

**HALTON WITH AUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL****MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING****Wednesday 11th December 2024 7:15pm @ The Centre, Halton**

Chair: Cllr Slinger
Present: Cllr Turner, Cllr Rigby, Cllr Lamb, Cllr Buntin, Cllr Coates
Clerk: Luke Mills

24/12/01 To receive apologies for absence and to approve the reasons given
Cllr Sewell

24/12/02 To consider and approve the minutes of the meeting held on 13th November 2024
It was resolved: that the minutes be accepted as a true record and to be signed by the Chair.

24/12/03 To receive declarations of interests and dispensations
Cllr Buntin for 24/12/09.

24/12/04 Suspension of Standing Orders
Nothing to report

24/12/05 To consider and approve reports:

a) District Councillor Report

From District Cllr Sommerville:

- The leadership of the council has passed to Cllr Caroline Jackson from the Green Party, leading a Cabinet with members from the Greens, Liberal Democrats and Morecambe Bay Independents. Labour have joined the Conservatives in opposition.
- Bin days will of course change over Christmas: <https://www.lancaster.gov.uk/news/2024/nov/christmas-waste-and-recycling-collections>
- Council phonedlines and the customer service centre will remain open until 3pm on Christmas Eve. Phonedlines will be back open on Friday, December 27 and the customer service centre will open on Monday, December 30. Both will then close again on New Year's Day.
- Lots of work is being done on regeneration – especially in Morecambe
- Climate-wise we are all pleased that the Government Inspector has held up our Climate Emergency Review of the Local Plan – basically meaning that we can demand better quality new homes from developers, with improved protection against flooding, more thought given to nature and sustainable travel, etc.
- There has also been some noise across the county about a plan from some Labour MPs for new unitary authorities in Lancashire i.e. merging Lancaster District with the likes of Wyre and Blackpool and doing away with the county council. City councillors are (unsurprisingly) not too impressed. We may get a better idea of whether this is what the Government are planning when they release their white paper on local government deregulation – expected shortly.
- Finally the district now has a Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP) to guide our actions over the next 15 years to achieving a low carbon future.

b) Open Spaces, allotments & burial ground**Open Spaces**Completed/In Progress

- Large bin on the link path by the orchard has been removed and a dog bin added further towards High Rd
- Grit ordered ready for colder weather.
- Removal of stepping logs removed from Junior play area

Planned

- Repainting lines in the car park – started but the weather was poor so it may have to wait until the spring.
- Adjusting/repairs Junior Play area gates – repairs started.
- Removal of 2 x planters from Junior play area.
- Installing the St Wilfrid's benches
- Skip hire

Ground Staff Hours

- November 91 hrs (excl. of holidays)

Open Spaces

- The top shackles on the nest swing were very worn and needed replacing asap. New shackles have been ordered and will be fitted once they arrive.
- The Tree Survey has been completed. Only one tree has been identified as needing removal – a Sycamore by the pitch: *"Not suitable for long term retention. Remove whilst safe to do so. Fell to ground level or retain stump of 3m height for habitat if desired"*. A tree works planning application has been raised (24/0239/TPO).
- **Action:** to obtain quotes for the removal of the sycamore.
- As part of the Tree Survey the orchard area on the link path was reviewed. It was recommended that apple trees were removed and replaced with smaller, ornamental trees, e.g. flowering cherry.
- **It was resolved:** to remove the 2 apples trees nearest the link path and include in the tree works quote.
- The wall on Low Road bordering the plantation is leaning towards the road and the wall on High Road is leaning into the plantation.
- **It was resolved:** report the leaning walls (top & bottom) to County Highways who are believed may be responsible for walls bordering highways.

Burial Ground

- One of the headstones is facing the wrong direction. The funeral directors have been asked to investigate.

Allotments

- Invoices sent out to all allotment holders. The invoice also reminded tenants that there is no longer a communal compost and that all materials should be composed on their own plot.

c) HCA

- Christmas fair was successful, with lots of volunteers.
- 70 out of 100 tickets sold so far for the Ceilidh.

d) Finance Report

- A VAT claim of £6,656.20 has been received.
- No invoice from LCC for the bins yet.
- Cllr Rigby has verified the bank reconciliation for November

