



Up Holland Parish Council

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Minutes of the meeting of Up Holland Parish Council held on **Tuesday 13th February 2024 at 7.30pm** in the Up Holland Methodist Church, Alma Hill, WN8 ONR.

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

Public participation: No items raised.

1. To co-opt new Member onto Up Holland Parish Council and hear declaration of acceptance of office

It was resolved to co-opt Neil James Smith onto Up Holland Parish Council. Declaration of Acceptance of Office was read out, witnessed and signed.

2. To record apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Hale, Cllr Taylor, Cllr Jones, Cllr Grant, Cllr Stoddart.

3. To receive declarations of interest

None declared.

4. To ratify as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held 9th January 2024

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

5. To record any police issues:

PCSO Neil Smith and PCSO Lisa Evans attended the meeting

- **Smashed windows across businesses – Tuesday 30th January 2024**

A person has been arrested for the criminal damage of two business premises on Hall Green, where windows were smashed.

- **Mill Lane Play Area – antisocial behaviour – throwing mud at cars and houses across the road – Friday, 2nd February 2024**

The Design Out Crime Officer's Report on Mill Lane Play Area was again distributed, with both the police and clerk providing copies to Councillors.

It was agreed that a compromise be met on the issues raised but, on the whole, the parish council were disappointed that the report contained a degree of victim blaming; that the parish council brings the problem on itself by having attractive things. Most of the recommendations were not workable. The land is WLBC owned, rented to Up Holland Parish Council, who installed the play equipment. Grounds maintenance remains the responsibility of WLBC so comments in the Report regarding tree cutting back are not within the remit of the parish council. It is very unclear which trees the report refers to as there are none requiring maintenance. The lighting column is part of the road lighting system (LCC) and not under the control of the parish council, though enquiries will be made to see if it can be illuminated. However, parish council Minutes show it was turned off ten years ago after complaints from residents that children were staying later at the park and causing nuisance, and that it illuminated their homes to an unacceptable degree. Parish Councillors are aware that youngsters hang around the street lights at the Cunnery Steps after dark so do not believe that lighting would be off-putting to those intent on causing damage. CCTV might also be attached to the lighting if it can be monitored at WLBC. The experience of unmonitored CCTV at both Parbold and North Meols has been that it is no longer a deterrent with youngsters enjoying the limelight of it and captured images being of little evidential value.

The Clerk was instructed to obtain quotations to move the picnic benches further into the park away from the housing, though it was pointed out that they were originally sited in a position that could be seen from the road by mobile patrols as advised.

A review of parish council Minutes also revealed that the brick kick-about wall, nicknamed "Kevin's Wall" (after PC Kevin Smith) and the youth shelter were installed on police advice at the time. Residents have requested more seating at Mill Lane which is why the picnic benches were installed in the first place.

Residents are adamant that the group of youngsters causing damage are the same groups of individuals.

Between 29th January and 13th February 2024, a group of twenty or so young people has been in and out of the locked Bowling Green on Up Holland and the sports shelters for spectators have been smashed, causing, so far over £2,200 worth of damage.

PCSO Smith attended on Monday 12th February and removed around 12 male and females who had been playing football on the bowling green. Unfortunately football damages the surface of the bowling green. There was also damage to the WLBC community building at the back of the bowling green.

It was resolved to ask WLBC to cut the grass at Mill Lane so that football can be played at that site, though it was understood that grass cutting schedules only begin in March and there may be a No Mow May policy to enhance wildlife. If there is somewhere nearby that can be used for football, perhaps the bowling green will be less attractive.

It was resolved to consider further matters at the Bowling Green in the closed session of this meeting.

A brief crime report was given recording eleven incidents on Deardon Way and Higher Lane, six records of criminal damage, a window at St Thomas' School, smashed car windows on Windsor Road. There was no update on the attempted breaking at the Co-op. Councillors are referred to Lancashire Talking and In The Know for more information.

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

Gllr Sinnott: Parking on the corner of School Lane was raised as an issue of concern again and the parish council is asked if traffic wardens can come out. The main road throughout the village continues to require resurfacing, not simple infilling of potholes, that washes out with rain and blocks the drains. The constant redirecting of motorway traffic through the village, (because LCC Highways have told Highways England that it is a suitable route) is leading to fracturing of the road in long sections beneath the wheels of HGVs. The response from the LCC District Highways Lead, that there are worse roads in Lancashire taking precedence is not good enough. The Clerk was instructed to respond in these terms and to inform Ashley Dalton MP again.

Cllr Whiting: Cllr Hale had spoken with Beacon Rangers who will be doing to repairs and maintenance work on the footpaths leading through Dean Wood. The Clerk was asked to obtain an update on this work from WLBC.

