



Up Holland Parish Council

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The Minutes of the meeting of Up Holland Parish Council held on **Tuesday 14th July 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 Linda Jones, Cllr Neil Pye, Cllr Gill Sinnott, Cllr Alex Stoddart, Cllr Richard Taylor, Borough Councillor Richard Lee and one member of the public.

7.15pm to 7.30pm Public participation

Borough Councillor Richard Lee gave an update on his work with WLBC, in particular addressing issues with the household bin collection, policies and resources, planning and the local government reorganisation.

MINUTES

1. To record apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Helen Johnston, Cllr John Gardner, Cllr Nigel Swales. 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 9th June 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

Cleaner, Greener	300626	Expenses for the group	37	£12.00
National Allotments	030726	Annual subscription	38	£84.00*
Zurich Municipal	100726	Annual insurance premium	39	£2,346.71
Methodist Church	120726	Room hire general meetings	40	£20.00

Chairman:.....

nPower	150726	Electricity for clock	41	£14.33
Eurooffice	130726	Printer ink	42	£120.91*
OPSTA	130726	Annual Membership (Returned: OPSTA changed banks)	43	£10.00
Wm Fernandez	160726	Cleaning 3 noticeboards	44	£15.00
E A Broad	240726	Increase in mileage allowance	45	£29.67
OPSTA	220726	Subscription – new bank account	46	£10.00
Sphere Architects	240726	Architectural services	47	£720.00*
HMRC	240726	Tax and NI payments	48	£426.70
E A Broad	240726	Salary, expenses	49	£1,523.55
NEST	250726	Pension payment	50	£232.64
Laurence Davis	250726	Grass cutting contract	51	£1,437.50
Yates Playgrounds	250726	Play area inspections	52	£352.00*
Unity Trust	310726	Bank charges	53	£7.00

*contains recoverable VAT

Receipts:-

HMRC	120626	VAT refund	£6,346.71
WLBC	240626	Concurrent funding	£2,550.00
Unity Trust	300626	Interest on reserve account	£896.15
CCLA	020726	Return on investment	£323.88
OPSTA	150726	Returned Standing Order	£10.00

The accounts were ratified and authorised for payment.

• Bank Reconciliation to 30th June 2026

Bank balance as at 8th July 2026

Reserve account: £205,886.38

Current account: £ 5,536.49

Total: £211,422.87

CCLA balance on investments	£102,232.63
Total:	£ 313,655.50

- **Accounts for first quarter of financial year with comparison to budget figures**

Excel sheets showing income, expenditure against budget figures and bank reconciliation were distributed prior to the meeting. There were no areas of concern.

5. To record any police issues

Some Chequer Lane issues were raised in terms of an unregistered vehicle being abandoned on the carpark and a caravan parked on the football field. These were reported and being dealt with.

Crawford Village Hut was broken into and trashed. This included the outdoor containers though nothing was taken. PCSO Neil Smith attended and was helpful. He is still attending the Community Hub regularly. Other matters include graffiti, silver metal cannisters, and dog poo bags being left in certain places.

There is a proliferation of Estate Agent signs; some abandoned and many positioned at the end of a road and not really near to the property up for sale. Under Town & Country Planning legislation Estate Agent boards cannot be erected on the grass verges along main roads, however house-hunters often find it useful guidance. Cleaner, Greener Up Holland have been tidying up any abandoned signs when they find them.

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

Hall Green bus stop

Following the meeting with WLBC officers, it was resolved to await their response on barricading the toilet block, liaise with WLBC further to make the area look better. Quotations for re-painting the structure, installing a notice board, seating and planters will be obtained and circulated over summer with a view to making it look better whilst demolition is awaited. Any purchased items to be capable of repurposing elsewhere when the building is demolished.

Carpark alongside the White Lion Public House

It was resolved to send the drafted letter to Paul Murphy, Thwaites business manager to clarify the extent of ownership of the carpark, because a section of it is under WLBC ownership for public use to support the church and post office as well as the pub, so the signs recently erected are misleading. Borough Councillor Lee also agreed to make enquires at WLBC.

Tontine Ward: visitors are asking for play equipment for toddler age group, and picnic tables on the Janet Lally field. The usual running club event is expected to be held during the first week of November.

Hall Green Ward: The Victoria Hotel Public House has a number of tables on the pavement, making it difficult to walk around on occasion and leading to more than normal amount of litter. Cllr Lee agreed to make enquiries at WLBC as to whether this encroachment is permitted. The brickwork around the base of the Millenium Clock requires surveying, as it is breaking away in places. It was agreed to complete this work under delegation as an urgent matter.

WLBC recently provided community skips for people to deposit large waste in some areas. The Clerk was asked to enquire if skips might be available for the areas in Dearden Way, Danbers/Chequer Lane as fly-tipping in these areas is not uncommon (particularly around Chequer Lane pond) and opportunities for residents to dispose of larger items is quite restricted here.

Village Ward: White chalk markings around pot holes have been noticed but some areas of concern, mostly near the border with Wigan Council have been missed. It was agreed to ask County Councillor Swales to enquire about these sections of road, when photographs have been obtained. The 'non-marked' areas are very close to some of our oldest properties and these properties are being shaken by vehicles going through.

Newgate Ward: Cllr Taylor and his family and friends have repainted the football wall at Mill Lane Play Area. The meeting recorded thanks for this work.

It was mooted that some form of traffic management be considered at the junction of Alma Hill and Tontine.

7. To further discuss Roby Mill Book Exchange BT Kiosk

Materials for renovation had been obtained and the project is progressing.

