



## HALTON WITH AUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2018 7:15pm at The Centre @ Halton

**Chair:** Cllr Carol Slinger  
**Present:** Cllr Barbara Duffy, Cllr Kevin Frea, Cllr Brian Jefferson, Cllr Chris Coates, Cllr Karen Gibson, Cllr Michael Bateson  
**Clerk:** Luke Mills

**18/05/2669 Apologies for absence:** Cllr Anne Lamb

**18/05/2670 Approval of Minutes of the 2017 Annual Parish Meeting**

**It was resolved:** that the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish held on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2017 be accepted as a true record and signed by the Chair.

**18/05/2671 Matters arising from the Minutes**

None

**18/05/2672 HCA & Recreation Area Report**

**a) HCA**

Cllr Jefferson gave the following report:

The HCA have had a steady year with no major project work undertaken, but progress is being made on future plans for work. Most disappointingly the changing room planning and grant application to Walney Fund was not successful thus delaying a start on conversion of the old toilet blocks. A replacement toilet has been fitted but taps continue to be an issue. The Plant Room boiler has been occasionally erratic and SR Browns less than helpful. Local assistance and improved monitoring are keeping the system working and utility costs appear to have stabilised to predictable levels.

On a better note Pinington's are finally making progress with the long-standing leakage around the Velux windows and promise to continue solving the roof issues. Also, the woodworm which was detected in the Hall floor is probably historic following an inspection carried out; precautionary treatment is to be programmed for the summer holidays. The opportunity will also be taken to replace the pine boards with maple and to sand and re-varnish the floor.

We have worked with the PC & B4RN to create the additional shed for storage of the distribution cabinet and standby generator with electrics fed from the hall supply.

Financially the year has been very successful with our Hall hire charges raised to more than offset salary increases, and a rationalisation of cleaners hours has been introduced with timesheets as a control measure.

Finally, Maureen took an extended period of leave, which was covered successfully with volunteer managers available for callout if required. We also took the opportunity to re-invest in the office layout and new equipment. The committee also produced and distributed a leaflet to every home in the village reflecting on 40 years of community provision and asking for volunteers to keep the charity going in the future.

**b) Recreation Area**

Cllr Jefferson reported that the working team has settled into a routine with three established local men all qualified for weed spraying and the routine maintenance tasks required.

The last year was a catch-up time with several neglected areas e.g. Army Camp path, recreation area perimeters, etc. being dealt with. Changes of responsibilities on the PC with new members will hopefully ensure monitoring is improved this year.

Ongoing plans for improvements to the pitch and recreation area have started and working with the Football Academy should be developed into a planned proposal this year but have progressed slower than anticipated.

**18/05/2673 Charity Reports**

**Burton & Rigby Educational Foundation**

Cllr Slinger gave the following report:

The Burton & Rigby Trust granted over £3,000 between 26 school children from Aughton and Halton aged between 12 and 18 years to assist with their education.

**18/05/2674 Parish Accounts for year ending 31/3/2018**

The parish accounts for the year ending 31st March 2018 were presented by the Parish Clerk.

<b>Balance brought forward</b>	<b>8,896</b>
Precept	31,340
Other receipts	17,321
Staff costs	13,604
Loan repayments	4,138
Other payments	30,963
<b>Balances carried forward</b>	<b>8,852</b>

The Parish Council reserves decreased by £44.

Key receipts included:

Donations for War Memorial Restoration	1,960
Groundwork UK - Grant for Neighbourhood Plan	4,800
Halton Community Association	2,500
Burial Ground Fees	2,260
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11,520</b>

Key expenditure, excluding standard costs, included:

Nest swing for Aughton playground	1,735
B4RN	798
Professional help for Neighbourhood Plan	4,800
Electrical works in the Centre	3,706
Emergency Response preparation	1,562
General repairs, including swings at St. Wilfrid's Park	3,562
<b>TOTAL (excl. VAT)</b>	<b>16,163</b>

The outstanding sum to be repaid on the Public Works Loan decreased to £6,041.

#### **18/05/2675 Chair's Report**

Cllr Slinger gave the following report:

This financial year has seen the resignation of Bob Bauld and thanks go to him for all his work within the parish particularly with speed control on Church Brow and the Neighbourhood plan. With the co-option of Kevin Frea, Chris Coates, Anne Lamb and Michael Bateson we now have a full quota of Councillors who I would like to thank for all the support I have received this year.

We have had our fair share of trials and tribulations with the 3 housing developments and an extra 200 houses that could be built over the next two years. However, we are hopeful that due to the changes in Government policy we may be able to halt the development off Arrow Lane due to surface flooding. Surface flooding affected many homes in the village in November particularly on the High and Low Road and several residents are still not back in their properties yet. This has at least prompted Lancashire County Council to carry out drain surveys and the clearance of Cote Beck and the culvert under the road.

We have suffered from vandalism and anti-social behaviour on the allotments and at the centre however working with the Neighbourhood Policing team and the Anti-Social behaviour officer at Lancaster City Council seem to have had a significant positive effect.

On a positive note thanks to Kevin Frea for leading the Neighbourhood Plan and securing a grant of £4800 a team of volunteers have now produced a draft plan which will go out to consultation soon. The Gardening group have done lots of work over the last 12 months and are creating wildflower areas in various locations. Brian Jefferson has done an amazing job securing a grant to help to refurbish the War Memorial and we received £1950? in donations towards the cost from residents. The PC were happy to help promote the Royal Air Force in Bloom 100-year celebrations with the display on the grass banking at the Memorial.

Lots of volunteers have donated time to help with B4RN and last week saw the Centre the first to be connected to the Halton Hub. It is hoped that now the rest of the village can have access to this high speed, low cost, community led project.

This next year will be a challenging one as we are face a planning application for a traveller site off Foundry Lane.

We are also working with the Junior Football Club to enhance the facilities for football and will apply for joint funding to carry out improvements to the field and play areas.

#### **18/05/2676 Matters of interest raised by electors**

Jane Ward the local Poppy Appeal Organiser gave a short speech about the history of the Poppy Appeal, then in conjunction with Cllr Slinger, presented a Royal British Legion Long Service Brooch with letter of thanks to Mrs Carol Squire for supporting the Poppy Appeal for almost 40 years.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 19:40

Signed..... (Chair)

Date .....

Minutes subject to approval at the next meeting.