



Up Holland Parish Council

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The Minutes of the meeting of Up Holland Parish Council held on **Tuesday 10th February 2026 at 7.30pm** in the Up Holland Methodist Church, Alma Hill, WN8 ONR.

Present: Cllr Neil Smith (Chairman), Cllr Jenny Whiting (Vice-Chairman), Cllr John Gardner, Cllr Nigel Swales, Cllr Helen Johnston, Cllr Neil Pye, Cllr Gill Sinnott, Cllr Alex Stoddart, Cllr Richard Taylor, Cllr Linda Jones and four members of the public.

7.15pm to 7.30pm public participation:

Residents concerned about development at the former St Joseph's College site, Roby Mill continue to experience polluted water courses stemming from the site. The Environment Agency has opened an investigation which continues. It was reported (on 19th January 2026) that the landowners had been instructed to take action to stop the pollution. The EA is gathering evidence and surveying the impact on aquatic life. Residents are reminded to continue to report any issues of pollution to the Environment Agency's hotline.

Meanwhile, a second attempt to discharge conditions of the old planning application has begun, the maps show that the amount of material being brought on site far exceeds the amount required to meet the planning permission so the landowners are now asking to raise levels of the land, far in excess of the original plans. One section to be raised is easily viewable from College Road and will impact on homes along there. This is a section of land described as a 'practice ground' opposite the Fox public house. The maps produced are the same reference as the original but without a key so make little sense and are not in sufficient detail to meet the condition of planning permission granted. The key on the side box hasn't been reproduced so the whole 'new' application doesn't make sense.

With the planning permission being so old, and the site having been completely inactive for over twenty years, much of the land has been reclaimed by nature. It is crucial that this land be reassessed in terms of its wildlife habitation and tree growth over the decades.

Residents also raised concern that a new start-up care providing firm was interested in leasing the former Cardinal Heenan House in Roby Mill to create a home for vulnerable adults.

MINUTES

1. To record apologies for absence

Cllr Andrew Grant was not in attendance.

2. To receive declarations of interest

None declared.

3. To ratify as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held 13th January 2026

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

4. Financial Matters:

• Accounts for ratification and payment

Bernard Keyworth	100226	Installation of TTT	116	£295.00
Table Tennis Tables	100226	Table tennis table	117	£1,049*
Methodist Church	130226	Room hire general meetings	118	£20.00
Wm Fernandez	160226	Cleaning 3 noticeboards	119	£15.00
Laurence Davis	170226	Grass cutting and clearance	120	£850.00
P and R Electricals	170226	Final 25% Christmas lighting fee	121	£1,125*
HMRC	260226	Tax and NI payments	122	£426.70
E A Broad	260226	Salary, expenses	123	£1,513.68
NEST	290226	Pension payment	124	£232.64
Yates Playgrounds	250226	Play area inspections	125	£352.00*
Unity Trust	300226	Bank charges – monthly	126	£9.00

*contains recoverable VAT

The accounts were ratified and authorised for payment.

It was resolved to budget up to £150 for materials for volunteers to create a more durable pathway around the water collection station at Tontine Allotments.

It was resolved to agree the quotation of £55 plus VAT for repairs to the paintwork on vandalised play equipment at Mill Lane Play Area. It was noted that a play specialist is needed to ensure the correct specification of paint is used.

- **Draft Minutes of Finance Meeting 20th January 2026**

The draft Minutes were circulated by email.

- **Confirm Internal Auditor of accounts**

It was resolved to ask Sandra Jones to undertake the internal audit of accounts.

5. To record any police issues

6th February 2026, Lancashire Police and North West Ambulance and Lancashire Fire and rescue were called to the former Ravenhead Brick Works quarry on Chequer Lane due to concerns for a group of Teenagers who had become stuck in the mud. This put a significant strain on emergency services with 4 police patrols, 5 fire pumps and 5 ambulances attending to save the teenagers from being stuck in the mud. It was pitch black, the weather last night was very cold and it was raining heavily. The rescued teens although muddy and extremely cold have suffered minor injuries. Due to the weather and the temperature amongst other dangers within the quarry the outcome of this could have been much worse especially if the teenagers had not had a mobile phone. Due to the remote location and time of day, nobody would have known they were stuck.

