

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS
WYRE AREA COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING HELD AT
GARSTANG COUNTRY HOTEL AND GOLF CENTRE
WEDNESDAY 28th JANUARY 2026 AT 7PM

Present

Cllr Jan Finch (Catterall PC) – Chair
Emma Millington – Area Secretary
Cllrs Tony Fennell and Norman Howell (Barnacre with Bonds PC)
Cllr Julie Bostock and Sue Bulman (Catterall PC)
Clerk Louise Banton and Cllr Louise Jackson (Cabus PC)
Cllr Janet Huddart (Forton PC)
Cllr Sandra Perkins (Garstang TC)
Cllr Trevor Browning (Great Eccleston PC)
Cllr John George Thompson (Hambleton PC)
Cllr Daniel Bolton (Myerscough and Bilsborrow PC)
Cllr Steve Elliott (Nether Wyresdale PC)
Clerk Julia Brewer (Pilling PC)
Cllrs Andrew Hayes and Tony Johnson (Preesall TC)
Cllr Phil Orme (Preesall Town Council and Stalmine-with-Staynall PC)
Cllr Brenda Brodie (Winmarleigh PC)

Sgt Elliot Jones (Lancashire Police)
Clare James (Wyre Council)

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Robert Hasting (Cabus PC)
Cllr Francis Fitzherbert-Brockholes (Claughton-on-Brock PC)
Cllr Alan Pearson (Garstang TC)
Cllr Julie Robinson (Hambleton PC)
Cllr Dean Faria (Inskip PC)
Cllr Gareth Williams (Kirkland PC)
Clerk Debbie Smith (Stalmine-with-Staynall PC)

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 24th September 2025

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. Area Secretary Honorarium

The current honorarium is based on a capped per council charge of £10 per annum which is collected as part of the LALC annual membership fee.

The Area Secretary also receives a sum of £500 direct contribution from LALC.

Members agreed to the per council charge of £10 for the 26/27 financial year.

6. Report from Lancashire Constabulary and Q&A Session

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

The following figures are from Rural East/Garstang for the period 1st October to 27th January.

ASB – 122 logs. There has been a hotspot in Garstang around the Booths area. This has been youths who have all been interviewed and some put on the youth referral scheme. Some logs are as a result of a land dispute in Out-Rawcliffe and cannabis use in a property in Pilling.

Burglary – 19 logs. The majority of these are from unoccupied new builds where boilers and pipes are removed.

Thefts – 26 logs. Mostly shop lifting in Booths and Sainsburys.

Sexual offenses – 12 logs. No patterns or trends and no repeat offenders or victims. Most of these of domestic abuse.

The following questions were submitted, in advance, by members of the committee. Answers given below.

1. Please can we have an update on e-bike purchase in light of town and parish council donations.

The e-bikes have not yet been purchased as not enough money has been raised to fund them. Sgt Jones is committed to finding the funds and is now contacting private businesses to request financial support.

2. Pilling Parish Council discussed crime statistics at their Parish Council meeting, looking at the data taken off the Lancashire Constabulary website. Councillors were concerned to see that Violence and Sexual Offences was the highest category for Pilling and would like to know if they could have a breakdown of this category in order to understand it more.

The Lancashire Constabulary website gives an overview of crime statistics but it's difficult to get the police statistics to match the website.

Going back to September 2025 gave 17 violence and sexual offences in Pilling. This was made up of 11 domestic incidents and pushing/shoving in the town centre, 3 from a care home of residents against their carers and 3 cancelled false positive reports. There is no pattern to the incidents.

3. Who does the yellow camera on the A586, in Churchtown belong to and what is its purpose? It's situated on lamppost 16, near to the new SPID.

Unsure, awaiting response from the Road Safety Partnership.

4. Parking on Westfield Road, Cloughton on Brock. This is an ongoing issue where the police recommended double yellow lines but LCC Highways refused. Cars park on both sides of the road blocking sight lines on exiting the Co-op and restricting the pavement width. This is particularly acute near the junction with Garstang Road. This new road was designed to take the majority of the heavy goods traffic to and from the nearby industrial estate and, as a result, weight limits were imposed on Joe Lane and Cock Robin Lane. With the restricted width there are now an increasing number of HGVs using Cock Robin Lane. How can the police help?

There is not a lot that the police can do about the parking on Westfield Road, Cloughton other than make recommendations to Lancashire County Council Highways. Sometimes police recommendations make a difference to parking measures but often not as the introduction of double yellow lines etc is normally driven by accident statistics.

The HGVs on Cock Robin Lane and Joe Lane can't really be pulled over by a regular police car. There are two police officers in Lancashire that deal with HGVs but most of their time is taken up with planning routes rather than enforcement of weight limits. Sgt Jones will contact them and ask for advice on enforcement.

