



Up Holland Parish Council

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

Present: Cllr Neil Smith (Chairman), Cllr John Gardner, Cllr Andrew Grant, Cllr Helen Johnston, Cllr Neil Pye, Cllr Gill Sinnott, Cllr Alex Stoddart, Cllr Nigel Swales, Cllr Linda Jones.

Public participation:

Cllr Sinnott raised the issue of a proposal for a litter-picking group; a written proposal with draft policies will be produced for the next meeting.

MINUTES

The Chairman led a two-minute silence in Remembrance before opening the meeting.

1. To record apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Whiting and Cllr Taylor.

2. To receive declarations of interest

Cllr Andrew Grant declared an interest in the application for a Definitive Map Modification Order affecting land at his home address.

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

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

4. Financial Matters:

- **Consideration of Applications for Grant Support for PTA's**

The full grant of £500 has been issued to Crawford School. It was resolved to issue full grant of £500 to St Teresa's RC School for the creation of a forest school.

- **Accounts for ratification and payment**

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|---------------------|--------|------------------------------|----|------------|
| Bernard Keyworth | 201025 | Poppies on lamp posts | 74 | £80.00 |
| Dingle Rd residents | 231025 | Plants at War Memorial | 75 | £150.00 |
| TreeKings | 051125 | Hedge cutting | 76 | £500.00 |
| Methodist Church | 111125 | Room hire general meetings | 77 | £20.00 |
| Yates Playgrounds | 121125 | Repairs and new surfacing | 78 | £1,665.60* |
| Alba Trees | 121125 | Trees for hedgerow Mill Lane | 79 | £319.50* |
| Crawford School | 121125 | Grant for forest school | 80 | £500.00 |
| NEST | 241125 | Pension payment November | 81 | £232.64 |
| HMRC | 241125 | Tax and NI payments | 82 | £426.70 |
| E A Broad | 241125 | Salary, expenses | 83 | £1,579.52 |
| Yates Playgrounds | 251125 | Play area inspections | 84 | £352.00* |
| Wm Fernandez | 271125 | Cleaning 3 noticeboards | 85 | £15.00 |
| Unity Trust | 301125 | Bank charges – monthly | 86 | £9.90 |

*contains VAT (recoverable)

The accounts were ratified and authorised for payment.

- **Distribution of draft Minutes from Finance Meeting and acknowledgement of provisional Precept request March 2026**

The precept is currently £68,000. WLBC confirm the following:-

- Council Tax Support and Concurrent Grants for 2026/27 will be offered at the same level as for 2025/26. For 2027/28 onwards, and in line with other local authorities, we will likely ask that the grants be rolled into your precept calculation rather than provide them separately.
- As a result of a recent Council decision, from 2026/27, we will no longer be inviting new bids for capital funding. We will of course honour any projects for which approval is in place and still in progress for the current year and prior years in line with the funding terms and conditions.

These decisions will reduce the Up Holland Parish Council's money by £8,614.00 in April 2027. It was resolved to set the precept for 2026/7 at £71,000.00, provisional on any new information being received before March 2026.

5. To record any police issues

Police attended Mill Lane fields following complaints from Beacon View residents about the noise and disturbance from fireworks. This disturbance extended further than the 5th November and was experienced the Saturday before and after as well.

PCSO Smith attended the Remembrance Service on 9th November and continues to meet with members of the public at the Community Hub at St Thomas the Martyr Parish Church.

There are increasing reports of opportunists attempting to gain entry to unlocked cars along the main roads from Orrell through Hall Green and into Skelmersdale.

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

Village Ward: Highly concerned residents received a National Highways, England notification that the M58 is to be closed from Junction 6 to 5 from 17th November 2025 until 'Spring' 2026. The clerk was instructed to write a letter of complaint to National Highways, copying in Ashley Dalton MP.

County Councillor Nigel Swales has requested LCC Highways consider making School Lane a 20 mph road.

Crawford Ward: Requested that the clerk ask P & R Electricals if the new Christmas tree can be delivered to Crawford in time for the 29th November Christmas Fayre.

