

**Minutes of a Meeting of Haigh Parish Council  
Held Monday 18 January 2021  
6:30pm Virtual Meeting**

**Present:** Councillors R Lawson (Chairman), R Darbyshire, A Goodman, P Kenyon, C Hatherall, and I Parker and the Clerk, Mrs K Pilkington  
Dist Cllrs C Ready and R Conway  
Three members of the public

**258 Apologies for Absence**

None

**259 Declaration of Interests**

Cllr R Lawson w.r.t. Item 265 (personal)

Items 261 and 265 were taken before Item 260 in that order.

**260 Casual Vacancy**

The Clerk reported that, as required by law, the Elections Officer at Wigan Council was notified of former Cllr Colin Higham's resignation after the meeting in December. The casual vacancy was advertised immediately and the Elections Officer had informed the Parish Council that there had been no requests from residents for an election by the deadline of 30 December 2020. In view of this the Council could now co-opt a new member.

The Casual Vacancies Procedure and the standard advertisement that had been used in the past had been previously circulated. Members discussed the way forward.

**Resolved:** The intention to co-opt a councillor would be advertised on the website, on Facebook and on the notice boards. The deadline for applications would be approximately a month before the next Council meeting. Informal interviews would be held virtually.

Standing Orders were suspended.

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

A resident raised issues of concern relating to traffic and parking of vehicles in Hall Lane. These were discussed at length under Item 265.

Standing Orders were reinstated.

**262 Minutes of the Meeting (7 December 2020)**

Amendment to Minute 248:

'.....and would review the dates again in May.' in the resolution should read  
'.....and they would be reviewed again in the new year.'

**Resolved:** Subject to the above amendment, the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Monday, 7 December 2020 were agreed as a true and correct record.

## 263 Matters Arising

All matters arising were on the agenda.

## 264 Planning Applications

|                        |   |  |                                     |
|------------------------|---|--|-------------------------------------|
| <b>A/20/90485/FULL</b> | <b>Red Rock Lodge,<br/>Red Rock Lane,<br/>Haigh</b> | <b>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</b> | <b>Representation made</b>          |
| <b>A/20/90298/CON</b>  | Silverwood,<br>Sennicar Lane,<br>Haigh              | Condition discharge application to discharge condition 4 of A/20/88822/HH  | Noted                               |
| <b>A/20/90248/LB</b>   | Brock Mill House<br>Wingates Road<br>Wigan          | Listed building consent for a single storey rear extension   | To be discussed at the next meeting |

### **A/20/90485/FULL: Red Rock Lodge**

Members observed that Red Rock Lodge was actually in School Lane, **not** Red Rock Lane – the incorrect address had been posted on the Planning Department’s website. The application was discussed. The Council had concerns about whether the owners had the legal right to make the changes they wished to make to the car parking facility and about the impact that the parking of additional cars at the site would have on what is a dangerous bend. The Clerk was asked to forward these concerns in a representation to the Planning Department.

### **Rothwell Stud**

Cllr R Lawson had looked into the planning consent given approximately three years ago for a four bedroomed house to be built on the site. Documents relating to this had been circulated to members for information. The house had never been built and it was reported that the only signs of any attempt to build it was a hole in the ground, which, it seemed, was sufficient to meet the conditions of the planning consent. The land in question was now being advertised as being for sale with outline planning permission for £1.5m.

The matter was discussed. Cllr R Lawson would prepare a letter of concern - to which other members could make additions - to forward to the Planning Department at Wigan Council.

Standing Orders were suspended.

## **265 Traffic & Parking in Hall Lane**

A resident reported that since the beginning of the pandemic Hall Lane had become increasingly popular with both Wigan residents and tourists as an area to visit to take exercise. As a result it had become very much busier than it had been in the past, particularly at weekends, when issues were exacerbated. Unfortunately, visitors to the area were not always very considerate to others when driving and with respect to the manner in which they parked their vehicles. The resident wondered whether it would be possible to introduce restrictions to manage the situation.

The Chairman confirmed that the resident was not alone in his views. They were shared by other residents of Hall Lane. The area was not only being well used for exercise but also to provide a free parking facility for visitors to Haigh Woodland Park. Inconsiderate parking frequently created obstructions for moving traffic, including emergency vehicles, trying to navigate the road.

Cllr R Darbyshire joined the meeting.

Two weeks ago another resident had sent an email to Inspiring Healthy Lifestyles to express their concerns and to ask whether something could be done to address the situation.

A discussion followed and Dist Cllrs C Ready and R Conway were invited to update the Council on any proposals for dealing with the issues. Dist Cllr Ready reported that plans for increasing formal car parking provision at Haigh Woodland Park and putting parking restrictions in place elsewhere in the area were being considered. Residents of Hall Lane would need to be consulted about the way forward. The Council would introduce traffic measures along this unadopted road, if that was what the residents wanted.

In reply to a question from a member about proposals for the introduction of signage stating that Hall Lane was for use by residents only, Dist Cllr Ready observed that it might be possible to go ahead with this without waiting for the outcome of a consultation.

Dist Cllrs C Ready and R Conway left the meeting.

Standing Orders were reinstated.

## **266 PROWs**

An appeal made on Facebook for information about old footpaths in the Parish had generated several responses either through Facebook or via email to the Clerk. It was reported that some of the emails that had been received had not provided any new information. However, Cllr I Parker had been able to make a few additions to the map from the information he had received from a variety of sources. He recommended that the map should be passed on to Wigan Council, who should be asked to verify them and add them to the national plan.

