

**Minutes of a Meeting of Haigh Parish Council
Held Monday 16 March 2020
6:30pm St David's Parish Rooms**

Present: Councillors R Lawson (Chairman), R Darbyshire, C Higham, A Goodman, I Parker and C Hatherall.

The Clerk, Mrs K Pilkington, was present for part of Item 145 and Item 146
Two members of the public.

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all those present.

143 Apologies for Absence

Cllr P Kenyon

144 Declaration of Interests

None.

Standing Orders were suspended.

145 Matters Introduced by Members of the Public

Toddington Farm Planning Application

Two members of the public reported that they had notified by Wigan Council that an appeal against Wigan Council's Enforcement Notice had been lodged by the owners of the wood chipping and storage business with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. Very few residents appeared to have received this letter. The appeal was on the grounds that planning permission should be granted and that the period to cease operations and remove wood from the site was shorter than should be reasonably allowed. The members of the public reported that operations were still continuing despite the enforcement notice. The Parish Council discussed how it could help local residents to respond and resolve the issue.

The Parish Clerk joined the meeting.

Standing Orders were re-instated.

Resolved: The two members of the public would provide a copy of the letter to other residents, asking them to forward comments to the Planning Inspectorate. The Parish Council would also send a comment. In addition the Parish Council would verify that Dist Cllr C Ready was aware of the appeal and highlight again that operations appeared to be continuing.

146 Minutes of the Last Ordinary Meeting (20 January 2020)

Resolved: The Minutes of the Last Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on Monday, 20 January 2020 were agreed to be a true and correct record.

The Parish Clerk left the meeting.

147 Matters Arising

Traffic on the B5329

Cllr C Higham provided an update on the effectiveness of the traffic calming measures introduced along the B5329. Since the start of the year at least three vehicles had left the road in either the calmed area or the area where the national speed limit applied. The general feeling was that further measures were required and Cllr Higham intended to write to Wigan Council to provide this feedback. The Council proposed to conduct a new speed survey in Spring and this would also be highlighted.

Haigh Woodland Park Stakeholder Meeting

No further communications had been received by parish councillors or residents following the submission of the Heritage Lottery bid at Stage One. It was noted that Wigan Council had since been successful with its bid at this Stage and would be going forward to Stage Two. It was vital that Haigh Parish Council and residents were involved closely in plans as they were developed.

INNS

Following action agreed in the recent meeting with Wigan Council officers, Cllr P Kenyon was liaising with Ian Sayer of Wigan Council with the aim of both councils working together to help eradicate balsam around the Haigh Estate. Wigan Council had also promised to provide mapping information on the locations of Japanese knotweed in the parish.

Haigh Sawmill

Cllr I Parker highlighted that over many years Haigh Sawmill had lost some of its listed features. The reported that the remoteness of some protected buildings could make it difficult to notice when unapproved changes had been made to them.

148 Bubblefest

Emma of ebubblio was unable to attend due to coronavirus restrictions.

Cllr C Hatherall would identify other ideas for the event. These would be used to produce a location plan and delegate responsibilities. Friends of Haigh Woodland Park had indicated they would like to support the Parish Council's events this year.

149 VE Day Celebrations

Resolved: This event would be postponed due to the current Covid-19 situation. It would be re-arranged when celebrating VE Day was back on the national agenda.

150 Parish Council Newsletter

Resolved: Haigh Parish Council would produce a newsletter before May 2020.

The aim would be to issue the first one over Easter, comprising of two sides of A4 in black and white. The newsletter would be available online and would be hand-delivered to residents by parish councillors. Ideas for content were

discussed and, in addition to current focus areas, would include a Haigh photography competition, historic Haigh photos, and how to help isolated people in the parish. Councillors would draft content items and send these to Cllr C Hatherall for editing.

The lack of engagement on social media sites was also discussed. As agreed at a previous meeting, a contact of Cllr P Kenyon would be approached to help develop and maintain the Parish Council's Facebook and other social media sites.

