

# **Wheelton Parish Council**

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

**Clerk to the Council: Mrs Joanne Carr**

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## **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 June 2025 for the transaction of the following business.

**DATED this 25 May 2025**

**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. Friends of Finnington Resident's Group Report.
4. To confirm and sign the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 12 May 2025.
5. To consider the Police Report.
6. Public Forum.
7. Enhancing Wheelton.
  - (a) Traffic Issues
  - (b) Recreation Area
  - (c) War Memorial
8. To Consider the Parish Council's response to Planning Applications received from the Borough Council.

9. To approve schedule of payments since 12 May 2025.
10. To consider arrangements for the Christmas Tree/Christmas Event 2025.
11. To consider attendance at the West Pennine More Nature Partnership Landscape Recovery Scheme workshop.
12. Items for Information
13. Date of Next Meeting  
Monday 7 July 2025 at 8.00pm.

**Members of the Public**

*Welcome to Wheelton Parish Councils 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.*

## FRIENDS OF FINNINGTON RESIDENT'S GROUP

Hi to All and welcome to the latest round up of news.

As many of you are aware, at the beginning of this journey to oppose this development, myself and Mike consulted with a specialist barrister to ensure we conducted this campaign in the best possible way to achieve the outcome we all want.

After the barrister had looked at the application and the supporting Environmental Impact Assessment (which is made up of many individual assessments), we were given 3 pieces of advice.

1. We needed the support of a specialist planning consultant to both guide us and support us through the process, to its eventual conclusion, whenever that might be.

I am able to report that we have been very fortunate to have not one but two eminent experts who have been helping us totally free of charge, and continue to do so.

2. We were advised that we needed to commission two of our own specialist assessments, assessments which are of a high enough quality/standard to not only convince Chorley Planning Committee that the application should be rejected, but that would stand up to legal scrutiny by HM Planning Inspectorate, the Secretary of State, and potentially a High Court judge, at appeal. We are absolutely certain that F1 will appeal if turned down by Chorley Council.

We were also given names of consultants who are recognised experts nationally and who are best placed to undertake these assessments.

We can now report that we have commissioned both of the recommended assessments, by two of these consultants, and these have been being undertaken over the course of the last few weeks.

Yesterday we received the first draft of one of the reports. The second assessment is not quite at the draft stage yet, but we are already aware of its findings.

Once they are completed we will publish them on the webpage, and I can tell you they will make very interesting reading!

This is a quote from one of our consultants yesterday.

“If the council made a decision to approve on the basis of Wardle Armstrong’s (that’s the author of one of F1’s assessments) conclusions it would open them up to immediate legal challenge”

So in the very unlikely event that the Friends of Finnington needed to request a Judicial Review should Chorley Council approve this application, we now have the supporting legal evidence to do this.

3. We were made aware of how much all of this would likely cost AT A MINIMUM and this is £20,000

Our costs so far, once we have settled both of the invoices in total will have come to:

£1800 Barrister's fee  
£5640 1st specialist report  
£5616 2nd specialist report (estimated-could be £500 less)

£13,056

To date with the donations via the GoFundMe appeal, the profit from the fundraising event, donations from 3 local Parish Councils, and personal donations directly to our account, we only have had sufficient money in the campaign pot to pay the barrister and for one assessment.

It is VITALLY IMPORTANT that we raise more money. Still there have only been 89 people who have donated to the GoFundMe which is very disappointing. Across our CBC villages alone there are 5000+ people who would be affected by this development. Please please dig deep and share the details of the appeal as widely as possible. It would be unthinkable if we have to give up now due to lack of funds.

Lastly, and we will put more details about this on the webpage, there was a case directly comparable to Finnington which was decided by Angela Raynor last November. Despite the Government's growth agenda, she turned it down. The reasons for refusal you will be able to read for ourselves.

savefinnington.co.uk

We can win this but only if we raise the funds to do so. Remember, considerable wealth such as the developer has, allows you to do many things that most of us could only dream of. What it doesn't do is allow you to change the law. You get my drift.....!

<https://gofund.me/b2de1f46>

**MINUTES OF THE 1074<sup>th</sup> WHEELTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON MONDAY 12 MAY 2025  
AT WHEELTON VILLAGE HALL, WEST VIEW, WHEELTON**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mrs J Carr (Parish Clerk).

