

**Minutes of a Meeting of Haigh Parish Council  
Held Monday 15 March 2021  
6:30pm Virtual Meeting**

**Present:** Councillors R Lawson (Chairman), R Darbyshire, P Kenyon, C Hatherall, I Parker and A Wilson and the Clerk, Mrs K Pilkington  
Two members of the public

**275 Apologies for Absence**

None

**276 Declaration of Interests**

Cllr R Lawson w.r.t. Item 285 (personal)

**277 Co-option of New Councillor**

The Council had received three applications for the casual vacancy created by the resignation of former Cllr C Higham and had held informal interviews with the candidates. As a result of the interviews it was recommended that Mr Andrew Wilson be co-opted as a councillor.

(a) **Resolved:** The co-option of Mr Andrew Wilson as a councillor – to serve until the Parish Council elections in May 2023 – was approved.

(b) Cllr Andrew Wilson made his declaration of acceptance of office, which he signed in the presence of the Council and the Clerk. He would return it to the Clerk by post, who would then sign it in witness.

Cllr Wilson's co-option would be reported to the Elections Officer at the LA.

**278 Resignation of Councillor**

The Chairman reported that Cllr A Goodman had tendered her resignation with immediate effect. The Clerk would notify the Elections Officer. This would trigger the election process.

Standing Orders were suspended.

**279 Matters Introduced by Members of the Public**

**Footpath at Bawk House Farm**

A resident drew the Council's attention to the issues affecting the footpath that passed Bawk House Farm. An attempt had been made by the owners of the property several years ago to re-route the footpath in such a way that the occupants of Bawk House would have their privacy when walkers were using it. Since then the stretch of footpath in the vicinity of Bawk House had been substantially impeded in that it was considerably narrower than it had been previously.

The matter was discussed. During the discussion a member reported that she and a resident had previously attended a site meeting with the LA's ROW

Officer when this PROW was discussed. The site meeting took place on 6 June 2018. Prior to that there had been discussions about the PROW on various occasions.

The Council agreed to write to the LA to ask them to focus on the issues raised and try to resolve them. The Council were in possession of some of the correspondence between the LA and a resident who had for many years been campaigning to restore the footpath to its original condition, but welcomed any additional information that might be available. The resident present was willing to share the additional information in his possession with the Parish Council.

Standing Orders were reinstated.

## 280 Minutes of the Meeting (18 January 2021)

**Resolved:** The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Monday, 18 January 2021 were agreed as a true and correct record.

## 281 Matters Arising

### Widening of Wingates Road

As recorded in the Clerk's Report, both the response from the LA's Highways Department and that to the FOI request had indicated that Wigan Council had no plans for widening Wingates Road. A member reported that he had heard that a local resident was currently trying to persuade the LA to widen the road.

### PROWs

A member reported that there had been no further progress with the identification of previously unrecognised public rights of way. The member was of the view that there were two or three footpaths that could be added to the definitive map, but he would prefer to discuss them with the LA in a face-to-face meeting once that was possible.

A separate meeting with the PROWs officer was needed to agree the official record on the definitive map and the information needed to be provided to the officer in good time prior to the meeting. The Clerk was asked to forward the contact details of two relevant officers to the member so that he could enter into discussion with them.

The situation relating to the application for a bridleway / PROW through Haigh Plantations was discussed.

## 282 Planning Applications

A/20/90485/FULL	Red Rock Lodge, School Lane, Haigh	Conversion and extension of garage to create annexe and associated change of use of small C3b care home to small C2 care home including elevational changes	Representation made – <i>approved with conditions after the parking scheme had been revised - noted</i>
A/20/90248/LB	Brock Mill House	Listed building consent for a single	<i>Withdrawn on 03.03.21</i>

