



# **Up Holland Parish Council**

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The Minutes of the meeting of Up Holland Parish Council held on **Tuesday 8th April 2025 at 7.30pm** in the Up Holland Methodist Church, Alma Hill, WN8 ONR.

Present: Cllr Jenny Whiting (Chairman), Cllr John Gardner, Cllr Gill Sinnott, Cllr Alex Stoddart, Cllr Nigel Swales, Cllr Richard Taylor.

Public participation: No items raised.

## **MINUTES**

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

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Christopher Mackrell (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Gaynar Owen, Cllr Linda Jones, Cllr Neil Smith. The meeting asked the clerk to make contact with Cllr Andrew Grant by letter.

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

None declared.

### **3. To ratify as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held 11<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

The Minutes were accepted as a correct record of the meeting.

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

Councillors noted that on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2025, there were motorcyclists and quad bikes being driven up and down Ormskirk Road and Alma Hill. The manner of driving was dangerous and the drivers not wearing helmets, few had registration plates. The fatal crash at Abbey Lakes is still in our memory and the behaviour of these drivers was so similar. The Clerk was asked to write to the Chief Constable and Police and Crime Commissioner to ask how this is being tackled.

### **5. Ward Reports: to include Chairman's Annual Report**

Tontine Ward: LCC has put 'heritage' discs on the trees along Parliament Street and the cherry trees at The Delph Tavern, and on the pavement outside St Teresa's Primary School on College Road. The work on resurfacing the pathways through Dean Wood is underway.

Crawford Ward: The bird boxes have been erected and seem to be of interest to the birds. Speeding continues to be an issue and residents will be putting a proposal to LCC for road safety measures to be considered and would welcome a letter of support from the Parish Council. Chicanes, speed bumps and speed indicator devices will be researched. A plan to eradicate Japanese knotweed has been drawn up and though it is expensive and time consuming. Crawford Village Hall car park is still in need of robust surfacing, ideally tarmacking and quotes are being sought. This will doubtless require fundraising.

Village Ward: The Priory Nook public footpath track has a small section off it that leads nowhere, but it has fly-tipping there of corrugated roofing. It is not known whose land this is.

Hall Green Ward: The Mill Lane play area pathway from Hallbridge Gardens to Mill Lane is very steep and starting to break up.

It was agreed to accept the Chairman's Annual Report as follows:

## **PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT**

### **Introduction**

This report provides an overview of the key activities, decisions, and developments undertaken by the Parish Council over the past year.

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### **Community Safety and Infrastructure**

- A DOCO Police Report on the Bowling Green was obtained in April 2025. The report highlighted issues primarily related to the WLBC building at the back. However, it appeared that the police were unaware of the delineation of responsibilities in this area.
- Following persistent requests, a public waste bin was secured for Crawford Village Hut and Playing Fields.

### **Environmental and Community Improvements**

- The Parish Council expressed disappointment over WLBC's decision to plant wildflower seeds around the Millennium Clock, as the area now appears untidy.
- Liaised with Booth Ventures regarding the renovation plans for Ravenhead Brickworks and successfully arranged for a permissive pathway on Ravenhead's land, allowing pedestrians a safer route along Tower Hill.
- The bench dedicated to Paul F. Skellett was renovated, and three additional benches were replaced at the walled garden outside the Good Catch Chip Shop. Unfortunately, part of the wall was demolished by a driver, but LCC has since repaired it and is preparing a lease for the Parish Council's management.
- The Miyawaki Wood project was successfully completed.

- Lawns Avenue Play Area received new equipment, including a new slide, replacement basket swings, and a MUGA wall.

### **Governance and Representation**

- The May elections saw the return of most councillors, with two additional members, Cllr Smith and Cllr Swales, joining the council through co-option.
- The Parish Council continued to support the Crawford Village Management Team in addressing concerns regarding speeding vehicles, fly-tipping, and anti-social behaviour around the hut.
- Engaged with Tawd Valley Developments regarding their proposals for the old Hall Green House adjacent to Up Holland Parish Council's bowling green.

### **Environmental Maintenance and Public Spaces**

- A tree survey was conducted across parish-owned land at Lawns Avenue and Tontine. Necessary works were carried out to mitigate risks in high winds and address residents' concerns. Liaison with LCC took place regarding trees on their land.
- St. Teresa's School provided positive feedback on the new equipment at Mill Lane Play Area and suggested further improvements.
- WLBC Rangers carried out significant work on footpaths through Dean Wood.
- A meeting with WLBC Clean and Green Team led to a greater understanding of efforts to maintain public spaces.

