

WRIGHTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

At the Meeting of the Council of the Parish of Wrightington held on Monday 21st June 2021 at Appley Bridge Village Hall at 7.30pm the following were present:

Councillors: Mrs J Burton (Chairman), Mr F Johnson, Mr F Hodgkinson, Mrs K Jukes, Mr C House and Mr J Chambers. Also present members of the public, Ms A Fletcher and Mr R Alexander.

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 Parish Council Meeting and asked that residents present asked any questions or made any comments during Open Forum. Prior to opening up discussions the Clerk read aloud an Environment Agency Parbold and West Quarry June update received today. A resident asked for a show of hands from those who had seen the flare from West Quarry lit in the last 2 years, no-one raised their hand. Mr Ellis, who had requested to speak at the meeting from the Parbold Hill/Appley Bridge Residents Group, suggested that the Parish Council had appointed representatives on to this residents group at the May Meeting. The Chairman reported that he had been misinformed. Representatives were appointed onto the Appley Bridge/Parbold Quarry Liaison Committee, a committee which has not met for many years but, was set up by LCC to ensure restoration of the quarries was undertaken correctly. The Chairman said the Parish Council would not appoint representatives on a residents group as it could appear that the Parish Council were taking sides. Councillor Jukes confirmed that she had recorded the Meeting and was sure representatives were appointed to the residents group. Councillor House responded to the Chairman's question in relation to what committee he thought he had been appointed to saying that he would not be comfortable being on a residents group and would not have put himself forward for that as he felt he needed to be impartial as there are two sides to every issue. He confirmed that he just wants the best for the Parish. Councillor Jukes felt it was possible for everyone to remain impartial and report back to the Parish Council. It was confirmed that the appointments at the previous meeting were not on the residents group. Mr Ellis reported that it is clear LCC have not engaged with Parbold or Wrightington PC's. He suggested that the amount of work put in by the residents in order to bring this update document from the EA to the Parish Council should not be underestimated, however, some of the content of the update is incorrect. He suggested the PC should listen to the facts not myths. The Chairman confirmed that the PC understood the facts but must keep an open mind and must represent the community as a whole, not just one group, they must be open to everybody. Mr Ellis complimented the two residents who had made the presentation to the PC at the previous meeting and suggested that the PC had to be wary of the facts given by the EA, whilst reporting that the residents group will be challenging some of the claims in the update and will report their response back to the PC. One of the residents who made the presentation asked for the responses to the questions they raised to be read aloud. The Clerk read aloud PC emails, observations and points sent to various officers over the past few months in response to many of the questions raised in the presentation. When asked how the PC are going to reassure the residents they are looking after their safety, it was confirmed that this is not a PC responsibility, it is up to the EA and LCC to ensure compliance with all the safety aspects of work required and work undertaken. It was confirmed that the planning officer at LCC was made aware of all the facts at West Quarry e.g.: tree removal, opening up the access etc. in February 2021 and it was known in April 2021 that planning permission was required, however, it is only now that the planning officer has put this in writing following a telephone request from the Clerk this morning to report back at this evenings meeting. Residents are frustrated that the progress by the EA and LCC is so slow. Residents feel the PC is falling behind and that they are taking the lead on this. The Chairman said that she was sorry the residents felt like this but that the PC had done everything they had been asked to do. Borough Councillor Jukes reported that she had also contacted the LCC planning officer on this matter after the May Meeting and had received neither a response nor an acknowledgement to her email, which she felt was disgraceful.

The Chairman asked the gentleman who it had been suggested could volunteer to assist the PC with their website to explain the process and progress made with this matter since the previous meeting. After corresponding with the current web-co-ordinator it is apparent that the existing website is complex and it would be a difficult, and time consuming, job to pick up and develop the existing website, layers of software,

and the software used. Therefore, it was suggested that a small sub-committee of Parish Councillors could be set up to look at taking more control over the structure, content and presentation of the existing website with a view to making it easier to access information in a more logical fashion with a co-ordinated approach to how and what things are presented on the website.