Roby Mill Ward: Concerns continue with the development work at St Joseph's College. There is mud on College Road creating a nuisance. Residents are keen to establish that there has been a public right of way from Roby Mill to Dalton across this land. On enquiry to LCC PROW the response was: It might be worth noting that as the court declared that there was no public footpath in 1979 so any documentation prior to that is irrelevant as evidence and it would need to be shown that public footpath rights have been dedicated since that time.

7. Update on new website

Ongoing. The new parish website will be provided by Parish Online and should be 'going live' shortly.

8. Community hedge planting at Mill Lane Play Area

The community hedge planting event took place on 6th November 2025. The Chairman thanked all who attended, particularly the children of St Thomas' and residents who joined in. The Chairman, Clerk and Councillors attended the school assembly the following morning to hand out certificates of participation to the children.

9. Update on the footpath from Hallbridge Gardens to Mill Lane

A number of contractors have been invited to quote and the playground contractor has been asked to advise on suitable surfacing there.

A quote for re-surfacing under current play equipment was obtained and accepted; details as follows:-

Mill Lane: Glow worm seesaw: repair existing surface and overlay with a new top layer. £1185.00

Lawns Avenue: Flat swings, repair existing surfacing, by cutting back edges by approx 250mm all around and laying a new rubber perimeter. £960.00

Cradle swings: Cut back edges by approx 250mm all around and lay a new rubber perimeter. £740.00

Farley Lane: Cradle swings: Overlay existing surface £975.00

10. Update on development at Hall Green Bowling Green

Project ongoing.

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

Members who attended gave an update from the LALC AGM held at County Hall Preston on the 1st November 2025.

12. Any Update from Borough or County Councillors

Those attending the LCC Parish & Town Council conference gave an update. It was noted that this was Councillor led rather than Officer led and a lack of attendance by LCC Officers meant many questions raised couldn't be answered.

County Councillor Swales introduced the Local Government Review consultation and with assistance from Parish Councillor Alex Stoddart answered questions on the proposals. After debate it was resolved that Up Holland Parish Council's preferred option is Option 4, however 4a (alternate) and 5 could be acceptable as they all have the same area and size for South Lancashire.

13. To consider any planning issues or applications

Ref. No: 2025/0853/FUL

Single storey side and rear extension

24 College Road Up Holland Skelmersdale Lancashire WN8 0PY

Parish Council Response: No objections to this proposal.

Ref. No: 2025/0905/FUL

Proposed new storage building at Midstream Garden Centre, Skelmersdale

Midstream West Lancs Ltd Dowding House 2 Penrose Place Skelmersdale

Lancashire WN8 9PR

Parish Council Response: No objections to this proposal.

The following applications were noted:

Ref. No: 2025/0927/LDP

Certificate of Lawfulness proposed erection of small (10' x 8') portable pod/shed at the bottom of the drive to be used for dog grooming.

18 Douglas Avenue Up Holland Skelmersdale Lancashire WN8 0NY

Ref. No: 2025/0873/CON

Approval of details reserved by condition no 4 of planning permission 2025/0291/FUL relating to Surface water drainage design

55 Parliament Street Up Holland Skelmersdale Lancashire WN8 0LN

Footpath (Public Right of Way) Issues:

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 - Section 53

Order Making Authority: Lancashire County Council

Title of Order: The Lancashire County Council - Footpath at Ayrefield Road and Ayrefield House, Up Holland DMMO 2019

A hearing into the above Order will be held at 10.00am on 24 March 2026 at Tanhouse Community Centre, Ennerdale, Skelmersdale, WN8.

14. To consider proposal for tree planting at Janet Lally field

It was resolved in principle to pursue the creation of a second Myawaki woodland at Janet Lally field, proposed by Ian Wright at LCC, providing community engagement can be ensured. It was suggested that Up Holland High School be invited to join in.

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. Update on Morris Road/Delamere Way Plan for allotments

Ongoing. The hedgerow outside the entrance has now been cut back.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9 pm.

Cllr Neil Smith
Chairman

9th December 2025