

WRIGHTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

At the Meeting of the Council of the Parish of Wrightington held on Monday 21st October 2019 at Mossy Lea Village Hall at 7.30pm the following were present:

Councillors: Mr F Hodgkinson (Chairman), Mr F Johnson, Mrs K Jukes, and Mrs R Critchley. Also present were 10 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 Clerk asked if members of the public would record their attendance by signing in the book which will be provided at each Parish Council Meeting from now on. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the October Parish Council Meeting.

Mrs Elaine Roper introduced herself as a member of ABCA and a resident of Appley Bridge explaining that she is helping the Chair of ABCA, Mrs Judith Nicholson, with admin duties. In response to the request for the return of some of the poppies purchased by the Parish Council last year and the Clerk's response indicating her disappointment at ABCA's reply, Mrs Roper's response, which agreed with Mrs Nicholson's reasons for non-return of the poppies, was given to Mrs Anne Fletcher to be read aloud to the Parish Council. The letter reported that ABCA had responded to a request for street light poppies from the residents of Appley Bridge and that ABCA are responsible for the poppies on their behalf. The letter went on to outline the work and responsibilities undertaken by ABCA in Appley Bridge together with details of planned events in 2020. Mrs Roper confirmed they have a huge workload and work hard on behalf of the residents. Mrs Roper went on to ask the Council to look on the Ministry of Defence website for suggested ways to mark the 75th Anniversary of VE day in 2020, to make sure they are prepared. Mrs Roberts asked for details of how the situation with the poppies had arisen. The Clerk explained the chain of events leading to these discussions. Councillor Johnson confirmed that he had asked where the poppies were as he had been asked by residents if some could be displayed in the Mossy Lea Ward. This is how the request arose. It was reported that Councillor Burton originally suggested that more than 3 would lessen the impact in Appley Bridge but that ABCA argued for more and it was agreed that 34 be purchased. Councillor Johnson was asked whether the residents requesting poppies were asked to put their request in writing as they believe ABCA were. The Chairman stated that ABCA represents both sides of Appley Bridge, part of which is in West Lancashire and part of which is in Wigan and as such it is difficult to recognise what ABCA do on the Wigan side of Appley Bridge. The Parish Council on the other hand represent 2 wards in the Parish, Mossy Lea and the West Lancashire side of Appley Bridge, they will not get involved in the Wigan side as this is the responsibility of Shevington PC. Councillor Johnson confirmed that his inquiry as to the whereabouts of the poppies at the last meeting, and the request for the return of some of them, was made so that both wards within the Parish could be treated equally. Mrs Headley wished it to be minuted that Councillor Hodgkinson never ceased to amaze them, that he always denigrates ABCA as a community organisation and that she is disappointed that he always tries to put them down and dismiss what they say. They are asking for recognition as an organisation in Appley Bridge. Councillor Hodgkinson refuted this and explained the difficulty the Parish Council has with part of the representation of ABCA being in Wigan. Mrs Roberts felt these discussions were petty and that discussions could be on more important things. The Chairman closed open forum.

61. **APOLOGIES** - Were received and accepted from Councillors Mrs Burton (At hospital) and Councillor House (holidays).
62. **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.**

63. **MINUTES** – The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 16th September 2019 had been circulated in advance of the Meeting and were accepted as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.
64. **UPDATE/PROGRESS WITH ISSUES RAISED AT THE PREVIOUS MEETING** - Nothing to report that will not be dealt with elsewhere on the agenda.

65. **CORRESPONDENCE/INFORMATION ITEMS**

Items reported to, & noted by, the Council – no decision required: REPORT 1 – page 5 – ACCEPTED.

