**MINUTES**

**Myerscough & Bilsborrow Parish Council**

**Clerk: Laura Bolton**

**Chairman: Cllr Dan Bolton**

**Vice Chairman: Cllr Andrew Willacy**

**Email:** [**clerk@myerscoughandbilsborrow-pc.org.uk**](mailto:clerk@myerscoughandbilsborrow-pc.org.uk) **Tel: 07803631556/01995640833**

**Thursday 24th July 2025 at 7pm Bilsborrow Church**

**Present**

Cllr Bolton (Chair), Cllr Willacy (Vice Chair), Cllr Robinson, Cllr Sutcliffe, Cllr Collinson, County Councillor James Tomlinson

Members of the public, David & Karen Burridge, owners of Sunnybank Farm and PC Mike Duff

**Apologies**

Cllr Swift, Cllr Allan, Cllr Pye, Cllr Barker, Cllr Turner

**Open Session**

Councillor Bolton welcomed everyone; this was followed by introductions. Parishioners David & Carol Burridge introduced themselves as owners of Sunnybank Farm, Bilsborrow Lane. The purpose of their attendance at the meeting was to ask for the Parish Councils support with regards to a development behind their property and to help them move forward with their complaint to Wyre Planning. The development is a portable toilet company and overflow parking for MP Motors on the A6, Mr & Mrs Burridge are in touch with Wyre Planning department and they have been on site for a meeting but feel that they are not getting anywhere. Their concerns are that it is an actively running business not just storage as the planning permission states, they are concerned about spillage & pollution, late night/early morning activity on site (there are certain times that the company are supposed to work between), drainage, possible community risk (there has been an increase in criminal activity in the area possible due to the storage of high value cars). Cllr Bolton apologised for not chasing this sooner; he will look into the plans and contact Wyre Planning for an update on the current situation and that the Parish Council are right behind them and will support them however we can. Cllr Bolton will draft a letter to Wyre Planning and circulate with Councillors, David & Carol Burridge before sending.

PC Mike Duff introduced himself as the ‘local beat bobby’ he covers 24 wards so is very busy but always on hand to help, he advised that one of the main issues in our area now is drugs. Myerscough and Bilsborrow currently have a low crime rate but if anyone has anything to report; drug related, suspicious activity, anti-social behaviour etc to contact him. Clerk will circulate his contact details to councillors. PC Duffs new initiative is ‘Good News Stories’ to reward children that have gone the extra mile for example organising charity events/ fundraising, good deeds etc. The reward will hopefully be Flower Bowl Vouchers. Another of the main policing proprieties in the local area is removing illegal E-Bikes from the roads. Cllr Collinson mentioned about an incident at school and regarding the issues regarding the containers at the recreation ground & mentioned that it may be an idea for him to go into the school to do a talk. PC Duff said that he has been in touch with all local schools to offer this service to introduce himself and do a variety of talks including water safety/ drugs etc. Clerk will email headmaster at John Cross School.

Cllr James Tomlinson introduced himself as County Councillor for Wyre Rural East, Reform UK. Since the election the two main priorities have been roads and education, they have purchased 3 AI cameras which have been used to locate and measure potholes, these will then be filled and sealed as part of a Road Surfacing plan. They also have a 6-month target to clean all road signs in Lancashire. Another initiative is to fast-track assessors in order to get SEN children they help and support they need. Illegal/Immigrant housing is also on their agenda. In conclusion Cllr Tomlinson said it was an exciting and challenging time for Reform.

* 1. **Minutes of last meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting were checked and signed as a true record of the Parish Council meeting held on the 22nd May 2025. Cllr Bolton confirmed will all councillors present that they had received a copy of the minutes via email and were happy it was a true and correct record of the meeting. Proposed by Cllr Bolton, seconded by Cllr Willacy, all councillors agreed, the minutes were signed and dated by Cllr Bolton and Cllr Willacy.

* 1. **Declarations of prejudicial interest in any of the agenda item interests and dispensations**

There were no declarations of prejudicial interest for any agenda items.

* 1. **Unitary Council Matters**

Cllr Bolton advised that there were no further updates on this and that it would be September/October before there would be any updates to report.

* 1. **Police**

See update from PC Mike Duff in Open Session section

* 1. **Planning Applications for Input & Decisions**
* ***New Planning Applications – received since last Parish Council meeting***
* *Application -**Application Number: 25/00468/FUL Change of use of a dwelling (C3) to a childrens care home (C2) for up to 2.no children aged 11-18 years. Bluebell House White Horse Lane Barton Preston Lancashire.*

Cllr Bolton advised that the application is still pending consideration.

