

**MINUTES OF THE WARTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2025 in the Village Hall Warton.**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Mrs J Cody, K Barkley, K Briggs, A Hilling, C Lee, W Muckle, F Senior and Mrs L Simmonds.

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

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Apologies for absence were received and accepted from County Councillor Mrs P Williamson.

**DECLARATION OF INTEREST:** No declarations of interest were made by Members present in relation to agenda items for this meeting.

**25.019. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:** RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the meeting held on the 7<sup>th</sup> January 2025, 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.

**25.020. REPORT FROM THE CLERK CONCERNING MATTERS IN PROGRESS NOT COVERED BY OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA:** The clerk reported that: i. Details had been received concerning the Buckingham Palace Garden Party to be held on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2025. One person plus guest can be nominated by the parish council in a draw to determine the representative of LALC to attend the garden party. Nomination need to be forwarded to LALC by 14<sup>th</sup> February 2025. Members agree that Mrs J Cody be nominated. ii. Councillor Senior and the clerk had attended the Lancaster Area Committee meeting held at Morecambe Town Hall on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025. Because of confusion about the cancellation of the meeting the attendance was poor. However items of information from the police and county council were of interest, concerning crime prevention and help available from County Council officers. iii. The updated Parish and Town Council Charter had been received from Lancashire County Council and would be circulated to members. iv. The updating of the parish council asset register was in hand. v. Attention was required to the tap in the male portion of the Main Street Public Toilets. Councillors Hilling and Lee agreed to attend. vi. A complaint had been received from a member of the public that the parish council membership details on the website required updating. Councillor Mrs Simmonds reported that the necessary amendments had been actioned. vii. The pole carrying the Millhead SpiD was leaning to the side and required straightening – Lancashire County Council had been informed and remedial action requested.

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**

**25.021. 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 included in her information reports already circulated.

County Councillor Mrs Williamson was thanked for her continued support.

**25.022. REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR MRS S TYLDESLEY:** District Councillor Mrs Tyldesley reported that the Lancaster City Council budget for the 2025/2026 financial year would be published shortly. An increase of £1 in the annual fee for the green bin collection service had been proposed.

District Councillor Mrs Tyldesley was thanked for her report and continued support.

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

**25.024. PLANNING MATTERS:** a) The following applications for Members review and comment had been received since the last meeting of the parish council.

24/01387/FUL – Erection of a single storey rear extension and construction of raised patio for Mr Jeremy Benson, Greendales, Mill Lane, Warton – No objection raised.

24/01203/FUL – Construction of dormer extension to the front elevation and installation of rooflights to the rear elevation for Mr Dean Hoggarth, 17 Westover Avenue, Warton – No objection raised.

24/01410/FUL – Erection of two-storey side extension for Mr C.J. Hannaford 63 Sand Lane, Warton – No objection raised.

24/01205/FUL – Installation of air source heat pump for Mr Michael Buckingham 12 Albert 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:

24/00948/VCN – Reviewed 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024 Meeting – Awaiting Decision

24/01175/FUL – Reviewed 5<sup>th</sup> November 2024 Meeting – Application Permitted

24/01205/FUL – Reviewed 5<sup>th</sup> November 2024 Meeting – Awaiting Decision

24/01203/FUL – Reviewed 5<sup>th</sup> November 2024 Meeting – Awaiting Decision

24/01160/ELDC – Reviewed 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2024 Meeting – Awaiting Decision

24/01318/FUL – Reviewed 7<sup>th</sup> January 2025 Meeting – Application Permitted

24/01344/FUL – Reviewed 7<sup>th</sup> January 2025 Meeting – Awaiting Decision

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**25.025. FINANCE:** a) Members noted the financial summary for January 2025 as follows:

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>
Opening Balance - Current Account		8537.15
Payments		
06.01.25 J W Ball Salary	699.90	
07.01.25 Heartbeat Trust – Defib Batteries	267.00	
07.01.25 J W Ball – Replacement Lights Reimbursement	457.23	
07.01.25 T Oliver – Toilet Work - December	137.50	
08.01.25 Npower – Toilet Electricity	<u>48.51</u>	<u>1610.14</u>
Closing Balance Current Account		6927.01
Village Improvement Account		
Opening Balance	12640.11	
01.01.25 NS&I Interest	<u>207.55</u>	
Closing Balance		12847.66
Closing Balances – All Accounts		
Current Account	6927.01	
Village Improvement Account	12847.66	
Investment Account	8058.47	
E&R Wilson Fund Account	<u>1339.13</u>	<u>29172.27</u>

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

Thomas Oliver – Toilet Work December - £137.50 – 2395

c) Virgin Money Bank Mandate: The clerk requested that Councillors Barkley, Lee and Senior attend Virgin Money Premises when convenient to provide the necessary information required for their addition to the bank mandate as cheque signatories.

