

MINUTES OF THE WARTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 7th January 2025 in the Village Hall Warton.

PRESENT: Councillors Barkley, Briggs, Hilling, Muckle and Senior.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr J W Ball – Clerk to Warton Parish Council

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillors Mrs J Cody, C Lee and Mrs L Simmonds and County Councillor Mrs P Williamson and District Councillor Mrs S Tyldesley.

ABSENCE OF CHAIRMAN: In the absence of Councillor Mrs J Cody, Councillor K Barkley acted as chairman for the meeting.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST: No declarations of interest in agenda items for this meeting were made by members present.

25.001. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the meeting held on the 3rd December 2024, having been previously circulated, be accepted as a true and accurate record of proceedings at the meeting and be signed as such by the chairman for the meeting.

25.002. REPORT FROM THE CLERK CONCERNING MATTERS IN PROGRESS NOT COVERED BY OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA: The clerk reported that: i. The LALC Area Committee Meeting will be held at 7.00pm on Wednesday 15th January 2025 in Morecambe Town Hall, Warton Parish Council nominated parish council representatives were Councillor Lee and Senior but all councillors were welcome to attend ii. The asset register had been amended and was available on the Parish Council Website. The total value of assets held had increased from £125,647 to £142,316. Locations of individual items to be added. A Spreadsheet version of the register was being prepared by Councillor Barkley.

Other items had been notified to members as received.

The clerk was thanked for his report.

THE CHAIRMAN ADJOURNED THE MEETING FOR A PERIOD OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public were in attendance at the meeting and the clerk reported that he had not received notification from residents concerning items they wished to be raised.

THE CHAIRMAN RECONVENED THE MEETING

25.003. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR MRS P WILLIAMSON: County Councillor Mrs Williamson was unable to attend the meeting and had advised the clerk that she had no items she wished to raise in addition to those already included in her regular information reports and her involvement in the process covered at Item 15.

County Councillor Mrs Williamson was thanked for her continued support.

25.004. REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR MRS S TYLDESLEY: District Councillor Mrs Tyldesley was unable to attend the meeting and had advised the clerk that she had nothing to report.

District Councillor Mrs Tyldesley was thanked for her continued support.

25.005. STANDING ORDER 25: The clerk reported that no action under Standing Order 25 had been necessary since the last meeting of the parish council.

25.006. PLANNING MATTERS: a) The following application had been received since the last meeting of the parish council for members' review and comments.

24/01318/FUL – Erection of single storey rear extension, construction of a canopy to the front elevation and conversion of garage into habitable room for Mitchell Harrison 1A Pringle Bank, Warton – No objection raised.

24/01344/FUL – Change of use of agricultural land to the South West of the property to form part of residential cartilage for Mr & Mrs Lauretani, 188B Main Street, Warton – No objection raised.

b) Members noted the current status of planning applications reviewed by members at previous meetings of the parish council as follows:

24/00548/LB – Reviewed 4th June 2024 Meeting – Application Permitted
 24/00948/VCN – Reviewed 1st October 2024 Meeting – Awaiting Decision
 24/00614/FUL – Reviewed 5th November 2024 Meeting – Awaiting Refused
 24/01175/FUL – Reviewed 5th November 2024 Meeting – Awaiting Decision
 24/01205/FUL – Reviewed 5th November 2024 Meeting – Awaiting Decision
 24/01203/FUL – Reviewed 5th November 2024 Meeting – Awaiting Decision
 24/0211/TPO – Reviewed 5th November 2024 Meeting – Application Permitted
 24/0227/TCA – Reviewed 3rd December 2024 Meeting – Application Permitted
 24/01160/ELDC – Reviewed 3rd December 2024 Meeting – Awaiting Decision

25.007. FINANCE: a) Members noted the financial summary for December 2024 as follows:

Opening Balances – All Accounts

Current Account	10351.91
Village Improvement Account	12640.11
Investment Account	8058.47
E&R Wilson Fund Account	1339.13
	<u>32389.62</u>

Opening Balance – Current Account 10351.91

Receipts NIL

Payments

03.12.24 T Oliver – Toilet Work November	150.00
03.12.24 Astarte Web Design – Website Hosting Payment	150.00
03.12.24 Archbishop Hutton's Primary School – CCTV Donation	1000.00
06.12.24 Npower – Toilet Electricity	47.12
06.12.24 J W Ball – Salary	467.64
	<u>1814.76</u>

Closing Balance Current Account 8537.15

Closing Balances – All Accounts

Current Account	8537.15	
Village Improvement Account	12640.11	
Investment Account	8058.47	
E&R Wilson Fund Account	<u>1339.13</u>	<u>30574.86</u>

b) Members authorised and signed cheques for the following payments:-

Thomas Oliver – Toilet Work December - £137.50 – 2393
 Community heartbeat Trust – Defibrillator Batteries - £267.00 – 2392
 J W Ball – Reimbursement Replacement Lights Purchase £457.23 - 2394

c) Virgin Money Bank Mandate: The clerk informed members that the amended mandate had been deposited with Virgin Money and would become operational when proof of identity had been presented at the branch by Councillors Barkley, Lee and Senior (new signatories for cheques).

d) Precept Upon Changing Authority for the 2025/2026 Financial Year. The clerk issued details of calculations used to establish the level of funding required to meet estimated parish council expenditure for the 2025/2026 financial year. Based on actual receipts and payment figures for the period 1st April 2024 to 31st December 2024 and estimates for the remaining period of the 2024/2025 Financial Year the precept for that year of £22,086 should meet the parish council financial requirements with a surplus of £2,025 to carry over to the 2025/2026 financial year. The 2025/2026 Precept request should therefore be based on the 2024/2025 financial year figure of £ 22,086 with an added 3% to cover inflationary expenditure and be fixed at £22,749 (a cost to a Band D property of £25.59 per annum – £22,749 divided by the Warton Tax Base of 888.83), an increase of £0.75 on the 2024/2025 Precept figure.

