

Wheelton Parish Council

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**17 Higher Meadow
Clayton-le-Woods
Leyland PR25 5RJ**

Clerk to the Council: Mrs Joanne Carr

NOTICE OF MEETING

A Meeting of WHEELTON PARISH COUNCIL will be held in the Small Hall, Heapey and Wheelton Village Hall, West View, Meadow Street, Wheelton at **8.00pm** on Monday 2 February 2026 for the transaction of the following business.

DATED this 25 January 2026

PARISH CLERK: Joanne Carr

A G E N D A

1. Apologies.
2. Declarations of Members' interests on any matters to be placed before the Council.
3. To confirm and sign the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 5 January 2026.
4. To consider the Police Report.
5. Public Forum.
6. Enhancing Wheelton.
 - (a) Traffic Issues – Finger Post
 - (b) Recreation Area
 - (c) War Memorial
 - (d) Benches – Buckholes Lane
- Notice Boards

7. To Consider the Parish Council's response to Planning Applications received from the Borough Council.
8. To approve the schedule of payments.
9. To note the preferred options of 12 districts, LCC, Blackpool and Blackburn with Darwen put through to the Government in regard to the Local Government Review.
10. To consider the invitation to a Service at Blackburn Cathedral to Commemorate the 35th Anniversary of the Gulf War's Liberation of Kuwait.
11. To consider the Parish Council's response to the Lancashire County Council's six Traffic Regulation Orders for Victoria Street and Blackburn Road.
12. To consider the invitation from Chorley & District Support for Ukraine to a Remembrance Service for Ukraine at St. Mary's Church.
13. To consider the Parish Council's nomination for the draw for tickets for the Buckingham Palace Garden Party.
14. To consider the Parish Council's attendance at Chorley Council's training session on HMOs (Houses of Multiple Occupation).
15. To receive any Items for Information only.
 - Rivington and Brinscall Local Advisory Group meeting - Wednesday 4 March 6.30pm
 - Eastern Parishes Neighbourhood Area Meeting – Wednesday 25 March 2026.
16. Date of Next Meeting
Monday 2 February 2026 at 8.00pm.

Members of the Public

Welcome to Wheelton Parish Council's meeting if there is a specific item on the agenda you wish us to consider we will endeavour to deal with it as soon as possible.

Please note that we will allow a spokesperson to outline your views but we will have to impose a time limit on the discussion which will be a maximum of 15 minutes.

If there is a personal "verbal" attack or otherwise on any member of the council or public, the Clerk will issue a warning that the meeting will be suspended until order is restored.

If the disturbance continues the offender/offenders will be asked to leave and the meeting will reconvene at another time.

**MINUTES OF THE 1081st WHEELTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 5 JANUARY 2026
AT WHEELTON VILLAGE HALL, WEST VIEW, WHEELTON**

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs J Carr (Parish Clerk).

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Scambler and Wheale.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mrs Berry declared an interest in item 340/01/26 cheques to S Berry as she is related to the contractor.

MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING 1 DECEMBER 2025

339/01/26 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 October 2025.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Councillors noted the Carols around the Tree event run by the Friends of Wheelton Christmas Tree had been very well attended. It was noted that the person collecting money had been confused about who the collection was going to and had stated that it was for a bench in the memorial gardens. Councillors noted that no request had been made to site a bench in the gardens. Councillors agreed that when the funds were received a letter should be sent thanking them for the donation but reminding them that they need to request permission to use the land, which would be given but there needs to be a document trail and the Council would need sight of the insurance certificate.

Councillors reported that it had been mentioned that the County Council would not

be recharging the grit bins when they were empty. The Clerk was requested to ask for confirmation of the County Council policy regarding grit bins.

The Clerk reported that she had seen a post stating that the village hall would have a new dance class booking the small room at the village hall on Mondays from 7pm to 8pm. The Clerk had contacted the village hall organisers to remind them that the Parish Council had a long-standing booking for that room from 7.45pm until 10.00pm and needed to set up the room and the dance class would need to clear away after their class ended at 8.00pm. The Clerk was assured that the Parish Council's booking was still valid but that they may need to meet in the Nursery rooms. The Nursery owner would open the room for the Council and adequate signage could be put up to advise the change of room to members of the public.

ENHANCING WHEELTON

a) Traffic Matters

- i) Repairs to the finger post. Councillor Hayes reported that he had been contacted by someone from Chorley Borough Council who has a contractor in Chorley who refurbishes street signs. Councillor Hayes had tried to contact them but had no response. Councillor Hayes had also tried to contact the County Council Officer regarding signs but again had not managed to make any contact.

Councillor Hayes advised that he would continue to try and contact the contractors to move the project forward.