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillor Wheale.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Scambler declared an interest in 278/05/25 – Application 25/00344/OUT as an owner of the neighbouring field and Councillor Berry as her son keeps sheep on Councillor Scambler's field.

**ELECTION OF CHAIR**

**273/05/25** Following discussion, Councillor Harper was elected Chair for the 2025-26 Year.

**ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

**274/05/25** Following a Discussion, Councillor Mrs Berry was elected Vice-Chairman for the 2025-26 Year.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS 2025/2026**

**275/05/25** Following a Discussion, the representatives for 2025/26 were agreed as follows: -

Chorley Liaison Meetings – Councillors T Dickenson

Chorley Council Easter parishes Neighbourhood Area Meeting – Councillor T Dickenson

Chorley Council Equality Forum – Councillor Mrs M France

Heapey and Wheelton Village Hall Committee representative – Councillor Mrs K Berry

Heapey and Wheelton War Memorial Trustee Representative - Councillor R Wheale

Heapey and Wheelton War Memorial Trustees –Mrs D Gorton, Mr T Dickenson, Mr R Wheale, Mr N Hayes and Ms T Farrow.

Heapey and Wheelton Charity Trust Trustees Representative - Councillor R Wheale

Tree Warden – Councillor M Harper

Press Officer - Councillors T Dickenson. Any emergency press release should be a bland statement produced in consultation with Councillors.  
Communications (Newsletter) Co-ordinator – Parish Clerk – assisted by Councillor M Harper  
Wheelton Website Co-ordinator – Parish Clerk  
Rivington and Brinscall Local Advisory Group – Councillor Hayes.  
Facebook Co-Ordinator - Vacancy

## **MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING 7 APRIL 2025**

**276/05/25** 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 gave an overview of the reported crimes for January, February and March 2025.

### **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Councillors noted that Whins Lane path to the Canal had been dug up again.

Councillors discussed having a Facebook page and noted that the Borough Council had a Communication Team who could be spoken to regarding setting up a Parish Council website. It was agreed to request that the matter be added to the agenda for the next Liaison Meeting.

### **ENHANCING WHEELTON**

#### **a) Traffic Matters**

Councillor Hayes reported that he was investigating a different company for the metal fabrication and had requested that members of the public forward any photographs of the original fingerpost.

#### **b) Recreation Area Enhancement**

**277/05/25** The Parish Council RESOLVED that the Clerk arrange for the installation of new bark on the meadow street play area.

#### **c) War Memorial**

There was nothing to report regarding the War Memorial.

### **PLANNING MATTERS**

**278/05/25** The Parish Council make the following comments on planning applications received:

25/00056/FULHH 307 Blackburn Road Higher Wheelton

Part two storey side/front extension, part single storey front extension, two storey side extension including garage, balcony to roof above existing single storey rear projection, access improvements including new gate posts, walls, and gates and associated external works (following demolition of existing two storey side extension to either side, and carport.

Wheelton Parish Council make no objection to this application.

25/00344/OUT Land to the South West of St John's CofE and Methodist Primary School, Harbour Lane, Brinscall

Outline application for the erection of six self-build detached dwellings with details of access, layout and scale (appearance and landscaping matters reserved)

Wheelton Parish Council objected to the amended application on the following grounds:

- This would be green belt development. An over development with an adverse effect on the openness of the green belt.
- Access to the site would be difficult with the access being really close to a junction which is already an issue at school starting/closing times.
- Drainage – this will affect the water run off. There is already reported problems with the runoff to Harbour Lane, the school grounds and Junior Football pitch.
- Local services including schools, primary and secondary and health care services are already above capacity, increasing the demand for these services will make access to them more difficult.

## **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENTS**

**279/05/25** All accounts were authorised for payment:

Mrs J Carr – Salary May – £512.00

Inland Revenue – Salary Deductions May - £194.90

LALC – Annual Subscription - £219.12

Clear Councils – Annual Insurance - £928.64

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

Councillor Dickenson left the meeting at 9.20pm.

