construction of new two storey rear extension with workshop to ground floor and offices to first floor. Northern Divers Building East Quarry, Appley Lane North, Appley Bridge.
- b) Notification the appeal against the West Lancs. BC refusal of planning permission for one pair of two storey semi-detached houses. Land adjoining 51 Skull House Lane, Appley Bridge has been dismissed
- c) Clarification of problems with events organised for the final school weeks at St Joseph's School.
- d) Copy LCC Environmental Bulletin for West Lancs (emailed to Councillors) + briefing note on how to deal with Highway Matters/Services.
- e) Circular on Welfare Rights Service from LCC.
- f) Request for info. On the volunteers who weed/tidy/tend to the gateway planting at Crow Orchard.