

# WRIGHTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

At the Meeting of the Council of the Parish of Wrightington held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2019 at Mossy Lea Village Hall at 7.30pm the following were present:

Councillors: Mr F Hodgkinson (Chairman), Mrs J Burton, Mr F Johnson, Mrs K Jukes, Mrs R Critchley and Mr C House. Also present County Councillor John Fillis and 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, 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.)

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the July Parish Council Meeting.

County Councillor Fillis – Introduced himself as the County Councillor for this area, covering highways and waste management issues amongst other things. The issue of flooding outside 15 Mossy Lea Road was raised by one of the residents affected, who explained that over the past 30 years LCC have made several promises to address this issue but nothing has been done. The Parish Council confirmed that they have been actively pursuing this for over 25 years. Councillor Fillis asked that correspondence be forwarded to him and he will make progress. Councillor Fillis was thanked for his input in getting a pedestrian crossing in place near the BP garage. The question of developing East Quarry, Appley Bridge, was raised. Councillor Fillis confirmed that he has had no official approach by the person developing the quarry and that, to date, no planning application has been submitted to West Lancs. BC who would deal with a housing application. The only application at the moment is for an abstraction licence to empty east quarry. A letter from an unknown source regarding this has been circulated to residents of Appley Bridge. It was reported that the applicant wants to pump water from the quarry into a stream, however, he has been informed that he has to pump downstream. Residents of Stonemill Rise and Millbank (Millbank Flood Action Group) are involved in the objections and were present to raise concerns relating to the potential for flooding if this action goes ahead. It was confirmed that key points for objecting to the abstraction licence have been put together in a leaflet, however, comments and objections must be submitted by tomorrow, 16<sup>th</sup> July, to the Environment Agency. If the quarry is drained then something will have to be done with it afterwards. The residents present want to stop the quarry being emptied. Residents were concerned that they did not have any information on Mr O'Dowd's proposals. The Parish Council explained that when Mr O'Dowd agreed to attend the Parish Council Meeting, the Agenda was displayed in the Notice Boards and his attendance was highlighted in yellow and, Parish Councillors were asked to disseminate this information to anyone they thought would be interested in attending. Mr O'Dowd confirmed that he would be holding a public consultation on his proposals but this has not been forthcoming to date. The Parish Council could not give a view at this stage as they do not know what actual proposals will be in the planning application. Councillor Fillis explained that he was in a similar position. It was reported that Mr O'Dowd has already done some work in the Quarry e.g.: removing trees, some of which it is believed are TPO'd, he has also quarried some rock away. Councillor Fillis confirmed he would look into whether planning permission is required for this work. He further confirmed that he has been involved with anti-social behaviour issues at this site for some time. It was reported that Parbold Quarry was purchased as part of the same package when Mr O'Dowd purchased East and West Quarry. Residents feel there are a number of problems with both the abstraction licence and planning applications for the quarries which all raise a number of concerns. It was confirmed that if Mr O'Dowd comes forward with a sound solid plan with minimal disruption, the authorities will look at it. The roads in the locality are already too congested with HGV's and an existing business has recently been refused permission to extend. It was confirmed that the quarry must be totally dry before it can be filled. Councillor Fillis confirmed that there is no need for any more quarries to be filled in Lancashire as there are already sufficient sites available therefore, the proposals to fill them is outside LCC's Waste Management Plan. It is not certain where the proposed inert waste to fill the quarry will be coming from. The concern was again expressed that if East quarry is drained it will take years to fill which leaves the site open to use for off-road or dirt bikes. It was confirmed that nothing can be done or objected to until a planning application has been submitted. With regard to the abstraction licence, Councillor Fillis confirmed that LCC and West Lancs. BC will discuss the proposals as they are consultees but the final decision will be made by the Environment Agency. Councillor Fillis agreed to take away the reports

made tonight and check to see if planning permission was required to undertake the work already done on site. He hopes to have some answers by the end of the week which he will then forward to the Parish Council. Any information will be put on the Parish Councils website and will be sent to Parish Councillors for dissemination to their contact lists. As not everyone has access to the internet, it was agreed that Councillor Fillis will produce a leaflet which will be included with the delivery of the Parish Council Newsletters. There were several volunteers who agreed to deliver a leaflet if necessary. It was reported that there is still a lot of equipment in the bottom of the quarry left from when it was used for diving. Also, as the bottom of the quarry is below the water table, there will always be water in it. It was reported that the water levels are now at the highest they have ever been. It was confirmed that if the abstraction licence is granted it will last for 3 years from the date of issue.