18th January 2026 police attended an accident on Grove Road where a car collided with a cyclist on an electric bike.

Inspector John Bent will be moving to Chorley on Thursday (05/02/2026), with Inspector 3040 Anthony Burgess replacing him on Monday (09/02/2026), he is contactable via Anthony.Burgess@lancashire.police.uk.

6. To approve support for Cleaner, Greener Up Holland Group

The inaugural meeting took place on 10th February 2026 at Up Holland Community Hub with eight members of the public present, four Parish Councillors and Rev Paul Lock, who offered space to store equipment. Cllr Gill Sinnott is taking the lead and linking the parish council with this new group, Cleaner, Greener Up Holland (CGU) who will work independently, with support from the parish council when required.

The matter of two emails regarding public waste bins at the War Memorial, received from WLBC Clean & Green Team too late to be included on this agenda, was raised and discussed at this point.

“In relation to the special Council meeting that took place on 14th March 2025, the following budget efficiency was agreed by members.

- *Public bins within Parish Boundaries – achieve a cost neutral position for emptying bins in the financial year 2025/26.*

I am writing to advise you that from the 31st March 2026, the Borough Council will no longer empty the following bins in your area as we believe them to be owned by yourselves.

- *Up Holland War Memorial – 2 x litter bins*

If you feel that this information is incorrect, please advise us as soon as possible.

Should you wish for the Borough Council to continue to empty these bins, we would be able to at the cost £5 per bin, per empty (maximum of 3 times per week). If you wish to proceed with this, we will need to know no later than the 15th March 2026. We will also need you to confirm how many times per week you will require each bin to be emptied.”

“I am therefore writing to advise you that from the 31st March 2026, the Council will no longer be emptying the following litter bins in your area.

- *Up Holland War Memorial – 2 x litter bins*

As advised in March 2025, there are now 3 options available to your Parish Council.

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

Should you wish for the Borough Council to continue emptying you litter bins, we need to know this no later than the 15th March 2026.”

The two public waste bins were bought and installed by Up Holland Parish Council on 28th May 2022 using a grant. They replaced public waste bins that were in a very poor state of repair provided and emptied by WLBC. The land is owned by Lancashire County Council.

Options put to the Up Holland Parish Council tonight (10th February 2026) from Stephen Bissette’s emailed ultimatum.

- **The Parish pay WLBC to empty highlighted litter bins and remove bags at the cost of £5.00 per bin (Bins will only be emptied a maximum of twice per week).**

This equates to Up Holland residents paying twice for one service. This double taxation is not permitted under parish council rules. A Parish Council cannot pay for a service another council has responsibility for.

- **Parish Council contracts a licensed waste carrier to empty the highlighted litter bins and remove bags.**

This is not cost-effective. For the parish council to employ a licensed waste carrier to empty just two bins will cost the residents more in the long run.

- **Parish Council to arrange for highlighted litter bins to be removed.**

This is the only option left to the Parish Council. The bins could be relocated to parish land at the bowling green and repurposed to use as storage for chess pieces and table tennis equipment.

The Parish Council could lobby WLBC to replace the public waste bins that were removed originally due to their dilapidated state, in particular the dangerous protruding damaged metalwork, and request Lancashire County Council as landowner at this site to assist in returning public waste service to this popular site, since the bins are extremely well used, particularly by dog walkers but also by those who lunch, sitting on the benches; they are on a route to schools and next to a bus stop. They were installed by the parish council, when the wooden ones provided by the other local authorities fell apart.

There was disappointment expressed that the Parish Council had only attempted to assist WLBC in meeting **their** obligation to provide public waste bins of an adequate standard and are now penalised to the tune of some £1,500 pa at this stage with no firm commitment that it will stay at that cost and no knowledge of it at budget setting time in November last. Furthermore, previous similar contracts for services with WLBC had been somewhat problematic, making the parish council shy away from contracting with the borough council again.

The land the bins are on is not parish-owned but is public open space, well used by the public and attended to frequently by WLBC staff. They attend the site regularly anyway so the cost of emptying these bins is, in fact, cheaper than bins in more remote area. Forming part of the highway it is placed on a route to schools, by a bus stop and within a Remembrance Park where people frequently lunch, sit, eat and think. The land is owned by Lancashire County Council.