	Wingates Road WN1 2SJ	storey rear extension	
A/21/90686/NMAS	Brock Mill Farm Wingates Road WN1 2SJ	Working amendment application for previously approved application A/20/88767/HH 1. New, smaller sauna shed (Heartwood V, 3x2.3m) in lieu of the original (Mica Summerhouse 4.2x2.2m). The original is now discontinued. 2. Re-siting the spiral staircase 425mm to the north. Simpler roof over stair. 3. Re-siting the curved shower enclosure 1.5m to the north to be further away from adjacent trees and to be central to the new glazed canopy. 4. Omission of the proposed stone-filled gabions as retaining walls. The design of the new ground slabs (to the sauna, stair and shower enclosure) overcomes the need for the gabions.	<i>Noted</i>
A/21/90685/CON	Brock Mill Farm Wingates Road WN1 2SJ	Condition Discharge application to discharge conditions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 in respect of application A/20/88767/HH	<i>Noted</i>
A/21/90612/HH	8 Hampson Green Haigh WN2 1LY	Two storey side extension following demolition of a detached garage	<i>Noted</i>

#### **Rothwell Stud**

A letter prepared by Cllr R Lawson had been sent to Wigan Council. Concerns in connection with the sale of the property with planning permission granted in 2017 and whether conditions of the consent had been met were raised in the

letter. The letter had been acknowledged and the matter was being looked into by the LA.

### **283 Model Design Code (Consultation)**

The consultation was discussed briefly. The Clerk advised that both the LA and NALC would be replying to the MHCLG on behalf of their respective stakeholders. As it was unlikely that changes to the Design Code would impact in a big way on the Parish, it was agreed that a response would not be submitted.

Standing Orders were suspended.

### **284 Speeding on the B5239**

A resident gave a description of recent surveys carried out by her and her husband of traffic travelling past their property, which was located along the B5239. They had used a speed gun during the surveys, but were of the view that it had not been correctly calibrated by the provider and had registered traffic as travelling at speeds that were approximately 10 km/h below the actual speeds.

The resident shared some of the basic statistics recorded of the volume and speed of traffic passing their house on an average day. This data had been shared with Wigan Council, who had informed them that it did not meet the criteria for the introduction of further traffic calming measures.

The Council discussed the issues. The Chairman explained that a group led by a former parish councillor had also submitted survey data to the LA and had been told the same thing. He suggested that the two groups should work together. To enable this the Council would provide the resident with the former parish councillors' contact details. It was difficult to control the volume of traffic, but it might be possible to do something about the speed of the traffic.

The resident agreed to share the data she and her husband had collected with the Parish Council.

Standing Orders were reinstated.

Cllr P Kenyon left the meeting.

### **285 Hall Lane Issues - Update**

The Chairman provided a verbal report about a site meeting he had had with Wigan Council officers to discuss the issues in Hall Lane. The meeting in Hall Lane had taken place a few days after the Parish Council's meeting with Wigan Council officers in February and had involved a walk-through. During the walk-through Cllr Lawson had asked them to explain their strategy behind the introduction of yellow lines. After the meeting Cllr Lawson had sent the officers an email in which he had listed observations made by residents.

The meeting had been a useful exercise, because it helped to create a better understanding on the part of the officers of the concerns held by residents. During the discussion that took place the officers had agreed in principle to adjust the proposed locations of the double yellow lines and consider the

possibility of introducing other preventative measures, such as logs, at some of the locations at which they did not wish people to park their cars.

The LA's plan was to introduce the yellow lines soon after Easter. Cllr Lawson had asked the officers to update him and to let him know when they were planning to engage again with residents. This had been a few weeks ago, but he had not heard anything further since then.

## **286 Bridge 63**

The derelict condition of the building and lack of any meaningful work being carried out on it was discussed. This had been a focus for discussion at Council meetings over a period spanning a number of years. Correspondence had been initiated on several occasions with the owners (past and present) and with the LA, but no progress had been made with regard to establishing the owners' intentions for the future of the building.

During the discussion it was suggested that perhaps the views of the community should be sought via the newsletter.

**Resolved:** A letter would be sent to the LA to ask them what needs to happen to enable them to do something legally about the Bridge 63 building.

## **287 Bubblefest 2021**

Earlier in the meeting it had been reported that one of the bubblers had confirmed that she was available on the date selected in September. Confirmation from others was awaited.

Planning for the event had to begin now. A working party needed to be set up to prepare a business plan. The location needed to be visited, so that the area could be measured up and assessed. The event would have to be advertised and stall holders and bubblers would need to be invited to make bookings. The event would have to be Covid-secure and compliant with whatever regulations would be in place in September.

