

## Appendix A

### Clerk's Report to the Annual Meeting of the Electors of Haigh Parish

Haigh Hall Vestibule - 7 March 2023

#### Meetings

Covid restrictions were eased in early May 2021, but, because the weather was not necessarily conducive to outdoor meetings and the small number of locations normally available to the Parish Council for in person meetings were not initially open for use by the public, our meetings continued to take place virtually until March 2022, when we had our first 'live' meeting and ratified all decisions taken since May 2021. The list was somewhat long.....

Not knowing what the situation would be with regard to Covid over the Winter months in 2022 to 2023, we made a conscious decision to hold our December and January meetings virtually. This year's Annual Parish Meeting is being held face to face. With the situation in relation to Covid appearing to settle down, our ordinary meetings will return to a face to face basis at St David's Parish Hall from Monday, 27 March.

#### Bubblefest 2022

Following the resounding success of Bubblefest 2021 we organised Bubblefest 2022, which was due to take place on 10 September. Then, on 8 September, we heard some sad news – we heard that Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II had died. Tickets were close to selling out, but on 9 September Wigan Council took the decision that, out of respect for the Late Queen, publicly run social events should not go ahead until after the funeral. This included the Bubblefest, as it was due to take place in the Walker Walled Gardens at Haigh Hall.

You can imagine the disappointment that this caused amongst the children and parents, who had been looking forward to their day out. There was also a degree of ill-feeling amongst some of the latter, who took to social media to express their views, sometimes quite vociferously. We refunded all tickets and stall holders' fees. We then used some of the surplus we made in 2021 to compensate our artists.

Undeterred by last year's experiences, we are now planning Bubblefest 2023, which will take place on Sunday, 25 June. We are hoping for good weather and a good turnout. We have most things taped, but an event like this needs many hands on deck on the day for it to run smoothly. If you can spare some time that Sunday to help, we would love to hear from you. Please leave your contact details with a member of the Parish Council tonight or contact the Parish Clerk by email as soon as you can.

#### Proclamation of the Succession of King Charles III

Soon after a monarch dies, their successor is officially proclaimed. The process is centuries old and is pyramidal in nature. The new monarch is first proclaimed by the Accession Council in front of key members of the Royal Family and the British Parliament. They met at St James's Palace on 10 September. The proclamation was then read in the City of London and soon after in the capitals of the devolved nations. It was then cascaded down to the capitals of all the nations where the new monarch is the Head of State, then to cities, towns and civil parishes.

Haigh parish councillors played a role in this. After the proclamation had been read in Wigan by the Mayor, it was read outside St David's, Haigh, by Cllr Paul Kenyon, who was at the time the Vice Chairman of the Parish Council.

#### Planning

## Appendix A

Throughout the past year we have continued to examine planning applications and have made representations when necessary. We have continued to focus in particular on applications relating to the tent pegging events at a site in Pendlebury Lane and a small residential development in Leyland Mill Lane. After several years, neither has yet reached a resolution.

### Community Engagement

We published the second edition of our newsletter in 2022 and are planning a third edition in May or June of this year. We have also communicated with residents through meetings (which have been accessible to the public both virtually and in person) and via email and Facebook.

Our original Haigh Parish Council Facebook page, where information is shared by the Parish Council using the banner and the newsfeed, has been joined by the Haigh Parish Community page, which provides residents with the opportunity to exchange ideas and views on a variety of matters of interest in the Parish. Information about parish councillors and formal information relating to meetings is published regularly on the two Haigh Parish Council pages on Wigan Council's website.

During 2022 we have trialled a budgetary participation process which involves using a digital platform called Vocaleyes to engage with the Parish community. The platform is used to showcase potential projects in the Parish and residents are invited to vote on the projects. Residents are also invited via the platform to suggest future projects and join working parties to steer winning projects to success. The Council has recently been judged as having met the criteria for an award of £2,000, which has then to be shared amongst the projects that win the most votes with a view to help making them a reality.

The first year of the Vocaleyes trial ends at the end of this month. We will continue to take part for a second year.

### Remembrance

In 2022 we again arranged for poppies to be displayed on lamp standards around the Parish in November and a wreath was laid on behalf of the residents at the War Memorial at Aspull on Remembrance Sunday. For the second year running it was laid by a young resident who looks after the WWI war graves in St David's churchyard. The young resident invited to do this originally chose to clean and maintain WWI war graves in the Parish as part of a project for the Duke of Edinburgh Award and selecting her to lay the wreath was a way of saying 'Thank You'.

### Departures

During the past year we have said 'Goodbye' to three parish councillors.

**Cllr Chris Hatherall** resigned in February 2022. He had served as a parish councillor since September 2018 and had been elected as the Vice Chairman in May 2020. The idea of running a Bubblefest was his brainchild and he was responsible for steering the first successful event in 2021.

**Cllr Rob Lawson** joined the Parish Council in December 2016 and, having first become Vice Chairman in May 2017, was elected Chairman in May 2018. During his time in the office of Chairman Cllr Lawson created contacts with senior officers at Wigan Council and was instrumental in putting the Council on a much sounder financial footing than it had been for many years. Cllr Lawson had shown exemplary and dedicated service throughout his six years as a parish councillor. The amount of time and effort that he had put into the role of Chairman and the relationships he had forged have been much appreciated.

**Cllr Anita Edwards-Hooson** was co-opted as a parish councillor in July 2021 and served for eighteen months. Her resignation in January was unexpected and happened because of family

## **Appendix A**

commitments that arose very suddenly in the new year. During her short time as a parish councillor Cllr Edwards-Hooson provided invaluable support for the work of the Council and had recently taken the lead on lobbying for the introduction of more litter bins in the Parish.

The Parish Council owes all three of them a great debt for their work for the Parish. A big 'Thank You' goes to all of them.

### **Arrivals**

In September 2022 the Council co-opted **Cllr Marie-Clare Kenyon**. This was in place of Cllr Chris Hatherall. During her so far short time as a parish councillor Cllr Kenyon has been very active and has very ably steered the first year of the Council's digital platform trial to a successful conclusion. She has set up a working party of residents looking into the introduction of a joined-up bridleway for Haigh and is in the process of setting up working parties for other projects. She has also been instrumental in arranging tonight's venue and the presentation by Al & Al.

**Krystyna Pilkington**  
**Clerk to Haigh Parish Council**  
**07.03.23**