

**MINUTES OF THE 1080th WHEELTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 1 DECEMBER 2025
AT WHEELTON VILLAGE HALL, WEST VIEW, WHEELTON**

PRESENT: Councillors Harper (Chair), Mrs Berry, Hayes, Scambler and Wheale.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs J Carr (Parish Clerk).

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs France.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING 3 NOVEMBER 2025

326/12/25 The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chair on behalf of the Parish Council.

POLICE REPORT

There was no report from the Police.

The Clerk gave an overview of the crime statistics for the Parish as published on the Police website for August and September 2025.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no comments from the Public.

ENHANCING WHEELTON

a) Traffic Matters

- i) Councillor Hayes reported that there was nothing further to report regarding the work to the fingerpost. The Clerk advised that she had been contacted by the County Council Community Engagement Officer who may be able to assist in finding contractors for the “fingers.” Councillor Hayes confirmed that he was happy for me to pass his contact details on.

b) Recreation Area Enhancement

The Clerk reported that Chorley Borough Council had still not responded to her emails regarding the replacement of the bark on the Play Area although they were responding to Councillor Mrs France's emails.

Councillor Hayes reported that the Beaver Scouts had helped plant 150 bulbs on the Recreation Ground at the Village Hall car park end as part of their community badge.

c) War Memorial

Councillor Wheale reported that a tree in the Memorial Gardens had lost a limb and the remainder of the tree was leaning toward the garage next door.

327/12/25 It was RESOLVED that the Clerk should get a tree inspection undertaken and remove the tree should it require it.

d) Benches

Councillor Wheale reported that he had spoken to the resident opposite the missing bench who had advised that it was the Water Board who removed it as part of their work to the water main in the area.

328/12/25 It was RESOLVED that the Clerk should contact the Water Board and request the benches return.

PLANNING MATTERS

329/12/25 The Parish Council RESOLVED to make the following comments on planning application received since the 3 November meeting:

25/00996/FUL Spout House Farm, Blackburn Road, Higher Wheelton.
Temporary siting of a static caravan for a period of 3 years.

Wheelton Parish Council RESOLVED to make no object to this application.

25/01078/PIP Land at Spout House Farm, Blackburn Road, Higher Wheelton
Permission in principle application for a minimum of one dwelling and a maximum of five dwellings.

Wheelton Parish Council strongly object to this application on the following grounds:

- Green belt development – this is currently open fields in a rural community.
- Inappropriate visual impact – as above this is currently open fields in a farming rural community.
- Infrastructure not available.

- Access to site on an overused A674 where there have been numerous accidents and recent planning permission at Heapey and Botany Bay will increase the traffic hugely.
- Would not provide a contribution towards the five-year housing supply as it does not include affordable housing – (other developments approved have been large 4 5 bed housing which this would be expected to be similar).

25/00766/FUL Roycecroft, Buckholes Lane, Wheelton.
Erection of steel storage building.

Wheelton Parish Council RESOLVED to make no object to this application.

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENTS

330/12/25 All accounts were authorised for payment:

Mrs J Carr – Salary December – £528.55
Inland Revenue – Salary Deductions December - £168.76
Richard Ryan Lighting – Christmas Tree and lights - £1081.08
CPRE – Annual Subscription - £36.00

DD Easy Websites – Web Hosting and Support December – £30.36

ACCOUNTS

331/12/25 Councillors RESOLVED to accept the Bank Reconciliation, Receipts and Payments, Budget Spent, CIL Reconciliation and War Memorial reports to December 2025 as circulated.

GRANT PAYMENTS FOR 2024/25

332/12/25 It was RESOLVED to make the budgeted for, Grant Payment to Heapey and Wheelton War Memorial Trust £200.

333/12/25 It was further RESOLVED that the Clerk should produce a Grant Policy for approval and all other agencies should follow the policy when agreed.

Councillor Scambler left the meeting at 9.25pm

334/12/25 It being 9.30pm, The Parish Council RESOLVED to suspend Standing Orders to allow the meeting to continue until 10.00pm if required.

PRECEPT

Councillors noted the previously circulated draft precept and discussed the proposals.

335/12/25 Councillors RESOLVED to The Parish Council RESOLVED to set the precept at

£16,521 which would be a zero percent increase on last year.

CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair reported that he had received a complaint from a member of the Public regarding the minutes of the July 2025 meeting. An investigation was undertaken and the following addendum added to the minutes. The Chair had apologised for any distress caused which was not the intention of the Council.

336/12/25

The Parish Council RESOLVED to append this addendum to the previously approved minutes and publish accordingly.

Addendum

The Council wishes to clarify that minutes are recorded as a factual summary of Councillor discussions and decisions, in accordance with LALC guidance. They are not verbatim, or a record of all views expressed by members of the public but should only record the Resolutions made by the Council and a summary of why that resolution was made. Nevertheless, additional context could have been included within this item as follows:

Not all the "Residents" were in fact residents – this should have been worded as Members of the Public.

Reference to the Late Mr Richard Shorrock – The Council did not wish to imply what Mr Shorrock did or did not want but was a comment from Councillors who had started the Carols around the village event which later became the Carols around the Tree event. The Parish Council would like to record its appreciation of Mr Shorrock's long standing contribution to the event and village life.

CHORLEY COUNCIL TRAINING

Councillors noted the invitation to Chorley Council's Grey Belt and Permission in Principle Planning Training session on Monday 8 December 2025.

337/12/25

The Parish Council RESOLVED that Councillor Hayes would attend the meeting.

CLERK'S PERFORMANCE REVIEW

338/12/25

The Parish Council RESOLVED to defer this item to the January Parish Council meeting.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- Millbrook Close would be closed to traffic from 17 December 2025 to 19 December 2025 to allow for carriageway pre-surface dressing patching works to be carried out.
- LALC Chairmans Share and Learn Sessions for 2025 – 6 December 2025.
- Rivington and Brinscall Local Advisory Group – 3 December 2025.
- Mayor of Chorley's Chairty Ball – Burns Night and Ceilidh – 23 January 2026.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 5 January 2026 at 8.00pm.

The meeting closed at 10.00pm.

Minutes approved and accepted as correct.

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Chair
Dated