

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS WYRE AREA COMMITTEE

**GARSTANG COUNTRY HOTEL AND GOLF CENTRE
WEDNESDAY 24th SEPTEMBER 2025 AT 7PM**

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence

2. Minutes of the meeting held 26th June 2025

To approve the minutes from the meeting.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

4. Report from Lancashire Constabulary

5. Guest Speaker

Mark Billington, Director of Environment at Wyre Council, will brief members on his role at Wyre Council and the upcoming changes to food waste collection.

6. Report from Wyre Council

Update to be provided by Mark Billington, Director of Environment.

7. Creation of a Wyre Area Committee Energy Working Group

Cllr Gordon Smith of the Fylde Area Committee contacted Wyre Area Committee to ask if there is interest in the creation of a Wyre Area Energy Working Group in line with the one established by Fylde Area Committee. Cllr Smith has kindly provided the information below:

“You will be aware that there continues to be considerable national level advocacy for energy related developments. The Wyre area is no stranger to that, as has the Fylde. The LALC Fylde Area Committee (LALC FAC) has created its own Energy Working Group (EWG), to promote the realisation of opportunities and the avoidance of issues associated with Energy Projects.

- Most recently they have been working to respond to two of the major offshore wind energy projects - named Morgan and Morecambe - and their associated

transmission infrastructure that is proposed to connect the arrays of offshore wind turbines with the National Grid and on to consumers.

- The LALC FAC has been able to represent views through its EWG, that have been able to made beyond those that the Local District and County Councils have been prepared to do, due to their perspective of how they are involved as statutory consultees in the developers' application process.

By now a number of you may have been made aware of the Offshore Wind Farm developer Orsted's proposed East Irish Sea Transmission Project to connect their proposed "Mooir Vannin" Wind farm project in Isle of Man waters to the National Grid. They are currently proposing a landfall at either in the Fleetwood Area or Sefton Area and connecting to the National Grid at Penwortham near Preston.

- Should the Fleetwood landfall route be adopted, it would involve the undergrounding of likely 30km+ long cabling swathe some 35m-70m wide across Wyre parish countryside and one or more multi-football pitch size converter/booster stations at locations yet to be decided around Fleetwood and/or Penwortham.
- This could be avoided by the utilisation of the existing National Grid Lines between Stanah and Penwortham, combined with developer and National Grid PLC new infrastructure being hosted on the Hillhouse Technology Enterprise Zone. As part of a wider regeneration and growth programme for the North Wyre, such an approach is also being supported by the Blackpool North & Fleetwood MP.
- There are details of Orsted's proposals, including a map available in the documents in the attached link to the Orsted project website
- <https://eastirishseatransmissionproject.co.uk/the-project>.

It has therefore been suggested that LALC Wyre Area Committee could create their own Energy Working Group, in a similar manner as the LALC FAC, to facilitate a response at a Parish & Town level. This would be to complement individual and other representations. Through the LALC framework, Wyre and Fylde could also leverage a greater voice at MP, Regional and National Level.”

The committee is asked to consider a proposal to formally establish a LALC Wyre Area Committee Energy Working Group to address East Irish Sea Transmission Project & Other Energy Projects.

8. Report from LALC Executive Committee

9. Matters Raised by Members

10. Date and Time of Next and Future Meetings

The meeting dates for 2026 are Wednesday 28th January, Wednesday 29th April, Wednesday 24th June, and Wednesday 30th September 2026 at 7pm.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS
WYRE AREA COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT
GARSTANG COUNTRY HOTEL AND GOLF CENTRE
WEDNESDAY 25th JUNE 2025 AT 7PM

Present

Cllr Jan Finch (Catterall PC) – Chair
Emma Millington – Area Secretary
Cllr Sandra Perkins (Garstang TC)
Cllrs Trevor Browning (Great Eccleston PC)
Cllr Julie Robinson (Hambleton PC)
Cllr Dean Faria (Inskip)
Cllr Steve Elliott (Nether Wyresdale PC)
Cllr Phil Orme (Preesall Town Council and Stalmine-with-Staynall PC)

John Ashurst (LALC)
Sergeant Elliot Jones (Police)
Rebecca Huddleston, Fiona Riley and Steve Smith (Wyre Council)

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Tony Fennell and Norman Howell (Barnacre with Bonds PC)
Cllrs Julie Bostock and Sue Bulman (Catterall PC)
Cllr Francis Fitzherbert-Brockholes (Claughton on Brock PC)
Cllr Alan Pearson (Garstang TC)
Cllr Gareth Williams (Kirkland PC)
Clerk Debbie Smith (Stalmine-with-Staynall PC)
Cllr Brenda Brodie (Winmarleigh PC)

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 30th April 2025

The minutes were approved as a correct record.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

None.

4. 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 1st May to 26th June. .

Burglary – 5 logs in Poulton, 3 logs in rural east.

