

**Minutes of Meetings of Haigh Parish Council
Held Monday 6 September 2021
6:30pm Virtual Meeting**

Present: Councillors R Lawson (Chairman), R Darbyshire, P Kenyon, C Hatherall, A Edwards-Hooson and the Clerk, Mrs K Pilkington
Dist Cllr L Flynn
Five members of the public

345 Apologies for Absence

Cllrs A Wilson and I Parker
Dist Cllrs R Conway and C Ready

346 Declaration of Interests

None

347 Co-option of Councillor

Cllr Anita Edwards-Hooson made her Declaration of Acceptance of Office in the presence of the Parish Council.

Standing Orders were suspended.

348 Matters Introduced by Members of the Public

None.

349 Issues Relating to the Balcarres Arms

Since the re-opening of hospitality venues residents of properties in the vicinity of the Balcarres Arms, which was under new management, had been complaining about the volume of the noise emanating from the pub. It was reported that music being played by the landlord in the beer garden was so loud that it could be heard by people living quite a distance away. It was sometimes so loud that they thought it was being played by close neighbours. When football matches were shown on large screens, the noise was incredible.

There was also public concern about the anti-social behaviour of some of its customers. Pub fights were reported to be a regular event. The Parish Council had received several complaints from residents, who had reported that the Police had visited on several occasions to deal with these matters. Yet, in general, these complaints had achieved nothing.

A lively discussion took place. The Publican, who was present, declared that he was running a business and trying to develop it. However, he was willing to discuss the issues with local residents and work with them. He asked that anyone making a complaint should be advised to contact him or his wife and agreed to provide contact details for both of them.

350 Loud Music in Woods

A resident had complained that every Friday night very loud music and aggressive shouting could be heard coming from the woods behind the Alms Houses. This was annoying local residents. Recently this had extended to Thursday and Sunday nights. A great deal of litter was left behind in the woods on these occasions.

The resident who had drawn this to the Council's attention had complained to Wigan Council, but nothing had happened. However, the resident had received advice from a Wigan Council officer working for the Community Safety Partnership about how to go about reporting the incidents.

He had suggested that:

- (1) If it is anti-social behaviour related, but not specifically a crime this can be passed direct to the Neighbourhood Policing Team at wiganwest@gmp.police.uk or by contacting one of the PCSO's for your area:
 - PCSO 70414 Winnard email: 70414@gmp.police.uk
 - PCSO 65526 Higginsmith email: 65526@gmp.police.uk

- (2) You can also report incidents of anti-social behaviour to Wigan Council by logging in to your MyAccount or registering for a MyAccount and select 'Add report'.

- (3) Reports to Wigan Council can also be made by phoning 01942 404364 and selecting Option 3.

The residents had no objection to young people enjoying themselves in the woods as a big group (they had been doing so for many years) but the music and noise levels were really becoming unacceptable. The activities were preventing residents from enjoying their own garden spaces.

Another resident had spoken to Mr Keith Bergman, the Manager of Haigh Woodland Park, about it. He had also reported the gatherings to the Police, but this had only triggered a limited response. Haigh Woodland Park staff carried out a litter pick on Saturday and Sunday mornings and regularly filled at least three bin bags.

The issues were discussed. There were concerns amongst local residents about raves and drug-taking occurring in the area.

Dist Cllr L Flynn joined the meeting.

It was agreed that residents should be encouraged to log and report the activities and to continue reporting them if they were still considered to be unacceptable.

351 Tent Pegging in Pendlebury Lane

This matter was discussed with Wigan Council officers during the Parish Council's meeting with them on 24 August. During the discussion it had been reported that a team of officers were currently in the process of engaging with the owners of the field over the issues being created by the tent pegging events being held there with a view to finding a resolution.

John Herriott, Wigan Council's Events Manager, had looked into the matter and had written a report. He had established that there was no traffic management plan for the events.

Pendlebury Lane was effectively a single lane private road. It was owned by the residents of the properties in the lane, who each owned a section of it. They had the right, if they chose, to restrict access. Cllr C Hatherall agreed to provide Dist Cllr L Flynn with an example of the residents' ownership rights.

The Parish Council wished the dialogue to continue.

