

**HALTON WITH AUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL****MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Wednesday 9th July 2025 7:15pm @ The Centre, Halton**

Chair: Cllr Slinger

Present: Cllr Coates, Cllr Rigby, Cllr Turner, Cllr Lamb, Cllr Sewell, County Cllr (Halton), County Cllr (Skerton), 1 member of the public

Clerk: Luke Mills

25/07/01 To receive apologies for absence and to approve the reasons given

None.

25/07/02 To consider and approve the minutes of the meeting held on 11th June 2025

It was resolved: that the minutes be accepted as a true record and to be signed by the Chair.

25/07/03 To receive declarations of interests and dispensations

- None

25/07/04 Suspension of Standing Orders

Allotment holder

- Asking on behalf of other allotment holders that bays for manure and woodchip be provided by the council. Plot holders have offered to manage the area.

County Cllr for Skerton

- Introduced himself and stated that he would be willing to become a Parish Councillor.

25/07/05 To consider and approve reports:

a) District Councillor Report

- Nothing to report.

b) Open Spaces, allotments & burial ground

General

- New alarm door contacts to be fitted on the toolshed.
- A spare battery for the generator has been bought since the current one has been flat a couple of times when tested.

Completed or In Progress

- Security bollard has been serviced.
- Tyres under the seesaw replaced.
- Repainting the skate park shelter completed.

Current Job List

- Installing the bus stop bench.
- Reducing the size of the pampas grass on the Link Path (request from HGG)

Open Spaces

- The path behind the wall that runs from Park Lane to the Crook O'Lune is overgrown. It is not entirely clear who is responsible for that section of path, though the grounds staff have strimmed it in the past.
- **Action:** Cllr Lamb to ask Erica.

Burial Ground

- Planning Enforcement have dropped off a letter to the van owners asking them to move since they do “not support a change of use to residential in this location”. Highways have stated that they have no powers to move them.

Allotments

- The allotments have been inspected. Plots 8b & 9b were very overgrown, so warning letters have been sent.
- The rules lack clarity on the degree to which weeds and/or wildflowers are tolerated. Additionally various small trees, including conifers and willow are present on plots.
- Action:** Review the rules in the autumn.

c) HCA

- In general, the Centre is running well. However, anti-social behaviour has become a problem in the last few weeks around the Centre. This has included throwing rocks at house windows and breaking one. Police have been informed, including the local PCSO. The Police are seeking to identify the individuals.

d) Finance Report

- The following receipts have been recorded:

Ref	Payee	Description	TOTAL
9	HCA	CCTV contribution - HCA-2506	1,028.43
10	Kenneth Fraser Ltd	Inscription for D CHALLINOR	36.00
11	HMRC	Vat 126 claim (Oct - Apr 25)	2,992.37
12	Lancaster Funeral Home	Plot purchase & interment A169	470.00
13	Unity Trust	Interest	379.53
		TOTALS	£ 4,906.33

Financial Statement - 9th July 2025				Balance b/f 1st April 2025			
Budget	PAYMENTS	Actual	Forecast Remaining	Budget	RECEIPTS	Actual	Forecast Remaining
8,512	Salary - Clerk	2,729	5,783	51,400	Precept	51,400	0
18,490	Salary - Grounds	6,063	12,427	990	Allotments	-	990
1,107	HMRC	695	412	20	Rent	-	20
7,318	Grass Cutting	4,569	2,748	1,500	Burial Ground	901	599
200	Hedge Cutting	-	200	600	Bank Interest	380	220
540	Pest Control	616	-	-	Damage	-	-
550	Play equipment inspections	520	-	-	General	1,028	-
4,831	Repairs & Renewals	1,634	3,197	-	Grants	11,710	-
400	Weed & Feed Pitch	-	400	-	Donations	-	-
2,000	Tree works & surveying	-	2,000		VAT	2,992	2,582
145	Alarm Maintenance	-	145				
625	Audit	308	317				
72	Bank Charges	33	39	54,510	TOTAL	68,411	4,412
409	Clerks Expenses	10	399				
449	HCA	72	377		CASHBOOK BALANCES	ACTUAL	Forecast
2,233	Insurance	-	2,233		Gross Receipts	86,289.71	90,701
20	S137	-	20		Gross Payments	27,222.43	58,967
786	Subscriptions	526	259		CASHBOOK BALANCE	59,067.29	31,735
500	Training	-	500		BANK BALANCES (30/6/25)		
70	Water	37	33		Current a/c	1,054.44	
255	Website	-	255		Deposit a/c	62,169.17	
49,510	BUDGET TOTAL	17,811.54	31,744.25		BANK BALANCE	63,223.61	
					FUND BALANCES		
-	Assets	227	-		General	26,894.06	
-	Misc services	-	-		General Reserves	21,000.02	
8,595	Recreational Area Improvements (S106)	6,602	-		Play Area	4,000.00	
-	Refunds	-	-		MUGA Sink Fund	6,500.00	
	VAT claimed	-	-		S106 Recreation Area	673.21	
	VAT to be claimed	2,582	-		FUND TOTAL	59,067.29	
58,106	GROSS TOTAL	27,222	58,967				