Items requiring discussion, observations or action by the Council:

- a) Confirmation of the conclusion of external audit of the Parish Council accounts for the year ending 31/3/19 by PKF Littlejohn LLP with no matters arising requiring attention/action - **Resolved: The completed audit with no matters arising requiring attention/action is accepted & approved.**
- b) Current position with concrete barriers in the lay-by, Hall Lane. Confirmation that funding has been secured for work to the headwall but legal questions need to be addressed re: riparian responsibilities shared by LCC as highway authority and the private landowner – **Noted.**
- c) Request for 1 nominee from the Council to join the West Lancs. BC Standards Committee – **It was suggested and Resolved: that as there are ongoing issues involving the Standards Committee and the Parish Council at the moment, it would not be appropriate at this time to put forward a nominee to join the Committee.**
- d) Details and application form for West Lancs. BC Capital Funding Scheme – **It was suggested that an application could be made to replace the notice boards at each of the village halls. This item will be repeated on the December Agenda, to see if there are any other ideas.**
- e) Consultation on the use of West Lancs. BC CIL Funding for 2020/21 – **No comments.**
- f) Late items received which may require discussion/action/observations – Response to request for return of some of the poppies purchased by the Parish Council last year – **Discussions had taken place on this matter in Open Forum. The Clerk said again that she was disappointed with the response received. Councillor Johnson confirmed that he had raised the matter as it would have been nice if the poppies had benefitted the whole Parish. It was pointed out those erected in Appley Bridge have not been spread out to include the whole of the West Lancashire side of Appley Bridge. Councillor Jukes confirmed that she would have objected if she had realised this request was being made. Following a request to read aloud all the emails on this subject, the Clerk confirmed it was her personal opinion following which, she was told by Councillor Jukes that in her role as Clerk she should remain impartial and not give her own opinion. Councillor Jukes read aloud extracts from the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council where the request for street light poppies, to be paid for by the Parish Council, was made. Councillors agreed with the points made in the Minutes but reiterated that the Minutes do not say that the poppies were purchased and donated to ABCA. The Chairman confirmed that ABCA is a cross boundary committee and Wrightington Parish Council is only concerned with making provision for the West Lancashire side of Appley Bridge.** ii) Email requesting that the Scarecrow Weekend, 8th-11th May 2020 be advertised in the Parish Council Newsletter and that it will be themed to celebrate VE Day 75th Anniversary – **The Clerk confirmed that she had responded to this email confirming that this will be too early for the Annual Newsletter but agreeing to display notices in the Notice Boards.** iii) Confirmation that West Lancs. BC environmental officer will research further into whether it is legal for clean water from the holding tank at BP to be discharged onto the old road adjacent – **Noted.** iv) Response from West Lancs. BC Borough Solicitor stating that the legal dept. and estates dept. can see no legal reason to prevent the barrier being erected at Appley Bridge Village Hall. The Clerk read aloud the proposed response to the resident who is objecting to the barrier – **Resolved: That the email response be sent.**

66. **HIGHWAYS AND ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS**

- The 3 new grids installed on Skull House Lane by United Utilities a couple of months ago are all lifting during heavy rainfall.
- It was confirmed that some marking has been done to the pot-holes reported on Skull House Lane. This will be monitored for action.
- A number of photographs and videos have been taken to support the reported flooding and blocked drains on Appley Lane North recently, particularly outside No 56 where the garden is flooded in heavy rainfall and, near 50-52 where the grid is completely blocked and where residents were told recently that someone had poured concrete down the drain. The Clerk will report these matters again.
- Flooding near 15 Mossy Lea Road – trial holes which were promised in the field have yet to be undertaken.
- Flooding near Mossy Lea Village Hall – LCC installed 2 new gullies several years ago at the bottom of Raby Fold Farm driveway to assist with taking away water run-off from the farm and adjacent fields. Both these gullies are now completely blocked and the water flows over the top of them, causing flooding on Mossy Lea Road. The fact that the roads have not been swept for a considerable time means that the gullies are filled with detritus which becomes compacted. This, along with changes to the gully emptying schedules, means that the flooding problems are getting worse.

67. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES – Councillor Critchley confirmed that she will be attending the Peter Lathom Charity Meeting tomorrow and will suggest that any donations due in the Parish be divided equally between Mossy Lea Pensioners and Appley Bridge Pensioners.

68. REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY – Reminder – **NO PROCESSION** – Everyone to make their own way to the War Memorial at 10.30am for the Remembrance Service at 10.45am and the Act of Remembrance at 11.00am. Everyone to make their way back to Appley Bridge Village Hall where refreshments will be served. The Clerk has made arrangements for the wreaths and orders of service to be at the Community Centre for collection and distribution – **Noted**.

69. VILLAGE HALLS

MOSSY LEA – Sleep Apnoea £60 – no longer meeting at the village hall. Confirm new outside tap fitted. Notification from West Lancs. BC that the village hall is likely to be required for a general election before the end of 2019 with possibly very short notice. Reminder village hall meeting prior to Parish Council Meeting on Monday 21st October at 6.45pm. Attendance at Lancashire Lifesavers taster course – this was an excellent course and the Clerk will ask about it being repeated again in the future. Relax and De-stress taster, Tuesday 5th November 2019, 1-3pm – has been cancelled.

APPLEY BRIDGE – Quotation for cleaning out gutters and pointing all ridge tiles £385, contractor to check remainder of roof whilst he is up there and quote for any additional work required – **Resolved: the contractor will be instructed to proceed with the work to the gutters and ridge tiles.**

70. PLANNING To discuss the following applications:

- 1) 2019/0900/FUL Raise height of roof to provide first floor living accommodation including dormers to front, extension to rear and terrace and porch to front. 2 Finch Lane, Appley Bridge. **Resolved: No Objections.**
- 2) 2019/0910/LDC Certificate of Lawfulness – Use of residential outbuildings and related land ancillary to the enjoyment of the dwelling house known as Earlswood. Earlswood, Moss Lane, Wrightington. **Resolved: No Objections.**
- 3) 2019/0949/LDC Certificate of Lawfulness – That a lawful commencement has taken place for a detached house and garage as approved on planning permission A/15365/80 issued by Wigan MBC. Land between 5 and 9 Mossy Lea Road, Wrightington. **Resolved: No Objections.**
- 4) 2019/0959/FUL Demolition of existing garage and stable block and erection of one detached dwelling. Horse Stone Farm, 50 Church Lane, Wrightington. **Resolved: No Objections initially, however, in view of subsequent information received the Parish Council withdrew their initial comments and instead, made it known that they are totally opposed to these proposals and object on the following**

grounds: The elevated nature of the site means that all the water run-off from the fields and buildings on the site flows down to Church Lane. The existing drainage from the site is totally inadequate and cannot deal with the existing run-off therefore, the additional drainage issues and requirements necessary to build a new house on the site will totally overload the system and will make the already existing flooding of Church Lane and neighbouring properties much worse. The site is already considerably developed and the proposed additional dwelling, together with the existing farmhouse and the barn conversion to a dental laboratory which already exists will result in over development of this Green Belt site. Church Lane is flooded on a regular basis, all the drainage ditches from Horse Stone Farm which are adjacent to Church Lane are completely full and overflowing on to the road as soon as it rains. The ditches are either blocked, or damaged, and the water run-off flows down the road like a river, flooding any land or home, less elevated than the carriageway and causing nuisance issues to neighbouring properties. The Parish Council strongly object to these proposals as they would constitute inappropriate development in the Green Belt and would create a significantly increased flood risk to the carriageway, land and more importantly to many homes in this vicinity.

- 5) 2019/0836/LDP Certificate of Lawfulness – Proposed single storey detached building for purposes ancillary to those of the main dwelling. Holdcrofts, Tunley Lane, Wrightington. **Resolved: No Objections.**
- 6) 2019/1008/LDP Certificate of Lawful development – removal of 10m of frontage hedge. Excavation of land to form new gravel driveway and turning area. New crossing and dropped kerbs. 1 Tunley Lane, Wrightington. **Resolved: No Objections.**
- 7) 2019/1004/LDP Certificate of Lawfulness – proposed erection of a two-storey rear extension, single-storey side extension and front porch. Oaksprings, Smithy Brow, Wrightington. **Resolved: No Objections.**
- 8) 2019/1014/FUL Proposed two storey side extension. 7 Graham Avenue, Appley Bridge. **Resolved: No Objections.**

71. LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS – Policy E-briefing on NAO Audit Code of Practice Part 2. NALC Briefing on Website Accessibility and sample accessibility statement. The Clerk will begin to compile an accessibility statement which will be presented to the Parish Council for approval in due course.