5. Catterall Parish Council have spent a lot of time, money & resources over a number of years trying to prevent speeding in the village and educate drivers to adhere to the speed limits to keep everyone safe. Do you think that the speed awareness cameras are helping to prevent potential accidents and is there anything that the police can do to help?

Police believe in the value of SPIDs as they can only help and bring speed awareness.

In Catterall, Joe Lane and Cock Robin Lane have both been risk assessed for PCSO's to conduct speed monitoring.

Committee members requested that Sgt Jones check if Garstang Road from Cloughton into Garstang and Cabus Nook Road have been risk assessed for speed monitoring.

6. Please could you ask the police if they could check the speed of motorists at the bridge in Garstang by the Corn Mill nursing home. There's a public footpath (path 100) that leads to the road at the bridge and if you walk into Garstang you've no option but to cross the road where there is a blind bend and I'm sure many motorists are travelling about 30 MPH. It's a dangerous spot.

As above, will check if this location has been risk assessed, but it is noted that an officer cannot be put on a blind bend but could be positioned before or after.

7. Report from Wyre Council

Clare James, Director of Finance and Governance provided an update on behalf of Wyre Council.

Wyre Council submitted a proposal for a 3 unitary council split for Lancashire. Wyre's Chief Executive will be interviewed by central government on the proposal. A decision should be made by the end of summer 2026.

The leisure contract has been awarded to Parkwood Leisure and there is some significant investment to come. This is seen as important ahead of LGR to ensure that the area doesn't lose its assets.

Wyre Council are currently working on a Community Asset Transfer policy. Parish councils can request a list of assets owned by Wyre Council in their parish.

Weekly food waste collections are mandatory from the 1st April 2026, under the Environment Act 2021. Wyre Council are ready for this change and food caddies will be distributed ahead of this collection date.

Tetra pak can also be recycled from April 2026 and plastic film from April 2027. Members of the committee raised the lack of printed bin collection timetables for 2026. The bin collection timetable is available online, but not all members of the community have access to the internet. This will be fed back to Wyre Council.

8. Report from LALC Executive Committee

The new NALC Chair is Cllr Iain Hamilton of Halewood Town Council and a member of LALC exec (and MALC).

The new LALC secretary Jessica Dibble has hit the ground running and doing an excellent job thereby releasing Debra the CEO to engage in other projects and tasks.

LALC is still in need of a Treasurer.

At the AGM in November, Phil Orme was voted to remain Vice President and also to stay on the F&M and as rep to the Northern Group and LBKV Comp.

Some of the feedback on the LCC Town and Parish Conference suggested that the new admin at County Hall had made the conference too party political

Further to comments and other communications since the AGM the new Chair has introduced the idea of several Task and Finish Groups to cover various topics which may or may not bring improved offer to our membership.

The Topic headings which are still to be endorsed by the exec are

1. Raise LALC s Profile,
2. How LALC Operates,
3. LALC Fit for Unitaries (after LGR),
4. Improving our Highways and Byways and
5. Environment, Planning and Growth

Small budgets have been proposed for each of the headings. This is perhaps a better way to spend any trading surplus we make than how we used to spend that money.

We have resurrected a concern of LALC Governance and Legal Risk. The Association is an unincorporated body with no legal personality For eg if a Parish

seeks advice from LALC and then follows that advice but that led to a problem such that the Parish felt it needed compensation or similar as it stands Debra or members of the F&M could be individually sued. We are looking closely at how all other County Associations are constituted. LALC requires structural reform by either incorporation as a company limited by guarantee (CLG) or a complete constitutional overhaul to protect officers, exec committee members and member councils.

Work is underway to the area committee landing page on the LALC Website though it will have to be revisited after LGR.

There will be another Spring Conference in June.

9. Report from Wyre Area Committee Energy Working Group

Since Wyre Area Committee last met, the Energy Working Group has held two meetings. There has been early engagement with MP Cat Smith who is on board and working with Lorraine Beavers. After months of trying to get Wyre Council to get involved they put a statement on 17th December 2025, which indicates they are also on board.

Additionally, the developers 'Sefton option' was ruled out and within recent weeks the other two wind farm projects which would have come ashore up the River Ribble and onto Penwortham have claimed finances are not conducive to continuing.

10. Matters Raised by Members

The Lancashire Best Kept Village Competition will not take place in 2026 following a loss of personnel and a key sponsor, it is hoped that the competition will be back in 2027.

Committee members requested that a guest speaker is sought from Lancashire County Council's Parish Council team to come and speak to the committee about parish council's communication with LCC. The LCC Parish Champion was also requested.

Other committee members requested a guest speaker from the Road Safety Partnership.

11. Date and Time of Next and Future Meetings

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

There being no other business the Chair closed the meeting at 9:05pm.