

**HALTON WITH AUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL****MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 8th OCTOBER 2014
AT THE CENTRE @ HALTON**

Present: Cllrs: Fell, Jackson, Jefferson, Hepwood, Slinger and Williams, PCSO Paul Shepherd, PCSO Sue Brown, Jon Sear and Bob Bauld from The Red Door Café.
Clerk: S Wadeson
Chair: Cllr Slinger

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr Sarney.

14/10/2065 Election of new Chair

Steve Landles resigned as both Chair of the council and also as a councillor. Both resignations were accepted by other members of the council.

It was resolved:- that Cllr Slinger take the position as Chair until May 2015.

Cllr Monica Williams also resigned as councillor and this resignation was accepted by other members of the council.

14/10/2066 Approval of Minutes of Meeting on 10th September 2014.

It was resolved that: the minutes of the meeting held on 10th September 2014 be accepted as a true record and signed by the Chair.

14/10/2067 Council

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

14/10/2068 Suspension of Standing Orders

Items raised by members of the public:-

a) Police

PCSO Shepherd and PCSO Brown attended the meeting to provide an update on the position regarding the suspected drug dealing around the Centre. As yet there has been no confirmed arrest but the police are continuing to make spot checks on a regular basis and drugs dog has been on one occasion. The police requested that any information regarding suspect behaviour seen by members of the public is always reported to the police as this helps greatly to build up a portfolio of evidence and can help lead to arrests. In such a case members of the public are advised to telephone 101 and councillors can email the officers personally should they so wish.

b) Traffic Calming

Bob Bauld from the Red Door Café on Church Brow wished to discuss the problem with the speed of traffic passing through Church Brow. Mr Bauld has been in talks with Paul Snape from County Council who has been out to visit the site and has produced a proposal for traffic calming procedures in the area. A plan of these proposals was shown to councillors. The council are pleased with the proposals and Cllr Jefferson will speak to Paul Snape regarding how and when to move this forward.

c) Bus Service

Jon Sear attended the meeting to provide a summary of the bus survey carried out in Halton in August/September which he has undertaken for LESS, a local sustainable living promotion company. The survey had approx. 1,000 responses in the Halton and Skerton areas and covered things such as the frequency of use of the service, awareness of on-peak and off-peak services, travel destinations, purpose of journeys and deterrents to using the bus service.

Councillors were pleased with the information the survey has provided and requested that Jon put together a list of recommended actions for Stagecoach which he was happy to do.

Once County Council make attempts to withdraw services again in the future, this survey will be used to try and protect those services and Councillors will meet again with Jon at that point in order to discuss how to approach this.

It was also suggested that the council talk to Caton Parish Council to see if they have carried out any such action as it may be useful to work together. The Clerk will action this.

Standing Orders were reinstated.

14/10/2069 To consider and approve Reports

a) Police Report – The report covers August only being the only information available on the website:-

During August, 13 crimes were reported within Halton with Aughton:-

- 5 reports of anti-social behaviour
- 4 cases of criminal damage/arson – investigations all complete, no suspect identified for any of the cases
- 1 theft – Local resolution
- 1 case of violent/sexual offence – suspect charged
- 1 drugs offence on Church Brow – Offender given a penalty notice
- 1 case of vehicle crime – investigation complete, no suspect identified.

Councillors did not wish to request any further information from the police on any of the crimes reported.

b) Planning Report and Planning

New Applications

Fell maple and damson tree

Manor House Low Road Halton – Fell maple and damson tree - Received: Mon 15 Sep 2014, Status - Pending Consideration.

The Parish Council have no objections to any new applications.

No application has yet been received concerning the Low Road proposed scheme.

c) Finance Report – Responsible Finance Officer

Bwfd 10/09/2014	£ 23,279.96
Income	
Burial Ground	£ 120.00
Expenditure	
Cheques 000119 - 000125	£ 1,092.76
DDR Public Loan Board	£ 2,069.05
Balances as at 08/10/2014	£ 20,238.15
Made up of	
General a/c	£ 11,366.84
Village improvement	£ 6,901.73
Play Equipment	£ 1,969.58

It was resolved: to accept the Financial Report to 8th October 2014.

d) Environmental and Landscape Report

No report this month.

e) Community Centre and Recreation Area Report

There are on-going problems with dog waste around the village, particularly on the playing field. The Clerk will contact the dog warden and request that they come out.

It has been requested that there is wheelchair access onto the field for watching football and similar activities as well as a request from the football club for a low fence along the length of the pitch to stop the ball bouncing into the hedge. Councillors were happy with these proposals and Cllr Jefferson will look into how to move these proposals forward.

Traineeships are a new government scheme designed to help young people who want to get an apprenticeship or job but don't yet have appropriate skills or experience. The Centre will be taking part in this project and have a young individual coming to work at the Centre for 5 months.

f) Communication Report

Councilors are pleased that the latest edition of the Prattle did generate some feedback from members of the public.

g) Hydro Report

All capital required has now been raised and everything is on track. It is expected that electricity should start being generated by December.

