

Agenda item 4 – Questions 4 and 5 below for the Parish Council to answer:

Re: Freedom of Information Request, pertaining to WPC meeting 16th Jan 2023

Agenda Item 5 (January Meeting)  
Allegation of illegalities in Parish Council Process.

Following allegations of procedural inaccuracies, at the November meeting, during the approval of the October Minutes; the Clerk explained to the Councillors and public that she had taken legal advice, from LALC, and stated the following:

"Any councillor who is present, at the meeting who is eligible to vote, i.e. that they have not declared an interest in whatever the agenda items is, is eligible to vote, propose, second, or vote, whether they were present at the previous meeting or not. You are all eligible to vote on every item on the Agenda, as I say, unless you have got an exception having declared an interest or something like that."

I wish to request a written response to the following:-

Q1 – Was this phone call at the instruction of the Chair?

Q2 – Did the Chair issue any written or verbal instructions to the Clerk about what advice was required?

Q3 – Was the Chair present when the phone call was made?

Q4 - Can the Parish Council confirm that the transcript above is a true and accurate record of the statement made by the Clerk, at the January meeting.

Q5 - Can the Council confirm that during the November meeting when approving the (disputed) October Minutes, due process was followed by permitting a Councillor not having been present for the whole of the October meeting, to propose that the minutes were a correct record of the ENTIRE October meeting.

Kind regards,  
.....

---

Report 1(c)  
Hello,

On 30 January 2023 we attended Wigan and Leigh Magistrates Court for our trial with Peter O’Dowd. As previously detailed, Maybrook Developments (Appley Bridge) Ltd have already entered guilty pleas to all six offences laid against them. Unfortunately the trial did not commence on Monday at the request of the defendant due to illness of Mr O’Dowd. Therefore, in early March this year the trial is set to be re-listed. I will provide you with the relevant date and we will update you at the conclusion of the trial.

Please let me know if you do not wish to receive updates on these ongoing proceedings.

Regards,

.....  
**Waste Regulation Specialist**

---

Report 1(e)  
Hi Carolyn

Can you let the Committee know we have planted the Queen's canopy special cherry tree this morning as discussed if they would like to arrange a plaque we can organise putting it on and publicise the fact that this tree was donated by the parish council for the people of the local area in memory of our late Queen

We have donated the post and tree guard from ABCA

Best wishes

ABCA



---

Correspondence Item a)

Dear Carolyn, I just wanted to say thank you to the chair and yourself for your service on the Parish Council...it's absolutely terrible that you both are put in a position that you have to defend yourselves at each meeting. I don't know the two men that stood up to talk....but I felt quite frightened for you.. at the way they both spoke to you....I also felt that Councillor [REDACTED] was smiling at each of them the more they raised their voices and tried to undermine your position they were very rude. Kind regards .....

---

Correspondence item b)

Statement Re Recent Parish Council Meetings – From Councillor Shaw

Carolyn,

I find myself once again having to report the intolerable and intimidating behaviour of Councillor [REDACTED]. This situation is now very serious as it is now affecting the business of the Council. Time that should be productive is being spent trying to placate constant intervention by the public, instigated by Councillor [REDACTED]. Constant interruption by members of the public is reflecting on the well-being of yourself and the Vice Chairman who is now not attending through illness. Plus, the Chairman, Councillor Burton is finding it near impossible to conduct the Meetings. I myself have been a Councillor for nearly forty years and have never in that time seen such interruptions and bad behaviour from Councillor [REDACTED] and members of the public. Also, may I state, I have worked with numerous Clerks in my time but never have I found one that is more professional and precise than Mrs Carolyn Cross. I have worked with Mrs Cross for 35 years as Chairman over some 12 years in total but now realise, her job as Clerk is being made impossible by this situation!!

We now find ourselves as a Parish Council being bombarded with unreasonable demands set out by a public contingent led by one individual i.e.: one was a demand for suspension of the Vice Chairman, for just exercising his duties. This [REDACTED] has had to be asked to leave the meeting by the Chairman on numerous occasions, justifiably so. It has got to a stage now that we are receiving constant verbal abusive and demands at every meeting, especially to the Chairman and Clerk. It has become intolerable for the whole Council and in my opinion is being instigated from within.

I personally can see only one solution to this intolerable position, which is the separation of Appley Bridge from Wrightington Parish Council. This would be beneficial for both wards, allowing Wrightington to work productively on Wrightington Parish business.

And

Statement Re Recent Parish Council Meetings – From Councillor Johnson

Over the past 2 years I have become very concerned about the atmosphere at Parish Council meetings, the disruptive nature of bullying and disrespectful comments made by some parish councillors and some members of the general public are getting out of hand and needs to be stopped.

The comments and disrespectful nature of questions from both councillors and members of the general public towards our clerk( Carolyn Cross) and our Chairman (Councillor Judith Burton) are totally disrespectful and totally out of order and at times seems to be encouraged by some parish councillors.