Councillor Jukes raised the issue of highway matters in Appley Bridge following a serious accident at the Skull House Lane/Appley Lane North junction, involving a cyclist who was seriously injured. It was confirmed that the accident was again speed related, however, deep ruts in the road and signage obstructed by overgrown vegetation or, which is too dirty to be legible, do not help. Tractors and farm vehicles also speed through the village. Road markings are faded on Skull House Lane, on the section of road near the Methodist Church and Dawber Delph. Traffic calming measures or yellow lines in this area would help as highway safety is compromised at this location by parked cars. It was also reported that, due to incorrect instructions given by satellite navigation systems, many HGV's find themselves coming down Mill Lane and being forced to reverse back up the road to turn around as they cannot get under the low bridge. Councillor Fillis reported that LCC information states that evidence indicates that traffic calming measures do not work and, that residents living close to them do not want them due to noise issues. It was confirmed that LCC have installed double yellow lines on Appley Lane North, to create passing places and slow traffic down. It was felt that this has worked but not as well as expected. Councillor Fillis has looked at LCC criteria and note that they recommended some community initiatives to help e.g.: Community Road Watch – which involves LCC, the Police and a speed camera. Initial correspondence gives a Police warning of prosecution if they do it again. This has had some success in other areas. He suggested that this could be done for Appley Lane North and Skull House Lane and if results obtained raise serious concerns this will support requests for further action. It was reported that many directional, highway and informative signs are very overgrown. Councillor Fillis suggested that maybe West Lancs. BC's Clean and Green team would be prepared to cut them back as part of their initiative. Following reports of the dangers of exiting Heron's Wharf on to Mill Lane Councillor Fillis agreed to look into this. It was agreed that Mossy Lea Road be added to the list for a Community Road Watch site. It was also reported that road markings at the Dawber Delph/Skull House Lane junction have faded. Councillor Fillis reported that the re-lining budget at LCC has been cut to virtually nothing and therefore any requests are prioritised. Going back to the quarry, residents feel that putting the pontoons in the quarry has made it more appealing to swimmers. Councillor Fillis could not comment on the Health and Safety implications of this but did confirm that he has accessed the quarry himself and been able to go to the edge of the quarry.

Parbold Quarry – Planning proposals to infill – It was reported that removing the lay-by at the top of Parbold Hill to create an access to the infill site and car park is dangerous. It was reported that there will be 1 vehicle journey every 3 minutes. It was confirmed that the application has been called in by a Borough Councillor and the applicant will need to provide further information in relation to vehicle movements, loss of amenity and on the potential production of leachate. It will have an adverse effect on the business opposite too. The applicant is looking to reshape the hill using hardcore. It was reported that LCC are aware of the considerable amount of material to be imported which would be monitored if permission is granted. The usual process is to cover with topsoil and grass it over. The intention is to bring it up to the level/s it should be or higher and this could therefore affect the view. The applicant will be fined if permission is granted and the wrong materials are imported. Councillor Fillis again confirmed that if this is just landfill then LCC has enough sites in the County.

Councillor Johnson reported on the list of items he regularly brings to the Parish Council Meetings, which are repeatedly reported but not a lot is done. He does not like the report it system on the LCC website, which has been updated recently but, is still difficult to use. It is very difficult to get through to an officer to speak directly about matters. Councillor Fillis confirmed the system should be working smoothly. He confirmed that the 2 tier structure, LCC and West Lancs. BC, has been around some time now and things such as grass cutting responsibility should be settling down. It was reported that, in relation to the

flooding issues near 15 Mossy Lea Road, the Parish Council understand the money has been allocated for this work twice, but when the work has not been done, the money has been spent elsewhere. Similarly the ongoing reports about the sewage leaking on to the old road at the rear of BP Garage. This is reported to the Environmental Health officers at West Lancs. BC on a regular basis who visit the garage, make them get the holding tank emptied but then the problem arises again a month or so later. Furthermore, approximately 6 months ago one of the local bus services was under threat of being cut. The Parish Council lobbied LCC and the bus company and eventually the service was reinstated for a further 2 years. Councillor Fillis explained that all the buses are deregulated, LCC only subsidise them. The bus companies say that if LCC do not subsidise the service with more money they will have to withdraw the service. All services are vulnerable to cuts but particularly in rural areas. LCC were thanked for filling the pot-hole at Beacon View, Appley Bridge. It was reported that the gullies on Hall Lane, near Wrightington Fish Ponds, are blocked and cause flooding on the carriageway. This will be reported. The Chairman thanked County Councillor Fillis for attending the Meeting.

