

## Adlington Town Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 23 September 2024  
in Adlington Library, Railway Road, Adlington commencing at 7.15pm

### Present:

**Councillors:** Cllrs K Snape (Town Mayor), S Clewlow (Deputy Mayor), A Robinson, A Cross, B Speers, J Lowe, J Molyneaux, K O'Donnell, L Rennison, and C Bailey (Clerk)

Open Forum: 35 residents in attendance

### 1. Open Forum:

#### Introduction

The Town Mayor welcomed attendees to discuss **LCC/2024/0023: for the erection of an Anaerobic Digester Unit with associated infrastructure on land adjacent to Wigan Lane, Heath Charnock, Adlington.**

She explained the Town Council:

- is a consultee as are residents
- is keen to hear residents views
- has asked LCC for extra time to be able to comment on this application after tonight's meeting
- has complained to LCC that its public consultation has been minimal, not enough residents have been informed, and to expect a strong response, and
- the Ward Councillors have now hand delivered a letter in Lower Adlington to explain the proposal, timescales and how to express views
- Asks as many individual objections to be submitted to give more impact to reflect local public anger and outrage. Email LCC at – [devman@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:devman@lancashire.gov.uk)

LCC has asked for comments by 27 September 2024. LCC will continue to accept feedback up until the application is determined by LCC's Planning Committee which will be following a site visit.

#### Concerns raised by attendees

- The inadequacy of the public consultation and application information
- Confusion as to why LCC is the lead and not Chorley Council and who to contact
- LCC has not contacted the residents who will be most affected by it
- The applicant, Woodcock, has not arranged for any public discussion or explanation. It seems an 'underhand' approach.
- How much notice has the local council had of the proposal?
- The proposal is of no benefit to residents or the local community
- The closeness of homes in Lower Adlington has been overlooked. They are 200m away as the crow flies. Adlington Primary School is very close. Need to emphasise residential proximity. Overhead drone footage would help.
- The scale and size of the proposal
- The impact of additional heavy traffic generated on unsuitable local roads
- Is this going to be a repeat of the quarry application where residents were promised 'parklands' and inadequate consultation for the intensive dairy farm?
- No suggestions of jobs to be created in the application form. No social/economic benefits locally. 5 workers are referred to in the Transport Report.
- A 2m high fence is proposed around the site. Is this part of the application?
- Why has 6 trees been removed on Wigan Lane before the application has been considered?
- What should residents be saying to object to the proposal? We need help/advice
- Will the local councils speak as one voice and help the public to respond?

- Can residents meet LCC Planning Committee members for the site visit?
- Planning Policy – the site is in the Green Belt. The applicant has to demonstrate **extreme special circumstances ‘green credentials’** for it to be approved. Its inappropriate development, within 200m as the crow flies of residential properties in Lower Adlington. There are no ‘mitigating’ circumstances: air quality, odours, noise, adverse impact on the local environment and wildlife, leakage into/pollution of Eller Brook and River Yarrow; the Sandy Lane public right of way forms the northern boundary of the site; public health and safety risks include dust during construction and potential for gas explosion; due to previous shallow mining ground conditions are considered unsuitable/unstable
- Its scale and size will be ‘industrial’ in time given 8 tanks, 32m in diameter, a reception area plus associated facilities
- Its opportunistic due to the adjacent Yew Tree intensive dairy farm
- Up to 400 tonnes throughput of feedstock per day; 71 two-way traffic movements, of which up to 61 will be heavy goods movements. 6 days per week x 13 hours per day operation is proposed. Impact on residential quality of life. Extent of vehicular movements out ways any proposed green energy spin-offs including connection to the National Grid
- LCC Minerals and Waste Local Plan does not envisage this site being used to locate an anaerobic digester. Potentially more suitable sites in the Plan are at Redscar and Riversway
- Management of the site will be overseen by the Environment Agency. There is a separate application process which is not subject to public consultation. The MP could be asked to demand close oversight and monitoring for high standards
- It was noted that Heath Charnock Parish Council meets on Thursday 26 September

At the Town Mayor’s request the Open Forum closed at 20.19. The Town Mayor thanked residents for attending. The Town Council agreed to discuss this application as agenda item 7.1 immediately. Residents who wished to remain could hear this discussion. Cllr Molyneaux declared an interest in item 7.1.

