

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

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING HELD AT**  
**GARSTANG COUNTRY HOTEL AND GOLF CENTRE**  
**WEDNESDAY 31 JANUARY 2024 AT 7PM**

**Present**

Cllr Jan Finch (Catterall PC) – Chair  
Emma Millington – Area Secretary  
Cllrs Tony Fennell and Norman Howell (Barnacre with Bonds PC)  
Cllrs Julie Bostock and Sue Bulman (Catterall PC)  
John Hallas (Clerk, Claughton-on-Brock PC)  
Cllr John Thompson (Hambleton PC)  
Cllrs Bill Collinson and Shaun Turner (Myerscough and Bilsborrow PC)  
Cllr Steve Elliot (Nether Wyresdale PC)  
Cllrs Neil Cookson and Judy Judkins (Pilling PC)  
Cllr Phil Orme (Preesall TC)  
Rebecca Huddleston (Wyre)  
John Ashurst (LALC)  
PC Sam Pearson and PCSO Daniel Martyn

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Cllr Francis Fitzherbert-Brockholes (Claughton-on-Brock PC)  
Cllrs Alan Pearson and Sandra Perkins (Garstang TC)  
Cllr Alan Yates (Great Eccleston PC)  
Cllr Julie Robinson (Hambleton PC)  
Yvonne Walton (Clerk, Hambleton PC)  
Cllrs Scott Irvine and Steve Phillpotts (Pilling PC)

**2. Minutes of the Annual Meeting held 25 January 2023 and the meeting held on 25 October 2023**

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 Vice-Chair.

**5. Election of Area Secretary**

Cllr Dave Sharples who has carried out the role of Area Secretary for just over 38 years has resigned owing to ill health. Members are agreed to thank Cllr Sharples for

his many years of service and to agree to pay 9/12 of the honorarium for the 23/24 financial year.

It was agreed that Emma Millington, Clerk to Catterall Parish Council, will take on the role of Area Secretary and members agreed to pay the remaining honorarium on a proportional basis.

## **6. Area Secretary Honorarium**

It was agreed that the honorarium for the 2024/25 financial year be set at an amount equivalent to £21 per annum per member council, the total amount dependent on the number of member councils. With 20 councils currently in membership this gives an Honorarium of £420 per annum.

## **7. 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.

## **8. Guest Speaker**

Cllr Shaun Turner, Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change at LCC, gave members an overview of some of the main areas in his portfolio.

Recycling will continue to be of utmost importance. Rather than having more household bins LCC are working on ways to mechanically separate a wider range of materials. The weekly recycling of food waste will be mandatory from 2026 and LCC are working to ensure that this target is met.

Nature recovery and biodiversity is a priority with 1200 biological sites identified across the county. Whilst there have been grants available for a number of years for nature recovery and biodiversity, they often haven't allowed for the hiring of staff. More grants are available now that allow for staff to be taken on to facilitate the delivery of projects.

Peatland restoration is ongoing in the Forest of Bowland. Restored peatlands not only reduce carbon emissions but are an effective way of slowing water that flows from the hills. This helps with flooding and promotes the growth of specialised bog vegetation.

Lancashire has received more rain in recent years, resorting in more flooding incidents. The team at Lancashire County Council investigate all reported flooding incidents and then pass on the work to the relevant company. At present 68 in-depth studies of flooding incidents have been conducted across the county.

Electric vehicle charging points remain a priority. The challenge is ensuring that the EV charging points are in the right place and that there isn't an oversupply in the wrong locations. Lamppost charging and footpath trays will be implemented.

Lancashire County Council supports the Cosy Homes in Lancashire scheme which provides help and assistance on energy efficiency and domestic heating measures.

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

Rebecca Huddleston, Wyre Council's Chief Executive gave an update on the refreshed Council Plan 2024-2028. This sets out the four priority areas for the council: 1. people and communities, 2. growth and prosperity, 3. place and climate, 4. innovative and customer focused.

This has also led to a restructure of the senior team and the creation of a fourth director.

Wyre's Indoor Leisure review is not yet completed. There are four leisure centres in Wyre, and they are challenging to deliver due to rising costs and staffing issues. The aim remains to keep these facilities open. In 2026 the contract that Wyre Council has with YMCA will be up for renewal.

Tourism and visitor numbers are back to a pre Covid level. Wyre Council are developing and improving their events programme. The Wyre Great Outdoors programme is available now.

[https://issuu.com/wyrecouncil1/docs/great\\_outdoors\\_2024\\_-\\_web](https://issuu.com/wyrecouncil1/docs/great_outdoors_2024_-_web)

Wyre Council will be issuing council tax premiums on long term empty properties from the 1<sup>st</sup> April, this is backed by legislation.

There will be a 100% premium on properties that have been empty for 1 year, 200% premium on houses empty for 5 years or more and 300% on properties empty for 10 years or more.

The hope is that this scheme will help to bring properties back into use. Details of any long term empty properties can be submitted to Wyre Council.

<https://www.wyre.gov.uk/empty-homes/empty-homes-1>

## **10. Report from Lancashire Constabulary**

PC Sam Pearson and PCSO Daniel Martyn gave a report on anti social behaviour in the area. Following ASB incidents at Booths Garstang, two of the perpetrators had been identified and are now on a youth referral programme. The police are keen to use diversion schemes to guide them away from committing further crimes.

Sergeant Laraine Lister has moved on from Wyre and the role will be temporarily covered by the Fleetwood sergeant.

## **11. Report from LALC Executive Committee**

Cllr Phil Orme made members aware that the minutes from LALC Executive Committee meetings are now uploaded to the LALC website

(<https://www.lalc.org.uk/executive-board.php>).

Councils are encouraged to sign the Civility and Respect Pledge. LALC have a number of training courses available on this topic and many others, details of these can be found on the LALC website.

Cllr Phil Orme asked members to contact him with details of any services or experiences that they have had of NALC.

## **12. Matters Raised by Members**

None.

### **13. Date and Time of Next and Future Meetings**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 24 April at 7pm

The agreed meeting pattern is for meetings to be held on the last Wednesday in January, April, July and October. The last Wednesday in the month was chosen after an analysis of parish council meetings showed that no parish council met on this day. The July and October meetings coincide with school holidays which has meant difficulty in attracting speakers who have childcare commitments.

Members agreed to change the pattern so that meetings are held on the last Wednesday in January, April, June\* and September. Should an issue important to member councils arise in the October to January period an additional meeting can be called.

\*Unfortunately, the venue cannot accommodate a meeting on the last Wednesday in June this year and the July date will be retained in 2024.

There being no other business the Chair closed the meeting at 8:35pm.

DRAFT