John Herriott was scheduled to carry out a site visit that week in order to discuss with the owner the measures that needed to be put in place to ensure that the events could be held safely. The measures were likely to have a large cost impact. If the events were deemed to be unsafe, the Council could introduce a Control Order.

There were many areas in which safety issues could be a matter for concern, eg (a) weapons were an integral part of the activities, (b) horse welfare and (c) the lack of portaloos on site during events.

Because reports had been received that a track had been laid before planning consent had been received, a Planning Officer had visited the site. Residents of Pendlebury Lane had provided a timeline for what had occurred since the purchase of the land.

It was reported that an application for planning consent for stables was due to be considered by the Planning Committee in October / November.

Standing orders were re-instated.

352 Meeting with Wigan Council Officers

The Parish Council had met with Wigan Council Officers on 24 August 2021. Recent developments in relation to Haigh Hall and tent pegging events at a site in Pendlebury Lane had been discussed. The minutes of the meeting were received. No further observations were made.

353 Minutes of the Meeting (5 July 2021)

Resolved: The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Monday, 5 July 2021 were agreed to be a true and correct record.

354 Matters Arising

Spring Newsletter

It was accepted that this would now become the Autumn newsletter and would include a report on the Bubblefest. It was observed that more content would be welcome.

Documenting PROWs

The Chairman reported that he had contacted Cllr I Parker to establish progress with this project. Cllr Parker was keen to meet with relevant officers at Wigan Council once he had been able to meet with the Haigh Hall Open Access for All group to discuss their project in relation to the PROW through Haigh Woodland Park. Cllr P Kenyon offered to help him make contact with the group.

355 Planning Applications

A/21/90946/HH	Astley House Pendlebury Lane Haigh WN2 1LU	To erect first floor extension over garage and kitchen with decked area attached to gable and access staircase	Approved with conditions (Noted)
A/21/90931/FULL	Land North of Pendlebury Lane, Haigh	To erect a new stable block, associated horse exercise area, storage/sitting cabin and resurfacing of access road	Representation objecting to the application submitted - referred to the Planning Committee
A/21/92008/FULL	River Douglas Trevore Drive To Red Rock Lane Trevore Drive Standish Wigan	Construction of a rock ramp fish pass on the River Douglas	Noted
A/21/91774/RET	Waterworks Farm Arley Lane Haigh WN1 2UJ	To retain timber haystore and tack room buildings, siting of steel storage container, laying of concrete hardstanding between existing stable blocks, and laying out of sand paddock with associated post and rail fencing	Noted
A/21/91925/HH	Bawk House Farm Red Rock Lane Haigh Wigan WN2 1LX	To extend dwellinghouse, single storey to side	Noted
A/21/92058/HH	Wash Pit Cottage Higher Lane Aspull Wigan WN2 1EA	To extend dwellinghouse, two storey to front and side (South of the dwelling) together with juliette balcony to rear of extension	Noted
A/21/92028/HH	Whitegates 14 Haigh Road Haigh Wigan WN2 1LB	Alterations to the existing roof including a one and a half storey side extension, integrated garage and provision of rear balcony, along	Outside the Parish (Noted)

		with other external alterations including the proposed use of render for external walls	
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The above planning applications were discussed.

A/21/91925/HH

The application related to an extension to the dwelling, which would have no impact on the surrounding areas. It was noted.

A/21/92058/HH

The materials proposed for this very large extension were in keeping with the existing building. As the property was in an isolated location, there would not be any impact on neighbouring properties. It was noted.

A/21/92028/HH

The property was outside the Parish and the alterations would have no impact on the locality. However, members were encouraged to review it and, if they had strong views about it, to comment. The application was noted.

356 Bubblefest 2021

The Working Party had been holding meetings on a weekly basis since the last Council meeting and were due to meet on Tuesday and Thursday of the current week to tie up any loose ends, as the Bubblefest was due to take place on Saturday, 11 September. Notes of Working Party meetings had been kept.

It was reported that 1,855 out of 3,000 tickets had been sold via Eventbrite and approximately 10 stall holders had been booked.

