

**HALTON WITH AUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL****MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2014  
AT THE CENTRE @ HALTON**

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

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr Soper and PC Smith.

**14/02/1920 Approval of Minutes of Meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2014.**

**It was resolved that:** the minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2014 be accepted as a true record and signed by the Chair subject to at 14/01/1910 e) be amended to read 'members discussed the potential felling of two mature trees, required if the hydro project was to continue. Members agreed that if the trees were felled they should be replaced with 2-3m saplings'.

**14/02/1921 Council**

- a) Declaration of member's interests in Agenda Items – Councillor Williams declared a prejudicial interest in item 14/02/1927. Councillor Sarney declared a precuniary interest in item 14/02/1934.
- b) Change in declaration of member's interests - None

**14/02/1922 Suspension of Standing Orders.**

The chair invited Messrs Hall, Entwistle and Bronson representing Halton Mills Limited to outline their company's plans to develop the site and adjacent land. The land had been designated for commercial development but the company felt that currently such a development was not viable and preferred to use the site for further housing. Lancaster City Council had initially refused the company's application to change the site to housing development, but was currently rethinking its views, although commercial development was still their preference. The possibility for the provision of affordable housing as part of the site development had also been raised by the company with Lancaster City Council. District Councillor Woodruff emphasised the need to complete the development of the site as soon as possible and agreed that the company faced a difficult decision on the commercial or housing issue and perhaps the time was now right to reconsider the original commercial development agreement.

Members discussed the proposals and agreed that the priority was to see the site development as soon as possible preferably with some commercial development using the Parish Plan as a basis together with a sheltered housing/nursing home provision included. Development of the old lawnmower site was also important.

The chair thanked the developers for their input and asked that the parish council be kept informed.

The chair invited Mr Bould to address the meeting. He explained that he planned to develop the White Lion as a café, bakery and antique facility and thanked the parish council for their support. The speed of passing traffic and the dangerous road conditions were causing him concern and he urged urgent action be instigated with some form of traffic calming measures being introduced.

Members discussed the issue raised and agreed that Paul Snaith of Lancashire County Council Highways be asked to attend a meeting of the Parish Council to discuss further possible solutions that could be implemented whilst the road was closed.

District Councillor Woodruff reported that Lancashire County Council had decided against the withdrawal of all subsidised bus services but instead to review viability as individual service contracts were due for renewal. The 81A/81B service contract was due for renewal in March 2015. Signage for Schoolhouse Lane and Green Lane were being erected for a 6 month trial period.

The trees on the site of the hydro had been removed and legal measures were being considered by Lancaster City Council against those responsible.

The erection of the wind turbine at Brooklands Farm had been agreed on appeal.

**14/02/1923 To consider and approve Reports****a) Clerks Report**

The clerk reported that:

- The traffic signs had been erected on School House Lane
- The bus shelter near to the Old School had been damaged and efforts were ongoing to have the glass replaced by a contractor
- Efforts were ongoing to secure a wayleave payment to cover the broadband control box sited on parish council land
- Details of the 2014 Lancashire Best Kept Village competition had been received
- Details of a planned Lancashire and Merseyside County Training Partnership insurance workshop had been received.

The clerk was thanked for his report.

**b) Police Report**

PC Smith was unable to attend the meeting but a report was made available for members:

Four crimes had been reported:

- Theft of a chicken house
- Damage to a bus stop
- Damage to a gas bottle on the Costain site
- Damage to gate on the Costain site

Three incidents of anti-social behaviour had been reported.

Regular patrols had been maintained around the village without incident.

30 bicycles from Halton and Bolton-le-Sands had been marked as part of the cycle marking scheme.

**c) Planning Report and Planning**

Councillor Sarney issued copies of the planning report

**Old Applications**

13/00193/DIS Lancaster City Council was in the process of carrying out a criminal investigation into the alleged removal of protected trees at the Halton Hydro location

13/00953/FUL Erection of an extension to the rear of existing garage to create family annex at 2 The Gardens Halton – application permitted

13/00771/FUL Retrospective application for the conversion of office units 1 and 2 (B1) to two dwellings (C3) and change of use of office unit 3(B1) to create one additional dwelling (C3) at Higher Barn, Aughton – application withdrawn.

