

Minutes of Meetings of Haigh Parish Council
Held Monday 5 September 2016
7pm St David's Parish Rooms

Present: Councillors R Darbyshire (Chairman), J Wild, G France, A Thomson, R Howarth, G Fairhurst and the Clerk, Mrs K Pilkington.

Five members of the public.

Mr K Bergmann of Inspiring Healthy Lifestyles was present for Item No.93.

Cllr R Darbyshire opened the meeting by extending a warm welcome to everyone present.

Standing Orders were suspended.

93 Haigh Woodland Park Development

The Chair introduced Mr Keith Bergmann from Inspiring Healthy Lifestyles at WLCT, who provided the Council with an update on progress with the Haigh Woodland Park development and explained the position with regard to the Traffic Regulation Order proposal.

Haigh Hall & Woodland Park Development

In June Haigh Hall had been leased to Contessa Hotels, who were now busy working on the refurbishment of the interior and on the improvement of the curtilage road from Mowpen Lodge (which would be the official entrance for hotel guests. Work was a little behind schedule. The last batch of bedrooms was expected to be available for use in Winter 2016/Spring 2017. The restaurant was due to open in October.

The new Stables car park had been completed and work would soon be starting on the overflow car park. Work on the pathways was continuing and that on the current batch was due to be completed in the next few weeks. So too was that on the CCTV cameras and lighting.

A plinth installed outside the café was intended to be used for a variety of events. Work on this area had been completed, but it had not yet been opened to the public, because the grass needed to be given time to grow and become established.

The adventure playground was open and was proving very popular. An adventure golf course – themed around the woodland and intended for use by families – would soon be available.

The businesses selected for the Kitchen Courtyard were gradually moving in. Some were open to the public already. The brewery was expected to be up and running about six months after the tap room bar. A footfall of 150,000 per year was anticipated.

Only a small number of events had been arranged for this year. The next one was a firework display scheduled for 5 November. A Christmas event was also planned.

Phase 2 would focus on heritage and the natural attractions of the park. Lottery grant funding was being sought in order to deliver it.

Members entered into discussion with Mr Bergmann about the provision of car parking for hotel guests and raised issues about the area's ability to cater for large numbers of tourists. Mr Bergmann explained that the capacity had

been tested beforehand. Current visitor numbers of 350,000 per year were expected to rise 500,000. The site could cope with such numbers.

Traffic Regulation Order

The increase in visitor numbers had brought with it congestion and bad parking. Hence the reason for submitting an application for a Traffic Regulation Order. (The roads on the Haigh Estate were not formally adopted, so the LA did not have highway authority responsibilities in relation to them.) The Parish Council were welcome to submit a comment, even though the deadline for the consultation had passed.

An assessment of responses from residents had indicated that the majority were in favour of the Order. The proposal included banning parking on both sides of the road. Because this would cause issues for some residents with regard to their own domestic parking, a compromise had been reached: the double yellow lines in Copperas Lane and Higher Lane would be terminated just short of residential properties to enable residents to park in front of their homes.

The Order would be regulated by a private company, who would enforce it through ticketing. Two way traffic would continue.

Residents had been offered the option of having permits, but they had decided to wait and see what happened. Blue badge holders would not be eligible to park along these yellow lines. The situation would be monitored.

Mr Bergmann then took questions from members and residents, responding as follows:

- The events that would be held in the area would be premium type events and would be family friendly.
- Any damage to School Lane caused by works traffic would be made good. Wigan Council were committed to re-instating the verges. Once the construction work had been completed only routine service traffic would be using it. The hotel would be accessed via the Mowpen Lodge entrance and the Kitchen Courtyard via the Stocks Gate.
- The barriers at the entrance/exit to the new car park had caused traffic issues in the road because one set had been intended to be used solely by cars, while the other set was intended also for coaches – and only one set was being used. This issue was being addressed to enable two exits/entrances.
- The car park was being run by Wigan Council.
- The status quo with respect to public transport would continue – even in the Summer months – as operators either had to make a profit or be subsidised.
- The provision of a land train from the Plantation Gates required the services of a private provider.
- Events would be timed to finish at 8pm.
- There were agreements in place via the lease that were designed to ensure that the hotel's events would not clash with those organised by Wigan Council.
- Events and their impact on traffic would be limited through the number of tickets issued. The plan was to target off-peak events. The Estate infrastructure could only cope with events of a certain size.
- Wigan Council were willing to consider the introduction of other traffic calming measures for the area.
- There had been a certain amount of anti-social behaviour recently. Staff had reported it to the Police and had provided them with relevant information.

- There was now a team who picked litter daily on the estate. Wigan Council were prepared to act if someone were spotted dropping litter and would prosecute if evidence were available.

Mr Bergmann informed the members that he would be prepared to take them on a tour of the development once it had been completed. The Chair thanked Mr Bergmann for coming.

Mr K Bergmann left the meeting.

94 Matters Introduced by Members of the Public

Traffic Along the Main Road

Traffic along the main road through Haigh (from Standish to Aspull) was very heavy and, with people travelling at speed, accidents were frequent. However, the Police only recorded accidents if people were hurt and had to go to hospital. Double white lines were needed in the middle of the road, particularly along the stretch between Meadow Pit Lane and the parish boundary near Chorley Road, to deter drivers from overtaking. The Clerk would write to the LA to raise the issue.