151 Planning Applications

A/19/87674/FULL	Grazing land northeast of The Alms Houses, Hall Lane, Wigan	To construct new menage with stables	Approved with conditions <i>(the large number of conditions were noted)</i>
A/19/88335/HH	1 Samuels Fold, Pendlebury Lane, Haigh	To extend dwelling house single storey to side with detached garage (re-submission of A/19/87937/HH)	Approved with conditions <i>(noted)</i>
A/20/88543/RET	Rothwells Stud, Sennicar Lane, Wigan	Application for an agricultural storage building for machinery, hay and straw (retrospective application)	Noted
A/20/88481/FUL	Agricultural Land South of Mowpin Lodge New Road Haigh Aspull Wigan	Erection of stable building and hardstanding area for parking	Members had not seen the plans for this application and so were encouraged to review these and report any concerns

152 Re-Designation of Standish Voice as a Neighbourhood Forum - Consultation

Resolved: Haigh Parish Council agreed to support this application.

153 Parish Plan

Resolved: The Parish Council agreed that the summary Parish Plan would not be expanded in detail until feedback had been sought from parishioners via the newsletter and Facebook.

154 Meeting with Wigan Council Officers - Feedback

Minutes of the meeting had been prepared by Wigan Council's Democratic Services staff and had been previously circulated.

Members were encouraged by the open dialogue with Wigan Council. However, they were agreed that it was vital that all of the Council's actions were followed through.

The following subjects were discussed with Wigan Council officers:

The future of Haigh Hall: because of the legal proceedings being currently undertaken over the lease relating to the Hall it was difficult to engage with interested parties at the present time.

Haigh Woodland Park Phase II: it had been recorded in Wigan Council's minutes of the meeting that the Director of Environment had stated that the parking on Hall Lane was not in the definitive plan for Phase II of Haigh Woodland Park. It was agreed that clarification would be sought on this as the parking appeared to be in the plans shared with stakeholders and residents.

Environmental Concerns: there had been a directive from Central Government that there should be further building within Greater Manchester, but since the meeting it had been confirmed that there was nothing in the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework that impacted on Haigh Parish. Issues with INNS and ways of eradicating them were discussed. The Director of Environment agreed to make arrangements for the programme for INNS eradication to be sent to the Parish Council. In addition Chorley Council's training plan would be forwarded to the Parish Council. The Director of Environment would also look into the problems, as reported to the meeting, in relation to the boating lake area at Haigh Woodland Park, Beech trees, flooding and the bottom wood, which was used for bike scrambling and plans for the dam.

Agricultural Diversification: the possibility of grazing pigs within Haigh Woodland Park was discussed.

Traffic Management: the Parish Council requested help with outstanding traffic issues, which included the reduction of the speed limit within Haigh Country Park, new road markings and cats' eyes. Reference was made to problems with vehicles ploughing through hedges at least once a month along some stretches of the B5329, with there having been three fatalities in the last five years. It was agreed that (a) officers would be requested to work with the Parish Council in looking at statistical intelligence for road accidents, (b) officers would be requested to look at traffic measures for the Haigh Estate access road and report back to the Parish Councillors accordingly.

Public Rights of Way: the Parish Council had expressed concern that the residents appeared to know more detail about the Public Rights of Way Orders in the area than Wigan Council and had noted that all of these would have to be registered by 2026. The Assistant Director - Corporate Contracts and Assets had agreed to arrange for the Rights of Way Officer to update the Parish Council on those that would need to be registered by 2026 and to prepare a briefing note on the Public Rights of Way within Haigh Country Park and to discuss any work that was needed with the Parish Council accordingly. Following a request from a Parish Councillor the LA's Grounds Maintenance team would be asked to look into the maintenance of trees along the Whelley Loop Line.

