



# ***Up Holland Parish Council***

**Clerk: Mrs Elizabeth-Anne Broad JP, LLB(Hons), MA, CiLCA  
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Minutes of the meeting of Up Holland Parish Council held on **Tuesday 14th January 2025 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 Gill Sinnott, Cllr Alex Stoddart, Cllr Nigel Swales.

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

## **MINUTES**

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

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Andrew Grant, Cllr Gaynar Owen, Cllr Neil Smith, Cllr Richard Taylor.

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

None declared.

### **3. To ratify as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held 10<sup>th</sup> December 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 increased vandalism at Crawford Village, particularly along Dukes Wood Lane was noted.

### **5. Ward Reports:**

- **Flooding issues**

County Councillor John Fillis held a flooding surgery at Crawford Village Hut & Playing Fields, which was well attended with twenty-one people coming to talk with him. He will take issues to the Lead Flood Authority (LCC), LCC Highways, United Utilities &

the Environment Agency and return any response to residents. Highway flooding was reported in Pimbo. Crawford Village flooding was reported as a new problem following the completion of three new houses built under Planning Reference 2020/1132/OUT on a farmer's field (greenbelt, formerly Grade 1 agricultural) adjacent to Lindsay Cottage. This meeting heard that the decision to grant permission was made by the Planning Committee, which residents attended and spoke against because they believed there to be a risk of flooding. Permission was granted with conditions, including drainage plans. Residents now want to know whether the drainage plan was implemented at all, or if it was, is it inadequate because this is the first time they have experienced flooding in Holland Court? Two high value vehicles were destroyed by the flood in Holland Court.

The farmer's field had acted as a natural floodplain, the brook has no capacity to take more water so there is concern that this will happen again. A whole section of the highway experienced flooding and several homes, opposite the new builds had flooding inside.

Cllr Fillis arranged for drains to be flushed and street cleaners attended to clear the debris left by the flooding.

2. Crawford Village Hut & Playing Fields Committee has offered to install bird and bat boxes if funding can be found to buy some. It was agreed to use some of the LCC conservation grant for this purpose.

3. The Christmas tree at Crawford is the oldest of those owned by Up Holland Parish Council and it was not well lit this year. Can enquiries be made into the cost of replacing it please?

4. Speeding vehicles continue to be a problem and there are further concerns that there is a risk of increased traffic as a new housing development in Rainford is underway. The Committee are researching Speed Indicator Devices that might be erected to remind drivers of the speed limit.

5. Some people are disturbed by the wind turbine at Walkers factory and have concerns that other turbines may be constructed in this area. It was understood that a new planning application for another wind turbine is imminent.

Up Holland Ward Councillors are concerned that the snow, ice and flooding issues have left the A577 in an extremely poor state indeed. All of the complaints made over the last few years have resurfaced. Individual issues (particularly blocked drains on Alma Hill) continue to be reported on LCC's App Love Clean Streets.

The poor weather over Christmas led to delays in household waste collection and there were complaints that WLBC did not communicate these delays effectively and residents were not informed.

**a. Grit bin on Ormskirk Road (near Dearden Way bus stop)**

The response from LCC Highways will be given to the resident who raised the item.

**b. Litter accumulation along pavement from Highmeadow to Ravenhead Drive**

Clerk to advise PCSO Neil Smith of this issue as the area appears to have a problem an antisocial behaviour evidenced by the type of litter (alcohol and drug paraphernalia) seen at the site:

Village Ward Councillor told the meeting that the planning conditions for the new car park at St Thomas the Martyr Parish Church have been met in full and the process is now complete.

**6. Financial Matters:**

**a. Accounts for ratification and payment**

Unity Trust	301224	Bank charges – monthly	£6.00
Handelsbanken	140125	Bank charges - monthly	£29.00
Spoiled cheque – Handelsbanken Cheque Number 1048			
P&R Electricals	030125	Storm damage repairs	£240.00*
Kaite Properties	030125	Walled garden repairs	£1,100.00
Methodist Church	140125	Room hire 14 <sup>th</sup> & 21 <sup>st</sup> Jan	£32.00
WLBC	150125	Play Area inspections	£1,709.33*
E A Broad	140125	Salary and expenses Jan 25	£1,492.56
NEST	230125	Pension payment Jan	£225.42

\*VAT included

The accounts were ratified and authorised for payment.

**b. Conclusion of precept for 2025**

It was resolved to request a precept of £68,000.00 for the day-to-day running of the council during financial year 2025/2026.

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

The next area committee meeting will be held at Ormskirk Council offices on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2025 at 7pm. Parish Councillors are encouraged to go along and meet with Councillors from other West Lancs parishes to discuss common issues.

## **8. Update from Borough or County Councillors**

WLBC Council Meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2024 contained an Agenda Item recorded as Public Conveniences on the closed part of the meeting. Parish Councillors are invited to speak with WLBC Officers about the future of WLBC run public toilets at Hall Green and will endeavour to discover the plans for the building, which also includes a bus shelter and garages at the rear. Concern about the structure itself, in view mostly of vandalism and limited funding for maintenance but also of the likelihood of poor construction materials and possibility of asbestos, make this out-of-reach for a parish council to take on.