21. **APOLOGIES** – No Parish Councillor apologies necessary. Apologies received from Mr A Shaw, applicant for the vacant Mossy Lea Ward Councillor post, due to illness.
22. **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 Jukes disclosed that she is currently in a legal dispute with the owner of West Quarry. Councillor Jukes confirmed that she has declared this fact at West Lancs. BC. 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.**
23. **MINUTES** – The Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 17th May 2021 had been circulated in advance of the Meeting. It was confirmed that now the confusion over appointments onto the Appley Bridge/Parbold Quarry Liaison Committee have been resolved, the Minutes were accepted as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.
24. **UPDATE/PROGRESS WITH ISSUES RAISED AT THE PREVIOUS MEETING** - Nothing to report that will not be dealt with elsewhere on the agenda.
25. **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) Copy questions from a member of the public presented at last month's Meeting – confirmation that most questions have already been asked or matters reported. Some have responses which have already been reported at Parish Council Meetings – **Reports and responses from various emails and sources to the questions raised at the May Meeting, reported in Open Forum.**
- b) Questions from the public to Mr O'Dowd. Questions as to when the responses will be received and how the information/responses will be disseminated once received – **It was confirmed that the body of each email received, containing comments, observations and questions, had been copied into one document which had been sent to Mr O'Dowd for a response. All names and email addresses had been removed. The Parish Council will await a response which will be reported at the July Meeting, and then consider how to deal with this going forward. Councillor Jukes suggested, and the Parish Council agreed, that if no response has been received by the July Meeting, the questions submitted should be put on the Parish Council website with a statement confirming that a response is awaited.**
Borough Councillor Jukes – gave an update on this matter – Reporting that she had met with County Councillor Fillis regarding East & West Quarries as he is the representative in control of the Wrightington Ward and is aware of people's concerns. He is looking to formulate an action plan, looking for a long term solution and looking for a multi-agency, cross border, response way to deal with it. It was reported that a Meeting took place on Friday 11th June arranged by Northern Diver which was attended by the Chairman and the Clerk. Northern Diver were concerned about the damage being done to their premises and property, the anti-social behaviour and looking for a possible solution. It was reported that representatives of Northern Diver and other businesses, BC Baybutt, Jonathan Haine (LCC Planning Officer), 2 representatives of the Police, 2 representatives of the Appley Bridge Community Association, the shop owner from Randalls Corner, representatives of Maybrook and the Chairman and Clerk were in attendance. It was reported that the Police confirmed they had removed the padlock from the gate at Fayle's Yard and that Mr O'Dowd has now replaced it. It was reported that the Police informed the shop owner that they would cross the boundary into Wigan to assist with anti-social behaviour, theft, racist abuse etc. if necessary. Councillor Jukes reported that she will be meeting with the LCC Planning

Officer and CC Fillis to discuss this matter. It was reported that there were approx. 100 people at the Quarry at the weekend.

It was reported that the Newsletter update from the EA is a generic email which has been sent to, and received by, numerous recipients, including the Parish Council.

- c) Information from the Police in relation to anti-social behaviour at and around East Quarry, the Police responses to it, and how they will continue to respond – A further email reporting that an email exists from the Police regarding security at the site was read aloud – **Police responses were noted which confirmed that anti-social behaviour at the quarry remains a Police priority. The Council will request a copy of the Police email re: security at the Quarry.**
- d) Parish Council Website- possible suggestions for a web-coordinator going forward and information received from the current web-co-ordinator for assessment and explanation – **The Council noted the discussions on this subject in Open Forum.**
- e) Response to follow up email re: breach of planning control, Chorley Concrete – **It would appear that further investigation now needs to be undertaken by the planning authority to determine what planning permissions exist for the site and what further permissions are required for the various activities taking place, including Chorley Concrete.**
- f) Confirmation a further request for removal of graffiti on Mill Lane has been actioned by WLBC – **Noted, this will be monitored.**
- g) A positive response from Old Hall Brass Band to an outdoor concert at Appley Bridge Village Hall Covid regulations and extensions permitting – **The Parish Council are very pleased with this response and look forward to arranging this when restrictions are lifted.**
- h) Consultation on the West Lancs. Electoral Review following the recent briefing by WLBC – **Information from West Lancs. BC on this seems vague. It was reported, and confirmed by BC Jukes, that the proposal is to even out the electorate numbers represented by Borough Councillors with a view to reducing the overall number of Councillors from 54 to 45, which would equate to 15 wards each having 3 Councillors throughout West Lancs.**
- i) Selection of info. gathered on SPIDs – **The Clerk reported on collecting information on the various types of SPIDs, charging, static or mobile. It was confirmed that the Parish Council would prefer mobile ones which could be moved around the village. It was reported that suitable locations would need to be agreed with LCC and poles and plates purchased to support the SPID. Further information will be acquired. In the meantime the Parish Council will ask LCC to deploy their mobile SPIDs in Wrightington, more specifically on Mossy Lea Road, Appley Lane North and Hall Lane.**
- j) Late items received which may require discussion/action/observations – i) A report of inappropriate and possibly anti-social behaviour at Mossfields – **Borough Councillor Jukes confirmed that the Neighbourhood Team, the Police, Social Services, BC Jukes and West Lancs. BC are already involved with this matter of a sensitive nature. BC Jukes agreed to reassure the residents that it is being handled.** ii) Update, via Newsletter, from the Environment Agency in relation to Parbold & West Quarry – **Read aloud in Open Forum.**