Our code of conduct is broken on a regular basis and it seems that some council members and some members of the general public think they can say what they like and they think the law does not apply to them.

The code of conduct is broken on a regular basis and the bullying and harassment which is an offence under the Equality Act of 2010 is a regular feature of meetings. West Lancashire Borough Council have been made aware of this but do not seem interested in trying to stop this problem.

All these problems are bringing the Parish Council into disrepute and I know that residents are losing faith and expect some action on this matter.

It is quite obvious that councillors from the Mossy Lea Ward and Appley bridge Ward do not agree on a lot of matters and now find it difficult to work together for the benefit of the residents of the Parish.

I have concluded that if this was a marriage there would be good reason to apply for a divorce on the grounds of Unreasonable behaviour and incompatibility.

Accordingly, I propose that Wrightington Parish Council in its current form be split into two separate councils. Wrightington Parish Council covering Mossy Lea and Wrightington and Appley Bridge Parish Council to cover Appley Bridge.

I would go even further I propose that Mossy Lea is moved from West Lancashire and moved into Chorley which would be a better fix geographically, this I feel would give Mossy Lea better services This would require a boundary change but can be done.

This change would mean we would be represented by different district councillors and be represented by a different Members of Parliament as we are much closer to Chorley than we are to Ormskirk and would give the residents of Mossy Lea a much better service.

---

Correspondence item c)

Our ref: CRT/2022/0001

Date: 08 February 2023

Dear Sir / Madam

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990  
APPEAL BY MAYBROOK INVESTMENTS LTD IN RELATION TO APPLICATION  
FOR A CERTIFICATE OF LAWFUL DEVELOPMENT, EAST QUARRY, APPLEY  
BRIDGE**

I am writing to you in relation to the above application on which you have previously been consulted.

On 18th August 2022, Maybrook Investments Ltd submitted an application to the County Council for a Certificate of Lawful Development. The application requested that the County Council certify that the quarry can be infilled with imported materials using the permitted development rights set out in Schedule 2, Part 17, Class C of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2015.

The application is now the subject of an appeal in relation to non determination of the application.

Any representations on the appeal must be made to The Planning Inspectorate at the following address 3B, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Bristol, BS1 6PN email [Teame1@planning-inspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:Teame1@planning-inspectorate.gov.uk) quoting their reference number APP/Q2371/X/23/3314781. Any representations should be made by 10th March 2023. If comments are submitted after this date, the Inspector appointed to determine the appeal will not normally look at them and they will be returned. Whenever possible any representations should be submitted by email to the above email address. You should note that any views provided will be disclosed to the parties to the appeal unless the representations are withdrawn before 10th March 2023.

The Planning Inspectorate will not acknowledge receipt of representations.

---

Page 2

A copy of the Planning Inspectorate guidance booklet is available free of charge on the County Council's website or on GOV.UK

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/taking-part-in-a-planning-listed-building-or-enforcement-appeal>.

The appeal documents are available for inspection on the county council's planning webpage <https://planningregister.lancashire.gov.uk/Planning/Display/CRT/2022/0001>

The appeal decision will be published on GOV.UK

If you have any questions about the above information please contact me.

Yours faithfully

.....

Team Leader Development Management

---

Correspondence item d)

I have attached the excel spreadsheet that accompanied this email as a separate document rather than trying to reproduce it in this document.

Hi Carolyn

Please find attached my assessments for the three sites we looked at yesterday and can you confirm these are the ones we agreed. I have mentioned about using the appley lane north unit as a two way one as a trial to see if it works. There is no need to take the solar powered ones down under current policy so that shouldn't be an issue tbh

Regards

.....

Road Safety Officer  
Road Safety Department  
Highways and Transport  
Lancashire County Council

---

Correspondence item e)

Hi Carolyn,

Thank you for your email.

We would be delighted to play in your hall here is our proposal in more detail.

We play all over the UK every month and would love to consider any available dates you might be able to offer in 2023.

For these tours we usually play for a fee or as a joint promotion. We need some local help putting up a few posters and getting the word out.

Our fee for performance is £400.

When we perform as part of a joint promotion to raise funds for the hall, we both have a stake in making the evening a success, **there is no fee for you to pay** and we take the risk. We would need to split the money collected on the door on an 80:20 split in our favour (not including any bar takings, food raffle or fund raising etc.). For these tours to be viable we have found that our share of the door take usually allows us enough to cover our costs (petrol, accommodation, publicity etc ). We hope with no fee plus your 20% share of the ticket price plus bar takings, raffle, etc and an event for your village hall makes this an attractive proposition for you.

We suggest a door charge of £10 for a 2 hour concert. **We will pay our own travel and accommodation expenses. We will also provide publicity materials, posters and leaflets at our expense and send out press releases etc.** Most of our concerts are well attended and we have had some wonderful and memorable jazz evenings all over the UK.

We have our own PA, programmable lighting and electric piano.

If the concert has to be cancelled there is no fee for you to pay and we have public liability insurance from the musicians' union.

Regards,

.....

---