Speed Limit Signs

A resident reported that the issues raised with respect to dirty speed limit signs along the main road through Haigh had been addressed and thanked the Parish Council for their help with this matter.

Drainage Issues Along Red Rock Lane

It was reported that when it rained three streams of water formed along the road surface between the bridge in Red Rock Lane and the roundabout at its junction with Chorley Road. At times of heavy rain this often led to flooding in the area. The matter needed investigation. The road was pitched, being higher on one side than on the other, and there were clearly drainage issues in the area. It was thought that they had been created as a result of past events related to the old railway line and a brook that runs under the old station yard. The Clerk would draw this issue to the attention of the LA.

Haigh Hotel Lease

The Clerk would try to establish the length of the lease with Contessa Hotels for Haigh Hall.

*Four of the members of the public left the meeting.
Standing Orders were reinstated.*

95 Minutes of the Meetings Held on 23 May 2016

Resolved: The Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on Monday 23 May 2016 were agreed to be a true and correct record.

Proposed: Cllr J Wild

Seconded: Cllr Dr R Howarth

Resolved: The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on Monday 23 May 2016 were agreed to be a true and correct record.

Proposed: Cllr J Wild

Seconded: Cllr G France

The DRAFT Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 23 May 2016 were received.

96 Matters Arising

Hedge at the Top of Riley Lane

A member reported that the hedge at the top of Riley Lane had been cut.

97 Planning Applications

A/16/82253/FULL	Crazy Golf, Haigh Country Park, School Lane	Creation of 18 hole adventure mini golf course together with bollard lighting, footpath network and associated landscaping.	Noted
A/16/82396/ADV	28-29 Haigh Rd	To display externally illuminated fascia and hanging signs	Noted
A/16/82561/HH	Bawk House Farm, Red Rock Lane, Haigh	To erect single storey detached garage – approved 18/08/16	Noted
A/16/82800/HH	1 Gothic Cottages, School Lane	Erection of replacement fence	Noted

98 Proposed Prohibition of Waiting – Haigh Estate Roads

Members discussed Wigan Council's application for a Traffic Regulation Order to enable the enforcement of parking restrictions along the Haigh Estate Roads (as described earlier during the Meeting by Mr K Bergmann). It was agreed that a letter supporting the proposal would be sent to the Traffic Group and the situation would be monitored.

99 Meeting with Wigan Council Officers

Topics for discussion during the meeting with Wigan Council officers on 28 September were discussed.

Resolved: The following matters would be raised with Wigan Council officers:

- Parking in the Haigh Hall Estate – how much was expected altogether?
- A land train from the Plantation Gates.
- The windmill's condition and its maintenance;
- The road from Bridge 63 to Riley Lane

Cllrs R Darbyshire, G France, J Wild and A Thomson (*to be confirmed*) would be attending the meeting.

100 Use of 'Report It' App

The Clerk reported that she had used the 'Report It' App several times and had received replies, but they were such that they did not invite conversations. In the Clerk's view the traditional methods of communication between council officers were to be recommended. No councillors had trialled the app.

101 Training for Parish Councillors

Cllrs R Darbyshire, A Thomson, G Fairhurst, G France and J Wild would be attending the training to be provided by Democratic Services officers on 17 October.

102 LCTP Training Courses

Information about training courses in Chairmanship and Finance provided by the LCTP was noted.

103 LALC Annual General Meeting

The Chair would consider attending the AGM in November to represent the Council.

104 Casual Vacancy

The Council had received one expression of interest - from Mr Rob Lawson, who had submitted a pen-portrait as part of his application, which was considered.

Mr Lawson was the remaining member of the public to be present and answered questions from members.

Resolved: Mr R Lawson was co-opted as Member of the Council to serve until four days after the local council elections in 2019 and would make his declaration of office at the meeting in December.

Mr Lawson joined the members at the table.

105 External Audit Report 2015/16

The Clerk reported that the external audit had not yet been completed. The value of the Asset Register for 2015/16 was still in dispute, but further information to support the figures had been obtained and would be forwarded to the auditors.

106 Accounts 2016/17

Income

None.

The following items was presented for payment:

No	PAYEE	NARRATIVE	NET	VAT	PAYMENT
5	St David's Haigh & Aspull PCC	Room rent	£ 20.00	N/A	£ 20.00
6	Employee No.1	Salary (June, July & August)	£459.84	N/A	£459.84
7	K Pilkington	Mileage, postage	£ 19.41	N/A	£ 19.41
Total:			£499.25	N/A	£499.25

After the above authorised spend there would be £7,109.51 in the bank account.

Resolved: The above items were approved for payment.

107 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported that:

- The bank signatories had been changed and a new cheque book and paying-in book had been received.
- She had received a reply to her enquiry about footpath maintenance beyond the woodyard in Red Rock Lane via the Report It App. In the reply it had been stated that there was no duty on the part of the LA to carry out footpath maintenance, as that stretch of road was not adopted highway.

108 Any Other Business

Use of Reserves

A member suggested that the Council needed to consider how they could use the reserves that were being accumulated. This would be discussed at the December meeting.

109 Date of Next Meeting

Monday 5 December: 6:30pm

Meeting Closed at 8:40pm

Chairman