14/10/2070 New Housing Developments in Halton

The Parish Council is very supportive of our resident's view that this is not a suitable site but at present there is little action that we can take as a parish council.

14/10/2071 Pedestrian Crossing

Several residents have requested that Parish Council look into the possibility of a pedestrian crossing on Low Road.

It was resolved:- that the Clerk contact County Council Highways to come and assess the situation.

14/10/2072 Repairs and Maintenance

The repairs and maintenance report was delivered by the Clerk providing details of all the work covered since the last meeting and any work still outstanding. Further repairs and maintenance work required were discussed and the Clerk will arrange for the groundsman to undertake this work.

14/10/2073 ROSPA Report

Overall the report was good showing that most of the play equipment is in a good state of repair. Repairs were required to a few items in the play area outside the Centre and some of the items at St Wilfrids Park, all of which have either been completed or are in hand.

14/10/2074 Skatepark Shelter

There are currently several small repairs required to the shelter.

It was resolved:- that the Clerk ask the handyman to fix as much as he can using the Perspex currently in the store and that is more was required to order the necessary amount.

14/10/2075 Link Path

The Clerk provided councilors with the latest correspondence from the County Council solicitor which stated that the process had come to a halt due to information being required from Parish Council solicitors.

It was resolved:- That the clerk request details of the information required as it is likely that this is obtainable without the requirement for a solicitor.

14/10/2076 Land Adjoining the Link Path and Lyth Fell Avenue

Concerns have been raised regarding the exact ownership of part of the hedge and walled area on the Link Path and an adjoining property on Lyth Fell Avenue.

It was resolved:- to invite the resident of the property to a meeting to look at their deeds in order to try and resolve the issue.

14/10/2077 Signage

The recent ROSPA report recommended that signage be placed on the Multi Use Games Area with words to the effect:- 'Do not hang on the ring. Do not wear rings or other jewellery as these can get caught and cause injury'.

The clerk obtained 3 quotes for such a sign all within the region of £65 - £75 exc VAT.

It was resolved:- to approve expenditure of up to £100 for signage but that an inspection of existing signage be carried out to establish whether one sign can be used for all the required information rather than having multiple signs.

14/10/2078 Playground Equipment

Following the latest ROSPA report it is apparent that paintwork and rust removal is required to the play equipment at the far end of the playing field, the swings on Schoolhouse Lane and some of the equipment at St Wilfrids Park.

It was resolved:- that an inspection of the equipment be carried out by the council and the necessary repair work be arranged.

14/10/2079 Allotments

Following the issue of letters to allotment holders concerning the upkeep of paths and the plots themselves, things have improved and the paths have been restored. One allotment holder has decided to give up their plot and the Clerk informed the council that another allotment holder would like to move to that plot due to problems with shade from the overhanging willow tree.

It was resolved:- to allow this transfer and to cease to let the plot from which they are moving from.

14/10/2080 Website

Councillors met informally in August to discuss the website. It was apparent that there is still a considerable amount of work required in order for the website to be completed.

It was resolved:- that a volunteer be recruited as soon as possible in order to progress this work.

14/10/2081 Memorial Garden and Remembrance Sunday

The Gardening Club have brought to the attention of the parish council various repairs which are required in and around the Memorial Garden.

It was resolved:- to approve a maximum spend of £200 on these repairs and the Clerk to arrange for this to be carried out.

It was further resolved:- that tea and coffee will not be provided on Remembrance Sunday this year due to very low attendance in recent years. The Books of Honour will still be available for viewing.

14/10/2082 Bus Service

The survey recently undertaken by Jon Sear was presented during the public participation part of the parish council meeting and is minuted under that section.

14/10/2083 Gardening Club

The gardening club would like to take time to consider projects and not rush to spend the money raised by the Garden Safari. They are keen to plan a themed approach to the planting so that similar planting occurs around the village such as at all entrances to the village. They are also keen to look into the possibility of permanent Christmas trees, a wildflower meadow and possibly organising a horticultural event.

Parish Council is in support of the ideas presented and would like to thank the Gardening Club for all their hard work.

The Gardening Club would also like to be involved on the planting on the banking around the link road. Cllr Jefferson agreed to provide the contact information for Costain to the gardening group to arrange talks on this matter.

14/10/2084 Accounts for Payment

000119 HCA – Room Hire	£63.00
000120 UU – Burial Ground Water Rates	£17.01
000121 Tony Holmes – Memorial levelling	£96.00
000122 Kyle Oram – Wages for Sept	£218.36
000123 Jasmine Smalley – Wages for Sept	£313.13
000124 S Wadeson – Clerks Wages	£325.26
000125 HMRC – PAYE	£60.00

TOTAL

£1,092.76

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

14/10/2085 Date of Future Meetings

Members agreed that the next meeting of the Parish Council be arranged for Wednesday 12th November 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.