The Council discussed the way forward. The next meeting with Wigan Council's senior officers was due take place virtually on 22 February. Cllr Parker would endeavour to have the map ready for that meeting.

A member referred to an offer (received via Facebook) from a resident to provide details of walks in the Parish. The Clerk reported that, as she had not yet received the information, she was not yet in a position to comment on the

nature of the information or how useful it was. It was discussed briefly and the Clerk was asked to circulate it once it had arrived and been processed.

## **267 Planning for Events 2021**

As agreed in December, Keith Bergman of Inspiring Healthy Lifestyles had been advised that the event planned for May might not go ahead. In view of the ever-changing scenario in relation to Covid, the situation was reviewed.

**Resolved:** The Council agreed to cancel the date in May and to combine the Bubblefest planned for September with the Village Fete originally planned for May.

Cllr C Hatherall agreed to contact the bubblers to establish their availability.

## **268 Parish Newsletter**

The first edition of the Parish newsletter had been delivered to all homes in hard copy. The Clerk had received a small number of requests from residents for either copies to be emailed to them or for hard copies to be delivered to their homes.

Members had received positive comments about the newsletter and exchanged suggestions from residents about the nature of future content. The frequency of future newsletters was discussed. The Clerk reported that she had received only positive feedback and residents were anticipating that editions would be published more frequently than once a year.

It was agreed that a second edition would perhaps be published in late Spring.

## **269 Meeting with Wigan Council Officers**

Members considered topics they wished to discuss with Wigan Council's senior officers.

**Resolved:** The following topics for discussion were agreed:

1. Parking in Hall Lane
2. Phase Two of the HLF Bid for Haigh Woodland Park
3. Haigh Hall Update
4. Public Rights of Way in Haigh
5. The Future of Leyland Mill
6. INNS (particularly floating pennywort on the canal)

A member reported that the Canal & River Trust had started work on clearing floating pennywort from the stretch of the Leeds - Liverpool canal in the Haigh area. The pennywort was supposed to have been disposed of in a suitable location. However, several concerns had been raised by local residents about the manner in which the operations were being carried out.

When speaking to the members of the workforce residents had established that they lacked training and understanding about the plant they were dealing with. Far more problematic was the fact that they had been removing it from the canal and disposing of it in the ponds which lay alongside the canal on Haigh Hall golf course. (The member had recently confirmed for himself that there were piles of pennywort on the golf course.). As only a tiny fragment of this weed

could irreversibly damage freshwater habitats, this was a matter of great concern and needed to be discussed with the Council officers at the meeting.

All members confirmed that they would be able to join the meeting.

## 270 Accounts 2020/21

**Income: £nil**

**Expenditure**

| No | PAYEE            | NARRATIVE                | NET            | VAT        | PAYMENT        |
|----|------------------|--------------------------|----------------|------------|----------------|
| 18 | Employee No.1    | Salary (Dec & Jan) (net) | £332.80        | N/A        | £332.80        |
| 19 | HMRC             | Tax (Dec & Jan)          | £ 84.43        | N/A        | £ 84.43        |
| 20 | Cllr C Hatherall | Printing of newsletter   | £ 92.06        | N/A        | £ 92.06        |
|    | <b>Total:</b>    |                          | <b>£509.29</b> | <b>N/A</b> | <b>£509.29</b> |

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

Balance at bank on 31 December 2020 = **£5,298.42**

The following prior payment had not been presented as at 31 December 2020:

HMRC = £41.60

**TOTAL = £41.60**

Estimated Balance at the bank after the above expenditure and unrepresented prior payment = **£4,747.53**

## 271 Budget 2021/22 Preparation

The proposed budget and precept for FY2021 were discussed. The reserves were considered.

**Resolved:** The Council approved a budgeted expenditure of £4,440 (including an expenditure contingency of £500) and set a precept of £2,880 for the financial year ending 31 March 2022. The total reserves were estimated to stand at £3,303 on 1 April 2021.

## 272 Text for Council Tax Letter

**Resolved:** It was agreed that the Chairman would prepare a short statement to include in the Council Tax letter and forward it to the Clerk for submission to Wigan Council.

## 273 Clerk's Report

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

### **Graffiti on Canal Bridge in Sennicar Lane**

The Clerk reported that just before the beginning of this meeting she had received an email from the resident who had reported the graffiti on the canal bridge in Sennicar Lane. The resident had observed when out walking that the panels of the bridge had been painted and the graffiti was no longer visible.

### **Speeding Traffic - Haigh Estate**

The Council noted that IHL had committed – in their response to the Parish Council's letter - to reinstate any yellow pyramid 'speed bump' markers on the Haigh estate. It was observed that they would need to be kept to that commitment.

### **Widening of Wingates Road**

It was reported that the residents who had raised concerns about the possibility that Wingates Road was to be widened had done so because they had witnessed Wigan Council employees cutting back the grass verges along the road.

### **Bridge 63**

In response to a query about what was happening with Bridge 63 it was agreed that, as a couple of years had gone by since this was last discussed, it would be an agenda item at a future meeting.

## **274 Date of Next Meeting**

15 March 2021 at 6:30pm

The meeting closed at 8:10 pm

**Chairman**