34. **APOLOGIES** - No apologies necessary.

35. **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 Juckes wished to declare that she has joined the Stop Parbold Hill Landfill Campaign Committee, the relevant change of interest form has been completed. 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.**

36. **MINUTES** – The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2019 had been circulated in advance of the Meeting and were accepted as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

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

### 38. **CORRESPONDENCE/INFORMATION ITEMS**

Items reported to, & noted by, the Council – no decision required: REPORT 1 – page 5-6 – ACCEPTED. The new PCSO will be invited to attend the Parish Council Meetings. It was confirmed that the Council will write to inform the Chief Superintendant that residents are concerned that they do not see any Police representation in the village and, that if the PCSO cannot attend then a crime report be sent instead.

Items requiring discussion, observations or action by the Council:

- a) Invitation from “Stop Parbold Hill Landfill Campaign” to attend a public meeting at Parbold Village Hall on Tues 16<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30pm re: Planning proposals for Parbold Quarry – **Noted.**
- b) Notification from the Countryside Ranger at West Lancs. BC of a short walk and talk at Hunters Hill at 11.00 am on Sunday August 11<sup>th</sup>. An opportunity to hear about plans for the site and learn how you can get involved – **Noted.**
- c) Inquiry from a resident about refuse bins being left at the front of properties rather than in back gardens and bags of horse manure at the side of the road being an eyesore – **If the bin is left on their own land, little can be done. It is up to them where they keep their bin.**
- d) West Lancs. BC call for Traveller Sites Exercise – **Nothing to submit.**
- e) Notification from LCC of the new road maintenance campaign – circulated – **Noted.**
- f) Late items received which may require discussion/action/observations – i) Details of new PCSO, Neil Smith – **Noted.** ii) West Lancs. BC response to report of brown water on Broadhurst Lane – **Councillors Johnson & Hodgkinson will request a site meeting with Phil May.** iii) Reported thanks from an Appley Bridge resident to the Parish Council for liaising with the Quarry owner resulting in the overgrown hedges on Appley Lane North being cut back subsequently widening the usable width of the footways - **Noted** iv) Request for help watering the planted baskets at Mossy Lea and Appley Bridge Village Halls – **The Clerk reported that the caretaker will water when he is at the village halls but, they may need more frequent watering depending on the weather. Councillor Burton will take a water**

**butt to Appley Bridge Village Hall which can be filled for this purpose. Councillor Jukes confirmed that she would water Appley Bridge from the water butt if required.**

**39. STANDING ORDERS - Resolved:** In Accordance with Standing Order No 19, Standing Order No 18 was suspended to allow the remaining items of business to be conducted.

**40. HIGHWAYS AND ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS**

- There is ragwort adjacent to the highway from St Joseph's Church to the BP Garage.
- The holding tank at the rear of BP Garage is again seeping sewage on to the old road.
- A date will be requested for cleaning the bus shelters.
- The old road needs cutting back and scraping back. Councillor Burton will ask Dave Proe.
- Additional consumables are required and will be ordered for the defibrillators.

**41. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES - –** Nothing to report.

**42. ANNUAL NEWSLETTER –** Passed to Councillors for delivery. Delivery in Appley Bridge will be delayed pending receipt of a leaflet from Councillor Fillis to include with delivery.

**43. VILLAGE HALLS**

MOSSY LEA – Summer Craft & Gift Fair £40. Craft Classes £35. Notification of payment for use of the village hall as a polling station £300. Yoga Tuesdays £140. Next village hall meeting 21<sup>st</sup> October.

APPLEY BRIDGE – Central Heating boiler contract awarded to Dan Goulding. Next village hall meeting Monday 23 September 8pm. It is felt the grass needs cutting more often. The Clerk confirmed that Fir Tree Fishery have agreed to do this with the last cut being just before Remembrance Day. The Parish Council will make progress with the barrier and necessary signage. Approximately 25 keys will be required. At the recent village hall meeting it was agreed that the new windows have made a big difference to the hall. The Brass Band is being asked if they will play in the village hall over Christmas.

