

**Minutes of a Meeting of Haigh Parish Council
Held Monday 19 October 2020
6:30pm Virtual Meeting**

Present: Councillors R Lawson (Chairman), R Darbyshire, A Goodman, P Kenyon, I Parker and the Clerk, Mrs K Pilkington.
No members of the public.

218 Apologies for Absence

Cllrs C Hatherall and C Higham
Dist Cllrs R Conway and C Ready

219 Declaration of Interests

None.

220 PROW Through Haigh Woodland Park

This item was taken after Item 221.

The Chairman reported that he had a discussion with Ms Julie Taylor of the Friends of Haigh Hall Heritage and Open Access for All (FOHHHOA) about the group's application for the footpath through the Woodland Park from the Plantation Gates to the main driveway of Haigh Hall to be recognised as a Public Right of Way (PROW). Ms Taylor provided some background to the application which the Chairman summarised in the meeting.

The application had been submitted before lockdown and was currently with Wigan Council.

The steering group had hoped that discussion with Wigan Council would resume after lockdown, but the second Covid wave had disrupted this. The application had been submitted as a bridleway route to allow access to cyclists, but it was recognised that the Woodland Park management did not currently permit horses within the perimeters of this area.

The issues surrounding the designation of a footpath as a PROW were discussed. The experience of FOHHHOA in preparing and submitting an application for a route to be recognised as a PROW was time-consuming and involved a great deal of work, which included gathering many witness statements, detailed evidence, and obtaining a letter from Lord Crawford.

Although the deadline for registering footpaths as PROWs would fall in 2026, there was a backlog of applications with Wigan Council which would take several years to process. There may not be sufficient time for all the footpaths in the Parish to be recognised. The Council needed to be more pro-active, if they wanted to achieve this goal by that date.

It was observed that the Parish Council and FOHHHOA had a common interest in considering all the footpaths in Haigh for recognition as PROWs. Ms Taylor had suggested that it might be more efficient to work together to formulate and submit a single overall plan for other PROWs in the estate and the wider Parish. It was agreed that Cllr I Parker would contact Mr Graham Lowton, who had a lifelong interest in the footpaths of the Parish, to seek his views on which

footpaths needed to be recognised as PROWs. He would subsequently work with Ms Taylor on this after being introduced by the Chairman. The possibility of grouping PROW applications or streamlining the process would be discussed at the meeting with Wigan Council officers in November.

221 Matters Introduced by Members of the Public

None

222 Minutes of the Meeting (7 September 2020)

Resolved: The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Monday, 7 September 2020 were agreed as a true and correct record.

223 Matters Arising

Speeding Issues

Cllr C Higham had written again to Wigan Council about the traffic issues along the B5239. The email to the LA had been circulated to members.

In his email Cllr Higham had pointed out that after the lock down situation it appeared that traffic volumes were back up to their normal levels with extensive queues at the canal bridge at 'rush hours'. During the lock down periods the volumes were much lighter, but that had only led to some drivers using the area as a racetrack. That practise was continuing at weekends and during quieter periods.

Accidents had continued to happen, the most serious being at the end of June with a multi-car smash at the bend of Riley Lane with a car ending up in the field on its roof.

Some new yellow foam-type signs had been installed on the approach to Riley Lane from Aspull. These might prove helpful, but the signs that were installed from the Red Rock end in 2019 had now all disappeared. They had acted as a temporary improvement and Cllr Higham had suggested that something more permanent should be installed.

In his email he had observed that some stronger measures needed to be employed. On entry into Bolton MBC territory the speed limit changed to 30mph in Little Scotland and at the Bolton Rd/Dickenson Lane border of Aspull speed indication lights had been introduced.

At a meeting earlier in the year with senior Wigan Council officers the Director of Environment had suggested that perhaps speed cameras could be introduced. This was something that the community would strongly support and have been requesting for some time, particularly on Red Rock Lane and Riley Lane. A deterrent was urgently required.

Cllr Higham had included the suggestion of introducing speed cameras in his email and had asked for a reply in good time for the Parish Council's meeting with senior Wigan Council officers in November.

A Better Haigh

Cllr A Goodman had left a message on A Better Haigh's Facebook page to let the group know that the Parish Council were looking at making improvements in Haigh. The comments she had received had been very supportive.

Clerk's Actions

These had been summarised in the Clerk's Report. See Appendix A

Facebook Page

An update on progress with the development of the Facebook page could be found within the Clerk's Report. See Appendix A

224 Planning Applications

There were no new planning applications to bring to the Council's attention.