Street cleaning and maintaining public land remains a responsibility of the Borough Council and not the Parish Council. A parish can choose to assist by accepting a devolved function, but cannot be forced to. This is because of how the parish is funded; money cannot be precepted from residents twice to cover the same service.

Last year, Up Holland Parish Council identified bins in remote positions that do cost more to empty, so can these be taken and the nice, new, decorative ones continue to be emptied instead?

It was resolved to request WLBC staff attend the next meeting where a decision will be made as this cannot be concluded at this meeting.

7. To consider residents' concerns about development at the former Cardinal Heenan House, School Lane, Roby Mill, WN8 0QR

Phil Tattersall, National Business Development Director and Rebecca Saunders, Managing Director of Safe Spaces Care arranged a residents' meeting on Friday 6 February 2026 to listen, provide clarity, correct disinformation and explain what is and is not being proposed at the Cardinal Heenan site, Wigan (Lancashire).

It was confirmed that they had already held meetings with the local headteacher, councillor, planning officers and senior health and social care leaders and that there is ongoing engagement a local resident managing a Roby Mill community Facebook page.

Parish Councillors attended this meeting and reported back that it had been less productive than hoped, with concern growing that the information was vague and may be affected by an upcoming change in legislation.

The matters raised are not within the remit of a parish council, though may become consultative in nature in future.

8. Any update on residents' concerns about former St Joseph's College, Roby Mill

Ref. No: 2026/0065/CON

Proposal: Approval of details reserved by condition no 21 of planning permission 8/2002/0689 relating to Earth Movement.

Location: St Josephs Conference Centre College Road Up Holland Skelmersdale Lancashire WN8 0QE

Parish Council Response: Up Holland Parish Council strongly objects to this application and expresses serious concern that what is presented as the approval of reserved details in fact constitutes a significant material change to the previously approved scheme.

The Council is particularly concerned that:

- Lack of transparency in submitted plans

The submitted drawings appear to be based on earlier plans but have been altered without clear explanation. Critically, the absence of a clear legend/key makes it difficult to properly interpret the extent of the proposed changes. This gives the impression that the amendments are minor, when in reality they represent substantial alterations to site levels.

- Excessive and harmful changes to land levels

The proposal indicates that land in parts of the site will be raised to a significantly increased height (in excess of eleven times existing levels in places). Such drastic regrading would have a profound and harmful impact on:

- The character and appearance of the area
 - Residential amenity of neighbouring properties
 - Natural drainage and land stability
- Impact on Conservation Area and street scene

The introduction of a practice green in close proximity to College Road would materially alter the established character of this conservation area.

It is inevitable that such a facility would require:

- High protective netting
- Associated structures and maintenance activity

This would create a visually intrusive and suburbanising effect, particularly affecting nearby homes and the setting of the Fox Public House.

- Environmental concerns and regulatory breaches

The Parish Council is aware that the Environment Agency has already identified water pollution originating from this site and has instructed the landowner to cease such activities.

This demonstrates that:

- The site is already environmentally sensitive
 - Works undertaken to date have had negative environmental consequences
- Tree loss and ecological impact

Residents have reported ongoing land clearance and tree felling. Given that the site has remained largely undisturbed for nearly 30 years, it is highly likely that it now supports:

- Established habitats
- Biodiversity of local importance

Conclusion

Given the scale of the proposed earth movements, the environmental concerns already identified, and the location within a conservation area, the Parish Council considers that this proposal goes far beyond the scope of a reserved matters submission and should not be determined as such.

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

Hall Green Ward: The old bus shelter with toilets, closed by WLBC a year ago now, are an eyesore in the centre of our village. Whilst open the cleaner kept the area moderately tidy but now closed, rubbish has built up and there is soggy food waste as well as a report of human faecal matter in the doorway. The Clerk was instructed to request an update on what WLBC intend to do with this building. The ideas suggested a year ago have not come to fruition. Councillors suggested throwing a one-year birthday of the closure of the toilets, but feared being accused of fly-tipping themselves if balloons were tied to the façade.