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.

c) War Memorial

The Clerk reported that the Tree Surgeon had inspected the tree in the War Memorial Garden that had lost a limb and had advised that the tree was diseased and would require removing. The tree had therefore been removed.

Councillors reported that they were happy with the size of the Christmas tree in the war memorial gardens and felt that the lighting had been very effective.

d) Benches

The Clerk reported that the water board had confirmed that they had removed the bench on Buckholes Lane and would be replacing it as soon as they could arrange it. The Clerk had requested to see details of the new bench before it was installed but had received nothing yet.

PLANNING MATTERS

There were no plans to consider.

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENTS

340/01/26 All accounts were authorised for payment:

Richard Ryan Lighting – Replacement Cheque - £1081.08
Mrs J Carr – Salary January – £537.62
Inland Revenue – Salary Deductions January - £172.42
S Berry – War Memorial Maintenance - £240.00
S Berry – Grounds Maintenance and Bench Repairs - £1345.00
Richard Ryan Lighting – Christmas Tree Removal - £556.92
Beardwood Tree Services – War Memorial Tree Removal - £620.00

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

POLICIES

341/01/26 Councillors RESOLVED to adopt the Grant Policy and IT Policy as circulated.

The Clerk left the meeting for this item.

CLERK'S PERFORMANCE REVIEW

On the Clerks return, she was informed that she had had a successful performance review and was doing very well ensuring that the Council was running lawfully and efficiently. The Clerk was thanked for her work during the year.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- Rivington and Brinscall Local Advisory Group – 4 March 2026.
- Mayor of Chorley's Chairy Ball – Burns Night and Ceilidh – 23 January 2026.
- Eastern Parishes Neighbourhood Area Meeting – Wednesday 25 March 2026

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 2 February 2026 at 8.00pm.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm.

Local government Review

Preferred options of 12 districts, LCC , Blackpool and Blackburn with Darwen

LCC	2 unitary councils
Blackpool	4 unitary councils (alternative four)
Blackburn with Darwen	3 unitary councils
Lancaster	4 unitary councils
Preston	4 unitary councils
Ribble Valley	4 unitary councils
South Ribble	4 unitary councils
Fylde	3 unitary councils
Wyre	3 unitary councils
Chorley	4 unitary councils
Pendle	5 unitary councils
Burnley	5 unitary councils
Rossendale	3 unitary councils
Hyndburn	3 unitary councils
West Lancs	4 unitary councils

The proposals

One proposal is to have just two unitary authorities, which has the support of Lancashire County Council.

Under this plan, the county would be split into North and South, broadly divided by the river Ribble.

Lancashire County Council calls it "the most balanced and forward-looking solution."

Three unitary councils

This plan has the support of Wyre, Hyndburn, Blackburn with Darwen, Fylde and Rossendale borough councils.

Under these proposals there would be a coastal authority, covering Blackpool, Fylde, Lancaster and Wyre.

A central authority covering, Chorley, Preston, South Ribble and West Lancashire.

And a Pennine authority, with Blackburn with Darwen, Burnley, Hyndburn, Pendle, Ribble Valley and Rossendale.

Four unitary councils

This has support of Chorley, South Ribble, Ribble Valley, Preston, West Lancashire and Lancaster.

It would see the county made up of North, South, East and West.

North containing Lancaster, Preston and Ribble Valley.

South would be, Chorley, South Ribble, and West Lancashire.

While East would cover Blackburn with Darwen, Burnley, Hyndburn, Pendle and Rossendale.

West would be Blackpool, Fylde, and Wyre.

So far only South Ribble has formally proposed this, with meetings set to take place at the other authorities shortly.

The leader of South Ribble Council, Matthew Tomlinson, said: "I think the financial modelling done shows that it's just as sustainable as going bigger."



Image

source, South Ribble Borough Council

Image caption,

There are five different proposals to the council structure

Alternative four

This option has the support of Blackpool council.

It would also like to see four unitary authorities, but would like to see Wyre and Ribble Valley divided up.

So, a council containing Lancaster, Ribble Valley (north), Wyre (east).

Another with Blackburn with Darwen, Hyndburn, Burnley, Pendle, Rossendale, Ribble Valley (south).

A third with South Ribble, Chorley and West Lancashire.

And the fourth being Blackpool, Fylde, Wyre (west), Preston.

Five unitary authorities

This is the favoured option for Burnley and Pendle borough councils, with a petition being launched to try and stop them being merged with Blackburn.

It would see a Northern council made up of Lancaster and Wyre.

An Eastern, made up of Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale, with a Mid-Eastern made up of Blackburn with Darwen, Hyndburn and Ribble Valley.

A Southern, with South Ribble, Chorley and West Lancashire.

And a Western, made up of Blackpool, Fylde and Preston.