



## HALTON WITH AUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

### MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2016 AT THE CENTRE @ HALTON

**Chair:** Cllr Carol Slinger  
**Present:** Cllrs: Brian Jefferson, Karen Gibson, Barbara Duffy, 7 members of the public  
**Clerk:** Luke Mills

**16/07/2386 Apologies for absence:** were received from Cllr Bob Bauld, Cllr Sandi Haythornthwaite, City Cllr Woodruff

**16/07/2387 Approval of Minutes of previous meeting**

**It was resolved:** that the minutes of the meeting held on 8th June 2016 be accepted as a true record and signed by the Chair.

**16/07/2388 Council**

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

**16/07/2389 Suspension of Standing Orders**

A group of residents who live on High Road near the mini-roundabout are concerned about the state of the plantation, which is owned by the Parish. This is the triangular patch of land between High Road, Low Road and the roundabout. There was discussion about the history of this piece of land and how it could be maintained into the future.

Another resident raised the following concerns:

- Excessive speeding of traffic on Foundry Lane. He asked whether the speed can be reduced to 20 mph.
- Vehicles are crossing the mini-roundabout without giving way appropriately which increases the risk of accidents.
- Increasing weeds along the paths, particularly Foundry Lane.

Cllr Jefferson explained that roads, verges and paths are the responsibility of County Highways. The Parish Council have been in contact with County about weeds, but the County do not appear to be prioritising that work.

**16/07/2390 To consider and approve reports**

**a) Open Spaces Report**

**i. Maintenance of the Plantation**

The Parish Council discussed the merits of allowing the local resident group to manage the land. Cllr Jefferson noted that the Parish Council has already agreed to pay for a day's work by a tree surgeon.

**It was resolved:** that the Parish Council gives permission for the local resident group to maintain the plantation and work with the tree surgeon during his day on site.

**It was resolved:** that the Parish Clerk will ask the groundsmen to cut-back vegetation along the boundary wall on Low Road.

**It was resolved:** that the Parish Clerk will ask the groundsmen to inspect the current fencing with a view to repairing (north side) or removing (south side) where appropriate.

**ii. Maintenance of footpath from Halton to Crook O'Lune**

Cllr Gibson and City Cllr Woodruff raised the concerns about the state of the footpath from Schoolhouse Lane to Crook O'Lune. The combination of overgrown weeds and boundary hedging is forcing pedestrians onto the road which is unsafe.

Cllr Jefferson reported that the verges are only usually cut back by Highways from the end of July onwards.

**It was resolved:** that the Parish Clerk will contact County Highways about the state of the weeds on footpaths and suggest they contract the work to the Parish Council.

**It was resolved:** that the Parish Clerk will write to County Cllr Charles inviting her to the next meeting and listing our concerns:

- Maintenance of verges
- Spraying of weeds
- Maintenance of paths
- Clearance of road gullies & drains
- Deteriorating public rights of way and footpaths

**It was resolved:** that the Parish Clerk will write to the householder on High Road requesting that they trim back the hedge, otherwise the Parish will need to do it and will charge for the work.

**iii. Maintenance of verges and footpath along Low Road**

See (ii) above.

**iv. St Wilfrid's play equipment**

The Parish Clerk reported that Lancaster City Council recommended that the most cost efficient method for repairing the group swing was to replace it. The football posts would require approx. ½ days work. The Clerk also reported that the group swings and football posts are no longer as loose as they were in May; we assume that this is because the ground is no longer so dry. After consideration the Parish Council took a contrary view to the City Council.

**It was resolved:** that the Parish Clerk will ask the groundsmen to dig around the group swing uprights and check for rot. If no rot is present then they will be concreted. If rot is present we will ask City Council to replace them.

**It was resolved:** that the Parish Clerk will ask the groundsmen to dig around the football posts and concrete them in.

**It was resolved:** that the Parish Clerk will ask the groundsmen to replace the HCA play area fencing.

**v. Maintenance equipment**

**It was resolved:** that a modest socket set and small hand-held strimmer can be purchased.

**b) HCA Report**

Cllr Jefferson reported that the community centre has been broken into on the night of the 7<sup>th</sup> July. Money and CCTV equipment were stolen and there was a significant amount of damage to both doors and filing cabinets. Rough estimates of losses are several thousand pounds.

**c) Finance Report**

<b>Brought Forward</b>		<b>£36,629.57</b>
<b>Income</b>		
	Burial Ground	£935.00
	Bank Interest	£3.42
<b>Expenditure</b>		
	Cheques	£3,110.85
<b>Carried Forward</b>		<b>£ 34,457.14</b>
made up of:		
	General Account	£17,085.83
	Village Improvement Account	£15,401.73
	Play Equipment	£1,969.58

The Parish Clerk reported that the groundsmen are approx. 75 hrs above budget. This will be monitored to ensure that we keep within the annual budget.

