

**Minutes of Meeting of Haigh Parish Council
Held Thursday 11 April 2016
6:30pm St David's Parish Rooms**

Present: Councillors R Darbyshire (Chairman), J Wild, G France, A Thomson, R Howarth, G Fairhurst and the Clerks, Mr M Barnes and Mrs K Pilkington

59 The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming Mrs K Pilkington, the new Clerk, and a member of the public.
Cllr J Wild paid tribute to the Late Cllr S Aspden (the Council's oldest serving member), who had died in recent weeks.

60 Public Attending

One member of the public attended the meeting.

61 The Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 25 February were agreed to be a true and correct record.

Proposed: Cllr R Howarth

Seconded: Cllr J Wild

62 Matters Arising

Minute 57:

- Mr Barnes had written to WLCT to thank them for allowing the Council to use The Tack Room at Haigh Hall for their meetings over past years and had received a letter in reply from Mr K Bergmann, who had expressed a wish to come along to talk to the Council about the future of Haigh Hall and the work planned for the estate.
- Work seemed to have resumed on the former Crawford Arms, but its owner had not responded to Mr Barnes's emailed enquiries about progress.
- Mr Barnes had been in touch with Mrs C Charnock-Jones at Wigan Council to initiate arrangements for the annual meeting with Donna Hall, the CEO. He suggested that the Council should begin to consider the timing of this meeting.
- Concern had been expressed about the safety of some of the new play equipment at Haigh Hall. This had been conveyed to officers of the Leisure Department at Wigan Council, who had expressed a wish to talk to the Council about it.
- Cllr A Thomson reported that her copy of LCR was still being sent to her old address. Mrs Pilkington would contact LALC to try to rectify matters.

63 Planning Applications

Since the last meeting the following applications had been received by Wigan Council:

A/15/81759/FULL	Agricultural Land East of 3 Sennicar Lane, Wigan	Change of use of land to Equestrian Livery, together with the erection of a detached stable block, layout of menage and vehicular access from Sennicar Lane	Noted
A/16/82115/HH	Woodside, Copperas Lane, Haigh, Wigan, WN2 1PB	To extend dwellinghouse two storey to the southern elevation together with a dormer window	Noted

Mr Barnes reported that Wigan Council's Planning Committee had met on 15 March and would be meeting again the following day. No applications of interest to the Council had been included on the agenda of either meeting.

In reply to a question from a councillor about developments in relation to the Bawk House application, Mr Barnes reported that nothing had happened to date. Mr Lawton had not been in touch, but there were many conditions attached to the planning consent.

64 Internal Audit 2015/2016

The internal audit for 2015/16 had been completed. There were no issues.

Resolved: The internal audit report was accepted and approved.

65 External Audit 2015/2016

The papers for the external audit had been received from BDO. Mr Barnes reported that no VAT had been reclaimed over the past two financial years. Only 75p had been paid in VAT in 2015/16.

66 Change of Signatories to Bank Account

The need to make some changes to the identity of authorised signatories to the bank account was discussed. The Late Cllr S Aspden and Mr M Barnes would cease to be signatories. In future the signatories would be: Cllrs R Darbyshire, J Wild, G France and the new Clerk, Mrs K Pilkington.

Resolved: The authorised signatories in the current mandate for the accounts detailed in Section 2 would be changed in accordance with Sections 5 and 6 and the current mandate would continue as amended.

67 Accounts 2016 / 2017

Mr Barnes reported that the Council's insurance premium was due for payment on 1 June. This would be the third year of the three to which the

Council were committed to with Zurich Municipal. An increase in premium tax had resulted to a small uplift with respect to the amount invoiced.

The following item was presented for payment:

No	PAYEE	NARRATIVE	NET	VAT	PAYMENT
1	Zurich Municipal	Insurance	£344.52	N/A	£344.52
Total:			£344.52	N/A	£344.52

After the above authorised spend there would be £5,147.71 in the bank account.

Resolved: The above item was approved for payment.

68 Register of Interests

Members completed registers of interest were collected. The new Clerk would deliver them to Democratic Services at Wigan Council.

69 Annual Meeting with Wigan Council Officers

The possibility of a meeting with Wigan Council officers in the Autumn was discussed.

Resolved: Mrs Pilkington would ask the LA's Democratic Services Manager to suggest a few dates, which would be considered during the ordinary meeting of the Council in May.

70 Clerk's Report

Mr Barnes covered the following in his report:

HM The Queen's 90th Birthday

Tower Mint had sent a brochure advertising the commemorative medals they were offering schools and councils. A sample medal had accompanied the brochure. The minimum order was 50.

North West Air Ambulance

The Supporter Services Team at the Charity had sent a letter thanking the Council for their recent donation of £100.

Haigh Woodland Park

Mr K Bergmann, Strategic Development Manager at WLCT, had sent an email offering to attend a future meeting to update the Council on future developments at the park.

Haigh Hall Hotel

It was anticipated that the agreement in relation to the conversion of Haigh Hall into a hotel would be signed later this month. Events were still happening at the Hall. The golf course was still in use and would continue to be managed by the LA's Leisure Department. The Stables would also continue to be managed directly by the LA.

Mrs Pilkington would make contact with Ms P McGinty of the LA's Leisure Department and invite her to attend the Council's ordinary meeting in May to

talk about the future of the property and the new play equipment in the grounds. Mrs Pilkington would also investigate progress with the renovation of the car park – particularly with regard to a completion date – and planning permission for the road.

Missing Minutes

It had been established that all minutes prior to 1926 were lodged with Wigan Archives at Leigh. Those from 1993 to date were held by the Clerk. So far the whereabouts of minutes of meetings from 1926 to 1993 had not been established. No evidence had been found that they were held by other archives.

CPR Magazine

This publication was now available.

71 Any Other Business

Litter

A member reported that the issues with litter along a stretch of road from the corner of Riley Lane to the Parish boundary with Blackrod at Meadow Pit Lane were on the increase. Mrs Pilkington would try to make arrangements for the 'Beat It' team to address these issues.

Signs Near Bridge 63

Mr Barnes had recently reported the fact that several road signs on the approach to Bridge 63 were lying down in the shrubbery by the canal to Wigan Council and had asked that they be re-instated.

Royal Birthday Medals

The possibility of ordering some of the medals to give to local schoolchildren was discussed. It was agreed that the matter would not be taken any further.

Casual Vacancy

The casual vacancy created by the recent death of Cllr S Aspden was discussed. Mrs Pilkington would inform the Elections Officer at Wigan Council.

Cllr Darbyshire briefly withdrew from the meeting and then returned.

72 Date of Next Meeting

Monday 23 May: 6:30pm - Annual Parish Meeting
7:30pm - Annual Meeting of the Council, followed by the
Ordinary Meeting of the Council

This was Mr Barnes's last meeting as Clerk to the Council and he thanked the Council for his time with them.

Meeting Closed at 7:10 pm

Chairman