

**MINUTES OF THE 1075th WHEELTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 2 JUNE 2025
AT WHEELTON VILLAGE HALL, WEST VIEW, WHEELTON**

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs J Carr (Parish Clerk).
Miss J Whiffen (Borough Council), J Clemson (County Council), Mrs
A Christopher (Friends of Finnington Residents Group)

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillor Scambler.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Berry declared an interest in 288/06/25 – Cheque S Berry as a relative of the contractor.

FRIENDS OF FINNINGTON RESIDENT'S GROUP

Mrs Christopher had been invited to the meeting to explain the Friends of Finnington Resident's Group request for funding towards their fight against the proposed development at Finnington. Mrs Christopher advised that the group had been set up in December 2024 with 20 people and was now spread across the villages with quite a few members from Wheelton.

The Group had sought advice from a Specialist Banister who had advised that the group needed to commission their own specialist assessments - Heritage, Landscape and Visual. The budget for this was a minimum of £20,000. A go fund me page had been set up and was currently at £8,000 but the assessments were expected to cost £11,000 and the Barrister £1,800.

Mrs Christopher gave an overview of funding raising taking place and Parish Council's donations and requested that Wheelton consider a donation towards the costs.

The Group are unable to open a bank account in its name because it is not a business or a charity but Heapey Parish Council had paid their donation directly to the Consultants undertaking the Heritage Assessment.

Councillor Dickenson advised that the Parish Council does not have a budget for donations apart from previously nominated ones however the Parish Council was aware that the owner of the developing company is also developing Botany Bay

and has not paid for traffic matters agreed at the start of the development and it has taken four years of pressure to get any progress.

Councillors discussed traffic issues particularly waggons passing through Higher Wheelton and noted that the traffic assessment for another development showed that based on the 50 bays proposed for the Finnington development, this equates to 2800 waggons a day. In 1985 at a meeting about the building of the M65 it was agreed that the A674 would not allow large waggons but Mrs Christopher reported that she had followed a large lorry from the M61 to the M65 along the A674 which shows that the waggons are ignoring the weight limit on the road.

Councillors discussed the lack of signage and enforcement and asked whether the Group had asked for Chorley Council's planning opinion but were advised that Chorley had not been allowed to pre-empt a decision but had noted that this was green belt land not in the local plan.

Mrs Christopher advised that if Chorley Council approve the application, the group will have to request a judicial review to open up a legal challenge. It was noted that the Developer had already built a road illegally, been illegally quarrying the land and had blocked a public access so the County Council had put an enforcement notice in place. The Developer challenged it right up to the high court but while all of the appeals are taking place the County Council cannot do anything. The Developer is claiming permitted development. The group have done an interview of Radio Lancashire to advise about the situation and had various articles in Lancashire Live but until it is at planning stage the media are waiting to put information out. Councillors noted that they were aware that the Developer has a number of developments up and down the Country where he has acted without permission.

Council Councillor Clemson agreed to review the documents online and investigate whether there is any funding to assist the group with its challenge.

The next appeal from the Group will be an appeal for a Barrister to support the challenge and will also need a planning consultant at some point.

Mrs Christopher advised that there are currently 120 members of the group with approximately 15 from Wheelton/Higher Wheelton actively involved.

284/06/25 Following discussion, The Parish Council RESOLVED to support the Friends of Finnington Residents Group because there would be an impact on all the Residents if this development were to go ahead. It was further RESOLVED to

285/06/25 pay £500 to the HCUK Group Ltd towards the cost of the Heritage Impact Assessment.

Mrs Christopher thanked the Council for considering her request for funding and left the meeting.

MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING 12 MAY 2025

286/06/25 The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record and signed by the Vice-Chair on behalf of the Parish Council.

POLICE REPORT

There was no report from the Police.

The Clerk advised that the crime statistic website had not been updated since March 2025.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

The Clerk advised that a request had been received to question who had been cutting trees down the A674 between Higher Wheelton and Wheelton as the County Council and Borough Council had denied that it had been them. It was noted that the Contractors had also been removing dead/diseased trees from Buckholes Lane so assume that it was either the landowners (if they were the same) or the Highways department but did not know anything further.

