



HALTON WITH AUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING Wednesday 10th May 2017 7:15pm at The Centre @ Halton

Present: Cllrs: Brian Jefferson, Barbara Duffy, Karen Gibson, 4 members of the public
Clerk: Luke Mills
Chair: Cllr Carol Slinger

17/05/2502 Apologies for absence: were received from Cllr Bob Bauld

17/05/2503 Approval of Minutes of the 2016 Annual Parish Meeting

It was resolved: that the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish held on 11th May 2016 be accepted as a true record and signed by the Chair.

17/05/2504 Matters arising from the Minutes

None

17/05/2505 HCA & Recreation Area Report

a) HCA

Cllr Jefferson reported that there have been some challenges over the year at the Centre, but that users report high levels of satisfaction and bookings remain good. Work has continued to reduce the high water consumption by replacing various fittings. For instance, push taps are now in use to prevent taps being left on. Grants from the Lancashire Flood Appeal, Halton Lune Hydro and the Parish Council have enabled a standby generator to be installed which can supply electricity to the Centre in an emergency. Volunteers are crucial to the running of the Centre and events; currently this is a small group of people, so further volunteers would be most welcome. Prices may have to increase in the future to ensure there is sufficient income to cover costs.

b) Recreation Area

Cllr Jefferson reported outline plans for increasing the size of the football pitch to ensure it is suitable for adult games; this may require some tree work. Maintenance requirements seem every increasing, with various items of play equipment beginning needing attention to ensure they remain usable. There has been continual low level nuisance and damage caused by teenagers, which takes valuable time and energy to investigate and resolve.

17/05/2506 Charity Reports

Burton & Rigby Educational Foundation

Cllr Slinger reported that the Burton & Rigby Educational Foundation provides grants to local students from the ages of 11-18. 18-20 applicants every year and provides average funding of £100 per pupil to assist their educational needs, which in many cases covers transport to school.

17/05/2507 Parish Accounts for year ending 31/3/2017

The parish accounts for the year ending 31st March 2017 were presented by the Parish Clerk.

Balance brought forward	16,671
Precept	28,096
Other receipts	18,367
Staff costs	15,274
Loan repayments	4,138
Other payments	34,826
Balances carried forward	8,896

The Parish Council reserves decreased to £8,896. Income was significantly higher than planned due to grants and donations:

Community Foundation Lancs Flood Appeal	8,043
Halton Lune Hydro	2,500
Halton Gardening Club	500
TOTAL	11,043

Expenditure was also significantly higher, mainly due to work to improve the emergency response capabilities of the parish, which included £5,000 match funding from the Parish Council in order to obtain the grant from the Lancashire Flood Appeal.

Generator, shed and associated works	12,109
New see-saw, safety matting and swings	2,205
New planter on High Road, opposite the shops	511
New bus shelter seat at the Memorial bus stop	287
TOTAL (excl. VAT)	15,357

The outstanding sum to be repaid on the Public Works loan decreased to £9,934, so should be repaid in a little over two years.

17/05/2508 Chair's Report

Cllr Slinger reported that the B4RN work is still moving forward, with trenches dug for ducting and a cabinet installed at the Centre. However, it has proved more complicated than expected because landowners are sometimes reluctant to provide access for the ducts across their land. The completion of M6 link road does not seem to have caused as many problems as feared. Unfortunately, the Sunday bus service was withdrawn due to County Council cuts. The Emergency Response Plan has progressed, including installation of a generator that can provide power the Centre. Leaflets will be distributed around the parish at some point explaining the plan. Neighbourhood Plan was not progressed due to lack of support. However, the Lancaster City Council Local Plan was changed to retain some of a green belt buffer between Lancaster and Halton. Volunteers helped clear vegetation on Church Brow, the Plantation, link Path nr the Centre, and spread mulch in the play area. Halton Gardening Club continue to do great work looking after planting around the village, including the burial ground, war memorial, planters and around the Centre. County Council re-introduced weed spraying, which will help maintain the appearance of the parish. Sadly, the large tree on Schoolhouse Lane had to be felled to due to disease. Outline planning permission granted for 60 homes behind Forgewood Drive and 90 homes off Low Road; no decision yet on the Pointer Grove/Kirkby Lonsdale Road development. Cllr Slinger thanked the rest of the Parish Councillors for their voluntary work over the last year. Sadly, Sandi Haythornthwaite resigned earlier in the year and is much missed.

17/05/2509 Matters of interest raised by electors

A member of the public raised concerns about the erection of a greenhouse on the allotments, due to the fear of broken glass.

A member of the public raised concerns about the caravan outside the burial ground. His relatives were appalled by the sight of it and the foul language on it. Parish Council agreed that it is an eyesore, but that the Parish Council must work within the law and let the legal process take its course. Cllr Jefferson explained that Lancashire County Council Highways have been dealing with it, since they are the legal land owners.

A member of public raised concerns about parking and traffic outside the surgery and shops during mornings and evenings. They felt that it was an accident waiting to happen. Cllr Jefferson suggested that County Highways are encouraged to provide a crossing.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 19:55.

Signed..... (Chair)

Date

Minutes subject to approval at the next meeting.