26. HIGHWAYS AND ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

- Reported - on 27/5/21 BC Jukes walked around Mossy Lea with Councillor Johnson who had 10 long term issues on his list. Of those, only 1 has been dealt with. It was reported that overgrowth continues to obstruct the hazard markers opposite 355 Mossy Lea Road, 10 Broadhurst Lane 2 storm drains blocked, 15 Broadhurst Lane blocked road gully, Highbank Broadhurst Lane Missing Kerb stone, Broadhurst Lane blocked culvert near to LP W3A, Lower Broadhurst Farm Copper coloured water leaking from road surface, Old Road behind BP Garage - litter and fly tipping, Old Road Behind BP Garage - mound of soil still on site, Village Hall Grass verges still not cut. Grass verges in area only cut once this year, speeding vehicles on Mossy Lea Road, parking and congestion on Mossy Lea Road near St. Josephs School. The Clerk confirmed she has taken and sent photographs of the Old Road adjacent to BP Garage recently to West Lancs. BC.
- Reported the grass on the roundabout at the M6 junction is very high and obscures vision.
- Where recent repair work to the burst water main on Mossy Lea Road has been undertaken there is now a pothole which requires attention.
- BC Jukes confirmed she has accompanied CC Fillis around Wrightington and highlighted all these matters.

- The Council agreed to request double yellow lines either side of the entrance to Appley Bridge Village Hall as the parked cars obscure sightlines for motorists exiting the village hall.
- Parked cars on Appley Lane North, opposite The Mount, were reported.
- Councillor Burton asked the Clerk to follow up reported damaged stiles on public footpaths off Courage Low Lane/Toogood Lane.

27. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES - Nothing to report.

28. VILLAGE HALLS

MOSSY LEA – Confirmation payment received for use as a Polling Station. Request for permission to extend the village hall has been submitted to West Lancs. BC – no response received to date. Work to address the damp in the village hall is on-going. A Mossy Lea Village Hall Committee Meeting will be held at 6.45pm, prior to the Parish Council Meeting, on Monday 19th July.

APPLEY BRIDGE – Progress with replacement windows and doors – The Clerk reported the up-to-date price, which also now includes the remainder of the doors and windows not included in the previous quotation. This would result in all the windows and doors having been replaced. **Resolved: Replacement of the remaining doors and windows is approved at an approximate cost of £9880.65 + VAT, however, a successful Capital Bid application will result in a £5000.00 contribution towards this from West Lancs. BC.**

Progress with installation of improved external lighting for the car park – a quotation has been requested. Report that restoration work is required to the floor – The Clerk asked Councillors to forward any details of contractors they may know who could undertake this work. Request to explore cost of installing internet in the village hall – enquiries will be made. Request for info. following the recent extension of Covid-19 restrictions and how this will relate to children’s parties booked – It was reported that, having taken advice from West Lancs. BC, children’s parties are classed as social gatherings and therefore governed by the rule of 6 or 2 households, and children are counted in these numbers. As it is unlikely a children’s party will be able to satisfy this criteria the advice is that these should not take place until government restrictions on social gatherings are lifted.

The Chairman reported that when visiting the Library Van recently she was asked if there were any more locations where the van could park to provide this service in the Parish. The following locations will be suggested: Appley Bridge and Mossy Lea Village Hall car parks, Stonegate Lane, and Church Lane.

