

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS
WYRE AREA COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT
GARSTANG COUNTRY HOTEL AND GOLF CENTRE
WEDNESDAY 24th SEPTEMBER 2025 AT 7PM

Present

Cllr Jan Finch (Catterall PC) – Chair
Emma Millington – Area Secretary
Cllrs Norman Howell and James Reilly (Barnacre with Bonds PC)
Cllr Angela Birchall-Farr (Cabus PC)
Cllr Sue Bulman (Catterall PC)
Cllr Janet Huddart (Forton PC)
Cllr Sandra Perkins (Garstang TC)
Cllr Trevor Browning (Great Eccleston PC)
Cllr John George Thompson (Hambleton PC)
Cllr Dean Faria (Inskip PC)
Cllr Steve Elliott (Nether Wyresdale PC)
Clerk Julia Brewer (Pilling PC)
Cllr Claire Rimmer (Preston PC)
Cllr Phil Orme (Preston Town Council and Stalmine-with-Staynall PC)
Clerk Debbie Smith (Stalmine-with-Staynall PC)
Cllr Brenda Brodie (Winmarleigh PC)

Sergeant Elliot Jones and Insp Stuart Stevenson (Lancashire Police)
Cllr Peter Colins (Newton with Clifton PC and Fylde Area Committee Energy Working Group)
Mark Billington and Kathy Winstanley (Wyre Council)

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Tony Fennell (Barnacre with Bonds PC)
Cllr Julie Bostock (Catterall PC)
Cllr Alan Yates (Great Eccleston PC)
Cllr Julie Robinson (Hambleton PC)
Cllr Gareth Williams (Kirkland PC)

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 25th June 2025

The minutes were approved as a correct record.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

None.

4. Report from Lancashire Constabulary

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

The following figures are from the period 1st July to 24th September.

Burglary – 13 logs. Op Defender protocol is used to reassure and to gather information.

ASB – 345 logs. These include nuisance calls and some repeat issues. Most ASB reports of neighbour issues. As a result of these logs, 4 Community Protection Notices (CPN) have been issued, and 6 Community Protection Warning (CPW) have been issued. CPWs are a precursor to CPNs and are often a good deterrent.

Shoplifting – 93 logs, including 11 at Aldi Poulton, 6 at Booths Garstang and 6 at Garstang Sainsburys.

The police are to meet with United Utilities, the Environment Agency and Garstang Town Council on 25th September with the intention to install 2.4-meter fencing around the weir area of the River Wyre in Garstang. Currently there is signage about the dangers of entering the water by the weir/flood gates, but in the summer it is still a frequent swimming spot. By preventing people from entering the water in this area it is hoped that deaths will be prevented.

A new website has been launched as a single online home for Lancashire Police. The website gives contact details, crime statistics and event details for Wyre, broken down by area. <https://www.lancashire.police.uk/area/your-area/lancashire/wyre/>

5. Guest Speaker

Kathy Winstanley, Assistant Director of Environment at Wyre Council briefed the committee on the upcoming kerbside food waste collection service.

The Environment Act 2021 mandates separate, weekly food waste collections for households in England. Wyre Council will commence weekly food waste collections from April 2026. This collection will take place on the same day as current bin collections.

Wyre Council will provide all households with a 5L kitchen caddy, a roll of liners to line the caddy and a 23L outside food waste bin. Examples of these were shown to Wyre Area Committee.

Food waste that should be recycled includes any uneaten food and plate scrapings, out of date or mouldy food, bread and pastries (including crusts), fruit and vegetables (including peelings), meat and fish (including bones), eggs and eggshells, tea bags and loose coffee grounds.

Food waste will be taken to the waste collection facility in Leyland and used to create green energy by a process of anaerobic digestion.

More information will be published in the coming months with a mailing sent out to all Wyre residents ahead of new bin delivery.

6. Report from Wyre Council

Mark Billington, Director of Environment, shared the following updates.

There is a consultation exercise ongoing, until the 28th September 2025, to gauge views of residents on Local Government Reorganisation.

The tender for the Wyre leisure centres is ongoing. YMCA, the current operator, have opted not to put themselves forward. All leisure centres are set to remain open although there may be some temporary interruption to service whilst building work is undertaken.

Code of Conduct training for all councillors will be held at Wyre Council, and online, on the 30th October 2025. Attendance is strongly encouraged.

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 make 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 "Moor 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 under-grounding 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.”

Wyre Area Committee agreed that a Wyre Area Committee Energy Working Group would be created with representatives from Fleetwood TC, Great Eccleston PC, Hambleton PC and Inskip Parish Council. The group will meet, share details with the Fylde Area Committee Energy Working Group and report back to Wyre Area Committee.

8. Report from LALC Executive Committee

Jessica Dibble has been appointed as LALC secretary to assist with admin.

LALC has teamed up with Lancashire County Council to offer a subsidy for people to train to be a Council Internal Auditor. Contact office@lalc.org.uk to express interest.

9. Matters Raised by Members

None.

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.

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