

Adlington Town Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 19 January 2026

In Adlington Library, Railway Road, Adlington commencing at 7.15pm

Present: Town Councillors: Cllrs S Clewlow (Town Mayor), A Rothwell (Deputy Mayor), A Robinson, A Cross, D Jones, J Lowe, K O'Donnell, L Rennison and C Bailey (Clerk) and joining online by Zoom link: Cllrs B Speers and P Walkden

Guest speaker at the Open Forum: Mr Kevin Foster, Head of Planning, Chorley Council

Members of the public: one resident attended for the Open Forum.

1. **Open Forum:** Kevin Foster talked about two different aspects of planning legislation which are both currently impacting on Chorley borough: the recent introduction of 'Grey Belt' into the National Planning Policy Framework and Permission in Principle which some developers have sought on small sites of up to 10 homes, as a way to seek consent through a two-stage process prior to the new Central Lancashire Local Plan completing its statutory examination and adoption procedures. When asked, Mr Foster commented on two local planning matters:

- There is no unmet need for the proposed anaerobic digester plant on Wigan Lane which is in the green belt and which Chorley Council has opposed, and
- The proposed supermarket application at the Market Place site Adlington is close to a resolution. The applicant has been asked to supply further information before a decision can be considered.

2. **Apologies for absence** were received from: Cllrs J Molyneaux and K Snape.

3. **Declaration of Interest:** was made by the Clerk for item 6.5

4. **Minutes of the meeting:** of Monday 8 December 2025 were proposed, seconded and signed by the Town Mayor.

5. **Matters arising:** None.

6. **Items for Discussion:**

6.1 The Town Council's Carol Concert was well attended and had received positive feedback on social media. It was agreed to offer mince pies again in 2026. The event raised a total of £607.63 from the raffle (£453.00) and collection boxes donations (£154.63) towards the Town Mayor's cause of the restoration of St Paul's Church War Memorial Tower and bells. The Town Mayor thanked everyone for their support to make the event so successful.

6.2 The team of volunteers were thanked for the lamp post large poppy display for Remembrance Sunday. It was agreed the damaged poppies would be replaced and more would be bought to enable all lamp posts along Railway Road within the Town Council's licence and other appropriate locations on the parade route to display a large poppy. Cllr Speers will clarify the number required to update the next meeting for the Town Council to purchase them.

6.3. Cllr Robinson will speak with the lighting consultant for Adlington War Memorial about alternative suppliers for the small lit trees which will be considered alongside other contacts. The spring 26 Update newsletter will ascertain the initial interest of local businesses in re-starting the scheme.

6.4. The Town Council started to use the gov.uk email facility from 5 January 2026. Two Town Councillors have technical issues to be resolved. Additional content will be obtained and uploaded to the Town Council's gov.uk website, including photographs and local items.

6.5. The Clerk left the room for this item. The appointed Sub Committee is continuing to progress their requirements of a Town Clerk and will report back to the Town Council to finalise these proposals for the vacancy to be advertised in the next Update Newsletter.

6.6. LCC Social Services has extended the timescale to make its decision following public consultation to review the future of 16 Care Homes and 5 Day Care centres across Lancashire, including Grove House Residential Care Home, Adlington. Cllr Snape will be asked for an update at the next meeting.

6.7. The Town Council noted the updated drafts of the following: its publications policy; the

privacy notice and policy; and of the Freedom of Information Act (FoIA) procedures for display on the Town Council's website once agreed. The Deputy Mayor asked whether any independent professional verification of them could be obtained. The Town Council is not a member of the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) or the Lancashire network (LALC). It was suggested that Chorley Council be asked for advice or to review them.

6.8. The Town Council agreed that it would be beneficial for bus users for a bus shelter to be installed on Chorley Road on the opposite side to the telephone exchange. LCC's Highway's team will be asked if this will be delivered as part of the 'bus clearways' scheme or be considered.

6.9. Cllr Robinson confirmed that the Town Council used to ensure that a complete circuit of the Adlington Circular Walk (ACW) was carried out annually to ensure: the route continued to be called the 'Adlington' Circular Walk and that the public footpath remained accessible for users, with good signage. Last year Cllr Robinson inspected the route but in stages identifying the need to repair the wooden steps near the Pincroft for public health and safety reasons. Cllr Cross also reported damaged and fallen trees on several occasions which the LCC Public Right of Way team was asked to deal with. It was agreed that Cllr Robinson would propose a date for the ACW to be inspected for others to join him. Anderton PC will be notified of the reported loss of signage at the Horrobin Lane and Nickleton Brow, an important junction on the ACW route.

