

Clerk's Report to Haigh Parish Council 6 December 2021

Wall Hey Pit Furnace Ventilation Chimney

Earlier this year the Parish Council received an email from a resident of Aspull who is concerned at the current decay of the ventilation chimney. This very rare historic building is an important monument to Wigan's industrial heritage and, in the resident's view, a memorial to all the miners that worked in the mines/pits and the very many that lost their lives.

The resident had been in touch with Wigan Council's Conservation Officer in June. He had agreed to arrange a building inspection to be carried out and the resident had offered to forward the report to the Parish Council once it was available.

The resident was seeking expertise, support and information that the Parish Council might have on how to proceed further with conserving this important rare monument. The email was forwarded to members who were involved with conservation groups in Wigan.

One of the members had visited the site in May 2020 and reported that the structure was in a very poor state. He advised that he suspected that the cost of restoring it to a safe level would be very high and suggested that the group the resident was involved with could contact Historic England or Wigan Council to have it registered as a managed ruin.

Following consultation with the Chairman, the resident was advised that, whilst the Parish Council were very supportive of protecting the shaft and doing what they could to help, the shaft was actually outside the Haigh Parish boundary.

Bubblefest 2021 Expenditure

All outstanding invoices and receipts have been settled, including the one to the bubbler, whose invoice had not been received by mid-October. We have now received that invoice and he was paid by BACS. Cheques in payment for two receipts have been received by the payees, but had not been presented at the time of writing this report. The contribution from Haigh Woodland Park has not yet been received.

Planning Application (Stables in Pendlebury Lane)

We have received an email from one of the residents opposing this planning application thanking the Parish Council for their support.

New NALC Chair

Last week, NALC announced that Cllr Keith Stevens, East Sussex Association of Local Councils, has been elected as the new chair of NALC. The new vice-chairs will be Cllr Mike Drew, Avon Association of Local Councils, who will continue as vice-chair (member services) and Cllr Peter Davey, Essex Association of Local Councils, who is the new vice-chair (finance). NALC's new leadership will formally take up their roles at the meeting of the National Assembly on 8 December, where the elections to committees will also be confirmed.

LALC Re-Structuring

The Lancashire Association are in the process of re-structuring. The LALC Chairman is due to be attending the virtual SLCC Branch meeting on Thursday, 2 December to explain how they are proposing to go forward.

