



# ***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**

---

Minutes of the meeting of Up Holland Parish Council held on **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April 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 Linda Jones, Cllr John Gardner, Cllr Andrew Grant, Cllr Gaynar Owen, Cllr Gill  
Sinnott, Cllr Neil Smith, Cllr Alex Stoddart, Cllr Richard Taylor.

7.15pm to 7.30pm public participation: no issues raised.

## **MINUTES**

### **1. To record apologies for absence**

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Hale.

### **2. To receive declarations of interest**

None declared.

### **3. To ratify as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

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

### **4. To record any police issues**

The DOCO Report on the Bowling Green was distributed. It was resolved to forward  
the report to WLBC, as many of the comments relate to issues on their property.  
The advice was noted, but limited in terms of reconciling that this land should be  
open to the community and not be locked up private land. Disappointment was  
expressed that the report was skewed in such a fashion as to be victim blaming and  
the visit had been done unaccompanied.

### **5. Ward Reports: Including Chairman's Report of Council Year 2023/4 and update on issues Councillors are attending to**

The Chairman's Report of the previous Council Year was made available:

#### **Chairman's Year End Review**

Up Holland Parish Council has a full Council as follows:-

Chequer Lane Ward:	Cllr Gaynar Owen, Cllr Chris Mackrell
Crawford Ward:	Cllr Alex Stoddart
Hall Green Ward:	Cllr Barry Hale, Cllr Jenny Whiting
Newgate Ward:	Cllr Linda Jones, Cllr Mike McGunigle, Cllr Richard Taylor
Roby Mill Ward:	Cllr John Gardner, Cllr Andrew Grant
Tontine Ward:	Cllr Neil Smith
Village Ward:	Cllr Gill Sinnott

The Parish Council continues to meet in Up Holland Methodist Church, with grateful thanks to Parish Councillor Linda Jones and the Methodist Church Hall team.

Following vandalism at Mill Lane Play Area a larger accessible metal kissing gate was installed to replace damaged wooden gates.

The Coronation was celebrated by installing two new benches at Hall Green outside the Artz Centre and providing school children in the four primary schools in the parish with wildflower seed packets to encourage the King's promotion of wildflower meadows and a bee friendly environment. A small grant was obtained from LCC for conservation projects which was used to buy insect houses and instal bee hives at the allotments. Another small grant supported the building of a water catchment and storage unit at the allotments. Thanks to Wyatt Walsworth for building this with supplies bought with the grant.

The last of the 2020 Capital Grant funding was used to install a replacement notice board at Roby Mill School. There are now five large and two smaller boards across the parish. The 2022 funding was used to buy Bleed Control Cabinets installed at play areas, Crawford Village Hall, the Artz Centre and the bus stop opposite the Victoria Hotel. The 2023 Capital Grant has so far been used for bowling equipment and the picnic chess table at the Green.

Lawns Avenue Play Area was enhanced with new safety surfacing around existing equipment, replacing the old basket swing and the installation of a MUGA (Multi-use Games Area) wall catering for football, basketball and cricket. The slide that had stood there for over twenty years was replaced with a matrix climbing frame and slide.

Mill Lane Play Area saw the installation of two picnic benches (one elongated to accept wheelchair under it), an accessible roundabout that can accept wheelchair/pushchairs on it and a tubular slide with rope climb, using the embankment incline. Following requests from Miller's Nook residents the picnic benches were relocated further into the play area and farther from their homes. It was apparent that youths were using them to stand on and take aim at their homes, throwing mud, stones and bricks. They were also shining laser lights into the eyes of drivers along Mill Lane.

A further project for Up Holland Parish Council's commitment to a sustainable Greener future agreed that LCC Treescapes Team create a Myawaki Woodland in Mill Lane Play Area. All local schools were invited to join in with the planting but the

date chosen was difficult to fit in with the school day. However, 12 children from the Eco Council at St Thomas the Martyr Primary School did join in on the day. WLBC Rangers, Friends of Tawd Valley and LCC officers and volunteers all joined in to plant over 800 trees on the small site, in specially prepared soil media that will support rapid growth.

The public right of way (Footpath 39) running from the nurseery at Tower Hill Road to the Newgate Bus Stop on Ormskirk Road was in a very poor state of repair. Overgrown and difficult for anyone to walk, impossible to push a pram along. The parish council arranged for this to be slightly widened and resurfaced so that it can be used all year around and by those getting younger children from the nursery to the retail centre of Up Holland village. Hopefully, this will provide a greener alternative to road travel from the centre of the village to the new developments.

Following some intermittent problems with the Millenium Clock, a full refurbishment was completed and a new contract with Cumbria Clocks for future maintenance.

Police produced two reports on Mill Lane Play Area and the Bowling Green – a Design Out Crime Officer has written these reports with recommendations intended to reduce risk. However, most of the proposals are not within the capability of the parish council as they related to borough and county responsibilities and we were left disappointed overall.

