

NETHER WYRESDALE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes for the PC meeting of 26th June 2025, 7.30PM @ Scorton Chapel

Present: Cllrs Elliott, Gledhill, Thompson, Atkinson,
Lancashire County Cllr James Tomlinson, Wyre Cllr, Charlotte Walker,
James Reilly (Easy Websites), the clerk and 5 members of the public

1. Apologies:

Cllr Collinson

Cllr Hesketh

2. Declarations of Interest:

None

3. Minutes from last meeting:

AGM & Ordinary minutes signed as a correct record.

4. Police report:

None

5. Matters arising (from previous meeting/s):

SpID

It was confirmed that Cllr Thompson had circulated to cllrs a link today. He reported that the outcome was, that although the reduction of average speed was marginal (1 and a half to 2 and a half miles per hour), that when SpIDs were removed, the speed increased therefore overall, they are effective.

Cllr Gledhill confirmed the cost of the 3 poles as £1200 (£400 each) for Station Lane, Factory Brown and Gubberford Lane and the Elancity SpID which is £2,500.

RESOLVED: That the PC approved the purchase of the SpID and poles as discussed above and that Cllr Gledhill will take this forward.

Memorial for James Cottle

This item is deferred until the next meeting (regarding discussion about options for a memorial for the former parish councillor).

Drains (Lower Dolphinholme) & other Highway matters

Feedback reported regarding the outcome of Cllr Collinson's meeting with Highways (10th June) to discuss mainly drainage issues Dolphinholme as follows:

Cllr Collinson sent an email update re Highways further to meeting on 10th June:

- ❖ LCC have no gully wagons. Cllr voted in 2009 to cost cut and reduce service. Small villages and rural areas are on a reactive one off basis. Main towns are on an external contract for regular maintenance. She is unsure of how they prioritize, collate together info until there are enough gully jobs to warrant a call out. She will take this up with Highways.
- ❖ Monday's rain caused 4 Wagon Rd to flood. Dolphinholme will now get gully cleaning confirmed at Tuesday's meeting (classed as priority).
- ❖ She has a contact list of assistant managers, area manager, managers and head of service.
- ❖ It has been confirmed that road sweeping will be done 11th or 12th June and a gully team will be on site in Dolphinholme on 16th June.
- ❖ Linked to the above is a street sweeping rota with Wyre Council (Paul Long). In Dolphinholme on the other side of the road which is under Lancaster City Council gets road sweeping and is classed as a priority road for gully maintenance
- ❖ Blocked gully (outside Kettlewell) - Will get added to list but this will be listed as complete on "Love Clean Streets" APP. The clerk confirmed that this is a technical issue.
- ❖ LCC use Monks, A1 Drains, CJ Jets & Sapphire – She has requested that Lancashire County Cllr Tomlinson obtain contact details/info so the PC can get a cost.
- ❖ Cllr Collinson has requested that Cllr Tomlinson also find out which areas are covered by regular maintenance contracts and what service is provided to the rest.

The clerk reported that a member of the public had been in contact on 23rd June to say that further to the recent Highways visit and the street cleaner, there is still a drain at the centre that is not taking water. See Open Forum item 6.

The clerk confirmed that Cllr Collinson has sent an email today (Wayne Peake, Highways copied in) with updates for some other items mentioned:

- ❖ Gubberford Lane - A6 to Woodview - Programmed maintenance planned for 2026. (Confirmed that Woodview to Gubberford bridge worst part of the Lane).
- ❖ Tithebarn Lane (opposite gas cadent substation) water & Rd surface – Highways are aware of it but no date of resolution confirmed after 4 years.

- ❖ Footpath the Square- Awaiting a decision on whether Granite setts would be acceptable as these are stocked and hence available.

