



Up Holland Parish Council

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Minutes of the meeting of Up Holland Parish Council held on **Tuesday 11th February 2025 at 7.30pm** in the Up Holland Methodist Church, Alma Hill, WN8 ONR.

Present: Cllr Jenny Whiting (Chairman), Cllr Linda Jones, Cllr Gill Sinnott, Cllr Neil Smith, Cllr Alex Stoddart, Cllr Nigel Swales.

Public participation: No items raised.

MINUTES

1. To record apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Christopher Mackrell (Vice-Chairman), Cllr John Gardner, Cllr Richard Taylor, Cllr Andrew Grant, Cllr Gaynar Owen.

2. To receive declarations of interest

Cllr Stoddart, Parish Councillor for Crawford Ward, declared a non-pecuniary interest in Planning Item 9 - Application Number:2024/1110/FUL – proposal for a new wind turbine at Pimbo due to it's possible effect on Crawford Ward.

3. To ratify as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held 14th January 2025

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

4. To record any police issues

There has been disturbance over a number of evenings by a group of teenagers around Hall Green area. The police are aware and assisting, but residents must continue to contact the police when the perpetrators are at the scene.

PCSO Neil Smith acknowledged that the litter on the walkway alongside Ormskirk Road/Highmeadow estate, including drug paraphernalia, may be indicative of a problem and will keep an eye on this area.

5. Ward Reports:

Complaints continue about the road surface of the A577 through the village. The potholes are increasing in number and some work recently done does not appear to be up to standard as the rain is washing the temporary fills away.

Earlier in the month, an LCC gritter was witnessed spreading along the road and this was followed an hour or so later by a WLBC road sweeper which swept up the grit. More coordination between service vehicles is clearly needed.

Crawford Ward Councillor gave a report following two meetings she arranged for residents; the meeting with the Pimbo wind turbine applicant and the meeting with County Councillor John Fillis regarding flooding issues. This meeting heard that Lancashire County Council's Flood Risk Management team has made arrangements to use the large meeting room at Ormskirk Civic Hall on Thursday 6 March, for a drop-in event running from 3.30pm to 7.30pm in support of people who have experienced flooding to their homes, business premises and farmland in any of the rainstorms that have impacted West Lancashire over the winter. The event is to be staffed by officers from the county council, West Lancashire Borough Council, the Environment Agency and United Utilities plc, all of whom know the district well and can advise on localised drainage issues, what has been learned from site-specific investigations, and how drainage problems are being corrected or overcome in different ways. Residents and Councillors are encouraged to attend and explain the problems they are facing.

6. Financial Matters:

- **Accounts for ratification and payment**

Info Comm Office	240125	Data Protection Certificate d.d. (Handelsbanken direct debit)		£35.00
Unity Trust	310125	Bank charges – monthly	d.d.	£6.15
David Ogilvie	030225	Mining bench	b.t.	£1,677.60*
Bernard Keyworth	030225	Installation of bench	b.t.	£395.00
HMRC	030225	Tax & NI for January	b.t.	£438.90
UKHost4U	310125	Web Hosting annual fee (Handelsbanken direct debit)	d.d.	£132.00*
NEST	100224	Pension payment Feb (Handelsbanken direct debit)	d.d.	£225.42
Wm Fernandez	110225	Cleaning noticeboards x2	b.t.	£30.00
Methodist Church	110224	Room hire	s.o.	£20.00
Handelsbanken	120225	Bank charges - monthly	d.d.	£28.00

E A Broad	240224	Salary and expenses	s.o.	£1,472.34
HMRC	240224	Tax and NI payments	s.o.	£238.70

*contains VAT

The accounts were ratified and authorised for payment.

Direct debit forms for HMRC and NEST were signed for use from next month.

- **Receipt of Minutes from Finance Committee and vote on the recommendations**

- a) The Asset Register, Financial Risk Management Plan and Financial Risk Management Register have been updated and are presented now to full council for approval.

It was resolved to approve these documents.

- b) The level of precept requested is £68,000.00, an increase of £3,000.00.

Financial Year	2024/25	2025/26
Precept (set by parish council)	£65,000.00	£68,000.00
Tax Base (set by District Auditor)	2,602.36	2,630.73
Cost to a Band D property	£ 24.98	£ 25.85

Noted.

- c) The bank mandate for the Unity Trust Bank account has been updated adding the following signatories to accounts: Cllrs Smith, Stoddart, Swales & Taylor.

Noted.

- d) It is recommended that we close the Handelsbanken account once new direct debits are organised, to reduce the admin costs of banking.

It was resolved to close to the Handelsbanken account.

- e) It is recommended that a further £60,000.00 be deposited into the investment account with CCLA (Charities, Churches & Local Authorities) to maximise interest.