The Parish Clerk also reported that some banks have a simpler process for adding signatories to bank accounts and have multiple signatory authorisation mechanisms for electronic payments. Adding signatories to the current bank account is proving difficult and time-consuming.

**It was resolved:** that the Parish Clerk is given authority to find and open new bank accounts (current and deposit).

Expenditure is in accordance with budget so far this financial year.

**It was resolved:** to accept the Finance Report to 13<sup>th</sup> July 2016.

**d) Allotments**

Cllr Gibson reported that the Manor wall is overgrown again, as is the spare plot.

**It was resolved:** that the Parish Clerk to ask groundsmen to cut back the far perimeter.

Cllr Slinger reported that a resident had asked for a gate to be put on the entrance between the allotments and the field. However, this would prevent simple access to the allotments for the mower, so no action was deemed necessary.

**It was resolved:** that the Parish Clerk will ask the groundsmen to remove the barbed wire supports.

**e) Burial Ground**

**It was resolved:** that Cllr Jefferson will contact Costains about the hole that has appeared outside the Burial Ground.

**f) Local Plan**

The Parish Council does not have the capacity to do this without assistance, so unless volunteers step forward, there is little prospect of progress.

**It was resolved:** that a request for volunteers for helping with the Neighbourhood Plan will be placed in the Parish Prattle.

## g) Planning

### New Applications

- Discharge of condition 4 on approved application 15/01399/FUL
  - Sidegarth Sidegarth Lane Halton Lancaster Lancashire LA2 6PG
  - Ref. No: 16/00126/DIS | Status: Awaiting decision
- Agricultural Determination for the erection of a covered midden
  - Land At Sidegarth Lane Halton Lancashire
  - Ref. No: 16/00763/AD | Status: Awaiting decision

### Decisions

- Construction of a dormer extension to the front elevation
  - 12A Harrowdale Park Halton Lancaster Lancashire LA2 6QS
  - Ref. No: 16/00616/FUL | Status: Application Permitted
- Change of use of former blacksmiths workshop (B1) to a 3-bed dwelling (C3), demolition of detached garage and erection of a single storey rear extension
  - The Old Blacksmiths Workshop 62 - 64 High Road Halton Lancashire LA2 6PS
  - Ref. No: 16/00663/CU | Status: Application permitted

The Council raised no objections or comments.

## 16/07/2391 To review, approve and adopt

### a) Parish Council Constitution

**It was resolved:** that the new Parish Council Constitution be approved and adopted and reviewed in 5 years time.

### b) Parish Council Aims and Objectives for 2016/7

**It was resolved:** that the new Parish Council Aims and Objectives are approved and adopted and reviewed on an annual basis.

### c) Parish Council Safeguarding Policy

**It was resolved:** that the new Parish Council Safeguarding Policy be approved and adopted.

**It was resolved:** that Cllr Slinger will be the designated Councillor for Child Protection.

### d) Parish Council Standing Orders

**It was resolved:** that the new Standing Orders be adopted and approved, subject to the following amendments:

- The section referring to Estimates and Precepts will be removed, since this is best covered by the Financial Regulations.
- The section referring to Canvassing of and Recommendations by Members will be removed, since this is covered by the Code of Conduct.
- The section referring to Planning Applications will be amended to the following:
  - The Clerk shall refer planning issues, applications and proposals to the Council on a monthly basis.

### e) Parish Council Code of Conduct

**It was resolved:** that the Parish Council Code of Conduct be approved and adopted and reviewed prior to each election.

## 16/07/2392 Heavy traffic on Green Lane

Deferred to the next meeting.

**It was resolved:** that the Parish Clerk verify who asked for this agenda item

**16/07/2393 To approve accounts for payment for expenses incurred since the last meeting**

<b>Cheque</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Gross</b>
288	Envirocare	Grass cutting - June	<b>408.00</b>
289	Aughton PCC	Grass cutting	<b>960.00</b>
290	Dennis Barnfield Ltd	Fuel	<b>13.39</b>
291	HMRC	PAYE - Months 1-3 (Apr-Jun)	<b>74.80</b>
292	Margaret Mason	Anti-virus software (2013-14)	<b>59.98</b>
293	Carl Richardson	Salary – June	<b>482.63</b>
294	Garry Bretherton	Salary – June	<b>589.88</b>
295	Garry Bretherton	Fuel	<b>24.32</b>
296	Luke Mills	Salary – June	<b>400.80</b>
297	Luke Mills	Expenses	<b>97.05</b>

**TOTAL    £ 4,852.41**

**It was resolved:** to renew our membership of Fields in Trust.

**It was resolved:** to approve the above expenditure and the cheques duly signed.

**16/07/2394 Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Parish Council be arranged for Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2016 at 7:15pm at The Centre @ Halton. There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 09:00

Signed..... Chair    Date .....

Minutes subject to approval at the next meeting.