The Chairman had prepared responses to the Planning for the Future consultation. These had been circulated to members for comment and had then been submitted to NALC before the deadline.

Resolved: The Council approved the responses to the consultation retrospectively.

225 Dates of Events to be Held at Haigh Woodland Park

Inspiring Healthy Lifestyles had indicated that they would be happy to host both the Bubblefest in September and a Parish Fete in May, subject to Covid regulations permitting and provided that there were no financial or staffing implications for IHL. They had also forwarded the relevant booking form, which included a risk matrix.

Resolved: The Council agreed to book the walled garden at Haigh Woodland Park on the following dates: Monday, 31 May for the Fete and Saturday, 11 September for the Bubblefest.

226 Concert 2021

The Council discussed the possibility of arranging a concert in 2021. Members recognised it as a good idea, but at present the Council did not have a theme for next year. In view of the many unknowns in relation to the Covid crisis, members were of the view that arranging an indoor event would be too risky.

227 Meeting with Wigan Council Officers

A virtual meeting with Wigan Council officers had been arranged for 24 November at 1pm. The meeting would take place via Teams. Members had been invited to agree subjects for discussion, which would be submitted to Wigan Council prior to the meeting.

Resolved: The following were agreed as subjects for discussion:

- Speeding Issues
- Progress with Haigh Hall
- Update on Phase II HLF Funding bid

- Recognition of Footpaths in the Area as PROWs and How the Parish Council Could Work with Wigan Council and Other Groups to Achieve This
- INNS Map of the Whole of Haigh Parish

Cllrs R Lawson, R Darbyshire, P Kenyon and I Parker would be able to join the meeting.

228 Complaints Procedure

The previously circulated proposed Complaints Procedure was discussed.

Resolved: The Complaints Procedure was adopted.

229 Community Engagement Strategy

The Community Engagement Strategy had been updated to incorporate social media policy. The updated draft had been circulated previously and the changes were discussed.

Resolved: The revised Community Engagement Strategy was approved.

230 Parish Newsletter

As Cllr C Hatherall was unable to be present at the meeting, he had agreed to circulate the updated draft of the newsletter and potential printing costs to members later during the week. He would also be asking for volunteers to distribute it to addresses in Haigh Parish. Members noted this information.

231 Asset Register 2020-21

The updated Asset Register for 2020/21 was reviewed. There had been no changes.

Resolved: The Asset Register 2020-21 was approved.

232 Remembrance Sunday

- (a) Remembrance Sunday this year would be on 8 November. Wigan Council had circulated information informing all organisations that there would be no Service at Aspull and no formal Act of Remembrance at the Cenotaph. However, there would be opportunities throughout the day for the Chairman or another representative of the Parish Council to lay a wreath, which had been ordered. Arrangements were discussed.

Resolved: Cllr R Darbyshire would collect the wreath from Dist Cllr J Hilton and lay it on behalf of the Parish Council on 8 November. Arrangements for the collection of the wreath would be made by the Clerk.

Resolved: The Council approved a donation of £100 to the Royal British Legion for the wreath.

- (b) As Wigan Council were not permitting the practice of attaching plastic poppies to lamp standards in 2020, the displays would not go ahead this year.

233 Accounts 2020/21

Income: £nil

Expenditure

| No | PAYEE | NARRATIVE | NET | VAT | PAYMENT |
|---------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|
| 11 | Employee No.1 | Salary (Sept & Oct) (net) | £355.60 | N/A | £355.60 |
| 12 | HMRC | Tax (Sept & Oct) | £ 89.00 | N/A | £ 89.00 |
| 13 | Employee No.1 | Lanyards Tomorrow | £ 6.73 | £1.35 | £ 8.08 |
| 14 | Royal British Legion | Donation for wreath | £100.00 | N/A | £100.00 |
| 15 | Employee No.1 | | £ 20.00 | N/A | £ 20.00 |
| Total: | | | £571.33 | £1.35 | £572.68 |

Resolved: The above items were approved for payment.

Balance at bank on 2 October 2020 = **£6,224.03**

The following prior payment had not been presented as at 2 October 2020:

LALC/NALC (annual subscription) = £186.53

TOTAL = £186.53

Estimated Balance at bank after the above expenditure and unrepresented prior payment = **£5,464.82**

234 Clerk's Report

The Clerk's report was received. See Appendix A

235 Finance Workshop

Information about a Finance Workshop to be held virtually via Zoom was received and noted.

236 Dates of Meetings 2021

Resolved: The dates of meetings for 2021 were approved.

237 Date of Next Meeting

7 December at 6:30pm

The meeting closed at 7:50 pm

Chairman