Cllr Mackrell: Noted that Alma Hill will be closed for work on utilities from 22nd February 2024.

Cllr Stoddart Crawford Ward sent the following written report:

1. Crawford Village Hut & Playing Fields Committee thank Up Holland Parish Council for the Christmas Tree; it really helps to brighten up the village at Christmas.
2. The 'Slow Down' sign was put up at the bottom of Long Lane as you enter the village, just before the school. Winds have torn this to pieces now, after being

moved around the parish over the last 18 months. It was agreed to ask the Road Safety Partnership if a new one can be obtained but it was appreciated that these were grant funded originally.

3. A resident has highlighted the difficulty of getting a children's buggy down Pimbo Lane, the pavement is very narrow due to overgrown vegetation. Whilst this has been reported on LCC's Love Clean Streets App, nothing has been done. Is there any other way of getting this sorted?

4. Crawford Village Hut & Playing Fields has inadequate waste bin provision. It was agreed to request a bin be provided by WLBC, alongside the road/field border for ease of opening. The WLBC public waste bin nearby at the junction of Crawford Road and Dukes Wood Lane is emptied on rota.

7. Financial Matters:

- **Accounts for ratification and payment**

Laurence Davis	070224	Fill in hole at allotment	0965	£100.00
Wm Fernandes	070224	Cleaning noticeboards	0966	£15.00
Water Plus	070224	Tap bowling green	0967	£20.00
Handelsbanken	120224	Bank charges	d.d.	£32.00
Zurich Insurance	130224	Additional premium (added items)	0968	£130.94
NEST (Employer pays 3%; clerk pays £160.74 to pension scheme)	130224	Pension scheme	d.d.	£218.43
E A Broad	130224	Salary and expenses Feb	0969	£1,451.44
Methodist Church	130224	Room hire 130224	0970	£16.00

*Contains VAT

The accounts were ratified and authorised for payment.

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

The last meeting of the area committee was cancelled due to snow.

9. Any Update from Borough or County Councillors

- **County Planning Application – Restoration of Ravenhead Quarry Ref: LCC/2023/0043**

The following response was agreed for submission to Lancashire County Council.

**LCC/2023/0043 | County Matter – Restoration of Quarry through the importation of Non-Hazardous Material.
Ravenhead Works Chequer Lane Up Holland Skelmersdale Lancs WN8 0DD**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the planning application above. Up Holland Parish Council suggests the following conditions be applied.

1. A footpath link – Public Right of Way or permissive path from Footpath 0821038 at Miners View to Footpath 08021039 so that the new housing can be linked to the main conurbation at Ormskirk Road. Or alternatively, a PROW or permissive path on Ibstock land on the inside of the tree line parallel to Tower Hill Road following the contour of the road bend (where there is no roadside pavement at all and a blind bend). This route was proposed in a site meeting with Ibstock's Mark Sutherland, as an alternative that is simple and inexpensive to create, but it is on Ibstock land not part of this application.
2. Landscaping to be completed at seven years or the reaching of fill capacity whichever comes **sooner**. Filling of the site is therefore concluded after seven years regardless of capacity.
3. Heavy Goods Vehicle access for the site is only via Chequer Lane and Ravenhead Way.
4. Bi-weekly cleaning schedule of the roadway between site the entrance/exit and the A577. Currently with the lower volume traffic from the quarry site the roads are hazardous and extremely slippery, especially on the slip exit onto the A577. These roads should be cleaned fortnightly.
5. Full assessment of carriageways after the final landscaping phase, with the intent of road resurfacing between site entrance/exit and A577.
6. Monthly assessment of carriage way between site entrance/exit with any repairs arising to be repaired within 4 weeks.
7. Operation hours to also exclude Bank Holidays / National Holidays / Saturdays

Up Holland Parish Council asks Lancashire County Council how this geological SSSI site fits into the Minerals & Waste Plan as both Lancashire and neighbouring Greater Manchester have capacity for the waste they generate? The concern here is that extensions will be requested if there is insufficient waste to complete at the seven-year point. The other conditions are requested to mitigate the loss of amenity, noise, disruption etc caused to residents and for the applicant to meet their commitments to give back to the community.

This meeting further discussed the application, noting that the planning document makes much of the Health and Safety benefits of this exercise. However, the steepness of the land in the document appears to be overexaggerated. The degree of public access is still not verified. According to the UK Government website an SSSI will be assessed at least every six years, so to suggest that seven years of landfill will mitigate the risk in accessing the SSSI is a completely disproportionate response. The document continues to describe the open deep water in disused quarries as high safety risk, so once landscaping is finished there will be a pond on the site. Is there going to be fencing around this?