The Town Council said:

- It would respond to reflect residents views: those who had attended; received on social media and as emailed to the Clerk and investigate further

**Actions agreed to:**

- Prepare and submit a detailed response from ATC
- Ask a licenced resident if drone footage of the site and its closeness to Lower Adlington could be obtained to support the concerns discussed
- Ask Sir Lindsay Hoyle as MP to maintain close oversight on the detail and monitoring of the Environment Agency’s assessment of the proposal
- Work in conjunction with Heath Charnock Parish Council to make the case
- Arrange a display of information in Adlington Library to help the public to understand the proposal, to access information and to send in their comments on the application
- Ask LCC for an Adlington Town Councillor to be involved in the site visit to speak to members of the LCC Planning Committee
- Ask to speak to LCC Planning Committee when the application is discussed
- Contact Standish Parish and Wigan Metropolitan Council about the proposal
- Publish information on the ATC website, on social media
- Be pro-active in maintaining contact with LCC and monitoring progress

2. **Other declarations of Interest:** Cllr Speers: for item 6.5 and Cllr Molyneaux

for item 7.2

3. **Apologies for absence:** Received from: Cllrs A Rothwell and P Walkden

4. **Minutes of the meeting:** of Monday 19 August 2024 were proposed, seconded, and signed by the Town Mayor.

5. **Matters arising** were noted as listed:

5.1 The graffiti on the electric box at the Adlington War Memorial has been removed

5.2 The replacement of the perspex glass on the Community Noticeboard is complete

5.3 Chorley Council is reviewing its Events Policy. The concern about plastic confetti will be included. LCC's response was to ask the Town Council to contact the County Councillor, Kim Snape who has agreed to follow this up with LCC.

5.4 LCC Highways have contacted the owner of an overgrown tree on Westhoughton Road for it to be pruned and will monitor actions taken

5.5 The Police have insufficient resource to address parking on the pavement such as at Market Street. They consider action should be the Council-led

5.6 The request for data from the video camera at Market Place has been acknowledged

5.7 Chorley Council has agreed to replace the dying QPJ oak tree planted by the District Councils in Jubilee Recreation Ground. The adjacent councils have been informed.

5.8 LCC Public Right of Way team has been asked to remove a third fallen tree from the Adlington Circular Walk. The team says footpath vegetation is cut twice annually. The fallen tree is not within the Lancashire boundary. Bolton Council will be contacted.

6. **Items for Discussion:**

6.1 The Town Council agreed to invite both remaining candidates to speak to their application for co-option for completion before the 21 October 2024 meeting.

6.2 Cllr Clewlow outlined the proposals from the District Remembrance event planning meeting on 18 September 2024. It was noted that:

- A donation to pay for the road closure has been received
- A public address system will be sourced
- The Town Mayor will arrange to display the large lamp post poppies
- The War Memorial will be lit proposed from 4pm Sunday 10 November till 17 November,
- Volunteers to support the venue set up, to serve refreshments and support the road closure will be sought, and
- The balance of other costs will be shared pro-rata between local councils.

6.3. The dates and times offered by the Lancashire Sight Loss Council will be re-circulated to agree the arrangements for the 'walk' wearing simulation spectacles which mimic the impact of various eye-sight impairments to advise on future improvements in Adlington.

6.4 No reply has yet been received from Jigsaw to the Town Council's request that it pay to replace the rotting wooden log flower planter in Windsor Avenue.

6.5. Cllr Speers said that the preparations for the relaunch had been hard work, but had been well supported and successful. Some 88 members have already

transferred across and others have six weeks to do so. With self-earned income and the support it has been offered including a grant from Chorley Council's Housing Support Fund, the independent Adlington Community Food Club should become sustainable. The Club continues to help those in financial need and is helping to overcome social isolation.

6.6 It was noted that the Adlington Youth Group Steering Committee will meet on 24 September 2024.

*Standing Order 82 was approved to extend the meeting by up to 30 minutes.*

6.7 The Town Mayor outlined the LCC Highway's recent response insisting on residents' concerns being reported using the app instead of by email. Both should continue to be responded to. Email can give a fuller reply.