- CLlr Rigby has verified the Bank Reconciliations for June.
- It was resolved:** to accept the Finance Report to 9th July 2025

e) Planning

New Applications (Awaiting Decision)

- [25/00626/FUL](#) | Change of use of former church to a children's day nursery
 - 16 High Road Halton Lancashire
- [25/00683/FUL](#) | Conversion and alteration of garage/ storage outbuilding into a 2 bed holiday let and creation of two car parking spaces
 - Garage/ Storage Building The Hermitage Estate Low Road Halton Lancaster Lancashire LA2 9HU
- [25/0113/TCA](#) | Whole crown reduction of two yew trees Y1 and Y2
 - Beechdene Church Brow Halton Lancaster Lancashire LA2 6LP
- [25/00672/FUL](#) | Erection of single storey side and front extension and reconfiguration of front porch
 - 1 Shefferlands Cottages Foundry Lane Halton Lancaster Lancashire LA2 6BH
- [25/0109/TCA](#) | G1 Willow, Pollard
 - Manor House Low Road Halton Lancaster Lancashire LA2 6NB
- [24/01374/FUL](#) | Demolition of existing conservatory, erection of two storey rear extension with pitched roof and associated work to existing house and landscaping
 - The Coach House Foundry Lane Halton Lancaster Lancashire LA2 6BH

Permitted/Not required

- [25/00587/PLDC](#) | Proposed lawful development certificate for construction of dormer extension to rear elevation
 - 33 Beech Road Halton Lancaster Lancashire LA2 6QQ
- [25/00074/DIS](#) | Discharge of condition 3 on approved application 23/00368/FUL
 - 54 Lythe Fell Avenue Halton Lancaster Lancashire LA2 6NL
- [25/00061/FUL](#) | Rebuilding of columns, replacement boundary walls/entrance gate, new boundary fencing and landscaping works to include construction of a pergola and patio area
 - Ghyll House Aughton Brow Aughton Lancaster Lancashire LA2 8LU
- [25/00062/LB](#) | Listed building application for the rebuilding of columns and replacement boundary walls/entrance gate,
 - Ghyll House Aughton Brow Aughton Lancaster Lancashire LA2 8LU

Refused or Withdrawn

- [25/00503/FUL](#) | Change of use of land adjacent to the property boundary from agricultural land to private residential garden land
 - Burton House Aughton Brow Aughton Lancaster Lancashire LA2 8LU
- **It was resolved:** to object to planning application 25/00683/FUL
- **Action:** Clerk to ask Planning Enforcement about Willow Park.

25/07/06 To consider communications from the public

A local community group

- The Friends of Lapwing Fields Green Space have asked whether the council would support their nomination of the area between Slyne-with-Hest and Bolton-le-Sands as a Local Green Space.
- **It was resolved:** to support the proposal.

County Councillor for Skerton

I have read in the Lancaster Guardian that you have a vacancy for a Parish Councillor. I don't know how long you have had the vacancy, but if you are struggling to find someone, I could cover the position until your next set of elections. I have had a look at the website and believe I may be eligible by virtue of living within 3 miles of the parish boundary. I am currently the Lancashire County Councillor for Skerton, so understand the duties of the Parish Council and would not be viewing it as a party-political role.

Halton Lune Hydro

The timber steps from the hydro to the upper level require attention. We have repaired them in the past but think this may be a Parish council responsibility. The Parish clerk will be asked for comment.

- **Action:** Clerk to contact the County PROW team about the general poor state of the whole path to the Crook O'Lune.

25/07/07 To receive and consider updates:

a) Neighbourhood Plan

- The external examiner invited the Parish Council to respond to comment on the Reg. 16 responses by the 9th July. The Steering Group agreed to send a short response highlighting the previous comments from the LLFA.

b) King's Orchard

- There is an aim to plant trees in the paddock in the autumn.

c) Mill Lane play area

- There was a recent email from the Public Realm Supervisor for Parks & Open Spaces:
I just wanted to touch base regarding the potential upcoming s106 agreement and land transfer of Mill Lane Halton. It's currently sitting with our legal team at the moment, and I'm not sure at this stage what the outcome will look like. If it does get transferred in its current state without a contribution attached, we will need to source external funding to be able to renovate the play area. As a district council, most of the funding pots available do not allow us to apply, and we have to instead go through a constituted group. When/if the time come, would this be something you would be interested in being involved with?
- **Action:** Clerk to confirm that the Parish Council is willing to help in whatever way it can.