8. To ratify order for two new benches at Chequer Lane (mining design) & Garnett Lees (farming design), and consider project for a custom-made bench (Mail coach & highwayman) for alongside the A577 opposite Denshaw

It was agreed to purchase these three benches from David Ogilvie Engineering. Installation by local contractor over the summer months.

9. To discuss any play area issues, to include updates on the following:-

- **Draft Play Area Policy**

The draft policy was circulated and will be adopted administratively when all Parish Councillors have had the opportunity to review it.

- **Roby Mill – issue of dry-stone walling repairs**

A suitable contractor for this specialist work is being sought. A budget was agreed if a contractor can be found to complete this over summer recess.

- **Lawns Ave**
 - i. **fencing around ball park**

It was resolved to instal fencing along the section and signs warning of a sharp drop in land on the other side.

- ii. **extension of safety surfacing to the slide**

Safety surfacing is beneath the fall risk and is not necessary at the end of a slide.

- iii. **square hole dug into Janet Lally field**

Children dug in a square hole as a base for bike ramp. Allotment holders assisted in filling it in.

A proposal of a dirt pump track on the edge of the field was mooted.

- **Mill Lane – feasibility of informal football pitch**

Cllr Taylor and his family have repainted the wall to cover graffiti and drawn a white goal mark. It was agreed to increase the frequency of grass cutting in a section as footballer were using the area. This will be monitored and if popular, installation of junior goal posts will be considered again.

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

The next meeting of LALC Area Committee will be held in WLBC Council Offices in Derby Street, Ormskirk at 7pm on Thursday 17th September 2026.

11.Any Update from Borough or County Councillors and update on Local Government Reorganisation plans for Elections 2027

All parishes will hold elections in May 2027. It was resolved to include a biography for each councillor if they wish to on the parish council website.

12.To consider any planning issues or applications

Ref. No: 2026/0498/FUL

Proposal: Proposed rear extension to existing mid-terrace dwelling

Location: 4 Roby Mill Up Holland Skelmersdale Lancashire WN8 0QF

Parish Council Response: No objections to this proposal.

Ref. No: 2026/0472/FUL

Proposal: Retrospective - Retention of existing Stable Blocks serving an established Livery and Teaching Business. Retention of Hard Standing. Proposed Hay Barn.

Location: Bounty Farm Barn Crawford Road Crawford Village Lancs WN8 9QS

Parish Council Response: No objections to this proposal.

Ref. No: 2026/0462/PIP

Proposal: Application for Permission in Principle -Erection of 1no. single-storey dwelling.

Location: Land East Of Bank Road Up Holland Lancashire

Parish Council Response: Permission in Principle is concerned with whether the site is suitable for residential development in principle. The Parish Council considers that the site is not suitable for residential development as it lies within the Green Belt and insufficient information has been provided to demonstrate that the proposal falls within any recognised exception to Green Belt policy. The introduction of a new dwelling, associated domestic curtilage, parking and residential activity would represent encroachment into the countryside and would diminish the openness of the Green Belt. The proposal would therefore conflict with national Green Belt policy and the Green Belt objectives of the West Lancashire Local Plan. The Parish Council requests that Permission in Principle be refused

The meeting noted this application was now refused.

Ref. No: 2026/0457/FUL

Proposal: Proposed replacement access and reconfiguration of existing car park

Location: 1 Parkside Place Oasis Business Park Up Holland Lancs WN8 9RD

Parish Council Response: No objections to this proposal.

Ref. No: 2026/0409/FUL

Proposal: Removal of condition 7 of planning permission 2014/0033/FUL in relation to garage use.

Location: 124 Ormskirk Road Up Holland Skelmersdale Lancashire WN8 0AF

Parish Council Response: No objections to this proposal.

13.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 Section12A outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. The nature of the exempt information and the relevant exemption paragraph is shown.

Resolved.

14.Provision of Goods and Services

- (a) Further action on tearoom creation at Bowling Green and Tawd Valley Development collaboration and consideration of pickle ball field

There was no further contact from the member of the public suggesting a pickle ball court be installed. It is assumed their preferred site would be WLBC owned land at Chequer Lane.

A basic plan had been received from Sphere Architect and was agreed to share this with Tawd Valley Developments.

The plan originally provided by Tawd Valley Developments suggests that the shelter and table tennis table are within the parish council land boundary so the request is to confirm that the string drawn cutting this in two is checked again.

Up Holland Parish Council agrees to co-operate fully with the development and provide support and carparking provision where it is possible, in return for Tawd Valley Developments and R P Tyson removing the shed and leaving the site with a permeable car park surface and an outline base for the proposed tearoom.

It was resolved to delegate to the Chairman and Clerk meeting with Tawd Valley Developments to ask how much of this is achievable and take the project forward.

- (b) Next steps for allotment creation at Delamere Way/Morris Road field

Soil sampling will be arranged to ensure the ground is suitable for allotments. The plan drawn up will then be used as the basis of a change of use planning application. Sphere architects are consultants on this project.

- (c) Consideration of the proposal to divert footpath 0821041 across Janet Lally field

Lawns Farm are considering an application to divert the footpath, so that rather than entering the farmyard, it will turn across the edge of Janet Lally Memorial field. The main reason for this is health and safety grounds as this is a working farmyard. Janet Lally field is muddy underfoot and such a diversion will require a suitably surfaced footpath with signage.

It was resolved that the Parish Council maintains a neutral position in the matter but expects that all costs for the alternative footpath are met by the applicant and design approved by relevant stake holders.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.48 pm.

Cllr Neil Smith
Chairman

8th September 2026