



# ***Up Holland Parish Council***

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The Minutes of the meeting of Up Holland Parish Council held on **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at 7.30pm** in the Up Holland Methodist Church, Alma Hill, WN8 ONR.

Present: Cllr John Gardner, Cllr Andrew Grant, Cllr Gaynar Owen (arrived 7;45pm), Cllr Gill Sinnott, Cllr Neil Smith, Cllr Alex Stoddart, Cllr Nigel Swales, Cllr Linda Jones, Cllr Jenny Whiting. WLBC Clean & Green Manager.

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

## **ANNUAL MEETING**

### **MINUTES**

#### **1. To elect Chairman and hear declaration of acceptance of office**

Cllr Neil Smith was elected Chairman. Declaration of acceptance of office was read out, witnessed and signed.

#### **2. To elect Vice Chairman and hear declaration of acceptance of office**

Cllr Chris Mackrell was appointed Vice-Chairman, in his absence. Declaration of acceptance of office will be dealt with administratively.

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

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Mackrell and Cllr Taylor. Cllr Owen gave notice of late arrival.

#### **4. To receive declarations of interest, and ensure Registration of Interest Forms are up-to-date**

Non-declared. Register of Interest forms were amended, where required, and confirmed as up-to-date.

#### **5. To hear from WLBC Clean & Green Team about measures being taken to produce a balanced budget**

WLBC Clean & Green Team Manager Stephen Bissette attended and gave an overview of the challenges facing the council. With the decision to keep the swimming

pools and leisure centres open, it is very hard to produce a realistic budget to work with. Other areas have to have reduced service. It is thought that savings will have to be made to collection of waste services, both household (reduce the bin collections to every three weeks) and (reduce the number of roadside public waste bins). 200 public waste bins will be removed in the coming year. It was agreed to share the list of bins to be removed in the Up Holland area with the parish council.

Cllr Owen arrived 7.40pm.

The suggested efficiency savings to include parish councils paying for public waste bin emptying was mooted but has been put on hold and will be reviewed at a later date. Other proposals, new software to intelligent mapping etc will be considered. However national policy introducing food waste collection needs to be considered too. There are likely to be public consultations on these changes and conversations with other district-level councils across Lancashire.

The Public Realm agreement between LCC and WLBC was unworkable as it cost too much to do. A new one was signed on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025, has a lower level of service than previous years but there will still be maintenance of amenity grass along roadsides of 40mph and under. As before trees and shrubs are not under this agreement and there is no weed spraying either.

WLBC will be weed spraying some of the areas belonging to WLBC. The amenity grass cutting has changed from every 28 days to six weekly intervals. Mill Lane Play Area and Janet Lally field will continue to be cut by tractor every six weeks.

The walled garden at the Victoria Hotel will continue to be planted with a wildflower mix.

Parish Councillors expressed concern that the shrubs at the monument war memorial are getting too big. These were cut in autumn and it's unlikely they will be cut again soon.

**6. To ratify as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held 8th April 2025**

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

**7. To set schedule of meetings for 2025/26 and confirm membership of standing committees and representation on outside bodies**

The following dates were confirmed:

Tuesdays at 7.15pm for public participation, 7.30pm for commencement of meeting with conclusion before 9pm, unless extended by vote.

10<sup>th</sup> June 2025, 8<sup>th</sup> July 2025, No August Meeting, 9<sup>th</sup> September 2025, 14<sup>th</sup> October 2025, 11<sup>th</sup> November 2025, 9<sup>th</sup> December 2025, 13<sup>th</sup> January 2025, 10<sup>th</sup> February

2025, 10<sup>th</sup> March 2026, 14<sup>th</sup> April 2026, 12<sup>th</sup> May 2026 (Annual Meeting of the Parish Council).

Finance Committee Meetings:

Start at 7pm - 15<sup>th</sup> July 2025, 21<sup>st</sup> October 2025, 20<sup>th</sup> January 2026, 21<sup>st</sup> April 2026.