Chequer Lane Ward: Mud on Chequer Lane is again causing concern with more reports of vehicles slipping, adjacent housing and cars being covered in dust and mud. A washing vehicle is seen going up and down the road but it is pushing mud to the side which when it rains, returns immediately. The road surface needs scraping now.

County Councillor Swales will approach LCC Highways regarding this. However, there ought to be conditions on the planning permission that material is kept on site and wheel washing is understood to be operational. These measures appear to be insufficient. Last year, (June 2025), landowners Breck Homes, declared the intention to apply for planning permission to build around 300 homes on the footprint of the old brickworks, so an application is expected.

Village Ward: Continued concern about the state of the road surface through the village from School Lane to Newgate. It is understood that LCC Highways are surveying and a plan might be available shortly. County Councillor Nigel Swales will request an update. The Tour de France 2027 route includes the roads that are of concern.

Crawford Ward: When an elderly lady (79) fell walking along the pathway towards the primary school, someone came and cut back encroaching branches, but the grass and moss across the pavement remains in situ. This will be reported using Love, Clean Streets. If road sweepers can give advance notice, drivers can ensure their vehicles are not obstructing the cleaning. Can WLBC consider informing residents in small villages such as this?

10. Play Area Issues:

- **Mill Lane:**

- **Footpath through from Hall Bridge Gardens**

Ongoing.

- **Farley Lane:**

- **To distribute information on land ownership**

The parish council files, detailing agreements between St Teresa's Church and Up Holland Parish Council made in 1995, for the use of land at Farley Lane for a play area, were available at this meeting.

- **Lawns Avenue:**

- **Problems of getting WLBC to empty bins regularly enough**

Residents are now asked to report bins that need emptying by using the WLBC online system. All requests for a bin emptying schedule have been ignored.

11. Update on development at Hall Green Bowling Green

The table tennis table was installed on 6th February 2026 and the invoices forwarded to WLBC for reimbursement of 60% under the Capital Grant Scheme. It was resolved to continue planning development for a tearoom at Hall Green Bowling Green with Sphere Architects.

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

The next meeting of LALC Area Committee will be held at WLBC Offices in Ormskirk at 7pm on Thursday 19th February 2026.

LALC training sessions for councillors were distributed by email.

13. Any Update from Borough or County Councillors

County Councillor Swales updated the meeting as issues arose. There was no contact from Borough Councillors Patel, Fillis or Owen.

14. To consider any planning issues or applications

Ref. No: 2026/0084/FUL Removal of existing external render and application of new render finished in a light grey colour.

Location: 11 School Lane Up Holland Skelmersdale Lancashire WN8 0LW

Parish Council Response: Up Holland Parish Council has no objection to this proposal.

Ref. No: 2026/0065/CON

Proposal: Approval of details reserved by condition no 21 of planning permission 8/2002/0689 relating to Earth Movement.

Location: St Josephs Conference Centre College Road Up Holland Skelmersdale Lancashire WN8 0QE

Parish Council Response: as above.

Ref. No: 2026/0020/FUL

Proposal: Retrospective permission for alteration of external windows and back door from wooden frame to high efficiency UPVC double glazed units.

Location: 2 St Thomas Court Up Holland Skelmersdale Lancashire WN8 0NE

Parish Council Response: Up Holland Parish Council has no objection to this proposal.

Ref. No: 2025/1093/FUL

Proposal: Erection of small (10 feet x 8 feet) portable dog grooming shed/pod at the bottom of the drive of residential property.

Location: 18 Douglas Avenue Up Holland Skelmersdale Lancashire WN8 0NY

Parish Council Response: Up Holland Parish Council has no objection to this proposal.

Ref. No: 2025/1075/FUL

Proposal: Retention of Porch

Location: 31 Farley Lane, Roby Mill, WN8

Parish Council Response: Up Holland Parish Council has no objection to this proposal.

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

The quotation from Sphere Architects of £1,200 to take this matter through the planning process was approved.

17. Update on lease from LCC for land at walled garden outside The Good Catch Chip Shop

The final draft has been approved and awaiting conclusion.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.40 pm.

Cllr Neil Smith
Chairman

10th March 2026