ENHANCING WHEELTON

a) Traffic Matters

Councillor Hayes reported that he was progressing with work to the fingerpost. Suggestions for alternative metal work companies were passed on.

Councillors thought that the County Council had done a brilliant job with the new double yellow lines on Buckholes Lane/Blackburn Road. It was noted that three cars had parked on the opposite side of the road, forcing traffic onto the opposite side of the road so felt that the yellow lines needed extending further on the opposite side of the road. County Councillor Clemson advised that this had already been reported to highways and that he was waiting for a response.

Councillors reported that the replacement sign at the top of Millbrook Close was the wrong size and had been installed on an angle. The Clerk was requested to send photographs to the Borough Councillor who would follow up with the Borough Council.

Discussions were had regarding the state of the cobbles on Mill Street and it was noted that any repair would be extremely expensive but the road was a private road and therefore any repairs would be down to the owners of the properties on that road.

Councillors discussed how the road surface on Victoria Street and Blackburn Old Road was bad and that the County Council had not been completing work previously reported. County Councillor Clemson advised that the County

Council would be reviewing the programs of work and that this would be kept in mind.

It was reported that Whins Lane was not being kept clear of dirt and weeds. Councillor Mrs France agreed to raise the matter with the Borough Council.

b) Recreation Area Enhancement

The Clerk reported that of the three new trees that had been planted on the Recreation Ground, two had been removed by someone other than the Grounds Maintenance Contract and that only one was now still in place.

c) War Memorial

It was noted that work would be required to the door of the War Memorial and that the post holding the Gardens plaque was starting to disintegrate so would need replacing at some point.

Councillor Wheale advised that the Clock service was due and would be arranged.

PLANNING MATTERS

287/06/25 The Parish Council make the following comments on planning applications received:

25/00467/FUL Brinscall Boarding Kennels and Cattery, Lodge Bank, Brinscall Section 73 application to vary condition no 3 (approved plans) of planning permission ref: 24/00511/FUL (Erection of 1 no detached dwellinghouse along with associated landscaping (following the demolition of existing building) in order to alter the design of the approve dwelling.

Wheulton Parish Council object to this application on the following grounds:

- Development of the green belt
- Visual impact on the public footpath
- The size and scale is out of context in the area
- Additional vehicle movement down a very narrow access which is used by pedestrians etc is unacceptable.

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENTS

288/06/25 All accounts were authorised for payment:

Mrs J Carr – Salary June – £512.00

Inland Revenue – Salary Deductions June - £161.45

S Berry – Grounds Maintenance - £1125.00

DD Easy Websites – Web Hosting and Support June – £30.36
E-On – War Memorial Electricity - £91.90

289/06/25 It being 9.30pm. The Parish Council RESOLVED to suspend Standing Orders to continue the meeting until 10.00pm.

CHRISTMAS 2025 TREE AND EVENT

289/06/25 Councillors RESOLVED to defer this item to the next meeting. The Clerk was requested to remind the residents that had attend the meeting last year to talk about the Christmas Eve Carols event that the Council would be discussing this matter at the next meeting.

WEST PENNINE MOOR NATURE PARTNERSHIP LANDSCAPE RECOVER SCHEME WORKSHOP

290/06/25 The Parish Council RESOLVED to approve Councillor Hayes attend the West Pennine Moor Nature Partnership Landscape Recover Scheme Workshop.

NEWSLETTER

The Clerk reminded Councillors that the Council would have to produce the Newsletter by a different program after this summer edition due to Microsoft withdrawing Publisher after the summer. Councillors were reminded to send articles for the Newsletter to the Clerk by the end of June 2025.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- Chorley Liaison - 16 July 2025
- LALC Conference – 7 July 2025

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 7 July 2025 at 8.00pm.

The meeting closed at 9.50pm.

Minutes approved and accepted as correct.

.....
Chair

Dated