6.8 The Town Council has reported two damaged directional signs at Harding Street and outside St Paul's Church and the Adlington Railway Station sign.

6.9 Chorley Council has asked for questions at the Liaison meeting on Wednesday, 16 October at 6.30pm for County Councillor Jayne Rear, LCC Cabinet Member for Education and Skills. She will update on the number of high school places within Chorley and plans to meet future demand. Two questions were proposed:

- On improvements to the inadequate funding for Special Educational Needs as individual pupils are being failed and lack of support is impacting negatively on other children
- Cross border travel to school transport which costs significantly more

6.10 The proposed content of the ATC Autumn Update newsletter and timescales for preparation, print and delivery by Anderton St Joseph's Scout Group were discussed.

6.11 It was agreed that the £300 2024/25 LCC bio-diversity grant requested by the Town Council would be split equally amongst the two Primary Schools and St Paul's Guides who have all completed their previous projects.

6.12 It was agreed that Cllr Rennison will represent the Town Council at the LBKVC presentation of awards on 14 October 2024 at Eaves Hall as Higher Adlington is a finalist. Cllr Lowe will make the arrangements.

6.13 The two cost quotes for a pop-up banner were discussed. The lower price will be accepted. The wording and design will be agreed to promote the Town Council's activities for use at its own events from the Carol Concert onwards

6.14 The Town Council will suggest that Chorley Council ask the Lancashire Sight Loss Council to offer advice on how visually impaired residents should be assisted in the 5 year review of the facilities required at polling stations.

## 7. Planning:

7.1 The Town Council commented on application:

**LCC/2024/0023:** for the erection of an Anaerobic Digester Unit with associated infrastructure on land adjacent to Wigan Lane, Heath Charnock, Adlington, Chorley, as above

7.2 Application noted but left for neighbours' comments: **24/00705/CLPUD:** Application for a certificate of lawfulness for a proposed single storey side extension at 2A, Highfield Close, PR6 9RL

## 8 Finance

8.1 The 31 August 2024 account and budget reports were approved. The Clerk will resubmit the VAT reclaim form to HMRC if payment is not received shortly.

8.2 The cost of the annual fee and charges on a multi-payment card were prohibitive. The Clerk is investigating the option of the Town Council having its own credit card.

8.3 The External Audit of the 2023/24 year-end accounts has led to Town Council needing to restate the 2023/24 accounting statement to omit the delayed Credit Union Account dividend payment of £26.16 from February 2022. This was agreed and signed by the Town Mayor. The External Audit Assurance Report will need to be signed and displayed by 30 September 2024, the national deadline.

8.4 The Town Council agreed to transfer £1,000 from the UTB Instant Access to the UTB Current Account towards the expenditure listed below.

8.5 These payments were approved to be paid from the online UTB current account:

Clerk	September 2024 net administration and financial management at 8 hours per week	£414.66
HMRC	September 2024 PAYE deducted from the gross payment to the Clerk	£103.60
Clerk	Mileage: 17 miles @ 0.45ppm in August 2024	£7.65
EE Ltd	ATC mobile invoice dated 16 September 2024	£22.20
PKF Littlejohn Accountants Ltd	Completion of the 2023/24 External Audit Assurance Report	£252.00
Adlington CPS	£100 from the LCC 24/25 year bio-diversity grant	£100.00
St Pauls CE PS	£100 from the LCC 24/25 year bio-diversity grant	£100.00
St Pauls Guides	£100 from the LCC 24/25 year bio-diversity grant	£100.00

## 9. Items for Information:

9.1 Invitation to LALC Parish and Town Council Conference, Saturday 2nd November at The Exchange, County Hall, Fishergate, Preston, from 09:30 to 14:00 including lunch

9.2 The article on 'Council accounts and audits' by Roger Taylor in the legal section of Clerks and Councils Direct, September 2024 which was circulated

9.3 The Town Council has been informed by Lidl that public consultation on the proposed Lidl supermarket planning application will shortly re-commence now legal matters have been resolved with consultation information to follow

*The meeting closed at 21.25pm.*