Resolved: The Council approved the following:

- (a) the risk assessment;
- (b) the agreement with the LA that insurance cover for the event would be provided by Wigan Council, subject to the names of all volunteers being lodged with the management of Haigh Woodland Park;
- (c) Cllrs R Lawson and C Hatherall would be given temporary access to the Council's emails to enable them to deal with administrative matters relating to the event while the Clerk was on annual leave;
- (d) the Clerk would withdraw a float of £100 in a variety of coins from the bank;
- (e) the Clerk would reimburse members for expenditure on the provision of receipts;
- (f) all monies collected on the day would be counted and passed on to the Clerk by the project managers to check and bank;
- (g) the application form for potential stall holders;
- (h) potential stall holders would submit fees by BACS to the Parish Council's bank account;
- (i) the site plan agreed with the management of Haigh Woodland Park;
- (j) all other definitive decisions and actions taken by the Working Party in relation to the operations associated with the event.

357 Signage for Hall Lane

The number of horse users in the Parish had increased as a result of Wigan Council approving the construction of several new stable blocks in the past few years. A member had been approached by one of the stable owners on Hall Lane and had been asked whether the Parish Council could approach

Wigan Council about the possibility of putting up signs above and below the S bends to warn motorists that horses used the lane. There was no access through Haigh Woodland Park, so, to get on to Pendlebury and Sennicar Lanes, the horses had to negotiate the blind bends.

The issues were discussed. In particular, signage was needed in the vicinity of the roundabout at the junction of Wingates Road with Leyland Mill Lane and Hall Lane. Additional locations were suggested.

Resolved: A request would be sent to Wigan Council asking for the introduction of signs at appropriate locations.

Dist Cllr Flynn would submit a similar request.

358 Remembrance Sunday

At present the situation with respect to arrangements for Remembrance Sunday was unknown. The Parish Council agreed arrangements on the assumption that things would return to normal.

Resolved:

- (a) The arrangements for ordering, collecting and laying the wreath at the war memorial at Aspull on behalf of the residents of Haigh Parish on Remembrance Sunday, which this year would be on Sunday, 14 November, were approved: Mr John Hilton was to be asked to order a wreath for the Council, who would make a donation of £100 to the Royal British Legion. A decision about who would lay the wreath would be made at the meeting of the Council in October.
- (b) The Council agreed that Mr C Horridge would be commissioned to attach display poppies to lamp posts around the Parish. They would remain on display throughout November, after which they would be removed by the same contractor. The fee of £50 quoted for the work was approved.

359 Internal Audit Report 2020/21

The Annual Internal Audit had taken place on 23 June. The AIAR 2020/21, which formed part of the AGAR, was circulated and accepted and approved at the meeting in July. However, the detailed Internal Auditor's report for 2019/20 had been circulated in error. The correct report for 2020/21 was received at this meeting. There was one recommendation, which had been actioned.

Resolved: The Internal Audit Report 2020/21 was accepted and approved.

360 Budget Monitoring 2021/22

The budget monitoring report was received and discussed. It was reported that all cost centres were on line. The report was accepted.

361 Accounts 2021/22

Income: £nil

Expenditure

No	PAYEE	NARRATIVE	NET	VAT	PAYMENT
10	Employee No.1	Salary (July & Aug) (net)	£332.80	N/A	£332.80
11	HMRC	Tax (July & August)	£ 83.20	N/A	£ 83.20
12	Employee No.1	Mileage	£ 5.20	N/A	£ 5.20
13	Wigan Council	Small Lotteries fee	£ 20.00	N/A	£ 20.00
14	Employee No.1	Bubblefest float	£100.00	N/A	£100.00
Total:			£541.20	N/A	£541.20

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Resolved: The above items were approved for payment.

Balance at bank on 2 August 2021 = **£7,095.85**

Unpresented on 2 August 2021:

Heelis & Lodge = £58.00

TOTAL = £58.00

Estimated balance at the bank after the above expenditure and the unpresented item = **£6,496.65**

362 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported that she had invited the Duke of Edinburgh Award candidate to join the meeting to make a presentation to the Council about her project. Because of other family commitments this had not been possible. It was hoped that the presentation could be made to the meeting in October.

363 Date of Next Meeting

18 October 2021

Dist Cllr L Flynn left the meeting.

Enquiries about the availability of suitable local venues for face to face meetings had not resulted in identifying one. This was discussed. In the light of this the Council agreed to continue meeting virtually for the time being and monitor the situation.

The meeting closed at 8:05 pm

Chairman