25/07/08 To consider the annual play area inspection report, including the moderate risk identified

- All equipment has been assessed as low or very low risk apart from the swings at St Wilfrid's Park which are a moderate risk due to the top bars being rotten.
- **It was resolved:** to remove the swing since the aim is to refurbish the area

Location	Equipment	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Centre	Large basket swing										
Centre	Space net										
Centre	Roundabout										
Centre	Timber swings										
Centre	Outdoor gym										
Centre	MUGA										
Centre	Skate Park										
Centre - Junior play area	Large Multi-unit										
Centre - Junior play area	Small Multi-unit										
Centre - Junior play area	Boardwalk										
Centre - Junior play area	Bridge										
Centre - Junior play area	Log walk										
Centre - Old play area	Metal swings										
Centre - Old play area	See saw										
Centre - Old play area	Somersault bars										
Schoolhouse Lane	Swings										
St Wilfrid's Park	Multi-unit										
St Wilfrid's Park	Group swings										
St Wilfrid's Park	Wooden climbing frame										
St Wilfrid's Park	See saw										
St Wilfrid's Park	Circular climbing frame										
St Wilfrid's Park	Wobble bridge										
St Wilfrid's Park	Balance beam										
St Wilfrid's Park	Rope walk										
St Wilfrid's Park	Log walk										

- Green indicates a low or very low risk
- Orange indicates a medium risk
- Red indicates a high risk

25/07/09 To consider building holding areas for manure and woodchip at the allotments

- Allotment holders are keen to have woodchip as well as manure and self-organised a poll which indicated fairly strong support. They also offered to keep any holding area tidy.
- It was resolved:** to build two bays to hold manure and mulch.

25/07/10 To consider process for the Section 106 request relating to 23/01327/OUT

- District Councillor McGowan was contacted about the Section 106 request made last year to see if it was acceptable to Planning. The response from planning was as follows:

The Parish Council should be thinking about any planned or future proposals to enhance their community assets, in particular open space provision. There is more chance of potentially securing S106 money if the Council (either via the planning team or public realm teams) know about any projects the PC wish to undertake to improve their facilities. For example, if they need to provide additional play provision or are required to enhance existing facilities. This could include improvements to football pitches, the MUGA and skate park, fencing, external lighting etc. generally anything to do with open space and its associated infrastructure.

However, it is important to note, we can only secure s106 contributions where there are identified deficiencies in provision locally. This is why we have not secured monies previously as the facilities in the village are relatively good compared to many other areas. Unless we are informed about problems/requirements/projects we are less likely to be made aware of deficiencies in provision. We will also rely on our open space assessments (the evidence base) to identify if deficiencies exist.

- Action:** Clerk to add an item planning such work to the agenda in autumn.

25/07/11 To consider and approve revised Burial Ground Rules

- The Burial Ground Rules and Fees have been updated to try and clarify the position of resident vs non-resident.
- It was resolved:** To accept the revisions, apart from leaving in the rule about memorials in the Woodland area.

25/07/12 To consider and approve accounts for payment for expenses incurred since the last meeting

PAYMENTS					
Ref	Payee	Description	TOTAL	NET	VAT
45	Water Plus	Burial Ground water supply (direct debit)	9.16	9.16	
46	Unity Trust	Fees (direct debit)	8.10	8.10	
47	Danvic	Pitch Improvements - s106 (paid in June)	5,859.82	4,883.18	976.64
48	Envirocare	Grass cutting - June	890.81	742.34	148.47
49	Dennis Barnfield	Repairs & fuel	287.16	239.30	47.86
50	Huws Gray	Play sand	195.31	162.76	32.55
51	HMRC	NI / Tax deductions for 25-26 Period 03	120.81	120.81	
52	L Mills	Reimbursements	192.49	161.77	30.72
53	G Bretherton	Salary - June	353.38	353.38	
54	P Bucklow	Salary - July (standing order)	488.30	488.30	
55	P Smith	Salary - July (standing order)	668.20	668.20	
56	L Mills	Salary - July (standing order)	682.21	682.21	
57	RamGroup	Servicing & parts for security bollard	260.40	217.00	43.40
		TOTALS	£ 10,016.15	£ 8,736.51	£ 1,279.64

It was resolved: to approve the above expenditure.

25/07/13 To confirm the date of next Parish Council Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be arranged for 10th September 2025 commencing at 7:15pm at The Centre. There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 20:30. Minutes subject to approval at the next meeting.

Signed..... Chair Date