

WRIGHTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

At the Meeting of the Council of the Parish of Wrightington held on Monday 27th January 2025 at Mossy Lea Village Hall at 7.30pm the following were present:

Councillors: Mrs J Burton (Chairman), Mr F Johnson, Ms K Jukes, (Vice Chairman), Mr Lee Burton, , Ms Anne Fletcher, and J Ashurst, Clerk

Also in attendance were 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, Borough 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 those present to the 27th January meeting and asked everyone to treat each other with respect, and respect everyone's points of view.

A Resident raised the issue of treating everyone with respect and commented that this was not the case as regards the last meeting. Not all Councillors had complied with the Code of Conduct. The Chair had failed to take control of the meeting showing bias and lack of impartiality by being prepared to exclude members of the public whilst allowing Councillors to fight like children over the Clerk's failure to provide information in sufficient time to allow consideration and allegations of failure to attend meetings by Councillors. The Chair was asked if this conduct was found to be acceptable.

The Chair disagreed with what had gone on and tried to explain the correct procedure which had been adhered to but no one listened.

The Resident requested that Councillors undertake appropriate training as regards the Code of Conduct and if it was not adhered to in future would contact the Monitoring Officer

Cllr. Jukes stated she agreed with the Residents comments and the Chair needed to resign having failed to take control and brought the meeting into disrepute

The Chair stated that the matter could be discussed later during the meeting but no further in Open Forum.

Another Resident commented that the meeting was not being run properly and agreed with the previous Resident and Cllr. Jukes. It was commented that there were now three vacancies on the Council which does not function properly under this Chairmanship .

Open Forum closed at 7.40pm.

103. APOLOGIES – None received

104. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST Cllr. Jukes declared an interest.

105. MINUTES --- **It was resolved** to accept the Minutes of the Meetings of the 18th November 2024 and 20th January 2025 as a true record .

106. MATTERS ARISING NOT ON THE AGENDA --- None

107. CORRESPONDENCE/INFORMATION ITEMS --- A request for a Donation had been received from the O.S Society. **It was resolved** to send a donation of £100.00.

- 108. NEW WEBSITE ----** **It was resolved** to appoint EasyWebsites as the new website provider and to cancel the arrangement with NetWise by giving them 60 days Notice of Cancellation and paying to Netwise the appropriate cancellation fee
- 109. EAST QUARRY ----** Cllr. Jukes gave a report .
- 110. WEST QUARRY ----** Cllr. Jukes gave a report and ask who had decided that the Council would not oppose the objection to the Planning Appeal . A member of the Public requested the right to speak again on the subject which was denied
- 111. HIGHWAYS AND ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS ---** Cllr.Jukes reported that LCC were to deal with potholes throughout Lancashire. but the Highways reporting system was not working Properly.
- Speeding ----** an email from Parbold P.C. requesting Council's support for their Speed limits campaign had been received. **It was resolved** to support Parbold's campaign.
- 112. VILLAGE HALLS**
- Mossy Lea ---** The next meeting of the Mossy Lea Village Hall Committee was arranged for Monday 3rd February at 6p.m.
- Appley Bridge --- Car Park.** It was reported that Contractors of West Lancs . would be investigating the car park surface problem.
- Blinds ---** A quote from Corletts Electrical had been requested for installing separate power supply to each blind.
- Hall Booking arrangements ---** **It was resolved that , at the discretion of the Hall Booking Clerk,** a bond of £50 was to be taken together with booking fee from customers wishing to book the Halls. The Bond to be refunded if there is no damage following the event. Both Booking Clerks would be notified accordingly.
- Gas Charges ---** Following a great increase in usage **it was resolved** that DTG Plumbing and Heating should do the necessary repairs indicated in his last invoice.
- Projector and Screen -----** **It was resolved** to install a projector and screen in ABVH similar to the one in Mossy Lea VH
- 113. PLANNING ----** **It was resolved** to distribute Planning Applications as soon as they were received . The deadlines for the current Applications had passed.
- 114. LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS**
- Training ---** The Clerk reported that there were lots of training courses available for Councillors and Clerks on the LALC website. Cllr. Fletcher requested further details.
- 115. BANKING ARRANGEMENTS ----** **It was resolved** that the Council should transfer the current banking arrangements from **the Nat West Bank to On - Line banking with Unity Trust Bank** as soon as practicable.

