

HALTON WITH AUGHTON MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Wednesday 11th May 2022 7:15pm at The Centre @ Halton

Chair: C Slinger

Present: N Turner, A Lamb, J Sewell, C Coates, C Buntin, plus 6 other members of the public

Minutes: L Mills

1. Welcome from the Chair

2. Confirmation of the minutes of meeting held on 12th May 2021

It was resolved: that the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish held on 12th May 2021 be accepted as a true record and signed by the Chair.

3. Annual Report of the Parish Council by the Chair

2021 has been another challenging year. Coping with ongoing Covid being just one of the tribulations. Reflect on some of the events of the year.

- Events and activities:
 - The Gardening Group have been busy with extensive refurbishment of the Memorial Gardens. Two new benches have been installed. Thanks for their ongoing works in the village.
 - Sam Pritchard and the Neighbourhood Watch team have done amazing work in the village with litter picking and the dog fouling signs. Special thanks to Sam Pritchard for the amazing work she has done with her campaign for cards to end loneliness. Many people have benefited from receiving a random card and Christmas present. A thank you event for givers and recipients was held at the centre with over 100 attendees. So, thanks to Sam and her helpers.
 - The Flood Action group are setting up groups to focus on each specific risk area in the village with plans on how to deal with flooding. Training from LASAR and helping with the Emergency Plan have also been welcomed. Thanks to all involved.
 - The Prattle have had financial difficulties but with funds from the Halton Lune Trust and B4RN together with some reorganisation has proved successful.
 - Thanks to the B4RN volunteer group who have raised over £15k for projects in the Parish.
 - New groundsman K Bridgewater joined the PC in May 2021.
 - HCA reopened the Coffee Shop in April and continues to flourish. Retaining wall completed outside the centre.
 - Complaints from residents of Lythe Fell regarding the use of the woods between themselves and the skatepark being used as a toilet prompted HCA to pursue plans to build an outside toilet and disabled lift access to "Changing Places" toilet. Planning permission has recently been approved.
 - Many of the bins in the parish have been re-sited or replaced over the year.
- Open spaces:
 - Ash die back -tree survey and monitoring programme.
 - Extensive repairs to the boardwalk thanks to our handymen who do an amazing job in the village.
 - New grassland management strategy for verges adopted by City Council.
 - Plans to upgrade and replace various items of play equipment are underway together with plans to enlarge the pitch, address draining issues and install a ball stop fence on the Low Road boundary are underway. The PC are looking at taking out a PWLB loan for £50,00 with the rest of the funds from grants. A consultation process is being carried out.
 - The opening up of Castle Hill to the public is being pursued. A drone survey has been carried out paid by B4RN funding and Cllr. Coates to explore feasibility of organising further investigations.

- Planning:
 - An application for 7 more dwellings on the entrance to Forest Heights was refused.
 - Russell Armer has started work on 65 dwellings on land to the rear of Pointer Grove and adjacent to High Road.
 - St. Wilfrid's Hall the application for 5 x 4 bed and 3 x 3 bed houses and 6 apartments was refused.
 - Haverbreaks Farm planning application is expected later this year for business units on the green field opposite Halton Training Camp.
- Queen's Jubilee:
 - Platinum Celebrations are being planned in June with the planting of trees as part of the Queens Green Canopy on land between Forge Close, Forge Lane and Low Road with the permission of Story Homes.
 - The Beacon will be lit around 9:45pm on 2nd June on Castle Hill.
 - The PC together with HCA are organising a picnic on the field on Sunday 5th June 2-4pm encouraging residents to bring their own picnics.

Finally, thanks to Luke our Clerk and to my fellow parish councillors for their support over the last 12 months.

Thanks, and appreciation were offered to the Chair.

4. Reports from local organisations:

a. Halton Community Association

After a tough couple of years, things are starting to really get going at The Centre with groups doing well and new groups continuing to start up. For example, Luncheon Club, Knit and Natter and Halton Baby & Toddler Groups are running at high capacity, and we have recently started a new games afternoon, a walking group and an indoor bowling group which are beginning to gain traction.

It is great that larger events are now beginning to be booked again with a recent Salsa event and Children's Nearly New Sale doing really well and upcoming anniversary parties, Craft and Plant Sales going ahead.

Over the quieter months we have taken the opportunity to conduct some market research, increase our social media visibility and reach and upgrade our website. Plans for a front extension to allow inclusive access to the new Changing Places facilities, electric charging points and an outdoor toilet are well under way and internal upgrades to electrics, lights and taps have been completed.

The Office team have been working on upgrading policies and procedures including new Mental Health & Wellbeing policies, staff completing Safeguarding training and Food Hygiene certifications.

We have taken on a new Publicity Officer and new staff in the Coffee Shop. We have a grant funded cook for the Luncheon Club and our Kickstarter staff member is now employed on an apprenticeship scheme. We have several Duke of Edinburgh volunteers working at the weekends and volunteers are starting to become more regular through the week which is a welcome return to pre-covid times. One of these regular volunteers received an award from the Lancaster CVS for her help during the Lockdown Baby Cafe sessions.

It is great to see things starting to improve and more people come forward to use the facilities and serve the community through supporting The Centre.

b. Lune Valley Community Land Trust

Setup in 2018 to provide high quality affordable homes prioritised for local residents and families as well as improving and protecting open spaces in the area. There will be 7 shared ownership units and 13 rental units which will be managed by South Lakes Housing association. It will not be subject to "right to buy" because of the ongoing controlling interest of the CLT. They are expecting the units to be completed and occupied by October

Recently they have been focusing on improving and extending public open spaces within the locality. They had a meeting with interested parties earlier in the year, including the Halton Gardening Group and Halton Heritage Group.

c. Burton & Rigby Educational Foundation

Burton & Rigby Educational Foundation was founded to support the education of the children of Aughton encompassed by St. Wilfrid's School when their own school in Aughton closed. The funds invested from the school gives financial help to students from Halton with Aughton and is available to students aged from 11-18 years.

In 2021 £2,873 was distributed to 18 students, £100 to Prattle and £500 to St. Wilfrid's School and HCA.

d. Halton Lune Trust

4 grants totalling £12,134 awarded

1. Lancashire Wildlife Trust £1500 for stockproof fencing at Aughton woods to prevent damage to woodland habitat.
2. Halton Neighbourhood Watch £745 towards 30 dog fouling signs designed by local school children.
3. HCA £5000 towards cost of £40,000 for provision of outside toilet and disabled lift for access to "Changing Places" facility.
4. Halton Junior Football £4889 towards a £29k project to upgrade the pitch to bring it up to standard.

The Trust is seeking volunteers to form a subcommittee of the Parish Council to come up with ideas for environmental projects. They are keen to have some ideas for environmental and sustainable

5. Matters of interest raised by electors

None.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 19:40. Minutes subject to approval at the next meeting.

Signed..... (Chair)

Date