Cllr Collinson has also stated in her email today, that she has read the Code of Practice (10/4/2017) for maintaining and cleaning of road gullies and it is apparent that gullies in Scorton and Dolphinhholme are classed as Reactive, and not as Priority 1 or 2. She has said that the reactive service also falls down on the 20 working days service, as LCC have no gully wagons and therefore need enough to pass to a private contractor. She has requested confirmation of which gullies are presently classed on which priority. She has said that there is a need for a review as it would appear that LCC satisfy town gullies as a priority and not rural areas, yet it is rural areas where soil and leaf debris occur and villages such as Scorton & Dolphinhholme are further at risk from rainfall run off due to the land topography. Finally, she requested details of A1 Drains, Monks, CJ Jets and Sapphire in order that the PC may investigate making their own arrangements.

The clerk confirmed that there has been no feedback regarding other items on Cllr Collinson's list of 23rd May from Highways (Wayne Peake and the team leader Daren Cronin were copied into this email): Flood prone areas (Broadfall, tuft cottage, picnic area/ Cleveley Mere), Snow Hill Lane run off drains not connected outside 24 the square, State of cobbled pavement from the square to Earl's Fold, frequency of Rd closures (BT, UU, railway maintenance). An example of the latter was The Square being dug up three times within 6 months. It was also raised about how this work is done (over Bank Holidays) and the condition a site is left in.

It was also noted that following the meeting on the 10th June, that there had been flooding on the highway near Bobbin Mill.

WC – Local Plan & section 106 briefing 15th May

Cllr Thompson reported on items discussed at this meeting.

Although Scorton was unlikely to be significantly affected under the original plan, this has changed and there is more pressure on all areas. He explained that the section 106 is a convoluted process which is not easy to access. He has not yet received details from the meeting. He will chase this up and circulate once received.

Replacement gate on Public Right of Way

Further to Cllr Atkinson's email of 4th April and discussion at the last meeting, the clerk reported the response from Stephen Williams (LCC PRoW) on 9th May which confirms that a report has been entered for this & the LCC PRoW response on 13th May with regards to the request to replace with a kissing gate as follows:

Path no: FP0219046

Report Ref: 155990

"We prioritize reports according to their impact on the public. When prioritising, we take into account the local environment, how many people are affected, whether they can bypass the problem, etc. The reason for the problem or the length of time it's existed are lesser considerations."

If we have your email address, we will contact you again when your report has been resolved or closed. If you need to discuss your report at any stage, please contact the Public Rights of Way Team on 01772 530317 or ProwReports@lancashire.gov.uk. It would be helpful if you could quote the above path and PRW reference numbers in any communication with us."

Signs and banners

The clerk reported the update from Cllr Collinson on 23rd May (given to Cllr Elliott to peruse) regarding removal of unsightly signs and banners. She has emailed Six Arches to ask them to remove.

Church permissive path request for gate

The clerk reported the outcome of who is responsible for maintenance/changes as per email exchanges on 5th June. The diocese has confirmed that the land belongs to the church. It is the school's intention to get the children to write a letter to them about it.

Cllr Elliott confirmed that the diocese checked with the Land Registry that the land does in fact belong to them so a gate would be their responsibility. Church are pricing options. The School has priced options as well. Cllr Elliott stated that the headteacher had received a quotation of £500, he believed for the foundations of a new gate. The PC discussed making a financial contribution and Lancashire County Cllr James Tomlinson confirmed that he was over the parish champion grant and the PC could apply for funding for this. He will email details to the clerk tomorrow.

RESOLVED: That Cllr Elliott will check the details of what the quote actually covered and that the Parish Champion grant could be applied for.

6. Open forum:

Blocked footways and overgrown hedges

The PC discussed an email sent by a member of the public (and circulated to cllrs) on 23rd June.

Drain Lower Dolphinholme

A member of the public reported that the drain 3rd up from the bottom of the village is not working. Lancashire County Cllr James Tomlinson will report.

Drains Gubberford Lane

A member of the public stated that flooding issues occur and one of the worst areas is drainage between Tithebarn Lane and the railway bridge. He had noted that the drain on the other side of the railway bridge is not marked and cannot be reported via "Love Clean Streets".

