

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS  
WYRE AREA COMMITTEE**

**ANNUAL MEETING GARSTANG COUNTRY HOTEL AND GOLF CENTRE  
WEDNESDAY 30<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2025 AT 7PM**

**AGENDA**

1. Apologies for Absence
  
2. Minutes of the meeting held 29<sup>th</sup> January 2025  
To approve the minutes from the meeting.
  
3. Matters Arising from the Minutes
  
4. Guest Speaker  
Joanne Billington, Assistant Director of Governance and Legal (Monitoring Officer) at Wyre Council, will brief members on the Standards Regime and the Role of the Monitoring Officer.
  
5. Report from Lancashire Constabulary
  
6. Report from Wyre Council
  
7. Report from LALC Executive Committee
  
8. Matters Raised by Members
  
9. Date and Time of Next and Future Meetings

The dates for the 2025 meetings are Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June at 7pm and  
Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS**  
**WYRE AREA COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING HELD AT**  
**GARSTANG COUNTRY HOTEL AND GOLF CENTRE**  
**WEDNESDAY 29 JANUARY 2025 AT 7PM**

**Present**

Cllr Jan Finch (Catterall PC) – Chair  
Emma Millington – Area Secretary  
Cllrs Tony Fennell and Norman Howell (Barnacre with Bonds PC)  
Cllr Angela Birchall-Farr and Bob Hastings (Cabus PC)  
Cllr Sue Bulman (Catterall PC)  
Cllr Alan Pearson (Garstang TC)  
Cllr Alan Yates (Great Eccleston PC)  
Cllr John George Thompson (Hambleton PC)  
Cllrs Bill Collinson and Shaun Turner (Myerscough and Bilsborrow PC)  
Cllr Steve Elliot (Nether Wyresdale PC)  
Cllr Phil Orme (Preesall Town Council and Stalmine-with-Staynall PC)

John Ashurst (LALC)  
Ann Alty (Lancashire Best Kept Village)  
Sgt Elliot Jones (Lancashire Police) Sarah  
Palmer (Wyre Council)

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Cllr Julie Bostock (Catterall PC)  
Cllr Sandra Perkins (Garstang TC)  
Yvonne Walton (Clerk, Hambleton PC)  
Cllr Dean Faria (Inskip)  
Debbie Smith (Clerk, Stalmine-with-Staynall PC)  
Cllr Brenda Brodie (Winmarleigh PC)

**2. Minutes of the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2024** The minutes were approved as a correct record.

**3. Matters Arising from the Minutes** None.

**4. Election of Officers**

It was agreed that Cllr Jan Finch be elected as Chair and Cllr Phil Orme as ViceChair.

- 5. Support for Area Committee Secretary - Area Secretary Honorarium LALC**  
Executive considered and decided upon a proposal to improve the retention of Area Committee Secretary's (ACS) and the remuneration they receive for their work, commensurate with the size of the area they cover in the area committee network.

Previously a rate was agreed by each Area Committee to be collected from each Member Council in that area and this was then collected and paid over to the secretary. If an Area Committee wished to increase the amount to the ACS it would have a knock on effect for very small councils in membership, with some ACS portions pushing up the price of the membership fee.

Proposed new method

To better cover the work and value the Secretaries.

Every ACS will receive £500 directly from LALC plus the contribution from each Member in an Area Committee. The fee for the secretary will be capped to £10 on their membership invoice.

The larger the area and number of members within it, the larger the amount the ACS would receive for the additional work and administration required to look after more Member Councils. Some very small councils/parish meetings will be exempt from paying the £10.

The Area Committee agreed with the LALC proposed new structure to recompense the Area Secretary with a capped £10 being collected from each area members invoice along with a sum of £500 direct contribution from LALC.

- 6. Election of Representatives to the Lancashire Association of Local Councils' Executive Committee (4 places)**

It was agreed that Cllrs Jan Finch, Phil Orme and Alan Yates be elected as representatives to the LALC Executive Committee. There remains one vacancy.

- 7. Report from Lancashire Constabulary**

Sgt Elliot Jones briefed the committee on local issues and shared some crime statistics.

The following figures are from the period 25<sup>th</sup> December to 25<sup>th</sup> January. Drugs – 19 logs. Mostly at Forton services from drug wipes on cars.

Fraud – 6 logs.

Burglary – 25 logs. The police make sure to visit neighbours to gather footage from doorbell cameras etc and to reassure.

Thefts – 121 logs. Of which 37 logs were shop lifting. Vehicle crimes – 51 logs. Vehicle interference – 21 logs.

Sgt Jones has contacted all parish councils to ask if they would consider making a donation £150.00 each towards two police Electric assisted bikes for the PCs/PCSOs. This will enable them to get around more easily and travel further when they have vehicle issues, but more importantly, to go places that cars cannot. Many times, with e-scooters, Bikes. E-bikes and ASB, the police are dealing with parks, paths, and alleys.

Sgt Jones and his team are intending to attend as many parish council meetings as possible to discuss this request.

Garstang has a new PC who has just completed his drug wipe course and is keen to get started.

Sgt Jones reassured the committee that the police are ready to deal with any potential issues that arise this year when it comes to travellers on the A6 and unauthorised encampments. The team are aware of what powers are available to the police.

There will be four bike coding events in the coming months, details to be announced.

In The Know is a communication tool used by the police to communicate with residents. It can be used to target people living in certain areas so keeps communication relevant.

## **8. Guest Speaker**

Ann Alty from Lancashire Best Kept Village gave a presentation about the competition.

This year the competition is more focused on environmental concerns and sustainability as well as the traditional no litter or graffiti, tidy gardens, tidy hedges and verges and clean and tidy public spaces. They are looking for places that show pride in their environment and are not simply looking for picture-perfect villages.

Some of the benefits from the competition for parishes include getting residents involved in tidying up the village, may encourage residents to organise further events such as scarecrow festivals, and estate agents look to see if villages are taking part in the competition as it shows that a village has a good community spirit.

## **9. Report from Wyre Council**

Sarah Palmer, Director of Transformation and Change, joined Wyre Council in April 2024. She has management responsibility for policy, communications and visitor economy, ICT, HR and OD, systems, contact centre, economic development and commercial.

Wyre Council should be in a position to share details of the Economic Development and Visitor Economy strategy at the April Wyre Area Committee meeting.

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund has been extended for another year and projects are being sought.

Household Support Fund 5 has been extended until 31<sup>st</sup> March. Town and Parish Council's are asked to encourage eligible residents to apply.

Wyre Council launched a new Wyre Moving More website in December 2024. This website aims to give information and advice about exercising.

<https://www.wyremovingmore.co.uk/>

The committee were asked if they would like to receive briefings from different Wyre Council departments, such as planning, at Wyre Area Committee meetings. This would be alongside the director briefing. Members agreed that this would be beneficial and requested that someone from Waste Collection join the September Wyre Area Committee meeting.

**10. Report from LALC Executive Committee** The next executive committee meeting will be in February 2025.

**11. Matters Raised by Members**

The government consultation titled 'Strengthening the Standards and Conduct Framework for Local Authorities in England' was raised with the committee and all were encouraged to submit a response as individual councillors and as councils. Deadline for response is 26<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

Some councillors requested a copy of the job evaluation matrix for clerks.

**12. Date and Time of Next and Future Meetings**

The dates for the 2025 meetings are Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April at 7pm, Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June at 7pm and Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm.

There being no other business the Chair closed the meeting at 8:30pm.