



HALTON WITH AUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday 10th February 2021 19:15 – Virtual meeting

Chair: Cllr Carol Slinger

Present: Cllr N Turner, Cllr B Jefferson, Cllr A Lamb, Cllr J Sewell, Cllr J McAleer, Cllr C Coates, Cllr C Buntin, 4 members of the public

Clerk: Luke Mills

21/02/023 To receive apologies for absence and to approve the reasons given

None

21/02/024 Declarations of Interests

None

21/02/025 Suspension of Standing Orders

A representative of a local developer discussed possible plans for the development of industrial units on the edge of the parish

There was some discussion of the plans and possible alternatives. Concerns were raised about retaining a clear separation between Lancaster and Halton.

A member of the public highlighted possible contributory factors for flooding along the High Road

A couple of field drains on the Kirkby Lonsdale Road appear to empty directly onto the highway, which they believe to be unlawful.

21/02/026 To consider and approve reports:

a) Open Spaces, Burial Ground, Allotments

Completed/In Progress

- General maintenance around the Centre and Link path
- Repaired footpath sign
- Removed remains of rotten bench from St Wilfrid's Park
- Removed protruding bolts on swings and rope walk at St Wilfrid's Park
- Application to prune the tree in the Memorial Gardens has been provided to the Planning Department (see below)

Hours

- 63 hrs for January
- 3 days sick for GB

Open Spaces

- Work on the new wall adjacent to the Centre wall is likely to start in May.
- There is a section of the wall between the Memorial Gardens & 8 Church Brow which is at risk of collapse due to a sizeable crack.
 - **Action:** Clerk to contact the homeowner to discuss repairing the wall.
- The request for a new grit bin on the Aughton Road was declined by Highways with a statement "This matter does not meet the required levels for work at this time."
 - **It was resolved:** To purchase a grit bin once a suitable location has been identified.

Allotments

- All fees for 2021 have been paid
- The tenant of allotment 8b decided not to renew, so it has been reassigned to the next person on the waiting list.
- There are currently 23 people on the waiting list

Action: Clerk to ask those on the waiting list if they wish to help with the vegetable/fruit beds at St Wilfrid's School.

Burial Ground

- Nothing to report

b) HCA Report

Cllr Jefferson reported that they hope that the Centre can start to re-open sometime in March.

c) Finance Report

The current forecast end of year balance is almost £14,000.

Budget	PAYMENTS	Actual	Forecast Remaining	Budget	RECEIPTS	Actual	Forecast Remaining
6,994	Salary - Clerk	6,398	596	38,213	Precept	38,213	-
11,383	Salary - Groundstaff	10,278	650	935	Allotments	853	83
300	Training	585	-	151	Rent	20	-
6,842	Grass Cutting	5,620	-	1,200	Burial Ground	1,732	136
1,587	HCA Litter	-	-	40	Bank Interest	46	-
150	Hedge Cutting	150	-	-	Damage	-	-
450	Play Inspection	390	-	-	General	-	-
3,400	Repairs & Renewals	4,879	250	-	Grants	10,500	-
380	Pitch Feed	375	-	-	Donations	-	-
4,500	Public Works Loan	-	-		VAT	6,727	
200	Audit	200	-				
72	Bank Charges	60	18	40,539	TOTAL	58,091.03	219
240	Clerks Expenses	113	-				
369	HCA Hire	-	-		ACTUAL		
2,287	Insurance	2,341	-		Gross Receipts	£70,230	
660	Subs	640	-		Gross Payments	£54,902	
74	Water	24	7		BALANCE IN HAND	£15,328.41	
130	Website	60	70				
20	S137	20	-		FUND BALANCES		
-	Refunds	-	-		General A/C	£9,593	
-	Assets	17,083	-		Village Improvement A/C	£5,735	
-	Misc	-	-		FUND TOTAL	£15,328.41	
36	B4RN	-	36				
1,235	Emergency Response & Flood Grant	322	913				
328	War Memorial Restoration	-	328				
41,638	NET TOTAL	49,538.24	2,868		<i>FORECAST (incl outstanding commitments)</i>		
	VAT claimed	5,063			Receipts		70,449
	VAT to be claimed	300			Payments		57,770
41,638	GROSS TOTAL	54,901.68	57,770		Balance (less allocated budgets)		12,679
					Forecast Balance		13,956

It was resolved: to accept the Finance Report to 10th February 2021.

