

**HALTON WITH AUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL****MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 8<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2014  
AT THE CENTRE @ HALTON**

**Present:** Cllrs: Hepwood, Jefferson, Landles, Sarney, Slinger, District Councillor Woodruff, P.C. Smith and two members of the public.  
**Clerk:** J W Ball  
**Chair:** Cllr. Landles

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr Soper.

**14/01/1907 Approval of Minutes of Meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2013.**

**It was resolved that:** the minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2013 be accepted as a true record and signed by the Chair.

It was resolved that an additional item of **Clerks Report** be added to future agenda and minutes to update members on progress made with items from previous meetings not already covered by agenda items.

**14/01/1908 Council**

- a) Declaration of member's interests in Agenda Items - None
- b) Change in declaration of member's interests - None

**14/01/1909 Suspension of Standing Orders.**

Members of the public and members discussed the proposal from Lancashire County Council to cancel the subsidy payments covering bus services during evenings and on Sundays. Concerns were expressed about the effects service withdrawals would have on some members of the community and possible action to be taken were discussed. Members agreed:

- i) that the parish council write to Lancashire County Council expressing strong opposition to the proposals and putting forward ideas such as termination of the 81 service with extended 49 service instead.
- ii) invite the Stagecoach Lancaster Operations Manager to discuss service proposals with members prior to the next meeting of the parish council.
- iii) Publicise parish council views and opposition to the proposals using the parish council website, the Prattle and flyers posted in the village bus stops, shops, the Greyhound Hotel and Social Club.

Councillor Woodruff reported that he had arranged publicity in the Guardian newspaper and had raised objections with Lancashire County Council and thought County Councillor Susie Childs and the MP and would continue to raise public awareness and seek publicity concerning the proposal.

Members discussed the impending closure of Low Road to enable construction work to commence on the Heysham M6 link and the importance of the provision of adequate bus stops during the closure. A stop halfway up the hill between the old school and the roundabout had been suggested as a suitable location for Lancaster bound passengers but a suitable location for Halton bound passengers was still undecided. Some land owned by Mr Wikinson adjacent to Rectory Paddock had been offered and was under consideration. Councillor Woodruff agreed to keep the matter under observation.

**14/01/1910 To consider and approve Reports****a) Police Report – December**Crimes:

PC Smith reported that 5 Crimes had been committed since the last meeting of the parish council

- 1 criminal damage
- 2 cycle thefts
- 1 theft of cash from the Crook-o-Lune parking meter
- 1 theft of wheel trims

An anti-social dispute had been dealt with and a programme of bicycle registration was to commence in the near future.

Members thanked PC Smith for his report.

## b) Planning

**No new applications were received.**

Members agreed that the clerk contact Lancaster City Council Planning and Development Control to request that details of planning applications be notified to the clerk.

## c) Finance Report – Responsible Finance Officer

		<b>Recreation Area</b>
<b>Bwfd 11/12/2013</b>	<b>£ 14,781.81</b>	<b>£788.57</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Allotment Rent	£ 308.00	
Burial Ground	£ 798.00	
VAT Refund 31/08/2013	£ 417.35	
<b>Expenditure</b>		
<b>Cheques 000045 - 000049</b>	<b>£ 1,142.27</b>	
To Play Equipment		<b>£788.57</b>
<b>Balances as at 08/01/2014</b>	<b>£ 15,951.46</b>	<b>£ 0.00</b>
<b>Made up of</b>		
General a/c	£ 8,580.15	
Village improvement	£ 6,401.73	
Play Equipment	£ 969.58	
Recreation Area a/c	£ 0.00	

Members discussed the charge to be imposed on the young person responsible for the damage to the football shelter and agreed that an invoice for £200 be served, subject to a check to be carried out through past minutes to confirm that a charge had not previously been agreed. Members agreed that the payment be accepted in instalments if requested.

**It was resolved:** to accept the Financial Report to 8<sup>th</sup> January 2014.

## d) Open Spaces Report

No report was available.

## e) Environment Report

Cllr Sarney reported that the footpaths by the Army Camp and along the river bank between the Mill Lane Playground and the bridge were badly affected by litter and rubbish. Members agreed that Kyle Oram be asked to attend to the problem. Councillor Jefferson suggested that the scouts be requested to litter pick the river bank in the spring.

Members congratulated Cllr Sarney for the tree planting undertaken.

Members discussed the potential felling of two mature trees, required if the hydro project was to continue. Lancaster City Council had previously refused permission for the removal of the trees which are under TPOs as had Cllr Sarney. Members agreed that if the trees were felled they should be replaced with 2-3m saplings.

