

**Minutes of a Meeting of Haigh Parish Council  
Held Monday 2 December 2019  
6:30pm St David's Parish Rooms**

**Present:** Councillors R Lawson (Chairman), R Darbyshire, C Hatherall, C Higham and the Clerk, Mrs K Pilkington.

Two members of the public.

Mr D Kearsley of Wigan Council's Planning Department was present during Items 103 – 105.

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all those present.

**103 Apologies for Absence**

Cllrs I Parker and P Kenyon

**104 Declaration of Interests**

None.

*Standing Orders were suspended.*

**105 Neighbourhood Planning**

The Chairman introduced Mr D Kearsley of Wigan Council's Planning Department who was attending the meeting in order to open discussions about the possibility of a Neighbourhood Plan being adopted for Haigh Parish.

Mr Kearsley gave a brief outline of the Neighbourhood Plan process and provided the members with an opportunity to suggest how the Parish could benefit from the adoption of a Plan.

Since the introduction of the concept following the 2011 Localism Act in excess of 1,000 Neighbourhood Plans had been adopted countrywide. The Standish NP was the first one to be adopted in the Borough and also the first in Greater Manchester. The process had taken four years to complete and the Plan had been approved earlier this year.

Neighbourhood Plans were development plans and could only deal with planning matters. If adopted, they became part of a principal authority's Local Plan and had to be consulted every time a planning application was submitted for the area. NPs had to go through a legal process prior to adoption. They were inspected independently and had to meet specific criteria. They could not be in conflict with the strategic policies in the LDP.

Where a parish council existed it was the neighbourhood forum for NP purposes. The boundaries for the NP were automatically the same as those of the parish and could not be altered. The NP group was a different group to the parish council and other people could be invited to join it. During the process of preparing a NP residents were consulted over the things that would be included in the Plan.

There were many layers of protection for Haigh Parish, eg the conservation area, green belt, etc. Housing development was a low risk issue. A Neighbourhood Plan might be the answer if the Parish Council wished to

encourage development of the economy. The LA had a duty to assist the Parish with the different stages of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan.

The project was discussed. All members would prepare lists of their expectations of a Neighbourhood Plan and the subject would be an agenda item at a future meeting.

*Mr Kearsley was thanked for attending and left the meeting.*

## **106 Matters Introduced by Members of the Public**

### **Greenfield Farm**

A resident reported that he had been keeping a diary of the activities at Greenfield Farm, where fires had been burning regularly for two years. The thick and toxic black smoke was affecting everyone living and working in the neighbourhood. The situation had become progressively worse, with skip wagons arriving and leaving almost on a daily basis.

The owners of the farm were ostensibly operating a re-cycling business. The mound on the property was enlarging. There were suggestions that it was effectively a landfill situation, but there was no evidence as to whether planning permission for it had been sought and received. Anything that could not go into the mound was burnt. The fires frequently burnt for as long as 17 hours.

The resident had contacted Dist Cllr Chris Ready about it earlier that day. He had been in touch many times with the Environment Agency and had reported the fires to them on each occasion that they were burning. There had been 14 fires in the previous 21 days, including over weekends. An officer of the EA had been designated to deal with the issue and two officers would be paying a surprise visit to the farm in the ensuing few days. The resident had established that there was no permit for any activity on that site.

### **Morris Fold Farm**

Another resident reported that similar activities were taking place at Morris Fold Farm in Higher Lane, Aspull. The mounds beings created there were growing, but there were also concerns amongst residents that their contents could potentially be contaminating the stream. The resident was referred to the Environment Agency and advised how to go about complaining.

### **Toddington Farm**

A resident reported that there were rumours that planning permission had been refused, but, as there was nothing showing on the Planning Department website, this could just be local speculation.

### **B5329**

It was reported that no measures were being introduced to control traffic or speed along the stretch of the road where there had recently been one fatality and several near misses. Residents had been told that they would have to keep the hedges pruned themselves. However, the 40 mph speed limit along the stretch for which it had been agreed should be in place before Christmas and the situation would continue to be monitored.