Financial Statement - December 2024				Balance b/f 1st April 2024			
Budget	PAYMENTS	Actual	Forecast Remaining	Budget	RECEIPTS	Actual	Forecast Remaining
8,320	Salary - Clerk	6,110	2,210	49,132	Precept	49,132	-
18,252	Salary - Groundstaff	10,281	4,160	990	Allotments	195	795
6,654	Grass Cutting	6,824	-	20	Rent	125	20
200	Hedge Cutting	-	200	1,600	Burial Ground	1,285	315
540	Pest Control	450	90	600	Bank Interest	922	400
550	Play equipment inspections	520	-	-	Damage	-	-
4,914	Repairs & Renewals	3,387	1,527	-	General	-	-
380	Weed & Feed Pitch	400	-	-	Grants	-	2,300
2,000	Tree works & surveying	2,850	2,000	-	Donations	-	-
145	Alarm Maintenance	80	65	-	VAT	6,656	-
590	Audit	590	-	-			
72	Bank Charges	54	18	-			
300	Clerks Expenses	270	30	52,342	TOTAL	58,315	3,830
449	HCA	192	257		FORECAST YEAR END BALANCES		
2,022	Insurance	2,183	-		General A/C	1,683.03	
751	Subs	827	-		General Reserves A/C	13,185.35	
400	Training	-	-		CASHBOOK BALANCES	ACTUAL	Forecast
100	Water	78	22		Gross Receipts	91,896	95,726
184	Website	181	3		Gross Payments	48,751	60,034
20	S137	410	-		CASHBOOK BALANCE	43,145	35,692
46,843	BUDGET TOTAL	35,686.79	10,583		BANK BALANCES (30/11/24)		
-	Assets	871	700		Current a/c	113.36	
-	Misc services	3,224	-		Deposit a/c	48,603.77	
-	Recreational Area Improvements (S106)	2,982	-		BANK BALANCE	48,717.13	
-	Refunds	2,520	-		FUND BALANCES		
882	Emergency Response & Flood Grant	-	-		General A/C	8,436.27	
	VAT claimed	2,982			General Reserves A/C	20,500.02	
	VAT to be claimed	485			MUGA Sink Fund A/C	6,000.00	
47,725	GROSS TOTAL	48,751	60,034		S106 Recreation Area	8,209.10	
					FUND TOTAL	43,145	

- It was resolved: to accept the Finance Report to 11th December 2024

e) Planning

- Re: 23/01327/OUT: Outline application for the erection of up to 80 dwellings with associated access
 - Appelthwaite has updated their outline planning permission to develop homes at land south of Low Road. Two objections have been sent in by the Parish Council so far. The District Councillors have been asked to see if there is any further news on this application.

New Applications (Awaiting Decision)

- [Outline application for the development of 5 residential dwellings and access](#)
 - 24/01354/OUT: Land At Forge Lane/Low Road Halton Lancashire
- [4x Silver Birch \(T1, T2, T3, T4\) - Fell 4x Rowan \(T5, T6, T7, T8\) - Fell 1x Elm \(T9\) - Fell](#)
 - 24/0226/TCA | Ivy Cottage Low Road Halton Lancaster Lancashire LA2 6LZ
- [Change of use of office building to dwelling \(C3\) including alterations to fenestration and installation of electric car charging point](#)
 - 24/01187/FUL | 108A High Road Halton Lancaster Lancashire LA2 6PU
- [Retrospective application for the demolition of a lean-to and erection of a conservatory to the rear elevation](#)
 - 24/01147/FUL | Furnace Barn Foundry Lane Halton Lancaster Lancashire LA2 6LU
- [Sycamore - reduce height back to previous pruning points](#)
 - 24/0235/TPO | The Stables Quarry Road Halton Lancaster Lancashire LA2 6RF
- [Sycamore \(T106\) - fell to ground level \(retain a section of stem at 3m for habitat if desired\) as it is in terminal decline and leaning towards the football pitch. Replant with 1 x "standard size" hornbeam](#)
 - 24/0239/TPO | Halton Youth And Community Centre Low Road Halton Lancaster Lancashire LA2 6NB

Permitted/Not required

- [Non-material amendment to planning permission 18/01422/FUL for the omission of rooflight to Egret housetype \(Plots 48,49,50\)](#)
 - 24/01178/NMA | Land To The Rear Of Pointer Grove And Adjacent To High Road Halton Lancashire

- [Discharge of conditions 5,6 and 7 on approved application 22/00874/FUL](#)
 - 24/00206/DIS | Willows Park Bottomdale Road Halton Lancashire
- [Pruning of an ash tree](#)
 - 24/0197/TPO | 197 High Road Halton Lancaster Lancashire LA2 6QB
- [Proposed lawful development certificate for the construction of a dormer extension to the rear elevation](#)
 - 24/01113/PLDC | 35 Beech Road Halton Lancaster Lancashire LA2 6QQ
- [Erection of a single storey rear extension with external steps](#)
 - 24/01114/FUL | 35 Beech Road Halton Lancaster Lancashire LA2 6QQ

Refused

- [Non-material amendment to planning permission 18/01422/FUL to alter stone boundary treatments around bin stores to timber fencing](#)
 - 24/01179/NMA | Land To The Rear Of Pointer Grove And Adjacent To High Road Halton Lancashire

24/12/06 To consider communications from the public

From a local resident:

Complaint that the bin that used to be in the lay-by on Kirkby Lonsdale Rd nr. Laverick Rd has gone.

Clerk has reported this to Lancaster City Council.

From a local resident:

Complaint about the speed calming measures on Church Brow:

I wondered if I could raise issue with the 'traffic calming' on Church Brow! Firstly it is definitely not working which I am sure is of no news to you. Secondly, getting in and out of our garage which is on the intersection of ChurchBrow/Church Street is exceedingly difficult and at times due to the aggression and impatience of drivers - dangerous. Would it please be possible to raise this issue with the City Council? Since the Bypass and the massive increase to the Halton population traffic has increased both in number and poor quality driving!