* ***Planning Applications Awaiting Decisions***

* *Application 25/00426/FUL Threlfalls Farm Change of use of outbuilding to dwelling with side extension & roof lift.*

Application still pending consideration. No further comments

* *Application 24/00558/FUL – The Paddocks Garstang Road – change of use to domestic storage retrospective – (application validated 11/07/24).*

Application still pending consideration. No further comments

* *Application 22/00612/OUTMAJ – land opposite Rockform. Outline application for the erection of a mixed-use class commercial units (application validated 14/06/22)*

Application still pending consideration. Cllr Bolton said that it was communicated to him that a decision was imminent however no further updates as yet.

* *Application 25/00286/REM Adjacent Duncombe House, Garstang Road, PR3 0RE Reserved matters application for the erection of 1 no dwelling (appearance, landscaping, layout and scale) following outline planning permission (application validated 28/03/25)*

Application still pending consideration. No further comments

* ***Planning Notifications Received***
* ***-*** *Application 25/00143/FUL. Southlands, Bilsborrow Lane, PR3 0RN Proposed erection of detached garage (application received 20/02/25, validated 10/03/25)*

Application Refused. Appeal in Progress

* 1. **Finance**

The Clerk presented a reconciliation of accounts for the Parish Community Account and the War Memorial Account with the most recent bank statements (up to 30th June). These were passed round the room, Cllr Bolton and Cllr Willacy signed and dated the documents. The following cheques were presented:

*Myerscough and Bilsborrow Community Account*

* *Cheque 200387 Mark Cornforth May Wages Lengthsman £567.00*
* *Cheque 200388 Huws Gray Picnic Benches £522.00*
* *Cheque 200389 Laura Bolton reimbursement for flowers for BKVC £180.13*
* *Cheque 200390Mark Cornforth June Wages Lengthsman £623.70*
* *Cheque 200391 Laura Bolton Clerk wages April, May, June 25 £1049.50*
* *Cheque 200392 Laura Bolton working from home payment April May June 13 weeks £78.00*
* *Cheque 200393 HMRC Employee payments Q1 £256.34*
* *Cheque 200394 Nurture June grass cutting £541.03*

*Cheques to be scrutinised & signed M&B Community Account*

* *Cheque 200395 St Hildas Church Room fee for July meeting £20*
* *Cheque 200396 Nurture July grass cutting £541.03*
* *Cheque 200397 Mark Cornforth July Lengthsman wages TBC*
* *Cheque 200398 Laura Bolton Reimbursement for Land Registry fee £60*

*War Memorial Account Cheques to be scrutinised & signed*

* *Cheque 100111 Myerscough and Bilsborrow Parish Council - Annual share of Insurance 10% - £45.90*
  1. **MUGA**

Cllr Bolton advised that he has received all the paperwork/ forms to complete from Vincents. Cllr Bolton & Cllr Willacy will be representing the Parish Council and will be signatories for all paperwork. Cllr Collinson advised that things cannot proceed until the Heads of Terms Lease between the Parish Council and Trustees of John Cross School has been completed.

* 1. **Lengthsman**

Cllr Bolton said that he had not received any jobs from councillors for the lengthsman so assuming everyone is happy at the moment. Cllr Collinson mentioned about the road closure on Bilsborrow Lane from 28th July to 3rd August – this would be a good opportunity for the sides of the road to be cleared of debris. Clerk to contact Lengthsman to discuss. Cllr Willacy suggested that this year it might be a good idea to plan a few ‘Help out days’ to sort out Brock Station Nature reserve, it is a popular area to walk, and it needs sorting out. Clerk to organise for March time.

* 1. **Bilsborrow Village Hall**

Cllr Bolton advised that he has received several complaints regarding the village hall following the Childrens Festival in June. These include the state of the village hall both internally and externally. He has suggested that the Parish Council compile a list of points for discussion/consideration to present to the Village Hall Committee now so that it can be discussed at the Village Hall AGM in November. Cllr Bolton to confirm with the committee what date the AGM will be held on as last year there was a conflict with the Parish Council meeting.

* 1. **Possible Pollution at Bacchus Brook**

There is an issue of bad smell at Baccus Brook, opposite the Bowling Green/Roebuck. Cllr Willacy has already reported, and the Environment agency have been out to investigate, it looks like it is being polluted from a source up towards the motorway bridge on Bilsborrow Lane and they are looking into it. He was advised by the Enviroment agency that even though he has reported it this will just be counted as 1 incident, so everyone needs to report it.