### **Allotments and Planning Matters**

- The Annual Allotment Holders Meeting took place in June, with few issues raised. The water shortage problem has been partially alleviated through a water catchment system, though the absence of toilet facilities remains a concern. Most plot holders live nearby, reducing the impact of this issue.
- The Parish Council expressed disappointment over WLBC Planning Committee's decision to approve the construction of 13 houses between 126 and 160 Ormskirk Road. Local residents and the parish clerk opposed the proposal due to concerns regarding space constraints, non-compliance with LCC Highways requirements (resulting in an unadopted road), proximity to a mine shaft, and potential surface water flooding affecting at least three properties. The land has since been sold with planning permission, and the new developers are seeking to remove existing conditions.

### **Public Amenities and Facilities**

- Mill Lane Play Area saw improvements, including a Sign Your Name sign language board, a new infant/junior multi-play with a shop feature, and a new motorbike springy to replace worn-out equipment. Additional safety surfacing was installed around the swings for aesthetic and safety purposes. Most recently a cone climber has been installed replacing the old metal climbing frame.

- The Parish Council resolved to repair brickwork at the walled garden by the Good Catch Chip Shop and engage a gardener for maintenance in the next financial year.
- A Bowling Green grant was used to purchase two book exchange boxes for Hall Green. Due to ongoing uncertainty regarding Tawd Valley Development's plans, the boxes were installed outside the bowling green rather than within it.
- The Parish Council was represented at the County Council Conference in November 2024, fostering valuable networking opportunities.
- The damaged basketball hoop at Lawns Avenue was removed after it was inadvertently broken by residents cutting trees near the play area. The basketball hoop at Farley Lane was also removed due to its poor condition.
- The Annual Service of Remembrance, conducted by Up Holland Churches Together, was well attended. The Parish Council agreed to assist local residents with planting along the wall at the back of the Cenotaph Monument.
- An easement across Janet Lally Field was requested by a company interested in using some adjoining land for energy storage.

### **Consultations and Engagement**

- The Parish Council actively responded to WLBC consultations on Wellbeing & Leisure and Skelmersdale Town Centre development proposals.

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### **Conclusion**

The Parish Council has made significant strides in improving public spaces, addressing planning and environmental concerns, and fostering community engagement. While challenges remain, particularly regarding planning decisions and environmental management, the council continues to advocate for the best interests of local residents and the wider community.

### **6. Financial Matters:**

- **Accounts for ratification and payment**

Methodist Church	110425	Room hire	£20.00
NEST	170425	Pension payment April	£225.42
L Davies	240425	Grounds work across parish	£1,447.50
E A Broad	240425	Salary and expenses	£1,472.34
HMRC	240425	Tax and NI payments	£401.91
Yates Playgrounds	250425	Play area inspections	£352.00*
Unity Trust	280425	Bank charges – monthly	£7.50

The accounts were ratified and authorised for payment.

- **Presentation of Financial Year End Figures**

**Bank Reconciliation**

**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>

**Balance as at 31st March 2025**

Handelsbanken	£	-
Unity Trust Current Account T1	£	1,454.76
Unity Trust Instant Access Reserve Account	£	175,028.52
CCLA	£	97,922.67
<b>Balance</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>274,405.95</b>

Add income	£	97,660.07
Subtract Expenditure	£	126,526.03

Sub-total £ 274,468.95

Plus unpresented cheques £ -

£ -

SUB TOTAL £ 274,468.95

Minus cheques from previous years now presented:

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

**Total £ 274,405.95**

**Balance carried forward £274,405.95**

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**Figures presented for the Annual Governance and Accounts Form:**

**2024 2025**

Total Brought forward	£ 342,957	£ 303,271
Precept	£ 62,000	£ 65,000
All other receipts	£ 34,070	£ 32,660
Staff costs	£ 22,993	£ 23,563
Loan payments	£	£
	-	-
All other payments	£ 112,763	£ 102,963
<b>Balances carried forward</b>	<b>£ 303,271</b>	<b>£ 274,405</b>
Total cash and investments	£ 303,271	£ 274,405
Total Fixed Assets	£ 251,316	£ 287,560
Total Borrowings	£	£
	-	-

The above figures were accepted by the Meeting.

## **7. Consider future of public waste bins at War Memorial following WLBC withdrawal of service for emptying non-WLBC bins**

The following email was received:

Unfortunately, as from 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025, WLBC will no longer empty the bins highlighted below that we have highlighted as being owned by your Parish.

There are 3 options now available to your Parish as set out below:

- Parish arrange for highlighted litter bins to be removed.
- Parish contracts a licensed waste carrier to empty the highlighted litter bins and remove bags.
- Parish pay WLBC to empty highlighted litter bins and remove bags at the cost of £5.00 per litter bins (Bins will only be emptied a maximum of twice per week).

I understand that this will have an impact on your financial situation and that WLBC have not been able to provide a longer notice period for alternative arrangements to be made and I would like to apologise for this.

Below are the litter bins we believe are impacted within your Parish, I you feel that these bins do not belong to your Parish, please contact me as soon as possible to discuss.