Action: Clerk to add "Transfer of funds from General account to Village Improvement account" to the next agenda.

d) District Councillor Report

Nothing to report.

e) Planning

New Applications

- [21/0009/TCA](#) | 1 x Cherry Tree - Crown lift the tree by removal of the lowest branch, thin the crown by selective pruning (approximately 20-30%) while also making some minor crown reduction to reduce the spread of the foliage
 - Halton War Memorial and Gardens Foundry Lane Halton Lancashire
- [21/00078/NMA \(18/01117/REM\)](#) | Non material amendment to planning permission 18/01117/REM to change the material of Plot 15 garage from render to coursed stone
 - Land At Grid Reference 350819 464830 Low Road Halton Lancashire

Permitted

- 20/01308/FUL | Construction of a dormer extension to the front
 - 24 Oak Drive Halton Lancaster Lancashire LA2 6QL
- 20/00850/FUL | Creation of a vehicular access into agricultural field
 - Field South Of Scargill Farm Scargill Road Halton Lancashire

It is understood that all residents around Carus Park have received leaflets explaining the Taylor Wimpey plans.

21/02/027 To consider playground inspection reports and prioritising open spaces work

The Playdale inspection occurred in September, whilst Lancaster City Council undertook one in December/January.

The table below provides a summary of the risks on each item of equipment (the numbers indicate the number of “findings”):

The vast majority of equipment was deemed low risk, but a few medium risks were associated with the following equipment:

- The group swings at St Wilfrid’s Park; cracking to the wood, protruding bolts (*fixed*).
- The boardwalk at the Centre; ongoing issues of rot, trip hazards.
- The wooden climbing frame at St Wilfrid’s Park; general wear and decay.
- The large basket swing at the Centre; the bearing unit is wearing.

It was resolved: to prioritise repairs to the boardwalk and group swings.

Action: Clerk to ask PlayDale to quote for repairing the group swings at St Wilfrid’s Park.

Action: Clerk to continue to compile the risks and ask the grounds staff to rectify issues where possible.

Action: Clerk to ask the playground inspection team whether they still have seat from St. Wilfrid’s Park.

21/02/028 To consider the creation of new wildflower/herb area

Two possible areas have been identified for planting herbs:

- a) Entrance of the allotments
- b) To the rear of the Centre

It was resolved: to pursue a grant for creating one or two herb areas.

Action: Cllr Slinger to contact the local Pollinator Patches for advice.

21/02/029 To consider the issues relating to use of the Road Closed signs during floods/emergencies

The Clerk has been in contact with Highways and the insurers. Road Closed signs can only be used under the following conditions:

- a) They must only be place on footpaths (not the road)
- b) They can only be used by representatives of the Parish Council

Action: to encourage the local Flood Action Group to become a sub-committee of the PC so that it is insured.

It was resolved: to add to agenda – To consider creating a Flood Action sub-committee

21/02/030 To consider purchase of additional emergency/flood equipment

Cllr McAleer reported the Flood Action Group are currently thinking about their next steps. There is ongoing discussion about what to do with the used sandbags.

Action: Clerk to thank the volunteers, in particular Jo Marshall for helping with the sandbags in the next Prattle.

It was resolved: to purchase 3 boxes of Floodsax.

21/02/031 To consider parking issues and solutions at the Centre

There have been some issues with inconsiderate parking at the Centre. Signage directing drivers to park in the appropriate areas has been put up.

21/02/032 To consider changes to the Trustees of the Halton War Memorial Institute

Nothing to report.

21/02/033 To review and approve:**a) Standing Orders**

It was resolved: to accept and approve the Standing Orders with no changes.

b) Code of Conduct

It was resolved: to accept and approve the Code of Conduct, subject to the addition of “Signed” and “Date” fields for use by new councillors.

21/01/034 To consider and approve accounts for payment for expenses incurred since the last meeting**Reimbursements for Purchases**

Who	Item	Net	Vat	Gross
LM	VitalParts - Safety nut caps for play equipment	101.92	-	101.92
LM	Screwfix – Tools (clamps, hammer, forstner bits, saws, spirit levels)	90.79	18.14	108.93
LM	VikingDirect – Stationery (A4 paper, post it notes, tags, stamps)	32.36	4.43	36.79
CR	Toolstation - Jacket	20.82	4.16	24.98
CR	Toolstation - Graffiti remover	8.77	1.75	10.52

Payments for Approval

Payee	Description	TOTAL	NET	VAT
Water Plus	Burial ground water supply (direct del	2.16	2.16	
C. Richardson	Salary & reimbursements	449.35	443.44	5.91
G. Bretherton	Salary	292.95	292.95	
L. Mills	Salary & reimbursements	830.43	807.86	22.57
	TOTALS	£ 1,574.89	£ 1,546.41	£ 28.48

21/01/035 To confirm the date of next Parish Council Meeting

The next normal meeting of the Parish Council will be arranged for 10th March 2021 at 19:15.

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 20:40. Minutes subject to approval at the next meeting.

Signed..... Chair Date