

HALTON WITH AUGHTON MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Wednesday 12th May 2021 7:15pm at The Centre @ Halton

Chair: C Slinger
Present: N Turner, B Jefferson, A Lamb, C Buntin, K Frea, plus 2 members of public
Minutes: L Mills

1. Welcome from the Chair

2. Confirmation of the minutes of meeting held on 8th May 2019

It was resolved: that the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish held on 8th May 2019 be accepted as a true record and signed by the Chair.

3. Annual Report of the Parish Council by the Chair

<Presented by C Slinger>

2020 has been a testing year.

With Covid-19 and the lockdown in March the centre excelled as an Emergency Response Centre and also became a hub for the Morecambe Scrubs team making protective clothing for the NHS. Thanks to all involved.

This year has seen capital expenditure on re-surfacing the Multi Use Games area, replenishing safety bark in the play area and a retaining wall adjacent to the centre.

Flooding once again affected the village due to inadequate drainage systems and thanks to villagers who came out in force to distribute sandbags and clear drains many properties avoided being flooded. The formation of the Halton Flood Action Group has been welcomed.

The burial ground store was broken into in November with over £800 of damage to exterior doors. The consecration of the burial ground extension went ahead in January.

Halton Gardening group are currently refurbishing the War Memorial Gardens and continue to look after various areas within the parish.

The recently formed Neighbourhood Watch group are prioritising litter and speeding in the village and a vote of thanks to all involved.

B4RN volunteers have been busy and nearly all the village is now able to connect to superfast broadband after 5 years of hard work.

Applications have been submitted for 20 affordable homes on Mill Lane by the Community Land Trust. 16 flats and 2 dwellings for the Senior Co-housing for over 55's on Mill Lane also the Taylor Woodrow development to the west of the parish near the canal will see over 500 homes a school and industrial units. Wrenman homes have applied for a further 7 dwellings off Low Road on the site of the marketing suite.

Cllr. Barbara Duffy resigned in September along with Chris Baxter one of our handymen thanks for their contribution to the parish. With the co-option of Cllrs. Claire Buntin, Joe McAleer and Jonathan Sewell the Parish Council now has a full compliment of Councillors.

Next Year we hope to improve the recreation areas at St. Wilfrids Park and the Centre including part of the woodland and extending the centre to facilitate disabled access to the new Changing Places Toilet and to install an outside toilet for when the centre is not open.

Thanks to Luke Mills our Parish Clerk for his sterling work in making sure that we conduct our business lawfully and thanks to all my fellow Parish Councillors for their support.

4. Halton Community Association report

<Presented by N Turner>

The past year has been difficult for many reasons and The Centre has been closed for much of the time following government covid restrictions. However, the HCA, staff and volunteers have still been busy.

We have taken the opportunity to upgrade the Coffee Shop till system with new technology, the Bookings procedure with new methods and a streamlined electronic system as well as instating new financial software.

In April, the committee very quickly set up the Halton Covid 19 Support Network and soon amassed a list of over 120 people willing to help others in the village. We were fortunate that less than 30 required any help. The Main Hall was set up as the epicentre of Morecambe Bay Scrubs with hundreds of scrubs produced by another extensive network of volunteers during the first lockdown period.

In June, the HCA received the Queen's Award for Voluntary Services. This is a testament to the hard work and dedication of many people in our community who have volunteered their time and skills over the years for both the daily operation of the Centre and the Coffee Shop as well as for fundraising and other events.

Brian Jefferson handed the position of Chair over to Peter Nightingale in August but remains an active, valuable member of the HCA.

Whilst we remained closed over the summer months the Main Hall toilet block was refurbished with the addition of a Changing Places facility. This facility allows The Centre to now be fully accessible to all and work was completed in September.

Although the majority of our user groups have had to cease activities over the last year, we have been able to set up the Lockdown Baby Cafe and Saturday Baby Café as new support groups. We were also able to run a number of other vulnerable support groups in the autumn and are looking to restart these very soon.

It is great to see so many on the skate park and play park when the weather allows, and the Coffee shop has done very well when it has been able to open. Many of our user groups can restart next week and it is heartening to see event enquiries coming in for the summer and onwards.

A research questionnaire and information leaflet have been circulated in the last couple of weeks to encourage users now that restrictions are starting to lift. We invite both new and previous volunteers to come forward as we steadily restart and have fundraising events planned for later in the year.

We look forward to this new period with enthusiasm and optimism for the future.

5. Burton & Rigby Educational Foundation report

<Presented by C Slinger>

Provides grants to local students between the ages of 11-18 from monies invested following the sale of Aughton School House.

In 2020 a total of £2,475.00 was awarded between 22 students (11 Halton and 11 Aughton).

The Trust meets once a year in October to discuss applications which must be submitted by 30th September. Details of how to apply will be in the next edition of the Prattle.

6. Matters of interest raised by electors

Forest Heights residents

They highlighted various issues relating to water supply on Forest Heights, including low pressure and several burst pipes. They are concerned that any additional homes will exacerbate the problems. They encouraged the Parish Council and District Councillor to object to any further development until these problems have been sorted.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 19:55. Minutes subject to approval at the next meeting.

Signed..... (Chair)

Date