

**HALTON WITH AUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL****MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING****Wednesday 14th February 2024 7:15pm @ The Centre, Halton****Chair:** Cllr Slinger**Present:** Cllr Sewell, Cllr Coates, Cllr Rigby (after 24/02/05 - 19:45), District Cllr McGowan, 2 members of the public**Clerk:** Luke Mills**24/02/01 To receive apologies for absence and to approve the reasons given**

Cllr Buntin, Cllr Turner, Cllr Lamb

24/02/02 To consider and approve the minutes of the meeting held on 10th January 2024**It was resolved:** that the minutes be accepted as a true record and to be signed by the Chair, subject to the corrections to the numbering.**24/02/03 To receive declarations of interests and dispensations**

Cllr Slinger – Item 24/02/10

24/02/04 Suspension of Standing OrdersMembers of the public raising concerns about traffic and calming on High Road

Increasing numbers of parked vehicles are being damaged by passing vehicles on High Road; a Facebook poll indicates 20 cars have been damaged in the last couple of years. Heavy traffic is forced to drive down pavements to pass oncoming traffic. Traffic is frequently exceeding the speed limit. Ideas they have might include priority signs, passing places, a one-way system around High Road, Quarry Road, or banning HGVs/encouraging them to use other routes.

The Parish Council could write to the Highways and the local County Councillor to see if there is anything they can do, e.g. monitoring the traffic.

24/02/05 To consider the co-option of a new Parish Councillor**It was resolved:** to co-opt Darren Rigby as a Parish Councillor for the Halton with Aughton West ward.**24/02/06 To consider and approve reports:****a) District Councillor Report**

Brief city council update:

- The city council have agreed at a 2.99% increase in the Council Tax. The overall financial outlook for LCC is reasonably balanced, with some use of reserves.
- LESS are running at allotment review across the district (more on their website).

b) Open Spaces, allotments & burial ground**Open Spaces**Completed/In Progress

- Steps constructed from the nest swing to the pitch

Planned

- Skip for allotments/toolshed
- Fencing for the allotments
- Repairing the toolshed roof
- Repair/rebuilding of seats around sand pit

Hours

- January 64 hrs (excl. of holidays)

Open Spaces

- Nothing to report

Burial Ground

- Nothing to report

Allotments

- One annual payment outstanding apart from 3 plots which are exchanging hands (5b, 6a, 12b)

c) HCA

- The renewables work has been completed and is active.
- The water heating has been completed too.

d) Finance Report

A VAT claim of £5,566.97 has been made, which includes all payments for 2023.

The S106 Recreation Area fund balance provided for the last few months was incorrect; whilst expenditure has been tracked correctly, the balance was not amended appropriately, along with the General a/c balance. The table below shows the corrections, including a lower than quoted fee from the ICO.

The end-of-year General a/c balance is predicted to be around £2,700.

Accounts	GENERAL	VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT	MUGA SINK FUND	S106 RECREATION AREA	TOTALS
Balance b/f	28,503.69	6,610.02	4,500.00	11,967.83	51,581.54
INCOME					
Allotments	150.00				
Burial Ground	355.00				
TOTAL INCOME	505.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	505.00
EXPENDITURE					
Payments	22,624.43				
ICO payment correction	-5.00				
Correct error from Aug-23	3,623.76			-3,623.76	
Allocate current s106 expenditure	-3,794.61			3,794.61	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	22,448.58	0.00	0.00	170.85	22,619.43
Balance c/f Feb 2024	6,560.11	6,610.02	4,500.00	11,796.98	29,467.11

Financial Statement - February 2024				Balance b/f 1st April 2023			
Budget	PAYMENTS	Actual	Forecast Remaining	Budget	RECEIPTS	Actual	Forecast Remaining
7,800	Salary - Clerk	7,106	694	47,399	Precept	47,399	-
15,600	Salary - Groundstaff	14,580	1,250	1,020	Allotments	855	90
5,600	Public Works Loan	-	-	160	Rent	125	35
6,400	Grass Cutting	6,549	-	1,300	Burial Ground	2,559	150
150	Hedge Cutting	200	-	100	Bank Interest	1,090	-
540	Pest Control	550	50	-	Damage	-	-
550	Play Inspection	520	-	-	General	501	-
4,600	Repairs & Renewals	6,212	200	-	Grants	25,940	-
380	Pitch Feed	-	-	-	Donations	-	-
2,000	Tree Works	-	-	-	VAT	1,707	-
145	Alarm Maintenance	-	145				
500	Audit	500	350				
72	Bank Charges	54	18	49,979	TOTAL	80,175	275
300	Clerks Expenses	401	50				
343	HCA	254	-				
2,179	Insurance	1,933	-		CASHBOOK BALANCES	ACTUAL	Forecast
670	Subs	718	-		Gross Receipts	116,084	116,359
400	Training	-	-		Gross Payments	86,617	89,385
100	Water	62	11		CASHBOOK BALANCE	29,467	26,974
130	Website	249	-				
20	S137	120	-		BANK BALANCES (31/01/24)		
48,479	BUDGET TOTAL	40,009.03	2,768		Current a/c	355.46	
					Deposit a/c	51,706.08	
					BANK BALANCE	52,061.54	
					FUND BALANCES		
-	Assets	975	-		General A/C	6,560.11	
-	Misc services	27,831	-		Village Improvement A/C	6,610.02	
-	Recreational Area Improvements (S106)	3,795	-		MUGA Sink Fund A/C	4,500.00	
-	Refunds	5,000	-		S106 Recreation Area	11,796.98	
882	Emergency Response & Flood Grant	-	-		FUND TOTAL	29,467	
	VAT claimed	-	-				
	VAT to be claimed	9,007	-				
49,361	GROSS TOTAL	86,617	89,385				

It was resolved: to accept the Finance Report to 14th February 2024

e) Planning

Update on 23/01327/OUT | Outline application for the erection of up to 90 dwellings

The next meeting of the Planning Committee is 26th Feb, so assuming that it is on the agenda, then a decision will be made at that meeting.

