

**HALTON WITH AUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL****MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Wednesday 12th March 2025 7:15pm @ The Centre, Halton**

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

25/03/01 To receive apologies for absence and to approve the reasons given
Cllr Sewell and Cllr Rigby provided apologies.

25/03/02 To consider and approve the minutes of the meeting held on 12th February 2025
It was resolved: that the minutes be accepted as a true record and to be signed by the Chair.

25/03/03 To receive declarations of interests and dispensations
Cllr Coates on item 25/03/10.

25/03/04 Suspension of Standing Orders
• Nothing to report

25/03/05 To consider and approve reports:

a) District Councillor Report

- Budget has been approved for this year, but it will be much more difficult in future years.
- The government plans to merge district and county councils with a likely outcome next year. It may give parish councils a greater role.
- There are upcoming county council elections.

b) Open Spaces, allotments & burial ground

Completed or In Progress

- Fencing around the allotment paddock has been replaced and most of the detritus removed. The remaining pile of non-compostable rubbish will be thrown in a skip.
- The Sycamore by the pitch has been felled.
- Both planters in the play area have been dismantled
- 2 very worn safety mats have been replaced under the swings on the pitch
- Link path hedge trimmed, and the edges of the path cleared
- Fence protecting the tool & generator sheds has been replaced with a spare fence panel to deter roof access.

Current Job List

- Timber and postcrete has been ordered for the car park fencing.
- Installing the St Wilfrid's benches (awaiting postcrete delivery above)
- Repainting lines in the car park. Postponed until drier/warmer weather
- Fix coping stones on the stone planter on Low Rd
- Service the security post outside the tool shed since it is getting difficult to unlock.

Ground Staff Hours.

- February 100 hrs (excl. of holidays)

Open Spaces

- **It was resolved:** to purchase a cheap phone (under £30) for use by the grounds staff.

Burial Ground

- The path has been cleared sufficiently to become usable, but it is likely to need a full repair before long.

Allotments

- The plot holder of 7a has decided to cancel, so the next person in the waiting list has taken it on.

c) HCA

- The new CCTV will be installed soon.

d) Finance Report

- A VAT claim will be made early April to cover this financial year.
- It was resolved:** to temporarily transfer £13,800 from the General Reserves a/c and £3,400 from the MUGA sink fund a/c to the General a/c until the REPF claim is refunded.

Financial Statement - March 2025				Balance b/f 1st April 2024			
Budget	PAYMENTS	Actual	Forecast Remaining	Budget	RECEIPTS	Actual	Forecast Remaining
8,320	Salary - Clerk	8,839	-	49,132	Precept	49,132	-
18,252	Salary - Groundstaff	15,504	-	990	Allotments	1,100	-
6,654	Grass Cutting	6,824	-	20	Rent	135	10
200	Hedge Cutting	220	-	1,600	Burial Ground	1,285	-
540	Pest Control	600	-	600	Bank Interest	1,238	200
550	Play equipment inspections	520	-	-	Damage	-	-
4,914	Repairs & Renewals	9,190	-	-	General	-	-
380	Weed & Feed Pitch	400	-	-	Grants	6,114	-
2,000	Tree works & surveying	1,050	-	-	Donations	-	-
145	Alarm Maintenance	257	-	-	VAT	6,656	-
590	Audit	590	-				
72	Bank Charges	92	-				
300	Clerks Expenses	338	-	52,342	TOTAL	65,659	210
449	HCA	264	-		FORECAST YEAR END BALANCES		
2,022	Insurance	2,183	-		General A/C	296.53	
751	Subs	827	-		General Reseves A/C	85.35	
400	Training	-	-		CASHBOOK BALANCES	ACTUAL	Forecast
100	Water	105	-		Gross Receipts	99,240	99,450
184	Website	190	-		Gross Payments	80,735	81,561
20	S137	410	-		CASHBOOK BALANCE	18,506	17,890
46,843	BUDGET TOTAL	48,402.21	-		BANK BALANCES (28/02/25)		
					Current a/c	1,464.90	
-	Assets	871	-		Deposit a/c	37,176.52	
-	Misc services	3,224	-		BANK BALANCE	38,641.42	
-	Recreational Area Improvements (S106)	2,982	-		FUND BALANCES		
-	Refunds	2,520	-		General A/C	86.53	
-	Castle Hill - REPF Grant (£18,491)	17,665	826		General Reserves A/C	6,700.02	
	VAT claimed	2,982			MUGA Sink Fund A/C	2,600.00	
	VAT to be claimed	2,089			S106 Recreation Area	8,209.10	
46,843	GROSS TOTAL	80,735	81,561		FUND TOTAL	17,596	

- It was resolved:** to accept the Finance Report to 12th March 2025

e) Planning

New Applications (Awaiting Decision)

- Erection of a single storey side extension, single storey rear extension, installation of balustrade to existing raised terrace, construction of decking area and external steps and associated external works
 - [25/00166/FUL](#) | 48 Clougha Avenue Halton Lancaster Lancashire LA2 6NR

Permitted/Not required

- Erection of replacement front porch
 - [24/01413/FUL](#) | High Barn Aughton Brow Aughton Lancaster Lancashire LA2 8LU

25/03/06 To consider communications from the publicEmail from resident

I would like to request that the Halton with Aughton Parish Council install a bench at the bus stop opposite the Community Centre on the Low Road in Halton. This stop is now well-used for the 80/81 buses. I often see people with mobility problems waiting at the stop. A bench encourages bus travel. The excellent bench installed by the Council in the bus shelter at the War memorial is well-used. Passengers returning from Lancaster do not need to wait when they dismount. Passengers travelling into Lancaster do need to wait, especially as that bus is often early.