**New applications**

28<sup>th</sup> January 2014 – 13/01251/FUL – Halton Training Camp – Retrospective application for change of use of land to site 3 portable buildings – No objection raised.

**d) Finance Report – Responsible Finance Officer**

<b>Bwfd 08/01/2014</b>	<b>£ 15,951.46</b>
<b>Income</b>	
Allotment Rent	£ 407.00
Burial Ground	£ 994.00
Rent HCA	£ 10.00

Big Lottery Fund	£ 1,750.00
<b>Expenditure</b>	
<b>Cheques 000050 - 000057</b>	£ 2,531.58
<b>Balances as at 12/02/2014</b>	<b>£ 16,580.88</b>
<b>Made up of</b>	
General a/c	£ 9,209.57
Village improvement	£ 6,401.73
Play Equipment	£ 969.58

**It was resolved:** to accept the Financial Report to 12<sup>th</sup> February 2014.

#### **e) Open Spaces Report**

The chair reported that Councillor Soper had resigned as a member of the parish council from 12<sup>th</sup> February 2014. Members accepted the resignation and agreed that their best wishes for the future be forwarded.

Members discussed the tilted gravestone in the burial ground and agreed that as no relatives of the deceased could be contacted the necessary work would be carried out by the parish council. Kyle Oram to be asked to carry out the work.

#### **f) Environment Report**

Cllr Sarney reported that he had planted the remaining 50 plus Woodland Trust whips making a total of 105 trees planted during December and January. Approximately 75% of the total were planted in the Centre area on parish council land and the remaining 25% on parish council land at the Burial Ground and on the embankment at Crook O'Lune after receiving clearance from the Woodland Trust that the whips could be planted on County Council Land.

Birch and Wild Cherry saplings (up to 2m) had been planted on the embankment at Crook O'Lune, the saplings being donated by himself.

Discussions had been held with Halton Hydro and Lancaster City Council Tree Officer concerning the two trees felled at Forge Weir.

Tony Crowley of Costains needed to be contacted to enquire if the footpath along Halton Road would be closed or kept open during the road closure as the parish council had a duty to maintain the path. Members agreed that Tony Crowley be invited to the next meeting of the parish council.

Councillor Sarney was thanked for his report.

#### **g) Community Centre and Recreation Area Report**

Cllr Jefferson reported that the fencing surrounding the childrens playground needed to be repaired as a matter of urgency. Secure fencing was an Ofsted stipulation. Members agreed that Kyle Oram undertake the necessary work as soon as possible.

Complaints had been received from the organisers of the junior football sessions concerning dog excrement on the football pitch. The clerk was instructed to contact Lancaster City Council Dog Warden to clarify the action they could take if a total ban or other restriction was placed on the area.

The centre building was still heavily used and a successful willow weaving weekend had been held. It had been necessary to engage a new contractor to look at the installation of the new lighting system with help and advice from the Grand Theatre.

The ground source heat pump was causing concern, tripping on a daily basis and a solution to the problem needed to be found.

Councillor Slinger reported that 3 people had given up allotment plots with 2 re-let. Plot 1B near to the Manor House was proving difficult to re-let because of a large tree overhanging the plot. Members agreed that Councillor Slinger negotiate a solution to the problem with the owners of the tree.

#### **h) Communication Report**

The chair reported that publicity in the Prattle for the bus service threat, the M6 link and the parish council budget recommendations had all generated feedback.

#### **14/02/1924 Planning Portfolio**

The chair reported that members needed to discuss the future allocations of the Planning, Open Spaces and Communications portfolio and the election of a chair. Members agreed to defer further discussions until a meeting to be arranged sometime in March or April. For the present time members agreed that the Planning portfolio be handled by Councillor Sarney, Allotments by Councillor Slinger and Open Spaces by Councillor Jefferson.

