



Up Holland Parish Council

**Clerk: Mrs Elizabeth-Anne Broad JP, LLB(Hons), MA, CiLCA
1 Pinewood, Skelmersdale, Lancashire, WN8 6UZ
Telephone: 01695 557678 Mobile: 07973340254
e-mail: clerk@uphollandpc.gov.uk**

The Minutes of the meeting of Up Holland Parish Council held on **Tuesday 11th July 2023 at 7.30pm** in the Up Holland Methodist Church, Alma Hill, WN8 ONR.

Present: Cllr Jenny Whiting (Chairman), Cllr Christopher Mackrell (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Linda Jones, Cllr John Gardner, Cllr Andrew Grant, Cllr Gaynar Owen, Cllr Gill Sinnott.

Public participation:

Items raised by Members of the Public:

- a) A request to cut back trees at rear of housing on Lawns Avenue. This natural wooded area in the ownership and protection of the parish council will be surveyed. Homeowners already have permission to cut back any overhanging boughs.
- b) A request to assist Mill Lane resident in getting WLBC to cut back foliage at the approach to their homes. The Parish Council will contact WLBC to support the request.
- c) Ticket Office Closures at Railway Stations. No station offices within the parish, having lost station staff many years ago. Individual Councillors will respond as they wish.

MINUTES

1. To record apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Stoddart, Cllr Taylor, Cllr McGunigle, Cllr Hale,

2. To receive declarations of interest

None declared.

3. To ratify as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held 13th June 2023

The Minutes were accepted as a correct record of the meeting and duly signed by the Chairman.

4. To record any police issues

PC Neil Smith drops into the Community Hub at St Thomas' the Martyr Church regularly.

5. Ward Reports: Update the meeting on issues Councillors are attending to

Cllr Mackrell – United Utilities confirmed that planned work on drainage at the dip of Alma Hill will be put back another month. The recent heavy rain flooded this area again this week. The meeting is aware of planned simultaneous continuous road closures - Cinnamon Brow, Church Street and Higher Lane, Up Holland - 11/09/2023 to 15/09/2023 to enable cabling and testing works to be undertaken by Shawton Engineering Ltd, presumably supporting the build of electrical storage unit in the fields off Tontine Road.

Many properties on Alma Hill, Alma Court and surrounds are being encroached upon by foliage that has not been kept tidy or adequately cut back by WLBC this year. Whilst some is tricky to deal with as it is sloped, there seems to be no maintenance plan here at all.

Cllr Gardner – The new roundabout at Mill Lane Play Area has been well received and many visitors to the park do not realise it is accessible and suitable for use for wheelchairs/pushchairs. Whilst signage is deemed inappropriate, word of mouth is spreading the news.

Cllr Sinnott – The recent heavy rain was not coped with by the A577 because the road surface is so poor and breaking up, grit and gravel has loosened even further and filled the gird. The grid covers on Parliament Street were lifted by the rain and looking into the grids they are filled with water and stone chippings. Had LCC Highways adequately maintained the road surface this would not happen. Some properties on School Lane had flooding to their hallways, exacerbated by the large lorries driving through pushing the surface water into their homes. Some was surface water but some was foul water in places so the drainage system is now being affecting. The Clerk was asked again to contact LCC Highways about the road surface on A577 throughout Up Holland Village. Residents are also asked to complain where they are affected. Cars are still being parked on the pavements on the corner of School Lane/Parliament Street/Church Street junction and LCC are surveying this area to consider erecting bollards to prevent this. Cllr Sinnott also requests that the Parish Council write to Royal Mail and request that their staff not drop elastic bands in our streets as this is littering.

Cllr Grant – St Joseph’s College, College Road, Up Holland now has a High Court Kings Bench Injunction Order to exclude urban explorers date stamped 5th May 2023, excluding one named individual and others unknown from entering the building though it extends to including prohibition of photographing the building from the outside. It is of interesting note that the map attached to the court papers shows the extent of ownership of land by Anglia International (Upholland) Ltd which appears to include Farley Lane Play Area, currently rented by the parish council from St Teresa’s Church. This leads to the question of whether the Archdiocese sold the Farley Lane land when St Joseph’s College was sold and St Teresa’s no longer hold an interest in it?