29. PLANNING To discuss the following applications:

- 1) 2021/0640/FUL Proposed stable block and all-weather outdoor riding surface. Copyhold Farm, Carr House Lane, Wrightington - **Resolved: No Objections.**
- 2) 2021/0531/ARM Reserved Matters – Details of appearance, landscaping and scale for the erection for 3 dwellings, pursuant to planning permission 2017/0778/OUT. Ashurst Garage and Signs, Wood Lane, Wrightington - **Resolved: No Objections.**

FOR INFO. - 2021/0675/LDP - Cert of Lawfulness - proposed conversion of existing attic space to bedroom, including installation of 2 roof windows. 3 Sprodley Drive, Appley Bridge–**Noted.**

30. LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS – Chairmanship Course – Thursday 7th October, 7-9pm via Zoom £25 to be attended by Councillor House. Effective Meetings workshop – 10th June, 7-9pm via Zoom £25 fully booked, Clerk on a waiting list for a future workshop. Details of the worrying problem of Dog Thefts – **Noted.**

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

For Payment:

Parish & Town Training – Chairmanship Workshop – Councillor House		£25.00
OPSTA Annual Membership		£10.00
Mrs C A Cross Clerk’s Salary – Net		£822.56
HM Rev. & Customs Tax & NI due by Clerk	£3.48	
	NI due by Parish Council	£15.77
D/D Plusnet Internet MLVH		£26.39
D/D Open Spaces Soc Annual Membership		£36.00
Waterplus Water Charges – ABVH		£60.79CR

Receipts:

West Lancs. BC	Concurrent Contributions	£1159.00
West Lancs. BC	Capital Bid – contribution towards Notice Boards	£1440.00
West Lancs. BC	Business Support Grant payment (2 x £470)	£940.00

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

32. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED: That the next Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 19th July 2021 at Mossy Lea Village Hall at 7:30 pm.

Minutes 21 to 32 will be accepted as a correct record and signed by the Chairman at the Meeting to be held on Monday 19th July 2021.

Members of the Public and Press are welcome to attend

Meeting Closed: 9.40pm

Chairman:

Date:

REPORT 1

- a) Notification permission refused for retention and renovation of the original two store stone built property. Comprising of new roof tiles, repointing, new windows along with a new door and open pitched porch. Demolition of low quality single extensions and outbuilding. Construction of a new two storey side extension and two storey rear extension with dormer window over a single storey rear ground floor extension. 1 Tunley Lane, Wrightington.
- b) Notification permission granted for demolition of existing C20 single storey orangery, replacement with a new single storey timber framed orangery. Harrock Hall, Harrock Lane, Wrightington.
- c) Notification listed building consent granted for demolition of existing C20 single storey orangery replacement new single storey timber framed orangery. Harrock Hall, Harrock Lane, Wrightington.
- d) Notification permission refused for extended dropped kerb and provision of area for parking. 192 Mossy Lea Road, Wrightington.
- e) Notification permission granted for single storey rear extension after demolition of existing conservatory. Lee Cottage, Stocks Farm, Mossy Lea Road, Wrightington.
- f) Notification permission granted for single storey rear extension following demolition of existing conservatory, first floor dormer extension. 10 Manse Avenue, Wrightington.
- g) Notification permission granted for addition of front porch. Addition of pitched roof to existing dormer. 2 Hinds Head Avenue, Wrightington.
- h) Notification permission granted for erection of a single storey detached garage with duo pitched roof. 8 Spring Bank, Appley Bridge.
- i) Notification permission granted for single storey rear extension. 15 Broadhurst Lane, Wrightington.
- j) Notification permission granted for proposed side/front single storey extension to facilitate the care of and living of an elderly relative. 7 Millbank, Appley Bridge.
- k) Notification cert. of lawfulness (proposed) permitted for proposed porch to the front elevation and conversion of room at front of property to garage. Bow Cottage, Robin Hood Lane, Wrightington.
- l) Confirmation from Clean and Green Operations Manager that the hazard markers on Mossy Lea Road will be inspected and a report will be sent.
- m) Confirmation from Clean and Green Operations Manager that an update on litter bin provision will be given shortly.
- n) Email details from BC Jukes on litter picking and Keep Britain Tidy Campaign.
- o) Email thanks from Bowland Pennine MRT for your donation.
- p) Notification of new Clerk's details for the Peter Lathom Charity.
- q) Details of Open Spaces Society AGM