

**Minutes of Meeting of Haigh Parish Council
Held Monday 17 January 2022
6:30pm Virtual Meeting**

Present: Councillors Robert Lawson (Chairman), Roberta Darbyshire, Paul Kenyon, Andrew Wilson, Ian Parker and the Clerk, Mrs Krystyna Pilkington
Three members of the public.

404 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Anita Edwards-Hooson
Dist Cllrs Ronald Conway and Laura Flynn

The Chairman announced the resignation of Cllr Chris Hatherall with immediate effect. The matter was discussed later in the meeting.

405 Declaration of Interests

Cllr Paul Kenyon w.r.t. Item 409 – A/21/92629/MAJOR (personal & prejudicial)

Standing Orders were suspended.

406 Matters Introduced by Members of the Public

None

Standing orders were re-instated.

407 Minutes of the Meeting (6 December 2021)

Resolved: The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Monday, 6 December 2021 were agreed to be a true and correct record.

408 Matters Arising

Surplus Bubbling Equipment

Cllr Paul Kenyon reported that he had received the surplus bubbling equipment that the Parish Council had agreed should be donated to the Friends of the Cherries Community Garden.

Parish Newsletter

Members briefly discussed the future of the newsletter. As the Chairman hoped to be able to speak to Cllr Chris Hatherall in the near future, he would try to arrange a handover of articles.

409 Planning Applications

A/21/92629/MAJOR	Leyland Mills Leyland Mill Lane Wigan WN1 2SB	Residential development of 17 two and three storey detached dwellings with roof terraces,	<i>Representation objecting to the submitted – decision awaited</i>
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		landscaping, parking and associated works together with new access from Wingates Road and new pedestrian access from Leyland Mill Lane following demolition of former mill buildings	
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It was reported that there had been a Planning Portal crash at national level. The crash had been caused by a security issue and the ongoing unavailability of the system had caused considerable concern amongst local residents. More details about this could be found in the Clerk's Report. See Appendix A.

There were no new applications to consider.

Standing Orders were suspended.

A/21/90931/FULL

Residents present reported that, following the decision of Wigan Council to refuse the application for the stables, etc on the land north of Pendlebury Lane, the Planning Enforcement Officer had written to them to let them know that the agent for the applicant had confirmed to the Council that he had discussed matters with his client and that he had been instructed to prepare and submit an appeal against that decision.

Although the period within which an appeal could be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate was 6 months from the date of refusal, the agent had confirmed he hoped to submit the appeal before the middle of January 2022.

The agent had also confirmed that his client would:

1. in the event of the appeal being allowed, commence work on the development immediately. The stables would be built first and, as soon as the building had been completed, the two temporary buildings would be taken down and removed from the land, or
2. in the event of the appeal being dismissed, take down the two temporary buildings and remove everything from the site within 28 days of the Planning Inspectorate's decision.

The applicant considered a period of 28 days to be a reasonable time to find and secure alternative accommodation for his horses.

The Planning Enforcement Officer had contacted the agent and asked him to confirm that he was still aiming to submit the appeal by the middle of January, or soon thereafter. If the agent confirmed this, it was unlikely that it would be expedient and in the public interest for the Local Planning Authority (LPA) to take formal action with respect to the stable/field shelter and store currently on the land.

However, if no response was received from the agent or the appeal was no longer going ahead, or there was likely to be a delay in submitting the appeal,

it was likely that the LPA's view would change. In any of these cases a request for enforcement action to be taken would be forwarded to the Council's Legal Department for action to be commenced.

The matter was discussed briefly. The residents were asked to keep the Parish Council updated on the situation.

Standing Orders were re-instated.

410 Events 2022

After a short discussion it was agreed that the only event to be held in 2022 would be the Bubblefest with stalls similar to a village fete.

411 Meeting with Wigan Council Officers

The next meeting with Wigan Council's senior officers had been arranged for Tuesday, 22 February at 4pm. The Chairman advised the Council that it was possible that he might not be able to join the meeting. Members discussed possible agenda items.