At the Cenotaph War Memorial, the usual meeting of churches for Remembrance Sunday was held in November with a very good turnout, considering the driving rain. The Parish Council erected poppies on the lamp posts for the first time and these were well received by members of the public and veterans alike.

In December, Councillors had the opportunity to liaise with residents during the Rotary Christmas Fayre at St Teresa's, promoting parish projects and inviting suggestions for future work.

Tontine Allotments are now fully let with all plot holders working hard to maintain their plots. The Parish Council had a tree survey completed and followed the recommendations, cutting back several very large trees (and removing two dead ones) that had not been maintained adequately over the years. The bee hives had some teething issues (the bees flew away twice) but now they are established and most plot holders welcome this addition. The new water station, collecting rainwater is helping alleviate the problem of no water source on site.

WLBC did refurbish and re-let some of the homes in Hall Green Close but the main building and flats bordering the bowling green remain empty. The police report concluded that these empty buildings do attract anti-social behaviour and we shall endeavour to encourage WLBC to take some decision on their future and communicate with us as their nearest neighbour.

This year saw the closure of Ravenhead Brickworks. The Parish Council will now try to influence the County Council's decisions and conditions to get the best restoration of the site, with the minimum disruption for residents.

Moving forward, the Parish Council continues to respond to planning application consultations, County and Borough consultations, and representing Up Holland Residents at all times.

The May 2024 parish council election is uncontested with nine of the twelve seats filled. Vacant seats can be filled at the Annual Meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

Cllr Gardner thanked the Chairman for her work and leadership over the last year.

Cllr Gardner: The meeting noted that St Joseph's College is being advertised for sale. There may be implications for Farley Lane Play Area as a result as this land could be included in the sale.

Cllr Stoddart: Crawford Village Hall are still awaiting installation of a public waste bin.

Cllr Smith: Parking is a huge problem along Church Street. The Village Club has opened up their car park for wider users but there are still vehicles parking along the road, upsetting surrounding residents and creating danger for passing cars.

Cllr Grant: There are traffic lights on Bank Brow which keeps collapsing into the culvert underneath. LCC Highways need to know that it needs a proper job done, needs digging out and the water directing properly through

Cllr Jones, the roundabout joining Newgate Road and Ormskirk Road is in great need of repair.

Cllr Whiting: The WLBC planting around the clock has been disappointing this year, whilst the need for cost-cutting is appreciated, perhaps planting perennials instead might be considered.

## **6. Financial Matters:**

- **Accounts for ratification and payment**

W Fernandes	090424	Cleaning noticeboards	0979	£15.00
Npower	090424	Clock electricity charges	0980	£17.55*
Methodist Church	090424	Room hire 09 7 160424	0981	£32.00
LALC	090424	Annual membership fee	0982	£925.26
E A Broad	090424	Salary & expenses April	0983	£1,483.08
Handelsbanken	150424	Bank charges	d.d.	£30.00
NEST (Employer pays 3%; clerk pays £160.74 to pension scheme)	220424	Pension scheme	d.d.	£218.43

\*Contains VAT

The accounts were ratified and authorised for payment.

- **Closure of Financial Year 2023/4**

### Bank Reconciliation

#### Balance as at 31st March 2023

Handelsbanken	£	231,474.59
Unity Trust Current account T1	£	81,470.19
Unity Trust Instant Access Reserve Account	£	30,043.73
<b>Balance</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>342,988.51</b>

#### Balance as at 31st March 2024

Handelsbanken 280324	£	97,112.69
Unity Trust Current Account T1	£	114,334.18
Unity Trust Instant Access Reserve Account	£	61,299.85
CCLA	£	30,588.19
<b>Balance</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>303,334.91 *</b>

Add income	£	96,070.30
Subtract Expenditure	£	135,755.90
Sub-total	£	303,302.91

#### Plus unpresented cheques

Methodist Church room hire 963	£	16.00
Window Cleaner 966	£	15.00
Methodist Church room hire 970	£	16.00
Methodist Church room hire 973	£	16.00

Total	£	63.00
SUB TOTAL	£	303,365.91

Minus cheques from previous year now presented

	865	£	16.00
	872	£	15.00
Total		£	31.00

<b>Balance:</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>303,334.91 *</b>
<b>Balance carried forward</b>		
<b>Balance minus outstanding cheque</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>303,271.91</b>

The paper statement from Handelsbanken was awaited and once received all documentation will be sent to the Internal Auditor for the Report to be completed.

## **7. Update on Ravenhead Quarry restoration Plans**

A meeting is arranged for 7.30pm on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2024 following the 7pm Finance Committee Meeting at Up Holland Methodist Church to discuss the application for restoration of the site now that brick production has ceased. Helen Ashworth, Senior Planner, LCC: Richard Lord Booth Ventures, Senior Technical Manager: County Councillor John Fillis and all Parish Councillors are invited to attend.