It was resolved to deposit £30,000.00 at this time, with a view to another £30,000.00 in the next financial year.

- **Confirm appointment of Internal Auditor**

It was resolved to appoint Sandra Jones as Internal Auditor of accounts.

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

The last local area committee meeting had a very poor attendance of only two. The speakers however were very good and councillors are encouraged to attend these meetings to discuss shared issues across parishes.

8. Update from Borough or County Councillors

- **Respond to WLBC closure of the public conveniences on Ormskirk Road**

Following the meeting with WLBC at the Sandy Lane centre, Skelmersdale, the Parish Council became aware of the intention to close the public conveniences on Ormskirk Road.

Up Holland Parish Council remain concerned about the building as it appears to have deteriorated greatly over time and with the toilets closed, may fall into further disrepair.

It is hoped that the Borough Council will secure the toilets, retain the bus shelter and enhance the appearance of what is rapidly becoming an eyesore in the middle of our village.

Up Holland Parish Council does not have the resources to maintain the public conveniences, nor would it seem a valid use of residents' precept money to maintain something they would not normally use, as their homes are close-by. There are a number of businesses in the immediate surround with customer toilets so having free public toilets actually detracts from drop-in custom for hospitality businesses.

During the meeting WLBC agreed to install a public waste bin at the site.

9. To consider any planning issues or applications

Application Number: 2025/0069/FUL

Proposal: Single Storey rear extension

Location: Olde Hay Barn 101 Tower Hill Road, Up Holland, WN8 0DT

Parish Council Response: No objection to this proposal.

Application Number: 2025/0062/LDC

Proposal: Certificate of lawfulness – construction of a detached garage and the extension to existing swimming pool building

Location: Ferndale, 81 Bank Brow, Roby Mill, Up Holland, WN8 0SY

Up Holland Parish Council awaits the Officer's consideration as to whether this development was within permitted development or not.

Application Number: 2025/0053/FUL

Proposal: Modular building extension for office use.

Location: Walkers Snack Foods Ltd, Pennine Place, West Pimbo, WN8 9QF

Parish Council Response: No objection to this proposal.

Application Number: 2025/0044/FUL

Proposal: Proposed single storey rear extension with garage conversion.

Location: 89 Chequer Lane, Up Holland, WN8 0DE

Parish Council Response: No objection to this proposal.

Application Number: 2025/0085/FUL

Proposal: Creation of a new rear dormer and extension to front dormer with removal of side window.

Location: 5 Sefton Close, Orrell, Wigan, Lancashire, WN5 8UW

Parish Council Response: No objection to this proposal.

Application Number: 2025/0106/FUL

Proposal: Variation of condition 2 of planning permission 2023/0296/FUL

Location: Land to the rear of 136-160 Ormskirk Road, Up Holland.

Parish Council Response: Up Holland Parish Council objects to this proposal.

Tweaking the position of houses on paper cannot remove our concern that this plot of land is just not big enough to accommodate thirteen houses. Plots 3, 4 & 5 will still flood, the internal design of highways would not satisfy LCC Highways criteria for an estate road and are only permissible because the roads will remain unadopted and the collective responsibility of the new householders. The entrance being directly above a coal mine shaft is still of huge concern to all but the applicants.

New home owners here will have to accept the risk of flooding, mining subsidence and living on a road where the standard is not acceptable as an estate road by LCC Highways.

Even at this late stage these factors could be addressed and safe, beautiful homes created, instead of cramming as many as possible in with no amenity space to speak of.

The conditions were imposed to address the very many defects on this land. None should be varied when they were so recently determined.

Application Number: 2024/1110/FUL

Proposal: The construction and operation of a wind turbine with a maximum height to tip of 125m, and a rotor diameter of 90m, associated crane hardstanding, access track and measures to deliver biodiversity.

Location: Land west of Pimbo Road, West Pimbo, Skelmersdale, Lancashire.

Parish Council Response: Up Holland Parish Council fully supports the transition to renewable energy. However, following a meeting in Crawford on 7th February 2025, attended by 29 residents, there was overwhelming opposition, with only one attendee in favour of the proposal.

Key Concerns

1. Harm to the Landscape and Visual Amenity

Crawford enjoys unspoiled panoramic views across open agricultural land.

The introduction of a large industrial wind turbine would permanently alter this landscape, creating a dominant and intrusive feature visible from a wide area. The applicant's supporting images use wide panoramic shots that significantly reduce the apparent scale of the turbine in the landscape. This is misleading and does not accurately represent the real-world impact on local residents. From experience, the Walker's turbine already appears very close from residential properties, and this proposed turbine is set to be twice as close. The actual visual dominance of the structure will be far greater than depicted.