The Parish Council has previously raised their disappointment in the speed calming measures with Highways.

Action: Clerk to respond to the resident, recommending that they contact County Highways.

From a local resident:

Complaint about the outline planning application for 80/90 homes:

You may not be aware but there are new documents available on life for the outline planning permission by Applethwaite homes for up to 80 new homes on Low Road, Halton next to Wrenman Homes.

The parameters plan show houses will overlook the river and ruin views from that most beautiful of walks. They should be set much further back surely? What is the point of National Landscape designation if the views are destroyed?

Sadly the ancient hedge which runs parallel with Low Road is to be removed for sight -lines. This beautiful feature of our landscape is on maps of 1847 (177 years ago) and on hedgerow regulations of the same date, so one can assume it was already a significant hedge when it was added. The vast majority of this hedgerow is within Forest of Bowland National Landscape and is on the area of the land laid out as green space. Everything should be done to retain as much of it as possible surely?

I dread to think how Low Road will cope with all this additional development as the road is in a diabolical state. Sorry to be the bearer of rotten news.

Action: Clerk to respond to the resident thanking them for highlighting the importance of this hedge.

24/12/07 To consider approving the Regulation 15 Submission of the Neighbourhood Plan and associated documents

- The Steering Group met on 27th November to review the final changes to the NDP and associated documents. They have recommended that the plan is ready for Regulation 15 Submission.
- Lancaster City Council has reviewed the list of statutory consultees that were approached for comment during the Reg. 14 consultation and have confirmed that the list was correct. They are also reviewing the plan to see whether a further screening is required. If new screenings are needed, then it could take at least 6 weeks.
- There was discussion of how to handle the comment from the Local Lead Flood Authority.
- **It was resolved:** that the current response to the Local Lead Flood Authority comment is adequate.
- **It was resolved:** to submit the Neighbourhood Development Plan and associated documents to Lancaster City Council (Regulation 15 of Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012) once screening has been completed by Lancaster City Council.

24/12/08 To consider updates on the:

a) Castle Hill Project

- Tree works have been completed and invoiced. Work on improving the access gate has started and should be finished before Christmas. Fencing likely to start early in the new year.
- Final stages are to organise an interpretation board, picnic table and grass reinforcement.
- An historic re-enactment on site has provisionally been booked for 12th April.

b) Lancashire Orchard Grant

- Bannister Hall are an approved supplier so a quote will be sought from them.
- **Action:** See if some small cherry trees might be available for the link path.

24/12/09 To consider fencing quotes for the allotment area

- One company has quoted for the allotment fencing.
- **Action:** Additional quotes to be sought
- The area to the right of the gate towards the wall adjacent to the football pitch is now over full of dumped allotment waste, compost, manure and wood chippings. The fencing contractor will need this to be removed prior to installing the new fencing.
- **It was resolved:** Clerk to obtain a quote for removing the material.

24/12/10 Precept:

a) To consider "Village Improvement" allocation

- **It was resolved:** to create a new Play Area fund
- **It was resolved:** to allocate £500 for the MUGA fund, £500 for General Reserves & £4,000 for Play Area fund

b) To consider Burial Ground rents for 2025

- **It was resolved:** that keep the fees unchanged.

c) To consider salaries for 2025-26

i. Hourly rate for the Grounds Maintenance staff

- **It was resolved:** to offer PB increased hours of 38 p/m.
- **It was resolved:** to discuss revising the contract with GB.
- **It was resolved:** to increase grounds maintenance salary to £12.85 p/h from April 2025.

ii. Hourly rate for the Clerk

- **It was resolved:** to increase the clerk salary to £16.40 p/h from April 2025.

24/12/11 To consider and approve accounts for payment for expenses incurred since the last meeting

Ref	Payee	Description	TOTAL	NET	VAT
90	Water Plus	Burial Ground water supply	8.68	8.68	-
91	Lancaster City Council	Pest control on the allotments	60.00	50.00	10.00
92	Unity Trust	Service charge	7.50	7.50	-
93	ICO	Annual data protection fee	35.00	35.00	-
94	Bowland Tree Services	Castle Hill tree works - REPF	2,300.00	2,300.00	-
95	Jon Oliver Arboriculture	Tree risk survey and strategy	550.00	550.00	-
96	Halton Gardening Group	Bulbs for War Memorial & Burial Ground	46.72	46.72	-
97	G Bretherton	Salary	370.23	370.23	-
98	C Richardson	Salary	607.42	607.42	-
99	P Bucklow	Salary	401.60	401.60	-
100	P Smith	Salary	207.08	207.08	-
101	L Mills	Salary & reimbursements	1,120.03	1,049.42	70.61
102	Green Elephant Cooperative	Room hire for NP meeting	22.50	22.50	-
		TOTALS	£ 5,736.76	£ 5,656.15	£ 80.61

It was resolved: to approve the above expenditure.

24/12/12 To confirm the date of next Parish Council Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on 8^h January 2025 at The Centre. There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 20:45. Minutes subject to approval at the next meeting.

Signed..... Chair Datej