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

For Payment:

West Lancs. BC	Lease of Appley Bridge Village Hall		£1.00
Mr D Proe	Hedge cutting		£48.00
DTG Plmbg & Htg	Supply & Install outside tap MLVH		£85.00
Fir Tree Fishery	2 x Grass cutting at ABVH		£120.00
PKF Littlejohn LLP	Annual Audit Fee		£240.00
Waterplus	Water use at ABVH		£72.68
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
Mr F Johnson	Reimburse Window Cleaning – MLVH		£15.00
D/D BT	Broadband MLVH		£181.47
D/D British Gas	Gas usage ABVH		£75.33
D/D E.on	Electricity usage ABVH		£37.02
D/D British Gas	Gas usage MLVH		£113.79

Receipts:

ABVH Committee	Quarterly payment		£2500.00
MLVH Committee	Reimburse payments to caretaker		£213.56

Resolved: Payment and Receipt of the above accounts is approved.

73. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED: That the next Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 18th November 2019 at Appley Bridge Village Hall at 7:30 pm.

Minutes 61 to 73 will be accepted as a correct record and signed by the Chairman at the Meeting to be held on Monday 18th November 2019.

Members of the Public and Press are welcome to attend

Meeting Closed: 8.55 pm

Chairman:

Date:

REPORT 1

- a) Notification permission granted for erection of single two storey dwelling with integral garage, access, parking and front boundary wall. Mulberry House, 1A Carr House Lane.
- b) Notification permission refused for outline erection of 2 dwellings including details of access, layout and scale. Land between 321 and 325 Mossy Lea Road, Wrightington.
- c) Notification permission granted for proposed side extension dormers. 36 Manse Avenue.
- d) Notification permission granted demolition of existing conservatory. Erection of single storey family/dining/kitchen and extension at first floor to existing bathroom. 4 Hall Lane.
- e) Notification of consent granted subject to conditions (T) for Large mature Oak – Remove broken branch and remove one lower branch by crown lift to approx. 4m to avoid shading of garden. Inglenook, Hall Lane.
- f) Notification permission granted for alterations to existing bungalow including, extensions to side and rear elevations. Raising of ridge line to create bedrooms at first floor level. Addition of a porch to front elevation. 139B Mossy Lea Road.
- g) Copy response from CC Fillis to his and Parish Council reports of speeding traffic on Mossy Lea Road, confirming that the speed management team will assess this road in terms of average vehicle speeds and number of injury collisions. Following this the speed management group (a partnership with the Police) will consider the information and determine what action if any will be taken to address any issues which come to light.
- h) Copy correspondence from CC Fillis re: standing water on Mill Lane, under the railway bridge, which he has been pursuing, confirming a gully near the bridge is surcharging. LCC think there is a blockage in the main carrier which should be easily cleared with jetting. Also, confirmation that he will get back to us on Herons Wharf as he is having difficulty evidencing the problems.
- i) Confirmation that the West Lancs. BC Draft Litter Bin Policy was put before the Corporate and Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Thursday 10th October for approval. Further confirmation that once approved any requests already on file (including those from Wrightington PC) will be assessed against the criteria in the approved policy.
- j) Confirmation that someone from West Lancs. CVS will attend the November Meeting to offer information and support with the Buzz IT project, helping people to get online.
- k) Confirmation from West Lancs. BC that concurrent funding and council tax support grants for 2020/21 will be the same as this year's figures. Tax base details will be sent in December and Parish Precept figures will most likely be required by 14th February 2020. Confirmation that the Capital Grant scheme will also be running.