2. Noise Impact

Residents have already experienced disturbance from the existing wind turbine at Walkers. The prospect of a second, larger turbine in closer proximity raises significant concerns about cumulative noise pollution and its detrimental impact on residential amenity. The noise assessment fails to properly evaluate the impact on Crawford residents. No noise receptors were placed near Crawford, meaning the report cannot accurately reflect the true impact. Without appropriate evidence, the conclusions drawn are unreliable and should not be used to justify this development.

3. Negative Impact on Wildlife

- The proposed site is in the flight path for birds accessing Martin Mere Wetlands, a crucial habitat for whooper swans, which migrate from Iceland to winter in the UK. Wind turbines pose a serious risk to large, low-maneuvrability birds such as swans, leading to collision fatalities.
- Bats, which are protected, are also highly vulnerable to wind turbines due to barotrauma, a fatal condition caused by pressure changes around turbine blades. This development poses an unacceptable risk to local bat populations. The applicant's own surveys are criticised as inadequate by Bird & Bat experts as 'insufficient survey effort and a lack of data'.

4. Lack of Local Benefit

- The Walkers Crisps turbine was installed on industrial land to generate some of the factory's energy needs.
- In contrast, this is Grade 1 agricultural land used for arable farming, and is designed purely for commercial profit through direct supply.
- Residents will bear the visual and noise impacts without any direct benefit.

5. Loss of High-Quality Agricultural Land

The site is classified as Grade 1 agricultural land, among the most fertile in the country. National and local planning policies emphasise the protection of such land for food production. Allowing its use for energy infrastructure would set a harmful precedent for further erosion of valuable farmland.

- 6. Inadequate Community Consultation.** That WLBC deemed this application suitable for delegation to the Corporate Director of Place & Community (weekly planning list 22/01/25) shows their approach to community engagement has been wholly insufficient. The only public engagement consisted of sporadic letter drops, leaving many residents unaware of the proposal. Had Parish Cllr Stoddart not arranged a meeting, there would have been no opportunity for any dialogue between residents and the developer. This lack of engagement contradicts best practice and planning policy guidance on public consultation.

Given the overwhelming public opposition, the harm to the landscape, significant noise concerns, threat to important bird and bat species, absence of local benefit, and the unjustified loss of high-quality agricultural land, Up Holland PC objects to this proposal, and for these concerns to be adequately addressed, request that the Planning Committee consider the application, to allow residents the opportunity to speak.

Up Holland Parish Council has received notice of the following consultation, and decline to comment as the development, in Newton-le-Willows, will have little to no effect on the parish.

Intermodal Logistics Park North (ILP North): Consultation 27 January to 21 March 2025 Tritax Big Box is bringing forward plans for ILP North, a new Strategic Rail Freight Interchange (SRFI) near Newton-le-Willows. Tritax Big Box Developments (TBBD) is a Tritax Big Box REIT associated company dedicated to logistics development. TBBD specialises in identifying and securing strategic land, and developing large-scale, best-in class logistics facilities that meet the evolving needs of modern businesses.

10. 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.

11. Provision of Goods and Services & Employment Issues

- (a) Any update on lease for walled garden at The Good Catch Chip Shop

No update available.

- (b) Any play area issues (Mill Lane, Farley Lane, Lawns Ave)

It was resolved to arrange a contract with Yates Playgrounds for play area inspections at £55 (plus VAT) per visit, per site. To comprise of fortnightly visits and reports at Mill Lane and Lawns Avenue, due to the type of equipment (lots of moving parts) and monthly inspections at Farley Lane, where there is limited equipment.

26 weeks - £2,860.00 plus VAT, Plus 12 visits - £660 plus VAT. Total over 12 months = £3,520.00 This compares with WLBC costs over the last three years (2024) = £6,057.76 (2023) = £6,099.76 (2022) = £13,615.99 (weekly inspections).

No other contractor contacted returned a price for further comparison.

- (c) Any update on progress of provision of new bench at Janet Lally field

Project completed.

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

No update available.

- (e) Bowling green shelters repairs

It was agreed to cut the bowling green once a month to maintain the surface whilst development work at the adjoining building is ongoing at a rate of £300 per cut.

It was resolved to seek quotations to repair the shelters, replacing the plastic with metal.

There is still a need to market the bowling green and find regular users amongst the organised groups like U3A, schools and air cadets.

- (f) Christmas tree replacement for Crawford Village Hall

It was resolved to accept Quote Option 3 - Replace tree with 12ft tree to replace the existing cone tree with a like for like 12ft cone tree complete with delivery charge Total cost £2,531.50 plus Vat (total £3,037.80) using the current contractor P & R Electricals, Skelmersdale for continuity of service.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.30 pm.

Cllr Jenny Whiting
Chairman

11th March 2025