



Up Holland Parish Council

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Minutes of the meeting of Up Holland Parish Council held on **Tuesday 9 July 2024**
at **7.30pm** in the Up Holland Methodist Church, Alma Hill, WN8 ONR.

Present: Cllr Jenny Whiting (Chairman), Cllr Linda Jones, Cllr John Gardner, Cllr Gaynar Owen, Cllr Gill Sinnott, Cllr Richard Taylor.

7.15pm to 7.30pm: public participation: There was some discussion as a few residents had received an advertising pamphlet suggesting Abbey Lakes be a site for a new Aldi supermarket.

MINUTES

1. To record apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Andrew Grant, Cllr Christopher Mackrell, Cllr Neil Smith, Cllr Alex Stoddart.

2. To receive declarations of interest

None declared.

3. To ratify as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held 11th June 2024

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

4. To record any police issues

There was a vehicle break in on Hallbridge Gardens. This information used to be provided by police to the parish council but now it is only known because a Councillor lives on the same estate and their neighbours told them.

The Parish Council were grateful for an update via the 'In The Know' emailed communication. Sgt David Butcher from Skelmersdale Neighbourhood Policing Team reported weekend patrols in Ashurst due to concerns of anti-social behaviour caused by off-road motorcycles, scramblers and quad bikes. Uniformed and plain clothes officers, some on mountain bikes are working alongside WLBC and Beacon Rangers to cover the hard-to-reach footpaths, subways and cut-throughs. The public are requested to continue to report any such incidents of ASB.

5. Ward Reports:

Hall Green Ward: The garden bed around Clock outside the Victoria Public House has flowers now sprouting.

Village Ward: The car park at the St Thomas the Martyr is now almost complete and has already proved useful for funeral vehicles. The public right of way from Priory Nook to the footbridge onto the golf course is badly in need of strimming.

6. Financial Matters:

- **Accounts for ratification and payment**

Wicksteed Leisure	180624	New equipment	1001	£8,347.06*
National Allotments	180624	Annual subscription	1002	£66.00
Unity Trust Bank	300624	Bank charges - quarterly	d.d.	£18.00
Methodist Church	090724	Room hire 9 th & 16 th July	1003	£32.00
Alan Jones	090724	Repair to tap bowling green	1004	£50.00
nPower	090724	Clock electricity	1005	£16.34*
L Davis	090724	Grounds work June 2024	1006	£1,800.00
E A Broad	090724	Salary & expenses July	1007	£1,581.60
Zurich Municipal	090724	Insurance Renewal	1008	£2,033.16
Wyatt Walsworth	080724	Repairs to allotment fence	1009	£137.53
NEST	090724	Pension payment July	d.d.	£218.43
OPSTA	090724	Annual subscription	1010	£10.00
Handelsbanken	120724	Bank charges - monthly	d.d.	£31.40

*VAT included

The accounts were ratified and authorised for payment.

- **Notification of Finance Committee Meeting 16th July 2024**

The next Finance Committee Meeting will be held at 7pm on Tuesday 16th July 2024.

7. Minutes of the Allotment Holders Meeting on 18th June 2024

The Minutes were distributed by email and the following resolutions agreed:-

1. The Plot Holders will set up a WhatsApp group for distribution of information and produce swapping opportunities.
2. The broken fencing alongside Sandbrooke Road, will be repaired by allotment holders, with the parish council agreeing to pay the cost of materials (approximately £130).

8. Issues at the walled garden outside The Good Catch Fish & Chip Shop, including wall damage and new seating

LCC have now completed repair work to the wall after a car was driven into the wall, whilst parking. Three new benches have been installed, and the renovation of the commemorative bench, dedicated to former Ormskirk Road resident and community helper, Paul F Skellett, has been commissioned. Work is awaiting dry weather.

The planters are not too bad though there are some thistles. However, the litter and weeds coming through the brick paving are making the area unsightly. Some work is also required to rebuild broken sections of brick wall and concrete fencing. This is not in the ownership of the parish council and LCC do not see this as a priority. It was resolved to seek quotations to see how much repairs might cost and whether parish funds could be used to tidy the area. Volunteers might be collated to litter-pick and do basic gardening and Community Payback could be approached also.

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

The next LALC Area Committee meeting will be at 7pm on Thursday 18th July 2024 in WLBC Council Offices in Derby Street, Ormskirk. Parish Councillors are encouraged to attend and network with those from neighbouring parishes.

10. Any Update from Borough or County Councillors

Borough Councillor Owen updated on local issues. The Borough Council has been involved in removal of an untaxed car at rear of Alma Hill. There have been residents' complaints that the Dingle Road car park opposite Premier shop is looking unsightly. The corner triangle area has been taped up to prevent cars parking there and damaging the grass, and it all requires re-lining. WLBC Car Parking working group meet on Monday 8th July and will have considered this car park.