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

Application Reference Number: 2025/0010/FUL  
Proposed conversion from detached bungalow to house.  
7 School Lane Up Holland Skelmersdale Lancashire WN8 0LW

Parish Council Response: Up Holland Parish Council has the following concerns:

- 1. Overdevelopment and Proximity to Neighbouring Property:**  
The proposed development represents overdevelopment of the site. The scale and massing of the new dwelling would result in it being unacceptably close to the neighbouring property. This proximity raises concerns about loss of privacy, overshadowing, and a detrimental impact on the character of the surrounding area.
- 2. Insufficient Parking Provision:**  
The proposed plans do not adequately address parking requirements. The increase in the size of the property is likely to generate additional vehicle use, yet the application lacks sufficient off-street parking spaces. This deficiency could exacerbate on-street parking pressures, leading to congestion and safety issues for local residents.

Application Reference Number: 2024/1067/FUL  
Single Storey lean-to extension to form wrap-around with alterations to the existing garage, converted to habitable space.  
1 Heaton Close Up Holland Skelmersdale Lancashire WN8 0AW

Parish Council Response: No objection to this proposal. We note plans to widen the driveway to offset any loss of parking space by converting the garage.

Application Reference Number: 2024/1062/FUL  
Retrospective replacement of windows and doors to upvc.  
Mayfield House 36C Higher Lane Up Holland Skelmersdale Lancashire WN8 0NL

Parish Council Response: No comment on this proposal.

Application Reference Number: 2024/1050/LDP  
Permanent siting of a static caravan within garden to be used as an Annexe.

Bank Top Farm 66 Bank Top Roby Mill Up Holland Skelmersdale Lancashire WN8 0QQ

There is no 'submit a comment' button on the website for this LDP application so the clerk is to respond via email to the planning department.

Parish Council Response: Up Holland Parish Council objects to this proposal on the following grounds:

1. **Inappropriate Garden Development:**  
The introduction of a static caravan in the rear garden constitutes overdevelopment of garden space, which is inconsistent with maintaining the character and amenity of residential areas. Such development disrupts the intended use of garden areas and negatively impacts the visual appearance of the neighbourhood.
2. **Deterioration of Housing Quality:**  
Overreliance on static caravans and similar structures for residential use leads to a gradual deterioration in housing standards and undermines the quality of the local housing stock. This type of development risks setting a precedent for similar applications, further eroding the quality of the built environment.
3. **Conflict with National Planning Policy and Local Plan:**  
The proposal conflicts with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), which emphasises the importance of sustainable development and the protection of residential amenity. Additionally, it does not align with policies within the West Lancashire Borough Council Local Plan, particularly those aimed at preserving the character and appearance of designated conservation areas. This application undermines the objectives to safeguard the distinctiveness and heritage of the area.

Application Reference Number: 2024/1042/FUL

Proposed demolition of former sheltered accommodation and new development of 12 no. one bed two-person cottage style flats in two, two storey blocks with associated car parking and amenity spaces.

Residential Development at Hall Green Close, Up Holland, Lancashire.

Parish Council Response: Up Holland Parish Council welcomes the redevelopment of this site to restore housing provision. However, several concerns remain:

1. **Inadequate Parking Provision** – The current plans do not appear to provide sufficient parking for the number of proposed homes. This raises concerns about overspill parking on surrounding roads, which could cause congestion and inconvenience for existing residents.
2. **Household Waste Bin Storage** – The proposed location for bin storage, against the wall of Number 2 Hall Green, is unacceptable. This placement could lead to issues with odour, obstruction, and visual intrusion for neighbouring residents. A more appropriate and less disruptive location should be identified.
3. **Security Concerns** – Up Holland Parish Council's Bowling Green directly abuts this land, and there are significant concerns regarding security both

during the demolition and rebuild phases, as well as after the development is completed. Measures such as secure fencing, appropriate lighting, and possibly CCTV should be considered to prevent unauthorised access and vandalism.

4. **Loss of Community Use** – The redevelopment results in the permanent loss of a valued community facility. Until lockdown, the building housed kitchen and toilet facilities used by the Up Holland Bowling Team, which has now been forced to relocate to Orrell. While the bowling green remains for casual use, it no longer meets league requirements for competition. Additionally, the community rooms previously accommodated health visitors, children's birthday parties, and other local activities. The Parish Council urges Tawd Valley Developments and the Borough Council to explore options to mitigate this loss, whether through on-site provision, financial contributions, or alternative arrangements.
5. **Preservation of Historical Artifacts** – It has been noted that framed Chairman-style artwork from previous councils remains inside the near-derelict building. The Parish Council requests that these items be retrieved before demolition and either returned to the Council or preserved appropriately.

The Parish Council hopes that Tawd Valley Developments will maintain an open dialogue to address these concerns and work towards a redevelopment that benefits the whole community.

#### **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)

A resident's proposal for more space for sports at the Mill Lane Play Area was considered. A close fenced MUGA was rejected due to inadequate space and increased risk of anti-social behaviour. However, a MUGA wall, similar to the one at Lawns Avenue Play Area will be considered further. It has also been agreed to ask a contractor to cut a football pitch sized section of grass at both Mill Lane and Janet Lally memorial field, in addition to the grass cutting that WLBC does as this is public

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amenity land, so that they can be used for play during the summer months.

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

It is expected that the bench will be delivered in the coming weeks. A resident near the site has kindly agreed to take delivery and it was resolved to contract Bernard Keyworth to instal this.

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

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

***11<sup>th</sup> February 2025***