Compliance with AGAR Assertion 10

James Reilly (Easy Websites), explained requirements. Cllr Elliott confirmed he had taken steps to set up a .gov.uk website.

7. Playing field:

It was confirmed that the replacement Space/net climber has been installed.

Cllr Collinson reported on 10th June that she has replaced the swing seats. She had also suggested that a letter of thanks be sent.

RESOLVED: That the clerk write a thankyou letter to Dennis Yates for the use of facilities and storage of Herras fencing.

8. Correspondence/circulated items:

Refer appendix 1.

9. Borough Council & Lancashire County Council matters:

Lancashire County Cllr James Tomlinson reported the following:

A resident has raised the over strimming of the Wildflowers at Gubberford Bridge next to the Millenium path.

The PC confirmed that they were trying to keep a balance in order to keeps things tidy.

10. Planning:

Application number	Description	Resolved PC comments
25/00472/FUL	Change of use of part of ground floor and first floor from bed and breakfast accommodation to 3.no serviced apartments including changes to fenestration and door opening. To include new main entrance to 'stouts' bar / replacement reception area @ The Priory The Square Scorton	No objections

RESOLVED: That the clerk notify WC accordingly.

11. Decision notices(status):

Application number	Description	Decision
25/00069/LMAJ	Erection of a stables building following demolition of existing agricultural buildings and change of use of agricultural land for the keeping of horses for private purposes @ Broadfall Gubberford Lane Scorton	Permitted

12. Highways:

Invisible “Stop” sign (Crosshill Junction)

The clerk confirmed that Cllr Collinson has reported via “Love Clean Streets”.

13. Lengthsman:

Jobs undertaken

The latest time sheet etc circulated via email prior to meeting 9th June.

The clerk received confirmation on 9th June that the lengthsman got the plants for the Scorton gateway sign beds. Cllr Collinson expressed a preference for the beds to be permanently planted and emailed suggestions on 10th June. She will discuss with the lengthsman later in the year.

Jobs to be done

None raised.

Lengthsman hours 2026/27

Deferred until the next meeting.

PRoW scheme 2025-26

The clerk has not yet received the letter from LCC.

14. Village Hall:

Proposal to relocate the village hall

Deferred until the next meeting.

15. Finance:

account update

The clerk to provide figures as at 4th June - **£57,772.14**.

Items approved for payment:

Cllr Collinson 2 replacement swing seats for play area - £499.20 cheque given to cllr Elliott

Clerk gift for accountant (per parish) - £6.00

Police donation (E-Bike) - £150.00

Extra cheques were signed for the lengthsman invoices for June, July and August as well as one for expenses incurred by the clerk for handover.

Items discussed:

Clerk's salary review 2026-2027

The PC discussed increasing clerk hourly rate to £15 per hour.

RESOLVED: The PC agreed to the increase.

Items paid:

Lengthsman invoice May (£472.50) plus P/F cutting May x 2 (£160.00) - £632.50

Paid 09/06/25

Kompan LTD Playground replacement equipment Space Net (net climber) -

£20,384.40 Paid 20/06/25

16. Health & Safety:

No health and safety concerns raised.

17. Points of interest:

Clerk resignation

The clerk confirmed she was resigning as clerk and would finish at the end of July with handover to her replacement or the chair on W/C 28th July.

The PC signed a letter of authorization to cancel the standing order for the clerk wage WEF 30th August.

The PC expressed their thanks to the clerk for all her hard work over the last 19 years.

PC meeting dates 2026

The PC discussed and approved these dates.

Assertion 10 AGAR effective 2025-26 (as per practitioners Guide 2025)

The PC discussed the requirement for a .gov.uk email. Cllr Elliott confirmed he has prepared this. The IT policy prepared by the clerk and circulated prior to the meeting was not discussed and this will be put on the next agenda.

Listed status for war memorial

The PC discussed considering the request made for an application to be made for listed status.

