

MINUTES OF THE WARTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 4th March 2025 in the Village Hall Warton.

PRESENT: Councillors Mrs J Cody, K Barkley, A Hilling, W Muckle and F Senior.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr J W Ball – Clerk to Warton Parish Council and 1 member of the public.

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

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

25.034. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the meeting held on the 4th February 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.

25.035. REPORT FROM THE CLERK CONCERNING MATTERS IN PROGRESS NOT COVERED BY OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA: The clerk reported that: i. he had been informed that the husband of County Councillor Mrs Williamson had died. Councillors asked the clerk to express their deepest sympathy and condolences to Phillippa and that she and her family were in their thoughts. ii he had been informed of action being taken by members of Warton Crag W.I. to support the work of the Lynne Bird Trust in the provision of a network of bleed control kits nationally. Funds had been raised for the purchase and erection of secure cabinets to house the kits in the village and Dr Lesley Simon – Chairman of the Warton W.I Branch had asked for the help of Warton Parish Council in the placing of the boxes. iv confirmation had been received that Footpath FP0135008 between Boon Town Farm and the A6 road had been officially designated as a Bridle Way by Lancashire County Council from 6th December 2024. v. Councillor Cody had forwarded her application to be included in the draw to represent LALC at the Buckingham Palace Garden Party to be held on Tuesday 20th May 2025.

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: Mr Houghton of 1 Hutton Gardens, Warton requested assistance from the parish council in easing a parking problems adjacent to his property. Currently vehicles were being parked in a manner likely to cause a road traffic accident and creating inconvenience and risk of damage to his car. The police had been approached and had attended but had taken no other action than to issue a warning to the owners of vehicles involved. Lancashire County Council officers had looked at the location and agreed that Mr Houghton would be eligible to have an H-Bar road marking provided but at a cost of £215.00 to himself. Members considered the situation and agreed that although appropriate action had already been taken by Mr Houghton the clerk should contact the Lancashire County Council officer dealing with the case for further discussion. Mr Houghton to be advised of the outcome.

THE CHAIRMAN RECONVENED THE MEETING

25.036. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR MRS P WILLIAMSON: County Councillor Mrs Williamson was unable to attend the meeting and items of interest were included in the information report already circulated.

County Councillor Mrs Williamson was thanked for her continued support.

25.037. REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR MRS S TYLDESLEY: District Councillor Mrs Tyldesley was unable to attend the meeting and had no items to report.

District Councillor Mrs Tyldesley was thanked for her continued support.

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

25.039. PLANNING MATTERS: a) No planning applications had been submitted that required consideration by members.

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 1st October 2024 Meeting – Awaiting Decision
 24/01205/FUL – Reviewed 5th November 2024 Meeting – Awaiting Decision
 24/01203/FUL – Reviewed 5th November 2024 Meeting – Awaiting Decision
 24/01160/ELDC – Reviewed 3rd December 2024 Meeting – Awaiting Decision
 24/01344/FUL – Reviewed 7th January 2025 Meeting – Awaiting Decision
 24/01387/FUL – Reviewed 4th February 2025 Meeting – Awaiting Decision
 24/01203/FUL – Reviewed 4th February 2025 Meeting – Application Permitted

25.040. FINANCE: a) Members noted the financial summary for February 2025 as follows:

	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>
Opening Balance -	Current Account		6927.01
Receipts			NIL
Payments			
04.02.25	T Oliver – Toilet Work - January	137.50	
06.02.25	J W Ball – Salary	490.86	
06.02.25	Bank Charges – January	9.20	
07.02.25	Npower – Toilet Electricity	<u>71.56</u>	<u>709.12</u>
Closing Balance	Current Account		6217.89
Closing Balances – All Accounts			
	Current Account	6217.89	
	Village Improvement Account	12847.66	
	Investment Account	8058.47	

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

aql- Domain renewal 2 yrs 21.04.2025 to 20.04.2027 - £132.00

Thomas Oliver – Toilet Work February - £130.00 – 2396

c) Virgin Money Bank Mandate: The clerk reported that Councillors Barkley, Lee and Senior had completed the registration process as cheque signatories and would be included as such on the Bank Mandate from 6th March 2025.

25.041. LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL MICRO WOOD INITIATIVE: The clerk reported that he was awaiting confirmation of site visit arrangements from Ian Wright – Lancashire County Council Community Engagement Officer (Treescapes). It had been confirmed that Archbishop Hutton’s Primary School would be taking part in the initiative with a substantial number of wips to be planted.

25.042. GARDNER ROAD CATCHPIT REPAIRS: Nothing further to report.

25.043. WEIR PLAYGROUND SAFETY REPORT & RISK ASSESSMENT: The clerk reported that the necessary work to clear the points raised in the report was in hand.

25.044. HAGS CAROUSEL: The clerk reported that the carousel now appeared to be running without problem.

25.045. SMALL QUARRY WOOD DISEASED TREES: The clerk reported that the diseased trees would be felled as agreed.

25.046. SMALL QUARRY LAND RENTAL: The clerk reported that a second invoice had been forwarded to the owner of the Old School Brewery by recorded delivery. Members agreed to await receipt of the February 2025 Bank Statement and consider further action if no evidence of payment was confirmed.

25.047. WARTON PARISH COUNCIL ASSET REGISTER: The clerk reported that he had carried out an audit of all assets included in the current register and had been able to identify those assets available for inclusion on the updated version.

25.048. VE DAY CELEBRATIONS – 11TH MAY 2025: The clerk reported that a service of commemoration would be held at Blackburn Cathedral on 11th May 2025, with a representative of Warton Parish Council invited. Members agreed that Councillor Muckle and his wife represent Warton Parish Council at the event. The clerk reported that he was not aware of any other local events planned to commemorate the date and would enquire if there were events that may require parish council involvement.

25.049. MAIN STREET PUBLIC TOILET ELECTRICITY COSTS: The clerk reported that the standing and metering charge included in the monthly invoice had been increased by a significant amount with charges for February being set at electricity used 2.600kwh costing 0.78p, standing and metering charge £67.37 plus £3.41 VAT, Total £71.56. Members discussed the increase and agreed that the clerk prepare costings for the 2024/2025 financial year for further discussion at the April meeting.

25.050. WARTON PARISH COUNCIL 2025 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: Members agreed that the annual general meeting be held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 6th May 2025 prior to the May monthly meeting.

25.051. REVIEW OF 2024/2025 ANNUAL ACCOUNTS AND AGAR STATEMENTS: The clerk advised members that the 2024/2025 Annual Accounts would be prepared as soon as possible after completion of the financial year for consideration by members. The annual accounts and AGAR statements would be initially submitted for audit by the parish council internal audit before review by members at the 3rd June 2025 meeting of the parish council. If agreed to be correct by members the statements would be submitted to PKF Littlejohn as the appointed external auditor for audit. Members agreed the timetable.

25.052. ITEMS OF INFORMATION FROM MEMBERS: No items of information were submitted for consideration.

25.053. 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 8.50pm. Members agreed that the next meeting of Warton Parish Council will be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 1st April 2025 in the Village Hall, Warton. Items for inclusion in the meeting agenda should be notified to the clerk by Monday 24th March 2025.

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

Minutes subject to agreement at the 1st April 2025 meeting of the Warton Parish Council and until then are considered to be draft only.