## **FUNDING REQUEST**

Councillors noted the previously circulated request from The Finnington Lane Action Group for a possible donation of £500 from the Friends of Finnington Resident's Group to oppose the application to build large scale warehousing at Finnington. Councillors noted that the proposed development was not within the Parish Boundary and discussed the proposed development.

**280/05/25** Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk should respond to advise that:

- The Parish Council can not pay funds to a personal bank account – they would need to have a specific bank account set up for the group.
- A member of the group would be invited to attend a Parish Council meeting to explain their request further.

**281/05/25** The time being 9.30pm Councillors RESOLVED to suspend standing orders to continue the meeting.

### **CIL INCOME**

**282/05/25** Councillors RESOLVED to note the report from Chorley Council showing the CIL income for 2025/25. The Clerk reminded Councillors of the timings for spending the funding received.

### **YEAR END ACCOUNTS**

**283/05/25** Councillors RESOLVED to approve the signing of the Audit Exemption Statement 2025 and book and approved the Internal Auditor as Ms J Ainsworth.

### **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

- Mayor's Civic Sunday Parade and Service on Sunday 18 May 2025.
- Chorley Liaison 16 July 2025

### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday 2 June 2025 at 8.00pm.

The meeting closed at 9.50pm.



Good morning,

I am emailing to invite representatives from your Parish and Town Council to attend a workshop we are hosting relation to the West Pennine More Nature Partnership Landscape Recovery Scheme on **Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2025** from **6pm-9pm** (arrival and refreshments from 5.30pm) at the **Black Dog Inn**, 2-6 Church St, Belmont, Bolton BL7 8AB.

For background information, the [West Pennines More Nature Partnership LRS](#) is a DEFRA funded project, run by Lancashire Wildlife Trust, along with United Utilities and other key partners, working together to develop a Landscape Recovery Scheme (LRS) which aims to rejuvenate almost 27 square miles of the wild landscape of the West Pennine Moors, helping to meet national net zero targets, increase biodiversity and improve the quality (and extent where possible) of the variety of remarkable habitats found here. This will allow nature to thrive, whilst also supporting the communities who live, work, farm and visit the area – making meaningful change and improving the West Pennine Moors for all. Landscape Recovery is a DEFRA scheme that supports large-scale, long-term management of land for the benefit of the environment and sustainable food production. We are currently in the two-year project development phase, looking to engage with local communities to explore what matters to them and measuring the current accessibility of the West Pennine Moors. By Spring 2026, the end of the project development phase, Lancashire Wildlife Trust will have created plans which, subject to approval and funding, will shape and support landscape restoration, farming, responsible access, and community engagement over the next 20 years and beyond.

As part of the project development phase, we are holding events and workshops with local communities and key stakeholders to ensure that local voices are truly represented and heard within these plans. **We are inviting representatives from the 11 Parish and Town Councils that are within the LRS project area (map attached) to attend this event with the hope that by the end of the workshop you will have:**

- A greater understanding of the West Pennine Moors 20 Year Landscape Recovery Scheme (LRS).
- Shared the local landscape related challenges and opportunities across your parish/town council area.
- Explored what the West Pennine Moors LRS could do to help address these challenges and realise the opportunities for your local communities.
- Discussed the best ways to work together, towards shared goals, during the West Pennine Moors LRS implementation phase (from 2026 onwards).

I have attached the agenda to this email so that you can get a clearer idea of what to expect (please note this may be subject to minor change).

We can facilitate **two representatives** from each Parish or Town Council attending this event. If you require more spaces, please do let me know and we can see what we can do to accommodate this. Please kindly RSVP to Jo Humphreys E: [jhumphreys@lancswt.org.uk](mailto:jhumphreys@lancswt.org.uk) to confirm whether you're able to attend by **Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2025**, including details of attendees, as well as any special dietary or access requirements you have.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I look forward to hearing from you and hopefully seeing you on the 24<sup>th</sup> of June!

Best wishes,  
Jo

Jo Humphreys (She/Her) (Find out why I use pronouns [here](#))

Nature & Wellbeing Project Officer (West Pennines More Nature Partnership)

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(Please note my working days are Tuesday, Thursday & Friday - I sometimes send emails outside of regular working hours to fit with my work and life balance – please do not feel that you have to reply outside of your own working hours)



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