**44. PLANNING** To discuss the following applications:

- 1) 2019/0595/FUL Variation of Condition No.2 of planning permission 2018/1260/FUL to vary the approved plans. Ramsay Timber, Skull House Lane, Appley Bridge. **Resolved: No Objections.**
- 2) 2019/0602/FUL Conversion of garage and single storey rear extension. 76 Glenside, Appley Bridge. **Resolved: No Objections.**
- 3) LCC/2019/0028 Proposed land restoration and regrading works using inert material, associated highway works including construction of a temporary public car park. Former Parbold Hill Quarry, Parbold Hill, Parbold. (Having received the comments of Parbold PC and the invitation to attend the public meeting). **Councillor Jukes abstained from taking part in these discussions. The Council feel the proposals would constitute inappropriate development of this greenbelt site and would be detrimental to the openness of the green belt at this location. The Council do not feel it is necessary to import the vast amount of materials proposed, and feel that the outcome the applicant wishes to achieve could be achieved without such drastic proposals for this well known beauty spot. The loss of visual amenity which would result from the proposals would be more detrimental than the benefits of the work being proposed and no special circumstances have been proved to indicate that the benefits of the scheme would outweigh the harm that would be caused to the greenbelt. The Council are concerned that the huge increase in vehicular movements to and from the site, particularly HGV movements, would significantly compromise highway safety for motorists, pedestrians and cyclists who regularly use this route. The number of lorries required to import the significant amount of inert waste proposed would result in a constant stream of heavy goods vehicles, negotiating an access right at the brow of the hill, and one which it is proposed will be shared with motorists and pedestrians and any other visitors to the car park and viewing point the applicant is proposing to create. The location of the access is considered to be dangerous and inadequate, as a shared access, on**

**this very busy route. The proposed access and egress, almost opposite the access to the restaurant at the top of the hill, has raised significant concerns from residents who feel that the dangers associated with the shared access to the car park and tipping area must not be overlooked when considering this application. Further concerns have been expressed about the noise, the dust and the potential vibrations which visitors to the viewing point and restaurant, as well as local residents who live, work or pass the site on a daily basis, will have to endure. It is further understood that there is no requirement for additional landfill sites in Lancashire and that is essentially what the proposals at this location are for. Therefore, the Parish Council believe that there is no need for this extensive work.**

**The Parish Council also submitted their concerns to the Environment Agency about the abstraction licence application for East Quarry re: the potential increased flood risk, the need for an independent risk assessment and the possible contamination which could occur to natural watercourses.**

**45. LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS** – Notification next Area Committee Meeting, Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July, Derby Street, 7.30pm. Updated Parish Charter for discussion at the Area Committee Meeting – **Noted.**

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

**For Payment:**

St James the Great	Donation		£100.00
A B in Bloom	Donation		£100.00
Mr F Johnson	Reimburse Window Cleaning MLVH x 2		£30.00
Mrs C A Cross	Reimburse Gas Safety Cert – Dan Goulding – ABVH		£45.00
Collins & Darwell	Newsletters		£225.00
OPSTA	Annual Subscriptions		£10.00
Fir Tree Fishery	Planting baskets at MLVH & ABVH		£530.00
Mrs C A Cross	Clerk’s Salary – Net		£799.60
HM Rev. & Customs	Tax & NI due by Clerk	£26.44	
	NI due by Parish Council	£14.77	£41.21
D/D BT	Telephone & Internet MLVH		£181.47

**Receipts:**

MLVH Committee	Transfer		£3,500.00
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**47. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING**

RESOLVED: That the next Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 16 September 2019 at Appley Bridge Village Hall at 7:30 pm.

Minutes 34 to 47 will be accepted as a correct record and signed by the Chairman at the Meeting to be held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

Members of the Public and Press are welcome to attend

Meeting Closed: 10.50 pm

Chairman:

Date:

**REPORT 1**

- a) Notification permission refused for creation of new porch and entrance. Double storey rear extension to form garden room on ground floor and bedroom on first floor. Four Acres, Hall Lane.
- b) Notification permission granted for front entrance porch roof replacement. Littlecroft, Robin Hood Lane.
- c) Confirmation that County Councillor John Fillis is happy to attend the Parish Council Meeting on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July at Mossy Lea Village Hall.

- d) Notification from PCSO Holderness that with effect from mid June he is covering another area and there will be a new Police Officer and a new PCSO for the rural patch. No further details.
- e) Confirmation that the Japanese Knotweed on the Slacks has been reported to Wigan Council.
- f) Confirmation that the report of overgrown vegetation on footpath 4 (Stoneygate Lane to Finch Lane) will be investigated and prioritised.
- g) Confirmation that the report of overgrown vegetation on footpath 3b (Finch Lane down to Beacon View) will be investigated and prioritised.
- h) Copy of the Code of Conduct information and details from the recent training at West Lancs. BC.
- i) Copy Open Space Society, Summer Edition of Open Space, Annual Report and Accounts.