### **Clean Air Officer**

It was reported that a Clean Air Officer had recently been appointed for the Borough.

*Standing Orders were re-instated.*

## 107 Minutes of the Last Ordinary Meeting (21 October 2019)

**Resolved:** The Minutes of the Last Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on Monday, 21 October 2019 were agreed to be a true and correct record.

## 108 Matters Arising

### Traffic on the B5239

Cllr Higham reported that most of what he had been going to report had been covered under Item 106 and his email exchanges had been circulated.

### Parish Council Benches

Cllr Higham had cleared the overgrowth away from the wooden bench in Red Rock Lane. When doing so he had noted that the bench was in poor condition. He asked the Clerk to provide him with the locations of the other benches, so that he could check their condition.

### Haigh Woodland Park Phase II

The Chairman had attended the consultation session for residents and reported that an initial enquiry was being submitted by the LA to the relevant Lottery grant funding stream. There had been many objections to the introduction of the car park at the top of Hall Lane and the LA had been taken aback by this.

### Pavement Clearing

Cllr Higham reported that a good stretch of Red Rock Lane had been cleared by three residents during the recent session. Another session with a view to finishing the work off would be held from 9am till 11am on Sunday, 8 December, weather permitting.

### Footpaths

Cllr Higham reported that he had not found any maps of the footpaths, but they were all online. He had been in touch with a local historian and was of the view that a book containing suggested walks with associated historical information could be written and published.

## 109 Planning Applications

A/19/86710/RET	Toddington Farm, Toddington Lane, Haigh	Change of Use of land to commercial wood storage and wood chipping	Representation submitted <i>(decision awaited)</i>
A/19/87674/FULL	Grazing land northeast of The Alms Houses, Hall Lane, Wigan	To construct new menage with stables	Representation submitted <i>(decision awaited)</i>
A/19/86882/FULL	Woodland south west of Hanfield, Hall Lane, Wigan	Construction of equestrian menage with the erection of 5 stables, hay barn, tack room, toilet and septic tank	Application withdrawn <i>(noted)</i>
A/19/88156/ADVLA	Highway verge junction of School Lane	To retain two free standing signs	Noted

	with Meadow Pit Lane, Haigh		
--	-----------------------------	--	--

To date there have been no replies to any of the correspondence sent to the LA in relation both to specific planning applications and concerns about the reliability and completeness of information on the Planning website.

#### **110 Community Engagement Strategy**

The proposed Community Engagement Strategy was circulated and discussed.

**Resolved:** The Community Engagement Strategy was adopted.

Cllr C Hatherall agreed to

- (a) prepare a newsletter / Annual Report and
- (b) create an e-questionnaire that would be placed on Google Drive with links to the Facebook page and the website.

#### **111 Parish Council Logo**

Previously circulated designs for the new logo were considered.

**Resolved:** The Council agreed the following:

- (a) the preferred option was Concept 4 (modern) – left hand side
- (b) 'aigh' to be in lower case and a line to be inserted below the word 'Haigh' and above 'PARISH COUNCIL'
- (c) the motif should be white on a green background
- (d) they would like the logo to be in a format where the colour could be adapted by the Parish Council.

#### **112 Availability of Haigh Woodland Park for Events in 2020**

Cllrs R Lawson and C Hatherall had met with Mr K Bergman of Inspiring Healthy Lifestyles to discuss ideas and dates for Parish Council events to take place in Haigh Woodland Park in 2020. Mr Bergman was willing to support a Dragon Boat Race on the canal in September as well as a Bubble Fest in the Park on another occasion, but, as yet, no dates had been agreed.

#### **113 VE Day Celebrations**

The early May Bank Holiday had been moved to the first Friday in May to accommodate the celebrations. Cllr C Higham reported that the Village on the Green and the band had been available that evening, so he had booked both. 200 people were needed to fill the room. Other suitable acts could also be arranged.