116. FINANCE ---- It was resolved to approve the following payments and receipts for December 2024 and January 2025 :-

For Payment: December 2024

Mr. J Ashurst	Clerk's Salary (net) Nov. 2024	£689.95
Mr. J Ashurst	Clerk's PAYE for Nov. 2024	£172.60
Mr. J Ashurst	Clerks Expenses (Mileage)	£75.17
Mr. J Ashurst	Reimbursement of cost of Fire Exit signs	£9.04
Mr. J Ashurst	Reimbursement of Donation sent to British Legion	£48.86
Petty Cash	Office Sundries	£50.00
NWAS NHS Trust	Donation for Replacement of Defibrillator Pads at Boat House	£89.00
Cllr. Lee Burton	Reimbursement for purchase of Xmas Lights/ Batteries	£143.90
Joseph Noblett	Cost and delivery of ABVH Christmas Tree	£96.00
D/D Waterplus	ABVH October Water Charges	£37.74
D/D Waterplus	ABVH November Water Charges	£38.52
D/ D Waterplus	ABVH December Water Charges	£13.18
D/D Brit. Gas.	ABVH Gas Charges October	£68.48
D/D Brit. Gas	ABVH Gas Charges November	£317.84
D/D Brit. Gas Lite	MLVH Gas Charges November	£259.13
D/D BT	BT Charges ABVH/MLVH Internet	£64.13
Argos UK	Brother MFC J5340 Inkjet Printer	£154.99

Receipts:

Nat West	Bank Interest to 30th November 2024	£68.56
ABVH	Transfer from ABVH account	£16000.00

Accounts for Approval at WPC January Meeting 27/1/2025

Payments:

Lee Burton	Reimburse Cost of Christmas Lights	£21.49
J. Ashurst	Clerk's Salary (net) Dec. 2024	£690.15
J. Ashurst	Clerk's PAYE for Dec. 2024	£172.40
J. Ashurst	Clerk's Expenses (Mileage)	£99.84
M.Brady	Steamy Windows Cleaning MLVH	£40.00
Corletts	PAT Testing at ABVH and MLVH	£144.00
D/D Brit. Gas	ABVH Gas Charges Nov/Dec 2024	£949.48
D/D Waterplus	ABVH Dec. 24 Water Charges	£13.18
D/D Brit Gas Lite	MLVH Gas Charges Dec. 24	£259.13
D/D BT	BT Charges ABVH/MLVH Internet	£64.13
D/D Brit. Gas	ABVH Gas Charges Dec/ Jan 24/25	£816.92
DTG Plumbing	Boiler Repairs/Toilets ABVH	£170.00
J. Ashurst	Reimburse cost of Ink Cartridges	£68.99

Receipts:

Nat West	Bank Interest to 31/12/24	£71.74
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Financial Regulations --- It was resolved to adopt the latest version of the Financial Regulations

Other finance issues regarding the 25/26 Budget and Precept were deferred to an Extraordinary Meeting of the WPC to be called as soon as possible.

117. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(i) Following the atrocities in Southport, **it was resolved** to review security at the Village Halls including the possibility of video doorbells.

(ii) Period of Notice **It was confirmed** that Notice of a Meeting must be posted “Three Clear Days” before the meeting is held .

(iii) Draft Minutes. It was agreed that the draft minutes of the last meeting should be distributed ten days after the last meeting.

(iv) Following his resignation, the Council wished to record its thanks to former Cllr. Carey for his contributions.

(v) Cllr. Jukes wished to discuss what had happened in Open Forum proposing that the Chair and Cllr . Johnson apologise . This was not agreed and Cllr Jukes left the meeting at 9.15 p.m.

(vi) The Clerk’s Probationary Period Review and Remuneration. **It was resolved** to deal with this matter after the Public had left. In accordance with this, **it was then resolved** that the Clerk’s appointment be made permanent with the agreed remuneration. **It was further resolved** that the Chair would send written confirmation of this to the Clerk.

Meeting Closed at 9.40p.m

118. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT WPC MEETING:

Monday 17th February 2025 at 7.30 p.m. at the Appley Bridge Village Hall

Members of the Public and Press are welcome to attend

Chairman:

Date:

