

**Minutes of Haigh Annual Parish Meeting
Held Monday 13 May 2019
6:30pm St David's Parish Rooms**

Present: Councillors R Lawson (Chairman), R Darbyshire, I Parker and the Clerk,
Mrs K Pilkington
One member of the public.

1 Welcome by the Chairman

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming everyone.

2 Apologies

None.

3 Matters Introduced by Members of the Public

Sleeping Policemen for Hall Lane

The resident present asked about the possibility of introducing more sleeping policemen along Hall Lane, as the road was very dangerous at the moment due to traffic travelling too quickly, particularly on the hairpin bend. The issues were discussed. There had recently been an accident in the area and, given the number of pedestrians using the lane, there was a concern that further accidents could result in serious injury. Evidence of drug by drivers use also existed. It was agreed that a letter would be sent to the LA to raise the issues and ask about the options for trying to reduce speeding. The existing sleeping policemen were not effective and something was needed to slow traffic down.

4 Minutes of the Last Annual Parish Meeting (21 May 2018)

Resolved: The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday, 21 May 2018 were agreed to be a true and correct record.

5 Matters Arising from Those Minutes

Minute No.3 - Footpath Issues

Councillor R Darbyshire reported that she and a resident who had concerns had attended the site meeting with the LA's Rights of Way Officer on 6 June 2018 at Red Rock Farm to discuss footpath issues, particularly those relating to Bawk House, the owner of which was still encroaching onto the footpath. She had reported on this to the Council at its meeting in September.

6 Clerk's Report

The Clerk's report was received:

'The Parish Council has seen quite a few changes over the past year – not least the fact that the membership of the Council has changed dramatically. Most of the councillors who had been members for many years retired at the end of the municipal year, having decided not to stand for re-election.

Earlier this month we said "Goodbye" to Cllrs Dr Roderick Haworth, Ann Thomson, Gerry Fairhurst and Georgia France. This followed the departure

last year of Cllr Judith Wild. They are owed our thanks for their many years of service and we wish them well for the future.

Cllr Chris Hatherall replaced Cllr Judith Wild and he, Cllr Rob Lawson and Cllr Bobbie Darbyshire stood for re-election. All three were elected unopposed and have been joined by Cllr Ian Parker. Congratulations to all of them. This has left three vacancies on the Council, which can now be filled by co-option.

At the beginning of the 2018 municipal year Cllr Lawson took over the Chairmanship of the Parish Council – replacing Cllr Bobbie Darbyshire, who agreed to become Vice Chairman. Cllr Lawson also represented the Parish Council on Wigan Council's Audit, Governance and Standards Committee.

The Council has continued to take an interest in developments at Haigh Woodland Park and Mr Keith Bergman of Inspiring Healthy Lifestyles has reported on these to the Council.

As a result of the Vice Chairman's meeting with an officer of Wigan Council last Summer to discuss access issues relating to the footpath in the vicinity of Bawk House, improvements in signage were agreed and their impact is being monitored.

To mark the centenary of the end of WWI the Council secured a grant to provide poppies, which were displayed on lamp posts in the Parish throughout November. It is anticipated that the poppies will be used again in future years. Members joined the parade at Aspull Memorial on Remembrance Sunday, when the Chairman laid a wreath on behalf of the Parish Council.

The Council's investigations into the repairs that might be needed to Haigh Windmill continue. They have so far highlighted the fact that the Council is very short of funds. Ways of securing more funding are being investigated.

Cllr Chris Hatherall has expressed an interest in working on the improvements to local waterways and is engaging with the Canal & River Trust to establish what help and support might be available.

To raise the profile of the Parish Council a Facebook page was set up. After a slow start we now have nine 'friends' – most of them members of the Open Access to Haigh Hall Action Group. They would like to know what support the Parish Council can give them.

The Parish Council have continued to consider planning applications submitted for properties in the area. As part of this work they are now looking into the possibility of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish.'

Resolved: The Clerk's report was accepted.

7 Any Other Business

There were no items of any other business.

8 Date of Next Annual Parish Meeting

Resolved: It was agreed in principle that the next Annual Parish Meeting would be on 11 May 2020.

The Meeting Closed at 7pm
Chairman