Representation at LALC Area Committee: Cllr Gardner and Cllr Mackrell.  
Personnel Committee: Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

**8. To agree annual memberships - CPRE, LALC, SLCC, OSS, OPSTA.**

The following annual memberships were agreed. Costs are approximate:

- Campaign to Protect Rural England = £36
- Lancashire Association of Local Councils = £939.90
- Society of Local Council Clerks = £151
- Open Spaces Society = £45
- Ormskirk, Preston and Southport Travellers Association (railways) = £10
- National Allotments Society and Leisure Gardeners = £66

**9. Having met the conditions of eligibility, it is proposed that Up Holland Parish Council adopt the General Power of Competence as defined in the Localism Act 2011 and SI 961 of The Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) Prescribed Conditions Order 2012**

Resolved.

**10. To amend Standing Orders where necessary, renew policy documents**

Standing Orders and policy documents were confirmed, unchanged from last year.

**11. Accounts for ratification and payment and update of financial risk assessment documents**

Water Plus	220425	Bowling green tap	01	£176.36
(higher than usual due to leak and checked by Water Plus reading the metre)				
Methodist Church	120525	Room hire	02	£20.00
LALC	130525	Annual subscription	03	£939.90
NEST	240525	Pension payment May	04	£225.42
L Davies	240525	Grounds work	05	£1,437.50
E A Broad	240525	Salary and expenses	06	£1,472.34

HMRC	240525	Tax and NI payments	07	£401.91
Yates Playgrounds	250525	Play area inspections	08	£352.00*
Unity Trust	280525	Bank charges	09	£7.20

The accounts were ratified and authorised or payment and the following information noted:

Income since the last meeting:

Unity Trust Interest:		£1,095.07
WLBC half precept and council tax support grant		£35,797.33
Bank Balances:	Unity Trust current account	£42,158.83
	Unity Trust reserve account	£168,028.52
		£207,187.35
CCLA investment		£98,208.05

**12. To receive Internal Audit of accounts for financial year 2024/25 and complete Audit Forms, including the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, if available**

Audit forms were completed and signed. The internal audit was completed and the report is awaited. The dates of 2<sup>nd</sup> June – 14<sup>th</sup> July 2025 were selected for the exercise of public rights.

**13. To record any police issues**

No issues raised, though there was a small fire on Mill Lane Play Area and disturbance from electric bikes and quads continue. PCSO Neil Smith often attends the Community Hub at St Thomas the Martyr Parish Church, to listen to residents' concerns.

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

Chequer Lane Ward: It was noted that travellers were parked on Chequer Lane Playing Fields.

Village Ward Councillor joined the U3 litter picking group working around Chequer Lane play area and suggests the parish council organise litter picks in other areas if volunteers can be found.

Some signs about a road closure along Lafford Lane were put up but seem now to have gone away again. It was noted that LCC Highways issued notice for 30<sup>th</sup> June - 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2025 road closure for water main connection to be installed.

Children's drawing of Mill Lane Play Area with a thank you for new play equipment had been received and was noted by the meeting.

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

None available.

**16. Any Update from Borough or County Councillors**

The Annual Meetings of WLBC and LCC will be held on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May and Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2025, respectively at 7.30 pm with the LCC one available to watch online.

The Chairman extended the Parish Council's good luck wishes for the two councils in the coming year and congratulations to Nigel Swales for winning the LCC election.

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

2025/0356/SCR | Proposed battery energy storage system | Land South West Of New Fold Orrell Lancashire

This application is a scoping response and so a full planning application will follow and it was resolved to respond at that point.

The following applications were noted with no objections raised:-

Application No: 2025/0381/FUL

Proposal: Partial conversion of attached garage to form wet room and garage store for disabled occupant.

Location: 25 Highmeadow Up Holland Skelmersdale Lancashire WN8 0BE

Application No: 2025/0386/LBC

Proposal: Listed Building Consent Replacement of the existing roof finish comprising over sandstone with dark grey tiles with new tiles to match existing.

Location: 5 Walthew Green Roby Mill Up Holland Lancashire WN8 0QT

Application No: 2025/0399/LBC

Proposal: Listed Building Consent - Replacement of the existing roof finish comprising over sandstone with dark grey tiles with new tiles to match existing.

Location: 7 Walthew Green Roby Mill Up Holland Lancashire WN8 0QT

Application No: 2025/0398/LBC - Listed Building Consent –

Replacement of the existing roof finish comprising of sandstone with dark grey 'hardrow' tiles with new tiles to match existing.