RESOLVED: That Cllr Atkinson will complete the application form (Historic England to apply for listed status.

LALC meeting

Cllr Elliott provided a report as follows:

- ❖ Sgt Jones gave a report on crime figures. In Rural East, he reported 33 thefts from shops, 76 road offences, 22 domestics and 81 anti-social behaviour issues. He has introduced a monthly live Q&A session on facebook. They haven't bought the e-bikes yet.
- ❖ The guest speaker was Fiona Riley, planning policy manager at Wyre Council. She spoke about the Wyre Local Plan, which is currently under review. She talked at length about housing targets. The target for Wyre has gone from 280 to 599 per year in the last year and is likely to continue to increase. The council expects to have another 6000 housing units by 2040. She mentioned that money from house-builders is going to be used to improve the road junction at Five Lanes End. She also spoke about neighbourhood plans. This is a smaller version of a local plan and when developed takes priority over the district's plan. However, there would be a time estimate of 5 years to develop and estimated cost of £80k.
- ❖ The Chief Executive reported on some playground improvements, a befriending service for isolated people and the Wyre Business Awards. She explained that the contract for leisure facilities with the YMCA ends in April 2026 and there are 3 bidders for a new 10-year contract.
- ❖ Finally, she talked about local government reorganization. The government is still planning to implement this by April 2028. Current thinking is that Lancashire could be split into 3 or 4 unitary authorities

18. Date of next meeting: **25th September 2025**

As there was no further business, the meeting concluded @ 9.15PM

APPENDIX 1 – CORRESPONDENCE (EMAILED)

WC – Council minutes 10/4 link

WC – Licensing minutes 8/4 link

WC – Planning minutes 2/4 link

Rural Services Network (RSN) – weekly news 29/4, 8/5, 14/5, 21/5, 29/5, 4/6

LALC Wyre Area – Economic development and visitor economy strategy x 2 documents

NALC – Chief executive bulletin 1/5, 8/5, 15/5, 22/5, 5/6

WC – Local Plan & Section 106 briefing 14/5

Garstang Town Council – VE Day 80th anniversary sent to Cllr Collinson by GTC

WC – Portfolio Holder decisions agenda & decisions x 2 9/5 link

LCC – Trading Standards Consumer alerts May & June

WC – Items published 6/5 links

WC – Schedule of executive decisions 6/5, 3/6

WC – Item published 7/5 link

WC – Council agenda, supplement x 2 and minutes 15/5 link

LALC – 2025 conference itinerary 7/6

WC – Business support for local businesses

WC – Item published 9/5 link

LCC – Trading Standards consumer alerts May

WC - Item published 14/5 link

LCC – Rd closure Tithebarn Lane 16/5 – 20/5

WC – Wyre appoints its new mayor for 2025-26

LCC – Training opportunities

LCC – Bus service changes June 2025

WC – Local plan section 106 briefing 15/5 presentation

WC – Item published 21st May link

WC – Audit and Standards agenda 29/5 link

WC – Flood Forum meeting 12/6 joining info

WC – Items published 27/5 links

WC – Cabinet agenda & minutes 4/6 link

WC – Planning agenda & supplement 4/6 link

LALC – 2025 conference itinerary & reminder to order tickets

Police – Traveller info

WC – Event for businesses to access public sector contracts

Motorsport UK - North West Stages Rally 2026 info

WC – Heritage and Culture Strategy consultation

WC – items published 29/5 link

WC – Portfolio holder decision agenda 5/6 link & decisions x 3

LCC – Rd closure Tithebarn Lane 30/5 – 3/6

WC – Planning Policy May 2025 newsletter

WC – Items published 30/5 links

WC – Overview & Scrutiny agenda 9/6 link

WC – Flood Forum date

WC – Items published 3/6 links

LALC – Chairmans free share and learn sessions 2025

WC - Items published 5/6 links

WC – Afternoon tea to honour local volunteers

WC – Flood Forum next meeting agenda 12/6 and prev minutes