How Can Haigh Parish Council Be More Effective as a Parish Council?: members had asked about improving ways of working with Wigan Council, as on occasions they felt a little isolated. Democratic Services had earlier during the municipal year provided an induction process for all new parish councillors

and would in the future provide opportunities for parish councillors to attend other training seminars. The consensus of the meeting had been that more meetings should be held between the parish councils and Wigan Council officers. In the light of this quarterly meetings would be considered and since the meeting the following dates had been put forward for the Parish Council's consideration:

28th May - 13:00

27th August - 10:00

24th November - 13:00

Resolved: As at least two representatives would be able to attend on each of the above meeting dates suggested by Wigan Council officers, the dates were agreed.

155 Public Rights of Way

At the request of the Parish Council the Rights of Way Officer at Wigan Council had advised that information regarding public rights of way could be found on the map page on the Council's external website, which could be accessed via the following link: www.wigan.gov.uk/publicrightsofwaymap

In addition to the above information there had been a suggestion that a meeting be arranged to discuss the detail further. It was noted that, if the meeting was to address public rights of way issues with others present, then this would need to be arranged when the Highways Asset Manager was available. As he was due to be on annual leave in the near future, this would have to take place in April.

Cllr P Kenyon had provided an email with supporting information in relation to issues with some of the public rights of way in the Parish. The Parish Council would endeavour to make sure key experts were involved in making sure the all rights of way are identified and fully documented. Included amongst them would be 'Better Haigh', Aspull & Haigh Historical Society, local history experts and residents.

156 Accounts 2019/20

Income = £nil

Expenditure

No	PAYEE	NARRATIVE	NET	VAT	PAYMENT
35	St David's H&A PCC	Room rent (March)	£ 20.00	N/A	£ 20.00
36	Employee No.1	Salary (Feb & March)	£323.56	N/A	£323.56
37	Employee No.1	Mileage	£ 5.20	N/A	£ 5.20
38	HMRC	Tax (Feb & March)	£ 81.00	N/A	£ 81.00
39	Cultivate Creative	Logo	£187.50	£37.50	£225.00
40	CPRE	Annual subscription	£ 40.00	N/A	£ 40.00
1	LALC/NALC	Annual subscription	£186.53	N/A	£186.53
Total:			£843.79	£37.50	£881.29

Resolved: The above items were approved for payment.

Balance at bank on 31 January 2020 = **£4,993.03**

The following prior payments had not been presented by 31 January 2020:
St David's Haigh & Aspull PCC = £20.00 (Rent)
Heelis & Lodge = £65 (Internal Audit)
Total = £85.00

Estimated balance at bank after the subtraction of the above expenditure and unrepresented prior payments = **£4,026.74**

The LALC/NALC subscription related to 2020/21.

157 Quarterly Budget Monitoring 2019/20

The previously circulated document was reviewed and discussed. Most cost centres were on line. However, the 'Community Engagement' cost centre was showing a small overspend.

Resolved: A virement of £38 from the 'Contingency' cost centre to the 'Community Engagement' cost centre to cover the amount overspent under this heading was approved.

158 Budget Out-Turn 2019/20

Resolved: The Budget Out-Turn for 2019/20 was approved.

159 Text for Council Tax Letter

Resolved: The following statement which had been included on the 2020 Council Tax letter to residents was approved retrospectively:

"For 2020/21 we have approved an increase in the precept from £2,000 to £2,400 to cover some more of the increased costs over recent years in running Haigh Parish Council. This equates to an average increase of less than £1.40 across all properties."

160 Clerk's Report

The Clerk's report was received. See Appendix A.

161 Dates of Next Meetings

11 May 2020
Annual Parish Meeting at 6:30pm;
Annual Meeting of the Council at 7pm;
Ordinary Meeting of the Council at 7:10pm

In view of the Covid-19 crisis, it was suggested that Wigan Council be asked whether it would be possible to hold the next meetings during office hours at the Town Hall via telephone conference.

The meeting closed at 8:30 pm

Chairman