Members considered the information provided by the clerk covering the 2024/2025 and 2025/2026 financial years and agreed that a Precept demand for £22,749 be submitted to Lancaster City Council.

25.008. LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL MICRO WOOD INITIATIVE: The clerk reported that Lancashire County Council had been awarded £1M to be used to provide the funding for the creation of several tennis court sized micro woods throughout the county. Sites should be publically accessible, preferably amenity grassland corners or sites with management problems. Full liaison with owners of the land selected would be arranged with Lancashire County Council officers responsible for all stages of the process from sapling purchase to planting. Trees would become the property of the landowner. Ian Wright Community Engagement Officer (Treescapes) would be responsible for operation of the initiative and should be liaison contact for interested organisations. Members discussed the initiative and agreed that an expression of interest be made by the clerk.

25.009. GARDNER ROAD CATCHPIT REPAIRS: Councillor Barkley reported that it had not been possible to progress the necessary repairs because of the very wet weather. Excess water had been diverted onto the surrounding fields from the catch pit and as a result no flooding had been experienced by Gardner Road residents. Contact with RSPB officers would be arranged in the near future to request the netting of hedges to restrict nesting adjacent to the proposed work site so avoiding delays when conditions were suitable to commence the necessary repairs.

Councillor Barkley was thanked for his report.

25.010. WEIR PLAYGROUND SAFETY REPORT & RISK ASSESSMENT: The clerk reported that Councillor Lee had completed the safety assessment of the play area and had recommended:

- i. repairs necessary to one of the stone benches should be carried out.
- ii. checks to be carried out to confirm that all kerb edging stones be outside the fall area for all items of play equipment.
- iii. consideration of fencing of the large play area, although expensive would be advisable to control children's direct access to the road.
- iv. 2 gates controlling access to the small play area should be fitted with self closing mechanisms.
- v. Adequate signage was not available advising users of the play area risks and responsibilities involved.

Members considered the recommendations and agreed that action should be taken to satisfy requirements. Consideration to be given to grant funding availability to offset some of the expenditure involved.

25.011. HAGS CAROUSEL INSTALLATION: Councillor Barkley reported that because of some movement in the central support of the carousel dependant on the loading distribution there was a tendency to stick when being ridden. Members agreed that the central support be examined and adjustments be made.

25.012. SMALL QUARRY WOOD DISEASED TREES: Work to fell the trees was ongoing.

25.013. SENSET LANE DISEASED TREES: County Councillor Mrs Williamson had arranged for Ian Wright, Lancashire County Council Community Engagement Officer (Treescape) to discuss the problem with members of the Eco-gang during a site visit to Senset Lane. A recommendation to pollard the diseased trees reducing their height to hedge level, so allowing the trees to recover without prejudice to the ecosystem. Agreement was also reached to encourage action within Archbishop Hutton's Primary School to develop a hedge around part of the school and plant trees on school land.

25.014. SMALL QUARRY LAND RENTAL: The clerk reported that as instructed by members the owners of the Old School Brewery had been sent an invoice for £50 as a demand for payment against the rental of parish council land, built on as part of the extension to the property. The invoice covered the land rental for the period 1st January 2025 to 31st December 2025.

25.015. ARCHBISHOP HUTTON'S PRIMARY SCHOOL DONATION REQUEST: The clerk reported that the donation of £1000 had been forwarded to the Head Teacher as a contribution to the cost of the CCTV system.

25.016. ELIZABETH & RICHARD WILSON CHARITABLE FUND: The clerk reported that emails had been forwarded to those who had expressed an interest in receiving a contribution from the fund but had not provided the necessary information to enable him to process the application. A time limit for the information to be received was imposed for 31st January 2025.

25.017. ITEMS OF INFORMATION FROM MEMBERS: i Councillor Senior reported that the next meeting of the Mansergh Trust would be held on 21st May 2025.

ii Councillor Senior reported that the Warton Flood Group AGM would be held at 2.00pm on Sunday 19th January 2025 in the Village Hall. The next pump practice would be held on Saturday 11th January 2025.

iii Councillor Hilling reported an additional Waste Bin was required at the Coach Road/Main Street junction.

25.018. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING: There being no further business the Chairman thanked Members for their attendance and participation and closed the meeting at 8.35pm. Members agreed that the next meeting of Warton Parish Council will be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 4th February 2025 in the Village Hall, Warton. Items for inclusion in the meeting agenda should be notified to the clerk by Monday 27th January 2025.

Chairman..... Date.....

Minutes subject to agreement at the 4th February 2025 meeting of the Warton Parish Council and until then are considered to be draft only.