Resolved: The following were agreed for inclusion on the agenda:

1. An update on Haigh Hall
2. Hall Lane – update on traffic management, litter, the proposed car park, the introduction of knee barriers, yellow lines, etc
3. Progress with outstanding actions from previous meetings - the Clerk would review the minutes of the past three or four meetings and track the actions of LA officers.

It was agreed that members would submit further suggestions for the agenda to the Clerk by Sunday, 23 January.

412 LG Boundary Commission Review of Wigan Council Ward Boundaries - Consultation

The Local Government Boundary Commission were currently undertaking a consultation on their proposals for ward boundary changes within the area covered by Wigan Council. Information could be found on the Commission's website.

Their proposals meant that the location of the boundary between Aspull and Standish wards would change, causing Haigh Parish to be divided between the two re-structured Wigan Council wards. This meant that Haigh Parish would itself have to be divided into two wards and would have to work with a different set of Wigan councillors in relation to each ward.

Four parish councillors would be elected to one of the two Parish wards and three to the other. The Clerk explained that Parish councillors did not have to live within the ward to which they were elected. They could live anywhere in the Parish or within 3 miles of the Parish boundary, if they lived outside the Parish.

The impact of the proposed boundary changes on the Parish was discussed at length.

Resolved: The Parish Council would submit a response to the consultation. In the response the Council would express an objection to a boundary change

that would result in the Parish being divided into two wards. The Council were of the view that this would result in creating divisions between residents and conflicts of interests between parish councillors

413 Accounts 2021/22

Income = **£nil**

Expenditure

No	PAYEE	NARRATIVE	NET	VAT	PAYMENT
37	Employee No.1	Dec & Jan salaries (net)	£332.80	N/A	£332.80
38	HMRC	Tax (Dec & Jan)	£ 83.20	N/A	£ 83.20
39	Employee No.1	Mileage	£ 5.20	N/A	£ 5.20
Total:			£421.20	N/A	£421.20

Resolved: The above items were approved for payment.

Balance at bank on 31 December 2021 = **£9,426.46**

Unpresented as at 17 January 2022:

Royal British Legion = £100.00

TOTAL = £100.00

Estimated balance at the bank after the above expenditure and unpresented item = **£8,870.26**

414 Budget & Precept 2022/23

The proposed budget and precept for 2022/23 were discussed. Due consideration was given to the reserves. It was reported that Wigan Council would once again be providing a Council Tax Support grant of £1,032.

Resolved: The Council approved a budgeted expenditure of £5,014 (including an expenditure contingency of £500) and set a precept of £3,478 for the financial year ending 31 March 2023. The total reserves were estimated to stand at £7,897 on 1 April 2022.

The precept was increased by a percentage higher than the rate of inflation because (without the Council Tax Support Grant) there was still a shortfall of expected income compared with expenditure.

415 Potential Future Projects

The Clerk reported that so far no suggestions had been received from residents for possible future projects in response to the Facebook page appeal.

The Parish Council considered several suggestions put forward by members.

Resolved: The Council agreed to look into the costs and feasibility of moving forward the following projects:

- The design and purchase of two Haigh Parish Council pop-up banners for use at events.
- The introduction of an enclosed notice board at the junction of Leyland Mill Lane and Hall Lane.
- The refurbishment of the wooden bench at Red Rock car park.

416 Text for Council Tax Letter

It was agreed that the Chairman would prepare a draft proposal for the text for the Council Tax letter and forward it to the Clerk for circulation to members and subsequent submission to Wigan Council.

417 Clerk's Report

The Clerk's report was received and its contents were noted.
See Appendix A.

418 Date of Next Meeting

14 March 2022

The Clerk advised that the meeting on 14 March would need to take place face to face. A member reported that St David's Parish Rooms were now open for bookings and that she was still a key holder. In view of this the Clerk would contact the bookings secretary to establish whether the Parish Hall could be booked for the meeting on 14 March.

The matter of Cllr Chris Hatherall's resignation was re-visited. The Clerk would inform Democratic Services.

The meeting closed at 8:10 pm

Chairman