

Clerk's Report to Haigh Parish Council 7 September 2020

Internet Banking

Soon after the Council meeting in July I received a letter from the bank saying that they were unable to proceed with our application because they could not identify one of the signatories and suggesting that I look into the matter and re-apply. A year ago, when we asked them to replace an old signatory with a new one, the bank added the new signatory but did not remove the old one. At the time the branch in Wigan had recommended that we leave things alone, so we did. In view of the contents of the letter, I re-applied for the old signatory to be removed before re-applying for internet banking. I received an acknowledgement of the application, but have not heard any more.

Bubblefest

When I contacted him Keith Bergman informed me that Haigh Woodland Park were not hosting any events during the Summer, so the Bubblefest could not go ahead. However, they were still keen to host the Bubblefest and hoped that we could provide them with possible dates for 2021. In the meantime they would be reviewing things and were hoping to host their first event in November.

Outstanding Actions from Meeting with Wigan Council's Senior Officers

The actions outstanding from the meeting in February of the Parish Council with Wigan Council's Senior Officers were chased up and an update is attached. The next meeting will be a virtual one via the 'Teams' platform on Tuesday, 24 November at 1pm.

Increase in Drug Dealing in Hall Lane

I contacted the Police who responded very promptly and arranged for a PCSO to contact the member who had raised the issue at the last meeting.

Public Rights of Way Through Haigh Woodland Park

Penny McGinty replied to our letter to say that she had no objection to the Parish Council being involved in the discussions, which were currently in abeyance, but could not speak on behalf of the group of residents with whom Wigan Council were in discussion and suggested that we contact them to establish their views on the matter. Having obtained the contact details of the group's lead, I passed the matter on to the Chairman at his request.

Speeding Along Copperas Lane and New Road, Riley Lane to Fingerpost Junction & Haigh Road

I reported the Council's proposed actions to the resident who raised these issues and wrote to Keith Bergman with regard to the roads that fall under his jurisdiction, i.e. Copperas Lane and New Road. He replied that he was aware that the matter of speeding was being picked up by Wigan Council, who would be in touch about it in due course.

Horse Rider & Cyclist Behaviour in Haigh Woodland Park

In reply to our letter Keith Bergman replied that they are aware of issues in relation to horse riders using the Park when they are prohibited and cyclists speeding and damaging woodland. They have put up temporary notices to warn horses riders and cyclists and have increased staff patrols in an attempt to catch and remove cyclists and horse riders.

In terms of a more permanent solution, they had met with senior Council managers and Councillors in the recent past. There is an ambition to develop the bridleway that crosses the

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Park within the Lower Plantations and, with the support of cyclists, create a track which is away from pedestrians and protects the woodlands. These are medium to long term ambitions, but there is a desire to see it happen and Council officers are now looking at how this can be achieved.

Toddington and Greenfield Farms and Speeding

CLlr Colin Higham forwarded an email from a resident to me. The email carried updates on these issues.

Engagement with the Facebook Page

Following suggestions made during the July meeting, I have changed the status of the Facebook page from a Community page to a Local Government page and have been regularly sharing information provided by Wigan Council about developments locally in relation to the Covid-19 crisis. I have also monitored the degree of engagement with the page by members of the public. In the last 28 days our posts have reached 85 people and there have been 168 engagements. The number of people who have 'liked' the page has increased from 43 to 45 and we have 55 followers.

As on previous occasions, I circulated the poster/agenda for Monday's Council meeting via Facebook. It has so far reached 70 people and received 6 engagements, one 'like' and one 'share'.

I was a little concerned to hear during the last meeting that it was difficult to find the Haigh Parish Council section on the Wigan Council website, so, as I haven't tested it for some time, I did just that. I did a search by keying in 'Haigh Parish Council' using Google. The first link to be listed was 'Haigh Parish Council – Wigan Council'. By clicking on that link I was taken directly to the Haigh Parish Council page.

Clicking on the link on the Facebook page took me to the residents' page on Wigan Council's website. By typing 'Haigh Parish Council' in the search box I was taken to a list on which Haigh Parish Council was the first link. By clicking on that link I was taken to the correct page.

K.M.P.: 07.09.20

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Outstanding Actions from Haigh PC Meeting with LA Officers on 25 February 2020

ACTION	PROGRESS
That the Director of Environment to make arrangements for the programme for treating INNS to be sent to the Parish Council.	This has been completed and the INNS programme has been provided
That the Officers locate a copy of the INNS training plan from Chorley and forward this to the Parish Council.	This is still outstanding. Officers from the Parks and Streetscene team will contact Chorley Council requesting the information. The information from Chorley was sent to the Parish Council. There is no training plan as such – training of volunteers is provided as and when needed by Morton Training or Myerscough College. Trained volunteers then treat Japanese Knotweed in their own parishes.
That the Director of Environment look into the problems as reported to the meeting in relation to the boating lake area, Beech Trees, flooding and the bottom wood, which was used for bike scrambling and plans for the dam.	The Parks and Streetscene team are working with colleagues within the Councils planning team who are liaising with the Environment Agency about flooding in the bottom wood and the dam. A further update will be provided in due course.
Update on consideration of agricultural diversification.	This matter hasn't been progressed due to Covid 19. Currently the Woodland Park is re-opening following risk assessments for all areas/facilities/activities. The future potential for bringing pigs/other grazing into the site will be picked up again in the future. The management team at IHL have been made aware about the suggestion for working with the local farmers around sourcing produce. The Stables Courtyard units are leased to local companies who source their own suppliers (and are encouraged to do so locally) or make their products themselves. It should be noted that the Council/IHL are currently working on leasing the main café in the courtyard to a new business, rather than it being operated by IHL.
Officers to be requested to work with the Parish Council in looking at statistical intelligence for road accidents.	<p>The Traffic Section of the Network Management Group have been liaising with local members of the Parish Council as and when contacted by them, which has resulted in numerous highway improvements being recently introduced along School Lane, Meadow Pit Lane, and Riley Lane, including the reduction of the speed limit from 60mph to 40mph.</p> <p>The Council's Road Safety and Traffic teams are happy to work with the Parish Council in looking at statistical intelligence for road</p>

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	accidents if they wish to provide details of which sections of adopted highway they wish to look at.
Officers to be requested to look at traffic measures for the Haigh Estate access road and report back to the Parish Councillors accordingly.	The Haigh Estate roads are not part of the Council's adopted highway. Therefore, any traffic measures will need to be initiated by the Haigh Hall Estate themselves.
The Grounds Maintenance Team be requested to look into the maintenance of the trees along the Whelley Loop Line.	A Parks and Streetscene inspector has carried out an inspection of this area and any works identified will be carried out as required
That the Director of Environment be requested to arrange for a Single Point of Contact for the Parishes and information on the 2030 Plan	A named officer has been appointed and his contact details have been provided.