**Resolved:** An initial informal planning meeting would be held virtually on Monday, 12 April at 6:30pm.

## **288 Spring Newsletter**

Possible contents of the next newsletter were discussed. Articles in relation to the following were suggested for inclusion:

- Bubblefest
- Update on Traffic on B5239
- Hall Lane Issues
- Bridge 63 Issues
- Post-Covid Positive Behaviour in Haigh Woodland Park
- An appeal for old photographs of former properties in Haigh with a view to documenting the evolving landscape.

It was agreed that some content for a first draft would be put together for the informal meeting in April. An appeal would be made via Facebook for articles of interest in the Parish. People replying were to be invited to submit them via the Parish Council's social media platforms.

Cllr I Parker left the meeting.

The Chairman agreed to add Cllr Wilson to the Council's WhatsApp group.

## 289 Meeting with Wigan Council Officers - Feedback

The minutes of the meeting on 22 March 2021 had been previously circulated and were received. It was reported that the publication of the legal judgement in the court case relating to the lease for Haigh Hall had been deferred to 1 April 2021.

Members discussed some of the issues relating to the case.

## 290 Accounts 2020/21

**Income: £nil**

**Expenditure**

No	PAYEE	NARRATIVE	NET	VAT	PAYMENT
21	Employee No.1	Salary (Feb & Mar) (net)	£332.80	N/A	£332.80
22	HMRC	Tax (March)	£ 41.60	N/A	£ 41.60*
23	Employee No.1	Mileage	£ 5.20	N/A	£ 5.20
	<b>Total:</b>		<b>£379.60</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>£379.60</b>

**Resolved:** The above items were approved for payment.

Balance at bank on 2 March 2021 = **£4,747.53**

All prior payments had been presented by 2 March 2021.

Estimated Balance at the bank after the above expenditure = **£4,367.93**

\*This payment was lower than calculated, because the Parish Council were in credit with the HMRC (according to their records).

## 291 Quarterly Budget Monitoring 2020/21

The previously circulated budget tracker was received. It was reported that all cost centres were on line. No overspends were anticipated by the end of the financial year. Reserves to the end of February had been estimated, as the monthly bank statement had not arrived by the time the papers for the meeting had been due for circulation.

## 292 Text for Council Tax Letter

The following statement had been prepared for inclusion on the letter that was circulated by Wigan Council to council tax payers:

'For 2021/22 we have approved an increase in the precept from £2,400 to £2,880. This equates to an average increase of less than £1.80 per year across all properties.'

As agreed at the meeting in January, this had been forwarded to Wigan Council.

**Resolved:** The text for the Council Tax letter was approved retrospectively.

### **293 LALC Training Survey**

It was reported that the LALC wished to ensure that they continued to provide the best possible training programme and support to member councils. As part of this the Chairman of the LALC had circulated a survey and invited member councils to complete and return it to them by Friday, 16 April 2021. The LALC would share a summary of the results with member councils once they were available and use the valuable feedback to improve their services to members.

During the short discussion the Chairman observed that the training programme was useful for new councillors and chairmen. They were now available virtually. The Council also considered the possibility of meeting with / attending meetings of other parish councils of a similar size in order to help with development. The Chairman agreed to complete the survey on behalf of the Parish Council.

### **294 Clerk's Report**

The Clerk's report was received. See Appendix A

#### **Leyland Mill**

In response to questions about the pre-application enquiry submitted to the LA with regard to the development of the Leyland Mill site, the Clerk confirmed that the LA would not be able to share any details of the enquiry at this time.

#### **Duke of Edinburgh Award**

A member recalled an email in connection with work to be carried out by a candidate for the Duke of Edinburgh Award that had been circulated by the Clerk. This was discussed briefly. The Clerk was asked to write to the candidate with regard to the validation of the work in question and to invite her to report to the Parish Council at a future meeting.

### **295 Date of Next Meetings**

- Annual Parish Meeting at 6:30pm on 10 May 2021
- Annual Meeting of the Council at 7pm on 10 May 2021
- Ordinary Meeting of the Council at 7:10pm on 10 May 2021

The meeting closed at 8:20 pm

**Chairman**