New Applications (Awaiting Decision)

- [24/0018/TCA](#) | T1 (Sycamore) - Fell
 - Ivy Cottage Low Road Halton Lancaster Lancashire LA2 6LZ
- [24/00088/FUL](#) | Change of use of dwellinghouse (C3) to housing co-operative (Sui Generis) installation of solar panels to the south facing roof slope, air source heat pump (2 no. units) to the west facing elevation and reconfiguration of parking
 - Abbeyfield House 78 Beech Road Halton Lancaster Lancashire LA2 6QH
- [24/00054/FUL](#) | Retrospective application for the erection of 2 general purpose agricultural buildings and construction of retaining wall
 - Lower Barn Aughton Brow Aughton Lancashire
- [24/00062/EIR](#) | Screening request for the erection of 2 general purpose agricultural buildings and construction of retaining wall
 - Lower Barn Aughton Brow Aughton Lancashire

Permitted

- [23/01249/PLDC](#) | Proposed lawful development certificate for the erection of a single storey rear extension and loft conversion
 - 29 Harrowdale Park Halton Lancaster Lancashire LA2 6QS

- [23/01422/FUL](#) | Erection of a single storey rear and side extension
 - Whiteacre Halton Road Halton Lancaster Lancashire LA2 6BN

Other

- [23/01480/EIR](#) | Screening request for retrospective application for a general purpose agricultural building
 - Lower Barn Aughton Brow Aughton Lancashire
 - **ES Not Required**
- [23/01448/EIR](#) | Screening request for the retention of an extension to existing agricultural building
 - Lower Barn Aughton Brow Aughton Lancashire
 - **ES Not Required**

No comments from the Parish Council.

24/02/07 To consider update on the Neighbourhood Plan

NPD v9 was passed to Lancaster City Council at the beginning of January for a screening opinion. Historic England, Natural England and Environment Agency will also be asked to comment. This will take at least 3 weeks. The main risk is that a full Environmental Assessment is deemed necessary, which would delay the process by several months.

Action: Clerk to ask Kirkwells to clarify the likely billing.

24/02/08 To consider update on the ball-stop fence planning application

Archihive Studios have made the necessary amendments ready for re-application.

It was resolved: to re-open planning application with the revised plans.

24/02/09 To consider update on Castle Hill, including the Rural Prosperity Grant Application and timing of work to allow grazing this year

The grant application asked for a min figure of £10.5k to cover opening the field to the public; the max figure was £18k to cover an interpretation board. The grant has been sent in. Hopefully know middle to late March. They would need to get 3 quotes for some of the work and obtain permission for scheduled monument work; looking at a plan for works from September. They would like to open Castle Hill for Heritage Open Day on 14th September.

It was resolved: to renew grazing agreement for the period March – August.

24/02/10 To approve a payment of £15,000 excl vat to Go Green Solar Ltd for the upgrade to the solar panels on the roof of the Centre@Halton

It was resolved: to pay the invoice £15,000 + vat to Go Green Solar Ltd

It was resolved: to inform HCA that they are responsible for the ongoing maintenance of the solar panels

24/02/11 To consider update on the sale of Town End Farm field

Apparently various sales have fallen-through and the owners are still seeking a buyer for the land.

24/02/12 To consider communications from the public:

- a) New management of company that owns Mill Lane, including the play area

Action: Clerk to inform them that the council would be willing to have a discussion.

- b) Traffic and damage to vehicles on High Road

Ideas for passing places or bollards on the road protect pedestrians. Possibility banning HGV.

It was resolved: to write to County Highways and County Councillor.

24/02/13 To consider and approve accounts for payment for expenses incurred since the last meeting

Ref	Payee	Description	TOTAL	NET	VAT
109	Water Plus	Burial Ground water supply	5.64	5.64	-
110	Lancaster City Council	Pest control	60.00	50.00	10.00
111	Huws Gray	Materials	59.52	49.60	9.92
112	Halton Juniors FC	Reimbursement for pitch marking and training	214.00	186.00	28.00
113	Halton Gardening Group	Reimbursement for War Memorial plan	43.63	43.63	-
114	HCA	Room hire (Sep-Dec)	96.00	96.00	-
115	HCA	Room hire (Jan-Mar)	72.00	72.00	-
116	Kirkwells Ltd	Support for NPD	1,944.00	1,620.00	324.00
117	L Mills	Salary & reimbursements	701.64	693.02	8.62
118	G Bretherton	Salary	366.00	366.00	-
119	C Richardson	Salary	678.00	678.00	-
120	P Bucklow	Salary	384.00	384.00	-
121	Go Green Solar Group Ltd	Improving Centre energy efficiency	18,000.00	15,000.00	3,000.00
TOTALS			£ 22,624.43	£ 19,243.89	£ 3,380.54

It was resolved: to approve the above expenditure.

24/02/14 To confirm the date of next Parish Council Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be arranged for 13th March 2024 starting at 7:15pm at The Centre. There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 20:30. Minutes subject to approval at the next meeting.

Signed..... Chair Date