* 1. **Development of land behind Sunnybank Farm, Bilsborrow Lane**

See comments in Open Session

* 1. **New benches at the Nature reserve**

These have now been paid for and are ready for installation. Cllr Collinson and Cllr Willacy will organise this.

* 1. **Car Park next to Roebuck/bowling Green**

Following on from the last meeting, Clerk has been in touch with Land Registry to confirm ownership of the car park next to the bowling green. It was confirmed that that The Roebuck pub own the car park. Cllr Robinson advised there have been some recent issues with the bowlers from the bowling green parking at the Roebuck car park so they now park on the one next to it but there have been lots of camper vans/caravans parking overnight and leaving lots of rubbish etc so a height barrier has been put up to prevent this. The owner of the red scrap van has been contacted and asked to move however this does not look likely. Clerk has contacted the Roebuck who own the car park to see if they can get anywhere with its removal as it is an eyesore in the village.

* 1. **Dangerous Parking on Church Lane**

Clerk advised that there have been complaints regarding dangerous parking on Church Lane by parents/guardians dropping off and picking up children from John Cross School. The new car park is now open so parents have two car parks to use so this should help with the issue as more parents start to use the new car park.

* 1. **Duchy of Lancaster – kissing gates, trees on White Horse Lane (replacement)**

Clerk advised that Robert Noblet- Stone from The Duchy of Lancaster is on with this and he will let us know as soon as he has any updates.

* 1. **Canal & Rivers Trust**

This is regarding potential works to the canal tow path between White Horse Lane bridge and Guys Thatched Hamlet, Clerk advised that she had received an email from Canal & Rivers Trust to apologise that no one has been in touch as yet and that they will chase up a response. The Parish Council would like to know if there are any restrictions in place with regards to work that can be carried out on the tow paths.

* 1. **Road Safety Measures in Bilsborrow - SPID (Speed Indicator Devices)**

Clerk advised that she had been contacted by a parishioner regarding speeding issues/dangerous driving within the parish. The police have been out to investigate but found no issues at that time. Clerk has been in touch with Clerk at Catterall Parish Council and Paul Connell to discuss different options for a Speed Indicator Device. Cllr Tomlinson advised that he has seen more and more parishes getting them and having positive results from them. It would cost in the region of £3000. Cllr Bolton said that this will need to be included in the Precept discussions in January. Clerk to organise for Paul Connell to come out and assess potential sites for a SPID.

* 1. **5 Defibrillator – Bilsborrow Village Hall**

Clerk advised that the adult pads on the defibrillator are due to expire; there is currently a nationwide shortage of pads and we are on the waiting list with NWAS to get new ones. Clerk asked for the go ahead to purchase for £95 once they are back in stock, Cllr Bolton proposed to go ahead, Cllr Willacy seconded, all councillors agreed. Clerk also mentioned that the current model of Defibrillator, Lifepak CR Plus is due to expire in a couple of year and then the pads will be unavailable. Clerk mentioned purchasing a new one, quotes approx. £1000, this is something to think about in the next couple of years.

* 1. **Website - .gov email address**

Clerk read email from our website provider regarding switching our email address to ‘.gov’, more Parish Councils are using this as opposed to ‘.org’ that we currently use. Easy websites can change this for a fee of £5 + vat per month, this includes application process, moving website to new domain name, redirecting visitors, moving to new email address and redirection. Cllr Sutcliffe asked whether the £5 per month continues once the old domain name has expired, Clerk to ask question. Cllr Bolton asked for a show of hands to go ahead and move to ‘.gov’, the majority voted in favour of this. Cllr Tomlinson advised that a lot of parishes he has come across had moved to ‘.gov’ already.

* 1. **VJ Day – 15th August 2025**

Clerk read email from Edwina Parry, Clerk for Garstang Town Council regarding a service to commemorate Victory over Japan Day (VJ Day) on 15th August at 7.30pm. She was asking for a volunteer to do a reading; Cllr Barker will volunteer if no one else wanted to put themselves forward. No other volunteers, Clerk to contact Edwina Parry to inform.

* 1. **AOB**

Email from LCC Highways to Cat Smith MP - Obscured/dirty signage Bilsborrow Lane – clerk read email from Highways to confirm they have been out to inspect, and they will be carrying out necessary repairs shortly.

* 1. **Clerks report**

Clerk read report – copy available on website

* 1. **Items for next agenda**
* External Auditors Report for 24/25
* Wyre Area Committee update

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING 25th September 2025**

Signed by:

Chair…………………………………………………………………………………………………..Date……………………

Vice Chair………………………………………………………………………………………………Date………………………