Road related (such as speeding) – 42 logs in Poulton, 76 logs in rural east.

ASB – 91 logs in Poulton, 81 logs in rural east.

Domestic – 36 logs in Poulton, 22 in rural east.

Op Spartan has been tackling ASB with officers visiting peak spots on a Friday, Saturday and Sunday. This is being made part of daily business rather than an overtime task.

In May and June officers have attended various parish galas and open days and have been running mini cadet sessions in local schools.

Community road watches can be undertaken on roads up to 20 mph. Following these events advisory letters are sent to offenders speeding over 25mph. Speed checks on roads with a speed limit of 30mph or more must be undertaken by two police officers and can result in fines.

On 24th June, a one hour Q&A session was held on Facebook allowing residents to ask questions of Garstang and Over Wyre Police. The intention is that this will be a regular event.

Bike marking events will be held over the summer months, details will be shared on the Garstang and Over Wyre Police Facebook page.

5. Guest Speaker

Fiona Riley, Planning Policy Manager at Wyre Council gave an update on the Local Plan.

It is a statutory requirement to set out where building will go over the next 15 years and must be reviewed every 5 years. The Issues and Options consultation was undertaken in 2025 but since then there has been some planning reform which has led to an increase in the number of houses required. The housing target for Wyre was 280 homes per year when the issues and options project was started and is now at 599 homes per year minimum. This figure is likely to continue to grow every six months. It must be taken into consideration that unmet housing need from neighbouring authorities can be passed from one area to another.

Wyre Council are currently working on a list of preferred options which will be published in the Spring of 2026. At this point there will be another public consultation and a parish briefing.

Flood risk is a key starting point when assessing sites for suitability. If a site has a high flood risk, it is discounted. Most sites in Wyre have surface water flooding. Sites with pockets of flood risk aim to collect water at points onsite.

It is frequently commented on that the A6 is at capacity. Lancashire County Council are responsible for Highways. When the current local plan was developed by Wyre Council, LCC made an assessment of the roads and a limit was imposed. A government inspector came and checked road measurements and declared that the LCC assessment wasn't robust enough and there wasn't a capacity issue on the A6. For the new Local Plan, Wyre Council have commissioned highways experts to collect more robust data.

Information was also provided on the creation of a Neighbourhood Plan. Neighbourhood planning came in in 2011 and is a mini local plan for an area. It allows parish councils to direct where development should take place in a parish, but does not allow the prevention of development. A substantial amount of evidence is

required to complete a Neighbourhood Plan and while some of this can be taken from the Local Plan, the onus is on the parish council to complete data. Typically it takes between 2 and 5 years to write a Neighbourhood Plan and the responsibility for this is on the parish council and there is no funding available.

Once the Neighbourhood Plan is written it is then checked by an independent examiner, if it meets the requirements then the community has to vote on its acceptance. Following this the Neighbourhood Plan would be checked and implemented by Wyre Council.

Parishes considering undertaking a Neighbourhood Plan are encouraged to contact Wyre council planning for further information.

6. Report from Wyre Council

Rebecca Huddleston, CEO, shared the following updates.

A number of park and playground improvements are to be undertaken in the coming months. Hawthorne Park in Thornton-Cleveleys will be updated before the summer holidays and the skate park in Garstang will receive improvement in October 2025.

Garstang Walking Festival was very successful again this year. Wonderland Festival will be taking place in Poulton on the 26th July. Over 1000 tickets have already been sold.

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) is ongoing in financial year 2025/26 with £1.2 million allocated to Wyre. Applications are currently closed, but it is likely that another application round will open.

A leisure contract procurement update was given. The current leisure contract with YMCA is coming to an end in 2026. Three companies have submitted a Stage 1 tender and these are currently being challenged. Following challenge, revised tenders will be submitted. The contract is to be awarded in December 2025, with the new 10 year contract commencing in April 2026.

An update was given on Local Government Reorganisation. The deadline for a new Unitary Council to be in place is April 2028, which is very ambitious. At the moment it looks like there could be 3 or 4 unitary councils in Lancashire. More details can be found in the Wyre Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee minutes for the meeting held on Monday 9th June 2025.

7. Report from LALC Executive Committee

An Extra-Ordinary General Meeting of LALC will take place virtually on Tuesday 12th August 2025 at 6pm to consider the newly drafted LALC constitution document following extensive work on updating the content.

The LALC Conference took place on the 7th June 2025 and was excellent. Local Government Reorganisation was discussed and the feeling was that Parish Council should identify land, assets and services currently undertaken on behalf of Lancashire County Council or Wyre Council and consider requesting ownership.

8. Matters Raised by Members

None.

9. Date and Time of Next and Future Meetings

The date for the final meeting of 2025 is Wednesday 24th September at 7pm.

There being no other business the Chair closed the meeting at 9:00pm.