#### **14/02/1925 Repairs and Maintenance**

The clerk updated members of progress to date with repairs and maintenance work undertaken by Kyle Oram. Members agreed that Kyle be directed to work considered to be a priority including repairs to the fence surrounding the childrens play are. Members agreed that an additional variable hours handyman position be appointed from April. Councillors Jefferson and Slinger agreed to draft the job description and application form with details publicised in the Prattle and on the parish council website.

#### **14/02/1926 Parish Council Casual Vacancy**

The clerk reported that as the required period of time in which requests to hold an election had lapsed members were now able to co-opt a suitable person onto the parish council. It was resolved that Mr Michael D Jackson of 12 Clought Avenue, Halton, being the only applicant be co-opted as a member of Halton with Aughton Parish Council. In view of the resignation of Councillor Soper the clerk was instructed to instigate the casual vacancy procedure.

#### **4/02/1927 Web Site Development**

Councillor Williams having declared a prejudicial interest in the item left the meeting.

The chair reported that only one application had been received for the development work from Adrian Jones Vexation Limited. The chair had reviewed the application and as a result was able to advise members that he felt the company would produce a good website but recommended a request in the application for a 50% contract payment at the start of the contract period should not be accepted. Members considered the application and agreed that provided the contractor was able to accept staged payments of four x 25% of the contract price subject to successful completion of prior agreed targets, the contract be awarded to Adrian Jones Vexation Limited. Members agreed that the chair carry out the necessary negotiations with the contractor.

Councilor Williams returned to the meeting.

#### **14/02/1928 Evening and Sunday Halton/Lancaster Buses**

The chair reported that it appeared the campaigns waged against the Lancashire County Council threat to withdraw subsidies for the bus service had been successful. Members agreed that after a 6 month period negotiations to continue the service after the end of the current contract be re-convened. Members thanked those members of the public who had been involved with the objections.

#### **14/02/1929 Link Path**

Members agreed to defer the item to the next meeting of the parish council; with the clerk to contact Mrs Beasley with a view to gather the information held by her.

**14/02/1930 Bus Shelter Sealing**

Members instructed the clerk to contact Glasdon to gather information on seating type and cost.

**14/02/1931 Mill Lane Playground**

The clerk reported that he had been able to contact Farrer and Co, Solicitors who acted for the Duchy of Lancaster on land ownership and development matters and on production of details concerning the area of land occupied by the playground they would help to reach a conclusion. Councillor Jefferson agreed to research the details required.

**14/02/1932 St Wilfrids Park Play Equipment**

Members agreed to take no further action at present.

**14/02/1933 Parish Plan**

Councillors Williams issued a revised list of actions required. Members agreed to hold a dedicated meeting to progress the issues.

**14/02/1934 Halton Hydro**

The chair reported that Lancaster City Council had requested that no further discussion take place pending the completion of the criminal investigations concerning the alleged removal of 2 trees in contravention of planning regulations. Councillor Sarney reported on his stand point and background planning regulations. Councillor Jefferson reported that he was involved in the Halton Hydro project but not in the construction. Members agreed to take no further action pending development.

**14/02/1935 Grazing on Castle Hill**

The chair reported that the current lessee of the grazing rights on Castle Hill had requested that the arrangement be agreed for a further year. Members agreed that the grazing right be leased for a further year under the same terms and conditions, subject to a signed agreement.

**14/02/1936 Accounts for Payment**

000050	Cancelled	
000051	HCA – Celebrate your space weekend	£1750.00
000052	HCA – Contribution to litter picking	£ 253.50
000053	HCA – Hall hire for meetings	£ 63.00
000054	United Utilities – Water rates burial ground	£ 14.62
000055	Lancashire Playing Fields Assoc. Annual Subs	£ 15.00
000056	Kyle Oram Salary January	£ 169.68
000057	J Ball – Clerks salary December/January	£ 265.78

**TOTAL** **£2,531.58**

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

**14/02/1937 Date of the next meeting** was confirmed as Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2014 at 7:15pm at The Centre @ Halton

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 10.00pm.

Signed..... Chair      Date .....

Minutes subject to approval at the next meeting.