Cllr Whiting – Whilst WLBC has re-planted the Millenium Clock walled garden outside the Victoria Public House, the walled garden outside The Good Catch has been left again. This is LCC registered land but there appears to be no maintenance contract.

As the site is use by the Parish Council for a public Christmas tree it is in the interests to seek a contractor to tidy the area.

6. Consider proposal for a water-catchment system at Tontine Allotments

It was resolved that £324 be issued to plot holders to create a water-catchment system using donated water butts. A Parish Champion's Grant from Lancashire County Councillor of £300 has been agreed to contribute to this purpose.

The meeting noted a second Parish Champion grant of £185, contributing towards the wildflower seed gifts to primary aged children was also agreed.

7. Consider premiums for parish council insurance

It was resolved to enter another three-year agreement with Zurich Municipal.

8. Accounts for ratification and payment, presentation of bank balances and notice of Finance Meeting on Tuesday 18th July 2023

National Allotment Society		Annual subscription	0899	£66.00
Arcade Sports	230623	Bowling jacks/footers	0900	£158.97*
W Fernandes	230623	Cleaning noticeboards	0901	£15.00
Laurence Davies	300623	Grounds work	0902	£2,250.00
Includes Lawns Ave Play Area, Tontine Allotments and Bowling Green and £450 for tree removal – conifers at Tontine Allotments				
Methodist Church	110723	Room hire 2 meetings	0903	£32.00
NEST	110723	Pension scheme payment d.d.		£210.97
(Parish Council pays 3% - £50.23; clerk pays £160.74 to pension scheme)				
Handelsbanken	130723	Bank charges	d.d.	£28.20
Npower	110723	Electricity for clock	0904	£9.88*
Yates Playgrounds	110723	Zipwire repair	0905	£81.60*
E A Broad	110723	Salary/expenses - June	0906	£1358.21
(Gross salary = £1,674.40 based on £18.40 per hour 21 hour week)				
CCNW	110723	Improving FP0821039	0907	£7,781.76*
Amazon (E Broad)	110723	Printer ink 2 x black	0908	£ 43.80*
Laurence Davies	300623	Grounds work	0909	£1,800.00
Tontine Allotments (W Walsworth)	110723	wood and materials for water catchment	0910	£324.00

Zurich Municipal 110723 Insurance renewal 0911 £1,544.79

*Contains VAT

The accounts were ratified and authorised for payment.

9. Update from LALC (Lancashire Association of Local Councils)

Members were reminded of the meeting of the area committee on Thursday 13th July 2023 at 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk.

10. Any Update from Borough or County Councillors

- **Discuss frequency of amenity space grass cutting**

Many complaints continue about the level of maintenance in the parish. Up Holland Parish Council does not employ groundworkers and has contracts in place for grass cutting at the Bowling Green, Tontine allotments and Lawns Avenue Play Area. There are agreements in place for WLBC to retain their duty for groundwork at Mill Lane Play Area, Janet Lally memorial field and Farley Lane Play Area. All other public areas are maintained by WLBC.

Up Holland Parish Council has requested details of maintenance plans, schedules for litter picking and emptying public waste bins to no avail.

Steve Bissett, the Clean and Green Manager will be presenting at the LALC area committee meeting this coming Thursday. The Clerk was asked if the Parish Councillors can meet with the team so that each can understand their position here.

In the meantime, patch reports will continue to be submitted by our Borough Councillors, and the Clerk is instructed to email Jacqui Sinnott-Lacey so that she is aware of the dissatisfaction of residents and the Parish Council on this issue.

- **Respond to Beacon Country Park Vision Consultation**

The Parish Council welcomes this open consultation to collate ideas for the use of land going forward and encourages individuals to complete the short questionnaire online. Some disappointment was raised that no physical consultation was arranged within the Up Holland parish area. The meeting heard that the newly elected Labour Borough Councillors are preparing a leaflet drop which will thank residents for voting for them and include the link to respond to this consultation.