Location: 3 Walthew Green Roby Mill Up Holland Lancashire WN8 0QT

Application No: 2025/0387/LDP  
Proposal: Erection of single storey rear extension & internal alterations.  
Location: 17 Carlton Avenue Up Holland Skelmersdale Lancashire WN8 0AE

Application No: 2025/0395/FUL  
Proposal: Single storey rear extension.  
Location: Barn Cottage 111 Crawford Road Crawford Village WN8 9QS

Application No: 2025/0394/FUL  
Proposal: To extend the existing dormer to the front of the bungalow with associative works.  
Location: 53 Sandbrook Road Orrell Wigan Lancashire WN5 8UB

Application No: 2025/0415/FUL  
Proposal: 1st floor extension over garage  
Location: 8 Dexter Way Up Holland Skelmersdale Lancashire WN8 0DY

Application No: 2025/0427/FUL  
Proposal: Proposed single storey front infill extension and conversion of existing integral garage to provide ground floor living accommodation for elderly relative.  
Location: 48 Carlton Avenue, Up Holland, Skelmersdale, Lancashire, WN8 0AE.

Application No: 2025/0417/FUL  
Proposal: Proposed change of use from family dwelling to children's home  
Location: 22 Slater Crescent, Up Holland, Skelmersdale, Lancashire, WN8 0BW

Up Holland Parish Council objects to the above application on the grounds that the proposed development is wholly unsuitable for the location, and would result in significant harm to the character, amenity, and safety of the surrounding residential area.

#### 1. Incompatible with the Residential Nature of the Estate

The proposed change of use from a single-family dwelling to a children's care home introduces a commercial operation into a quiet, newly constructed residential estate. Residents purchased homes here in the expectation of a peaceful, private residential environment. Many were assured by the developer that the area would be free of businesses and limited to private dwellings. Introducing a care home undermines that principle and breaches the reasonable expectations of existing residents.

#### 2. Impact on Residential Amenity

The care home proposes to operate with staff shift changes across day and night, leading to increased vehicle movements at unsociable hours, noise, and general disturbance. The comings and goings of multiple staff—potentially 8 shifts per 24-hour period—are incompatible with the peaceful enjoyment of nearby homes and would significantly harm the amenity of neighbouring residents.

### 3. Highways and Parking Concerns

The property and immediate area do not have sufficient on-site parking to accommodate the number of staff vehicles anticipated. This will inevitably lead to on-street parking, which will:

- Obstruct driveways and footways
- Reduce visibility and road safety
- Create a traffic hazard in what is currently a quiet cul-de-sac

This poses a serious concern for both residents and road users, especially children and pedestrians.

### 4. Lack of Accessibility and Support Services

This location is not suitable for vulnerable children who may require easy access to schools, counselling services, youth support, or community facilities. Slater Crescent is relatively isolated, and public transport links are limited. The lack of nearby services will deprive children of key support and could hinder their development and wellbeing.

### 5. Overdevelopment and Precedent

This change of use could set a dangerous precedent for similar conversions within quiet residential estates, effectively transforming private homes into commercial or semi-commercial institutions. This would erode the character of family housing developments and generate uncertainty and anxiety among current and future residents.

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## In Summary

Up Holland Parish Council believes the proposal:

- Conflicts with the residential nature of the estate
- Will negatively impact neighbouring amenity and quality of life
- Lacks supporting infrastructure for a children's care home
- Raises significant traffic and parking concerns
- Does not serve the best interests of the children who may live there

## **18. 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. The nature of the exempt information and the relevant exemption paragraph is shown.

Resolved.

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

- (a) Consider the emptying of bins at the War Memorial

WLBC will continue to empty these bins alongside the other WLBC owned bins.

- (b) Consider tree issues at Lawns Avenue Play Area

Approval was given to remove the dangerous trees (the danger having been created by someone 'ringing' them) subject to the site visit next Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2025.

- (c) Respond to request to use Janet Lally field for sporting event

It was resolved to agree that Billinge Running Club can use the Janet Lally field for their running event.

- (d) Discuss water invoice for the bowling green tap

The invoice was more than expected due to an incident over winter when the tap had been vandalised and water was leaking from it. The tap is now locked. Water Plus will be asked to point out where the water meter is, as we have failed to find one.

There was a vote of thanks extended to Councillor Jenny Whiting for her service as Chairman over the previous years.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.45pm.

***Cllr Neil Smith***  
***Chairman***

***10<sup>th</sup> June 2025***