



HALTON WITH AUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13th MAY 2015
AT THE CENTRE @ HALTON

Present: Cllrs: Fell, Jefferson, Jackson and Slinger, City Councillor Woodruff and three members of the public.
Clerk: Vacant
Chair: Cllr. Slinger

15/05/2174 Apologies for absence - None

15/05/2175 Approval of Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting on 14th May 2014

It was resolved that: the minutes of the meeting held on 14th May 2014 be accepted as a true record and signed by the Chair.

15/05/2176 Matters arising from the Minutes - None

15/05/2177 HCA & Recreation Report

HCA

HCA has been re-structured to become a Community Interest Organisation which retains charitable status but provides greater protection for the Trustees and limits their personal liability. The new Board of Directors have put in a great deal of work to ensure the success of the Centre in this last year. This has been one of consolidation following the completion of the new annex with work on the new kitchen which has proved a tremendous success. Since then a review of the existing building and the new annex has led us to conclude that work on the flat roof toilet block and the lighting in the main hall is now a priority. Running throughout this has also been the difficulty we face with the plant room which has not functioned as originally conceived as there has not been the carbon and financial savings originally envisaged. We are hoping that we are nearing a process that will effectively review that problem and recommend changes to the systems to drive out better efficiencies.

The business of the Centre continues to grow with new user groups and a growth in numbers visiting. The Publicity has been particularly effective due to the Manager and Publicity Secretary's effective promotions and profits comfortably sustain running costs. We are working with the PC to create a new tourism signage proposal through LCC Highways.

The new kitchen has now been completed and is fully furnished with pots and pans. The cost of the new kitchen was in excess of £25,000 which was funded in part by a £10,000 grant. One of the conditions of qualifying for the grant was to provide a Luncheon Club which has now commenced and is proving successful.

The hall has been fully re-decorated and this has led to an increase in the hire of the hall for private functions.

Recreation Area

Support for the surrounding area has been good with the new gardening group making a significant impact and the employment of a second handyperson to join Kyle has had an immediate impact in the past month. The revised litter picking arrangement is particularly successful and is no longer seen as a problem.

The Recreation Area has had some minor instances of damage, notably to the shelters, and whilst this is irritating we are lucky to retain the co-operation of the vast majority of visiting young people and graffiti and nuisance are extremely low level compared to other recreation areas in the district. The airwalker is now damaged for the third time and we may need to conclude that it is not a suitable piece of equipment for this area.

In the next year we need to continue to improve the planting scheme, the disabled access to the football field and look to the play areas at St Wilfrid's and Mill Lane for enhancement and improvement.

15/05/2178 Charity Report

Cllr. Slinger reported that having attended the Burton & Rigby Annual Meeting as a representative of the Parish Council there was £3,690 available for distribution. £880 was distributed between 8 Halton students and £2,145 between 13 Aughton students leaving £665 as a contingency.

15/05/2179 Parish Accounts for year ending 31/3/2015

Cllr. Slinger presented the accounts for the year ending 31/3/2015 and reported that the income for the year (Appendix i) of £41,031 included £8,850 insurance claim for the stolen grounds maintenance equipment.

Budgeted income was £695 up due to burial ground fees.

Expenditure was £1,164 over budget mainly due to repairs and renewals including new glass for the bus shelter, landscaping in Memorial gardens, repairs to the Skate park shelter and security measures for the store.

No matters were raised on the accounts.

15/05/2180 Chair's Report

Another challenging year for the council:

- Sarah our Clerk took maternity leave and John Ball clerk to Warton PC took on the roll on a temporary basis. Sarah subsequently resigned in February leaving a vacancy for a permanent clerk.
- Steve Landles resigned as chair in October as he was leaving the parish and Carol Slinger took over as chair on a temporary basis.
- We welcomed David Fell to the parish council in June and said goodbye to Monica Williams who resigned in October.
- Planning has been a major problem. With the changes in government planning and the need to build thousands of new homes over the next 20 years we have seen areas of land put forward for development in the parish, namely on land off forge wood drive. Planning approval was granted for 14 units on Mill Lane which formerly had planning for 69 units and a further 20 houses and a nursing home received planning permission recently. With further threat of unwanted development we have decided to produce a Neighbourhood Plan an exciting opportunity to shape the way our community grows in the future, and if approved will be used to help the city council make decisions on local planning applications.

This financial year has seen:

- The start of the construction of the hydro;
- The Garden Safari which raised over £800 for community projects;
- Provision of seats in bus shelters in the village;
- Purchase of a defibrillator at the Centre@Halton.

I would like to thank all my fellow councillors for their support over the last year and hopefully this next year will see:

- The adoption of the link path;
- Road improvements on Church Brow;
- A pedestrian crossing on the Low Road.

14/05/2181 Matters of interest raised by electors - None

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 7:45pm.

Signed..... Chair Date

Minutes subject to approval at the next meeting.