Action: Clerk to add it to the agenda next month & investigate the cost of a metal bench.

Action: Clerk to respond that we will consider investigating it.

Phone call from resident

There have been a couple of nasty crashes on the bend on Halton Road adjacent to the Carus Lodge entrance and Army Camp entrance. They would like the Parish Council to raise this issue with Highways.

Action: Clerk to log the accidents and contact Highways.

25/03/07 To consider updates on the:**a) Neighbourhood Plan**

- The Regulation 16 Consultation will run from Monday 10th March until noon Monday 28th April.
- Copies of the Neighbourhood Plan have been made available at the Centre, Halton Mill, Aughton Recreation Room, the library and Social Club.

b) Castle Hill Project

- Grass matting path, fencing, gates and picnic tables are complete. A sign has been ordered, similar in style to that in the Memorial Garden. A bench may be ordered if there are funds leftover.
- The opening will be 12th April 11-3pm. 11:30 official opening. They have several volunteers to help.
- All payments must be made before the end of March to be reclaimed via the REPF grant.

c) St Wilfrid's play area refurbishment

- The Halton Lune Trust trustees approved a grant of £20,000 to be put towards the project at St. Wilfrid's play area with payment subject to confirmation that the Parish Council have secured the balance of funding required.
- Lancaster City Council have been asked to start the process of renewing the lease on St Wilfrid's Park.
- Further grants are being sought.

d) Mill Lane play area

- No progress. A solicitor is needed to draft a lease.
- **Action:** Clerk to ask Lancaster City Council whether they can be of assistance.

e) Lancashire Orchard Grant

- The team at County Council did not respond to the last email so it is not looking promising, but Cllr Coates may try again.

f) High Road collapsed wall

- Baldwin Builders visited the site of the collapsed wall and recommended the use of a structural surveyor, since they thought it was likely that the footpath/highway had moved over time.
- Three structural surveyors have been approached. One has provided a quote of £2,500 for a Feasibility Study; the others have yet to respond.
- **Action:** Clerk to ask Highways for clarification and advice in writing including the County Councillor.
- **Action:** Clerk to obtain quotes for a simple rebuild of the wall.

25/03/08 To review and approve Safe Working Method Statements

- The Safe Working Method Statements have been reviewed and updated. In particular the “Working from Heights” section has been revised, with specific assessments of the likely scenarios where working from height may be necessary.
- **It was resolved:** to approve the revised Safe Working Method Statements.
- **It was resolved:** to ask Lancaster City Council to maintain the top of the nest swing.
- **It was resolved:** to purchase a suitable ladder with a budget of £360 + vat.

25/03/09 To consider content for the Prattle

- **It was resolved:** to mention the play areas, Neighbourhood Plan and Annual Parish Meeting.

25/03/10 To consider and approve accounts for payment for expenses incurred since the last meeting

Ref	Payee	Description	TOTAL	NET	VAT
125	Water Plus	Burial Ground water supply	9.16	9.16	-
126	Lancaster City Council	Pest control on the allotments	60.00	50.00	10.00
127	Unity Trust	Service charge & fees	7.84	7.84	-
128	P Bucklow	Salary - Feb	401.60	401.60	-
129	P Smith	Salary - Feb	652.60	652.60	-
130	L Mills	Salary - Feb	682.45	682.45	-
131	G Bretherton	Salary - Feb	321.28	321.28	-
132	L Mills	Reimbursements	455.60	446.41	9.19
133	Glasdon	Castle Hill - Bin	721.78	601.48	120.30
135	Bowland Tree Services	Castle Hill - Tree & shrub works	850.00	850.00	-
136	Halton Mill	Castle Hill - Printing	120.00	120.00	-
137	Chris Coates	Castle Hill - Reimbursements for grass matting	5,036.40	4,197.00	839.40
138	Chris Coates	Castle Hill - Supply and installation of double gate	750.00	750.00	-
139	Chris Coates	Castle Hill - Supply and installation of 2 picnic tabl	1,278.00	1,278.00	-
140	Chris Coates	Castle Hill - Project management & labour	1,020.00	1,020.00	-
141	Alian Energy	Castle Hill - Installation of grass matting	1,350.00	1,350.00	-
142	Jamie Gott Plant Hire	Allotment fencing	1,750.00	1,750.00	-
143	Bowland Tree Services	Felling sycamore & hawthorn	500.00	500.00	-
144	Dennis Barnfield	Repairs & parts	147.10	122.58	24.52
145	Carol Slinger	Reimbursements for CCTV	2,426.50	2,426.50	-
146	Signs Express	Castle Hill - Signs	278.46	232.05	46.41
147	P Bucklow	Salary - Mar	401.60	401.60	-
148	P Smith	Salary - Mar	652.60	652.60	-
149	L Mills	Salary - Mar	682.45	682.45	-
TOTALS			£ 20,555.42	£ 19,505.60	£ 1,049.82

It was resolved: to approve the above expenditure.

25/03/11 To confirm the date of next Parish Council Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on 9th April 2025 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 Datej