**25.026. LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL MICRO WOOD INITIATIVE:** The clerk reported that he had contacted Ian Wright – Community Engagement Officer (Treescopes) and a site visit would be arranged as soon as possible preferably on a Monday afternoon. Members discussed possible sites to be visited with the Little Weir agreed as the most suitable. District Councillor Mrs Tyldesley agreed to contact members of the Roods Development Committee to see if a site could be developed on the Roods. Councillor Briggs agreed to accompany the clerk on the proposed site visit.

**25.027. GARDNER ROAD CATCHPIT REPAIRS:** Councillor Hilling reported that Councillor Senior and he had attended the Warton Flood Action Group AGM as parish council representatives. RSPB financial contracts had been discussed with the likely affect that little or no work would be carried out on the Warton Mires site. The cutbacks would not affect the Lancashire County Council work to repair the catch pit and drain although little progress could be made until improved weather would enable heavy plant to access the site. Efforts

continued to identify ownership and responsibility for the maintenance of the drain outflow doors into the River Keer. The RSPB had been approached to provide netting of the catch pit site to prevent the nesting of birds and further delay to the repair work when weather permitted. To date despite periods of very wet weather Gardner Road flooding had been prevented.

Councillors Barkley, Hilling and Senior were thanked for their actions.

**25.027. WEIR PLAYGROUND SAFETY REPORT & RISK ASSESSMENT:** Members considered the points raised in Councillor Lee's report and risk assessment and agreed that:

- i the stone bench broken seat to be replaced with a suitable wooden slatted or solid version.
- ii checks to be carried out to confirm that all the curb edging stones were outside the fall area for all items of play equipment.
- iii the fencing of the large play area was not considered necessary.
- iv the 2 gates controlling access to the small play area should be fitted with self closing mechanisms.
- v signage to be provided stating that use of the playground and equipment within was at the users own risk and responsibility and damage to users property or personal injury was not the responsibility of Warton Parish Council. Dogs were not permitted in the small play area and must be on a lead in all other parts of the play area.
- vii the holes adjacent to the play area in the pathway leading to Gardner Road to be repaired.

**25.028. HAGS CAROUSEL INSTALLATION:** Councillor Lee agreed to examine the carousel to establish if adjustment to the central support would rectify the smooth running problem currently being experienced by children using the carousel.

**25.029. SMALL QUARRY WOOD DISEASED TREES:** Councillor Lee reported that he had arranged for the deceased trees to be felled without charge to the parish council on the understanding that the wood could be kept by those carrying out the work. Any surplus wood could be collected and used by village residents. Warton Parish Council to be responsible for payment of costs incurred for the hire of a wood chipper and fuel. The work was scheduled for 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2025.

**25.030. SMALL QUARRY LAND RENTAL:** The clerk reported that an invoice for the payment of £50.00 for the rental of parish council land had been sent to the owner of the Old School Brewery but payment had not been received. Members instructed the clerk to send a reminder invoice to the owner of the Old School Brewery advising that payment by cheque or bank transfer was acceptable with a deadline of 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

**25.031. ELIZABETH & RICHARD WILSON CHARITABLE FUND:** The clerk reported that despite efforts to contact those who had expressed an interest in applying for funding from the charity, only one completed application had been received. Members considered the application and agreed that the applicant was eligible for receipt of a grant. Members agreed to award £500.00 to the applicant and instructed the clerk to take the necessary payment action.

**25.032. ITEMS OF INFORMATION FROM MEMBERS:** i Councillor Senior reported that a large hole had developed near to the Borwick Lane/ Chapel Walk junction. The clerk was instructed to contact County Councillor Mrs Williamson for advice on the responsibility for repair as the hole may be in part of the road not adopted by Lancashire County Council.

ii. Councillor Mrs Simmonds reported that the Borwick Lane SpiD was not operational and to her knowledge had not operated after work to straighten the support pole by Lancashire 12 County Council had been carried out. The clerk was instructed to contact Lancashire County Council to discuss possible causes.

**25.033. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING:** There being no further business the Chairman thanked Members and District Councillor Mrs Tyldesley for their attendance and participation and closed the meeting at 9.00pm. Members agreed that the next meeting of Warton Parish Council will be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 4th March 2025 in the Village Hall, Warton. Items for inclusion in the meeting agenda should be notified to the clerk by Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

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

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