Members thanked Cllr Sarney for his report.

## f) Community Centre and Recreation Area Report

Cllr Jefferson reported that repainting and maintenance of the annex had been completed during the holiday and a central heating fault in the main hall rectified. Possible replacement of the main hall lights with a

computer controlled LED system was under consideration. The recreation area had been recognised as a suitable installation for use as a national case study for community areas and it was likely that he would be invited to speak at a national conference. Outside safety surfaces would need to be refreshed in the spring and fertiliser applied to the grassed car park area during March. Investigations were ongoing into the blocked drainage system at the car park entrance. The hawthorn hedge on the link path required cutting back. Kyle Oram to be asked to carry out the work.

Members thanked Cllr. Jefferson for his report.

#### **g) Parish Plan Report**

Cllr Williams reported that numerous aspects of the plan required further action and agreed to email copies to members for their consideration prior to discussion at the next meeting of the parish council.

Members thanked Cllr Williams for her report.

#### **h) Communications Report**

Cllr Landles reported that he had put details of planned bus service changes onto the parish council website, with details of the, M6/Heysham link developments, 2014/2015 precept calculations and parish plan action to be included in the next issue of the Prattle.

Members agreed that Cllr. Jefferson continue negotiations for the installation of steps from St Wilfrids Church to the White Lion car park, possibly in conjunction with Costains.

Cllr Landles agreed to contact Lancashire County Council to request details of when and for how long closures of roads from and to the village would take place. He had discussed the routing of the broad band installation planned to serve the more outlying areas of the parish with the organization responsible for the project.

#### **14/01/1911 Planning Portfolio**

Members agreed that Cllr Sarney handle planning applications for the time being pending a review of portfolios.

Cllr Beasley handed in her resignation as a Councilor and this resignation took effect from the end of the meeting. The Planning Portfolio will therefore soon be re-appointed to another member.

The Chair also announced that he will be handing in his resignation in the Spring due to re-location.

**It was agreed:** that a vacancy on the Parish Council therefore needs to be advertised in the near future.

#### **14/01/1912 Repairs and Maintenance**

Cllr Williams reported that she had received two complaints from allotment holders concerning the poor standard of upkeep of some of the grassed areas between the plots, a responsibility of the plot holders themselves. Members agreed to investigate the complaints and devise a solution. Kyle Oram to be advised that the grassed area in front of the allotments only was his responsibility. Members agreed that monthly inspections of the allotments be re-introduced with Cllr Slinger taking responsibility.

#### **14/01/1913 Parish Council Casual Vacancy**

The clerk reported that the procedure to be followed was for a casual vacancy to be advertised in a prominent place for 14 days, excluding weekends and holidays. At the end of that period if the Proper Officer at Lancaster City Council had not received a petition for an election signed by at least ten electors from within the parish, the parish council would be able to co-opt a suitable person to fill the vacancy. The clerk was instructed to take the necessary action.

#### **14/01/1914 Football Store**

Cllr Slinger reported that keys for the store had been cut at a charge of £15 per key. Members agreed that the football be invoiced for the full cost of £95 incurred by the parish council.

**14/01/1915 Precept**

Cllr Slinger issued copies of the precept proposal and commented on individual budget headings. Members considered the information supplied and discussed the allocation of funds.

**It was resolved that:** the precept for the 2014/2015 financial year be set at £26,385.

Members thanked Cllr Slinger for her preparation of the precept request.

The chair agreed to include a summary of the Precept calculations in the next issue of the Prattle.

**14/01/1916 Web Site Development**

The chair reported that tender documents had been prepared. Members agreed that the tenders be issued to potential contractors with completed tenders to be returned by 12<sup>th</sup> February 2014.

**14/01/1917 Evening and Sunday Halton/Lancaster Buses**

Members agreed that the subject and decision required had been fully dealt with earlier in the meeting.

**14/01/1918 Accounts for Payment**

000045	E & M Burrow – Hedge cutting	£168.00
000046	Sarah Wadeson – Clerk Salary & Exp Dec	£369.26
000047	Kyle Oram – Salary & Exp Dec	£227.18
000048	PAYE Oct-Dec	£360.83
000049	British Legion Poppy Wreath	£ 17.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>£1,142.27</b>

**It was resolved that:** the above payments be approved and the cheques duly signed.

**14/01/1919 Date of the next meeting** was confirmed as Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2014 at 7:15pm at The Centre @ Halton

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 9.45pm

Signed..... Chair      Date .....

Minutes subject to approval at the next meeting.