10. To consider any planning issues or applications

The meeting noted the refusal of the following application:

Application Number: 2023/1089/OUT
Location: H Greaves & Sons Ltd, 1-3 Chequer Lane, Up Holland, WN8 0DA
Proposal: Outline application for the redevelopment of the site for residential use – 8 dwellings (some matters reserved)

Parish Council Response: Up Holland Parish Council does not object to development of this site in principle but eight properties on such a small footprint may be regarded as over development.

There are some concerns also about the entrance/exit to the development and associated vehicular movements onto a blind corner, with heavy traffic at times.

The area is becoming densely populated and oversees natural, public open space, including fishing ponds that are a home to many species of wildlife.

Finally, the design and layout, particularly of the tall terraced housing at the back, may overlook and impact the existing gardens and homes behind them.

The application was refused for the following reasons:

1. The proposed development fails to comply with Policy RS2 of the adopted West Lancashire Local Plan (2012-2027) Development Plan Document as it is a wholly market scheme with no affordable housing provision.
2. The proposed development conflicts with Policy GN3 of the adopted West Lancashire Local Plan (2012-2027) Development Plan Document and supplementary planning document 'Design Guide' in that due to the proposed layout of the site and the lack of minimum sized gardens of Plots 5-8, it is considered that the proposal would result in overdevelopment of the site and would fail to integrate well into the existing grain of development.
3. The proposed development conflicts with Policy GN3 of the adopted West Lancashire Local Plan (2012-2027) Development Plan Document and supplementary planning document 'Design Guide' in that it would result in an overbearing form of development and would give rise to overlooking and loss of privacy to the neighbouring properties along Ormskirk Road to the significant detriment of the residential amenity of occupiers of those properties.
4. The submission documentation fails to demonstrate that the development would provide a safe and suitable access and road layout design and therefore the proposal fails to meet the requirements of Policy GN3 of the adopted West Lancashire Local Plan (2012-2027) Development Plan Document.

The following applications have been made in the last month:

Application Number: 2024/0088/LDP
Location: Land south of Ayrefield Road, Roby Mill

Proposal: Certificate of Lawfulness sought confirming that conversion of 2 agricultural buildings is permitted development under prior approval 2023/1037/PNC

Parish Council Response: No comment on this application.

Application Number: 2024/0074/FUL
Location: 9 Kilburn Road, Orrell, WN5 8UG
Proposal: Two storey side extension and single storey rear extension following demolition of existing garage.

Parish Council Response: No objection to this proposal.

Application Number: 2024/0016/FUL
Location: Jubilee Hall, Roby Mill, WN8 0QF
Proposal: Proposed change of use of disused ground floor hall to self-contained two bedroomed apartment.

Parish Council Response: Mindful of the Roby Mill Conservation Area, there are no objections so long as greenbelt and conservation areas criteria are met.

11. 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.

Deferred from Item 5 – Bowling Green:

It was resolved to explore whatever deterrents can be found to prevent further damage at the Bowling Green. Any insurance claim to be deferred as it is clear the damage is continuing.

12. Provision of Goods and Services

- (a) Update on creation of a Miyawaki Woodland* at Mill Lane Play Area

There was an update following the site meeting with residents nearest to the site. The list of trees to be planted was available now and provisional dates of week beginning 26th February 2024. Notices requesting volunteers were posted on site and on the noticeboards.

- (b) To discuss business continuity policy and plan

It was resolved to accept the Business Continuity Policy and Plan with the addition of an annual review date. The Clerk was also asked to add a job description, person

specification and draft advert to the documents. The Policy will be available for public perusal and the plan held confidentially as it contains restricted material.

(c) Update on play equipment provision

It was resolved to install the Wicksteed Sign Your Name panel and bike springer (designed for areas of high antisocial behaviour), as long as the price is within the budget. Only Wicksteed has these items but unfortunately the quotation was not obtained in time for this meeting. It will be distributed by email and discussed at the next meeting.

(d) To consider request for easement over Janet Lally Memorial Field

The following request had been received:

“Re: Land Title LAN70209, land lying on the south side of Lawns Avenue.

REDACTED has a renewable energy project planned for the Land to the East of New Fold, Up Holland, Lancashire, WN5 7AW. Our proposal involves seeking an easement for access to a renewable energy project through Land lying to the west of REDACTED, Orrell, Wigan.”

However, the Project Manager had not provided any further information once contact was made.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.50pm.

Cllr Jenny Whiting
Chairman

12th March 2023