- Metal memorial bins – 2 bins.

We currently have 3 bins located in the Parish owned play areas, as these are WLBC bins installed by ourselves, I am not including these within the Parish bins and have not planned to remove the bins.

As you may be aware I am currently looking at reducing the litter bin stock throughout the Borough. This will impact all areas within the Borough and will be rolled out over the next 2 financial years.

### **Clean and Green Operations Manager**

In response to the email above, the Parish Council debated this issue at this meeting, their first opportunity to do so.

It was resolved to request that WLBC to continue to empty the bins at WLBC cost on the grounds that:-

- residents have paid for this service; to take the money from parish precept equates to double-taxation. Not all parishes are asked to pay and no extra levy is imposed on Skelmersdale or Ormskirk.
- The new bins replace ones WLBC installed that had not been adequately maintained by WLBC, one was in such a dilapidated state as to be dangerous with metal work protruding.
- The Parish Council was not consulted over this proposal, and are directly impacted by the decision; this action being in clear contravention with the Parish Charter.
- The decision was taken by Borough Councillors, without full information on the facts and at a time that the parish precept had already been determined, (following full budgetary procedure by the Parish Council).
- There is inadequate time to obtain alternative estimates to the Borough Council's quotation, the amount does not appear to be fully costed – as bins of different sizes or in different positions (which take longer to empty) are all stated to cost the same amount - £5 per bin, per emptying.
- The site is not owned by the Parish Council and the decision to site any bins there was not a parish one. WLBC installed the original ones at this site
- Parishioners and others gather at this site for Remembrance Day services and at other times.
- This site commemorates those who gave their life for the freedoms we enjoy. It is certainly a place that ought to be maintained properly.
- This cannot achieve the brief of being cost neutral to residents, as it will cost more for a parish to empty a small number of bins, than for a Borough already attending to the other bins.

The Clerk was also instructed to seek costs from alternative providers and to request an estimate to seal the bins if agreement cannot be reached as to who is responsible for emptying the bins.

The meeting heard that the bins are well used, mostly filled with dog waste bags and food wrappers. Any contractor emptying these bins needs a waste management plan and a waster removal and disposal licence.

### **8. Confirm date for Annual Meeting with Allotment Holders**

The Meeting will be held on the 20<sup>th</sup> May 2025.

**9. Progress on future of land at Morris Road/Delamere Way**

It was resolved to ask Community Contracts North West to draw up a feasibility study with costings for producing allotments at this site and seek assistance from WLBC Beacon Rangers and allotment managers and taking the plan forward.

**10. Access ramp approach to Mill Lane Play Area from Beacon View Drive**

It was resolved to seek quotations to widen the pathway and resurface.

**11. Ideas to encourage community liaison to include creation of litter picking group and promotion of bowling green**

The Clerk confirmed that WLBC had provided fifteen litter-pickers and a copy of their risk assessment for volunteers. The bowling green can be opened on request but as yet no volunteers to run either scheme could be identified.

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

The next meeting will be held at 7pm on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2025.

**13. Update from Borough or County Councillors**

None.

**14. To consider any planning issues or applications**

The following applications were noted with no objections from Up Holland Parish Council.

Application No: 2025/0238/FUL

Proposal: Two storey extension to the side of the dwelling.

Location: 16 Mill Lane Up Holland Skelmersdale Lancashire WN8 0HH

Application No: 2025/0309/FUL

Proposal: Two storey side extension, dormer loft conversion and internal remodelling.

Location: 23 Delphside Road, Orrell, Wigan, Lancashire, WN5 8TR.

Application No: 2025/0291/FUL

Proposal: Proposed external works to the front of the property to create a new carparking space and reconstruction of existing retaining wall along the highway

Location: 55 Parliament Street, Up Holland, Skelmersdale, Lancashire, WN8 0LN.

**15. 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.

## **16. Provision of Goods and Services & Employment Issues**

- (a) Any play area issues (Mill Lane, Farley Lane, Lawns Ave), including tree problems at Lawns Avenue Play Area

The Clerk confirmed that the final sections of fencing had today been removed from Mill Lane Play Area by Sovereign Playgrounds.

There has been deliberate damage done to trees at Lawns Avenue Play Area. A number of trees have been chopped down with three very large trees still standing but ringed so as to kill them. The perpetrator is unknown. Laurence Davis can remove these trees for a cost of £900. The Clerk was instructed to ask Vince Brady to take a look at the trees for a second opinion.

- (b) Update on easement request at Janet Lally Field

No update.

- (c) Bowling green shelters repairs

It was resolved to accept the quotation of £2,100 from Up Holland Blacksmiths to replace the plastic with aluminium sheeting.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.57pm.

**Cllr  
Chairman**

**13<sup>th</sup> May 2025**