6.10. The draft 26/27 calendar of meeting dates and events was agreed for venues to be booked. The Deputy Mayor will consider the date proposed for the Civic Service. The Clerk will check with Chorley and neighbouring Town Councils to try to avoid a clash. It was agreed the Town Council would return to holding the two annual meetings on the second Monday in May with the monthly meeting on the third Monday. The actual dates are 11 and 18 May 2026.

6.11. It was agreed that a draft proof of the spring Update newsletter would be prepared for finalisation at the February meeting to aim for print and delivery in early March. Potential content would include the Town Mayor's fund-raising; the closure and re-location of the Village Post Office; the proposed skip and litter pick; an update on the Adlington Youth Group; 'what's on' content and minute items 6.3, 6.5 and 6.13.

6.12 Cllr Lowe reported back from the Adlington Youth Group (AYG) Steering Committee meeting of 15 January 2026. Cllr O'Donnell was thanked for agreeing to become the Committee's Chair with volunteer vacancies to be filled as Treasurer and Secretary. The slide presentation shows the positive benefits that the AYG sessions are bringing for attendees. *The Town Mayor asked the Town Council to move Standing Order 82 to extend the meeting from 9pm by up to 15 minutes. This was agreed.*

6.13. Two potential nominations for a Town Council Citizen Award were discussed. A group award was considered as a possibility. Concern about appropriateness was expressed on the other suggestion. Further consideration will be given before a decision has to be made by the April meeting. Nominations are invited for the Jr Citizen 2026 Award scheme.

6.14. It was agreed as inappropriate for the Town Council to consider a grant to support an individual.

6.15. Town Mayor's Urgent Business: no items were identified.

7. Planning

7.1. The Town Council noted the submission on 22 December 2025 of its response to the Planning Inspectorate about Appeal Ref no: **APPI/Q2371/W/25/3375424** against refusal of planning consent LCC/2024/0023 for the erection of an Anaerobic Digester Unit with associated infrastructure on land adjacent to Wigan Lane, Heath Charnock, Adlington, PR7 4JT and that all Town Councillors have been registered with LCC Development Management team to attend the appeal hearing on Wednesday 11 February 2026 in Lancashire County Council offices, Preston to demonstrate local concern.

7.2. Application noted and agreed for neighbour comment:

25/01260/FULHH: a single storey rear extension at 1 Maytree Court, PR6 9SL

25/01224/CLEUD: Application for a certificate of lawfulness for the existing use of land as a garden at 7, Red House Bridge, PR7 4HX

8. Finance

8.1. The 31 December 2025 account and budget reports were approved.

8.2. The transfer of £7,000 to the current account was agreed.

8.3. The payments below were approved to be paid from the online UTB current account:

Clerk:	Net administration and financial management at 8 hours per week for January 2026	£445.84
HMRC	PAYE deducted from the gross payment to the Clerk	£111.60
Clerk:	Reimburse 26 miles @ 0.45ppm December 2025	£11.70
EE Ltd:	ATC mobile monthly invoice, 16 January 2026	£14.39
Barclaycard 23.12.25 Statement	Direct debit on 19.1.26: GoDaddy monthly payment for Clerk .co.uk email (£16.79) and year 1 renewal of ATC gov.uk domain name (£30.00)	£46.79
Chorley Council	Fill, display, water & take down 80 floral hanging half baskets on 40 lamp posts: net £4,977.55, VAT £995.51	£5,973.06
Reimburse petty cash	Carol Concert raffle books & LBKV certificate frames £8.96 & 200 mince pies £66.00	£74.96

9. Item for information

9.1. Adlington Town Council Community Grant applications are invited to be submitted to the Clerk by 5pm on 30 January 2026. Information and application forms are available from the Clerk.

9.2. Chorley Liaison meeting, Wednesday, 21 January 2026 at 6.30pm, Chorley Town Hall

9.3. Eastern Parishes Neighbourhood area meeting, Wednesday, 25 March 2026 at 6.30pm, Chorley Town Hall

The meeting closed at 21.09pm.