## **8. To consider replacement of three benches in the walled garden outside The Good Catch Fish & Chip Shop**

It was resolved to purchase three Glasdon benches to replace the three plain benches and to repaint the bench dedicated to resident Paul F Skellett. Three designs of benches of different manufacturers were considered and the Lowther ones were chosen with Up Holland Parish Council written on the side.

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

The Meeting noted that the next LALC Area Committee Meeting will be held at 7pm on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at WLB Council Offices, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk.

## **10. Any Update from Borough or County Councillors**

Borough Councillor Gaynar Owen reported that WLBC had dealt with an abandoned car on the co-op carpark. LCC had been asked to provide a grit bin on Abbey Close.

## **11. To consider any planning issues or applications**

Application Number: 2024/0201/FUL

Proposal: Planning and Listed Building Consent to restore the two Grade II listed buildings on site consisting of the renovation and extension of the farmhouse and barn in connection with their use as dwellings

Location: 108 Tower Hill Road Up Holland Skelmersdale Lancashire WN8 0DT

Parish Council Response: No objections to this proposal and the parish council welcomes the two historical properties being brought back into use. The design is good, with a clear delineation of the proposed new extension to the farmhouse.

Application Number: 2024/0174/FUL

Proposal: New build single storey dwelling.

Location: Land To The Rear Of 13 Walthew Green Roby Mill Up Holland Lancashire

Parish Council Response: Some concern that this land, which has been given a certificate lawfulness in the past for use of land as garden, private recreation and siting of caravan, is now to be built upon. Justification for the building is stated to be for the client who maintains the land and agricultural activities on site, including looking after the small holding of animals, however the land is a garden, private

recreation area and no longer agricultural. The application also fails to show the outline of the land in question.

The following decisions were noted:

Application Number: 2024/0143/PNP

The meeting noted that this application had been granted allowing a silage storage building to be erected at Ayrefield Farm, Bank Brow, Roby Mill WN8 0SY under permitted development.

Application Number: 2024/0126/LBC – Refused.

Proposal: Proposed timber shed to the rear of the garden 12ft x 8ft. Proposed hit and miss fence to the rear of the garden to match the existing timber fence.

Proposed timber fence and gates to drive.

Location: 30 Parliament Street Up Holland Skelmersdale Lancashire WN8 0LN

## **12. 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.

## **13. Provision of Goods and Services**

### **(a) Completion of Miyawaki Woodland project at Mill Lane Play Area**

It was resolved to consider an information board for the Miyawaki woodland, perhaps asking St Thomas' school to produce some children's art work for this? With appropriate wording and logos for Up Holland Parish Council, WLBC Rangers Service, Friends of Tawd Valley and LCC Treescapes, Ribble Rivers Trust to recognise their contribution.

Ian Wright of LCC Treescapes asked that it be placed on record his sincere thanks to Up Holland Parish Council and colleagues for their unstinting support and constructive criticism, which culminated in that muddy Monday morning last month. The fact that Up Holland is one of the first places in Britain to have a Miyawaki micro forest is due in no small part to the strength of enthusiasm and the force of will of you and your colleagues.

Please note as well, that our door is open for more collaborations next planting season. We can fund and manage work to create orchards, in-field tree planting, replacement of trees lost to disease and, of course, micro forests elsewhere in the parish, if there's the will to do it.

-

The clerk was instructed to respond, thanking him and to consider other feasible areas of the parish.

**(b) Update on play equipment provision**

Lawns Avenue renovations are complete for the time-being. There are still complaints that the edge of the ball games area is steep and dangerous if the ball goes down there. Fencing has been tried in the past but was not as affected as hoped and had to be removed.

Farley Lane Play Area appears to be land that is part of the sale of St Joseph's College, and not actually owned by St Teresa's RC Church on College Road. There is a need to remove the basketball hoop as the tree cannot be cut back safely and it is not used on the grass base. Crawford Village Hut & Playing Fields may be able to use the hoop if transportation and installation can be arranged. Councillors for Crawford and Roby Mill will liaise to arrange this. If unfeasible, the lowest quotation to remove the basketball hoop will be actioned.

Mill Lane Play Area: (1) It was resolved to select the Wickstead Sign language board and motorcycle springer. (2) The replacement like-for-like swings and a new climbing frame are on order from Yates Playgrounds. Installation of these items is expected in May 2024. It was noted that people do seem to be using the picnic benches more now that they have been repositioned.

Councillors may consider incorporating skate board ramps, five-a-side pitch or pump tracks if there is enough space and finance available, once the current proposal are complete. This could reduce WLBC grass cutting costs but will increase UHPC maintenance costs.

**(c) Notification of Staff Appraisal**

The Chairman and Vice Chairman will complete the appraisal documentation.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.55pm.

***Cllr Jenny Whiting***  
***Chairman***

***14<sup>th</sup> May 2024***