The band would cost £1,500. Tickets for a recent concert at which the band had been the central attraction had cost £20. Tickets for the event could be sold through local community groups, churches and schools and through parish councillors. There would be food and a raffle on the evening. Sponsorship could be sought from local businesses. Posters, tickets and programmes would need to be designed and printed. Cllr Higham would circulate ideas. A working group would need to be set up to organise the event.

#### **114 Meeting with Wigan Council Officers at Wigan Town Hall**

A date and the agenda for the meeting were discussed.

**Resolved:** The Council selected 25 February at 3pm as the date and time of the meeting with Wigan Council officers and agreed the following agenda:

- The Future of Haigh Hall
- Haigh Woodland Park Phase II
- Environmental Concerns
- Public Rights of Way
- Agricultural Diversification
- How Could We Be More Effective as a Parish Council?
- Traffic Management

#### **115 Removal of Heritage Lighting from Hall Lane**

A resident had recently raised the issue of the heritage lamp standards in Hall Lane. There had been two or three of them they had recently been replaced by modern lamp standards, resulting in a considerable number of objections from local residents. This was a conservation area and residents took the view that, if the lamp standards needed to be replaced, they should have been replaced by heritage-style lamp standards.

The Clerk had consulted the LA's Street Lighting Department. Officers had advised that the lamp standards in Hall Lane were not covered by the conservation area regulations. The old heritage-style lamp standards had originally been introduced in the 1970s and had been deteriorating. The lamps had been replaced several years ago by LED lights which were not heritage-style. It would have been possible to replace these lamp standards (together with lamps) by heritage-style equipment, but this would have been extremely expensive.

The issues were discussed.

**Resolved:** A letter would be sent to the LA.

#### **116 Appointment of Internal Auditor 2019/20**

**Resolved:** Heelis & Lodge were appointed as the Parish Council's internal auditors for 2019/20.

#### **117 Accounts 2019/20**

##### **Income**

Crazy Golf Day = £139.10

**TOTAL = £139.10**

## Expenditure

No	PAYEE	NARRATIVE	NET	VAT	PAYMENT
24	Employee No.1	Salary (November) (net)	£161.68	N/A	£161.68
25	Employee No.1	Mileage	£ 5.20	N/A	£ 5.20
26	HMRC	Tax (November)	£ 40.60	N/A	£ 40.60
27	St David's H&A PCC	Room rent (December)	£ 20.00	N/A	£ 20.00
28	Heelis & Lodge	Internal audit	£ 65.00	N/A	£ 65.00
29	Cultivate Creative Ltd	Logo design deposit	£ 62.50	£12.50	£ 75.00
30	C Horridge	Lamp post poppy display	£ 50.00	N/A	£ 50.00
<b>Total:</b>			<b>£404.98</b>	<b>£12.50</b>	<b>£417.48</b>

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

Balance at bank on 31 October 2019 = **£5,875.27**

The following prior payments had not been presented by 31 October 2019:

St David's H&A PCC = £20.00 (rent)

Royal British Legion = £100.00 (Remembrance Day wreath)

**TOTAL = £120.00**

Estimated balance at bank after the addition of the above income and subtraction of the above expenditure and unrepresented prior payments  
= **£5,476.89**

### 118 Quarterly Budget Monitoring

The previously circulated document was reviewed and discussed. The Clerk reported that the new 'Community Engagement' cost centre was showing an overspend of £110 and the reasons for this. Other cost centres were on line.

**Resolved:** A virement of £300 from the 'Contingency' cost centre to the 'Community Engagement' cost centre to cover the amount already overspent and future expenditure under this heading was approved.

### 119 Preliminary Budget 2020

Preliminary proposals for the FY2020 budget were discussed and agreed.

### 120 Clerk's Report

The Clerk's report was received. *See Appendix A.*  
Its contents were discussed briefly.

### 121 Date of Next Meeting

Monday, 20 January 2019 at 6:30pm.

The meeting closed at 9:17 pm

**Chairman**