- **Respond to Borough Council Draft Council Plan 2023-2028**

This plan was noted.

Cllr Andrew Grant was confirmed as Up Holland Parish Council's nomination to the WLBC Standards Committee.

11. To consider any planning issues or applications

Application Number: 2023/0492/LBC
Location: 73 Bank Top, Roby Mill, Up Holland, Skelmersdale, Lancashire.
Listed Building Consent - Replacement of 1 No. rear elevation arched staircase glazed timber window, that has decayed beyond salvageability and has exceeded its functional life.

Application Number: 2023/0522/LDP
Location: 15 Priory Road Up Holland Skelmersdale Lancashire WN8 0LR
Proposal: Hip to gable roof conversion with flat roof rear dormer structure

The above applications were noted, with no comment.

Application Number: 2022/1289/FUL
Location: Land Adjacent To 11 Heathland Up Holland Lancashire WN8 0BP
Proposal: Erection of two storey detached 4 bedroomed private dwelling and single storey garage

The meeting noted that this application was refused permission.

Application Number: 2023/0296/FUL
Location: Land To The Rear Of 126-160 Ormskirk Road Up Holland Lancashire
Proposal: Erection of 16 residential dwellings with associated highway works and landscaping.

It is understood that Borough Councillor Patel has requested that this be considered by Planning Committee rather than delegated to a planning officer for decision.

12. Update on Capital Projects: 2021 – Noticeboards, 2022 – Defibrillators, 2023 – Bowling Green equipment

2021 – Noticeboards – scheduled to complete by September 2023.

2023 – Defibrillators – WLBC considering a request to change from defibrillators to Danial Beard Bleed-Out kits to be installed instead.

2024 – Bowling Green enhancements – progressing. Some bowling equipment purchased, a chess table is on order and researching book exchange boxes.

13. Public Footpath Tower Hill to Ormskirk Road – project to upgrade surfacing

The surfacing has now been upgraded. Fingerposts for each end are being designed. WLBC agreed to replace the public waste bin but request that a parish council contract install it (lack of funds for installation, but capital spend possible). More consideration required regarding an appropriate gate at the Tower Hill end.

14. Resolution for the Exclusion of Press and Public

It is recommended that members of the press and public be excluded from the

meeting during consideration of the following items of business in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act and as, in all circumstances of the case the public interest in maintaining the exemption under Section 12A outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

Resolved.

15. Provision of Goods and Services

(a) Update on Mill Lane Play Area development

Councillors were not happy to add a stopwatch due to concerns over vandalism. Installation of a tube slide is awaited. Shortage of materials has created a delay in this, and many other, play equipment products. Installation should take place over the summer.

(b) Approve the overall plan for Lawns Avenue Play Area

Three options for a MUGA wall were considered with the Yates Playground design chosen. There is currently a single Wicksteed basketball net installed by WLBC in 2006 which is poorly sited, as balls fall into the foliage and woodland at the back. Historically, a net backing was removed after noise complaints. This design is tall enough to mitigate these issues and has noise reduction facility. Some noise from a children's playground is inevitable but is mitigated in choosing this design.

The meeting considered a Kompan roundabout for the centre – to be decided once the MUGA wall is in. It may be preferable to keep ball games and fixed playground equipment separate. Newer playground designs fence off the equipment for younger users from that for ballgames.

(c) Update on Bowling Green

The grass surface is benefitting from recent rain. There is some concern about installing wooden book exchange boxes onsite with the risk of vandalism. A more robust system is being sought. A chess board picnic table has been ordered for installation over summer.

(d) Further consideration of parish land at rear of Delamere Way/Morris Road

It was agreed to appoint John Ellis, CCNW, to draw up a plan for allotments on this site and take this to a residents' consultation over the summer break or autumn if possible.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9pm.

Cllr Jenny Whiting
Chairman of Up Holland Parish Council

12th September 2023