The WLBC Citizen & Stakeholder Survey is currently open for consultation, designed to measure customer satisfaction. Parish Councillors are invited to respond individually and the Clerk will submit a response on behalf of the parish council. There is also a consultation on Burscough Sports Development Project and Community Impact Days to assist communities during the summer school holidays.

On the 25th June 2024, parish councillors met with members of the WLBC Clean & Green Team meeting. The following was established:-

- WLBC are contracted with LCC under the Public Realm Agreement for maintenance of the roadside verges.

- The walled garden outside the Victoria Hotel will be planted with wildflowers rather than municipal flowering plants.
- Amenity spaces, such as Janet Lally and Mill Lane Playing fields are cut eight times during the summer period. A schedule of grass cutting can be shared with the parish.
- New play equipment will be added to the contract for inspections
- Public waste bins are surveyed and old ones replaced where needed, a programme to write the date/day of emptying is being implemented.
- Litter picking is done on a two-week basis.
- WLBC do not deal with trees on LCC land as the Public Realm Agreement precludes this. WLBC has developed a Tree Plan 2023 available on their website.
- WLBC do the maintenance around the War Memorial and will consider trimming the conifers, as they are beginning to dwarf the cenotaph itself.

11.To consider any planning issues or applications

Ref. No: 2024/0517/FUL

Proposal Change of use of portion privately owned vacant land from greenspace to residential garden, as an extension of the garden of 124 Ormskirk Road. Erection of 1.8 fence along boundary.

Location: 124 Ormskirk Road Up Holland Skelmersdale Lancashire WN8 0AF

Parish Council Response: Up Holland Parish Council has no objection to this proposal.

Ref. No: 2024/0472/FUL

Proposal: Erection of 2no New Dwellings on Lands to the rear of 13 Rivington Drive, with creation of 2no Vehicular Access (dropped kerb / access over footpath / openings in existing wall) and associated terraced landscaping

Location: 13 Rivington Drive Up Holland Skelmersdale Lancashire WN8 0HB

Parish Council Response: Up Holland Parish Council objects to this proposal and has the following concerns

- Location does not appear to be within the curtilage of 13 Rivington Drive and appears to be a totally new development for Parliament Street. Does the applicant own the land adjoining Parliament Street?
- Access to the road – the very busy A577 cannot cope with another access at this point. The lamppost at this point has a holder for a speed indicator device (SpID). Locations for such equipment are carefully chosen by LCC Highways and where these are sited, there will be a known problem of speeding vehicles. This development proposes an exit to two homes, with the likelihood of parked vehicles, at a point with known speed issues. There is also a cycle path along this road.
- Overdevelopment – if the principle of development in this location is accepted, then the proposed plan would appear to be serious over development. The area to the front of the house is too small to allow appropriate vehicular access and the garden to the rear, which would normally need to be at least 10m in depth appears to be less than that – and with a significant proportion of it on a severe gradient reducing its

amenity value. The design is certainly much more ‘squashed in’ than its near neighbours.

- Street Scene – looking from Parliament Street there is an immediate neighbour to the right in a single storey bungalow. This development would seem incongruous. The “Heritage Design and Access statement” (p6) indicates that the surrounding area is a mix of bungalow and two storey housing, predominantly in semi-detached form. The nearest buildings to this site on Parliament Street are all detached (not semidetached).
- Overlooking – the development would still appear to overshadow 57 Parliament Street.
- Loss of natural habitat for wildlife – Currently this is green space occupied by dense vegetation and some trees, that provide homes for many wild creatures including nocturnal hedgehogs.
- Impact on adjoining Conservation Area. Whilst 13 Rivington Drive is not within the Conservation Area, this development does encroach upon the Up Holland Conservation Area at Parliament Street and will therefore impact upon it, particularly because there is a wall running along road that ought to be protected.

The meeting discussed the recent change of government and published reports of an intention to release more land for development, particularly the ‘Greybelt’ proposals. In general, this is supported however, Up Holland will struggle with any further development without more infrastructure provision, in terms of schools, doctors/dentists, decent roads for more vehicles etc in the area.

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) Consider information board for Miyawaki Woodland project

The woodland is growing well. Project to provide an information board is ongoing.

- (b) Update on play equipment provision

It was resolved to install new wet pour under the swings in Mill Lane Play Area at a quotation of £3,180.00 from Yates Playgrounds.

- (c) Update on Hall Green House and bowling green

The Fire Brigade attended the bowling green for a fire assessment and issued a

certificate of low risk. There were concerns about the adjacent building, which will be referred to WLBC as owners of that building.

(d) Strimming of footpaths/Public Rights of Way

It was resolved to use the PROW agreement monies to strim along the footpaths: Tower Hill – Ormskirk Road (FP0821039) and Priory Nook to the footbridge entering the golf course (FP0821012).

(e) Draft schedule of grounds work for next financial year

The draft schedule of grounds work for the period 17th March to 17th October 2025 was agreed. An invitation to tender will be sent to any grounds work maintenance companies and advertised.

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

Cllr Jenny Whiting
Chairman

10th September 2024