**HAUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 27th April 2015 at 7pm**

Present: Cllr M Allen, in the Chair Cllr D Warbrick Cllr M Little

Cllr G Anslow Cllr B Stamp Cllr I Sunley

Cllr I Forrester Jayne Cooper, Clerk

As well as 30 members of the public, County Councillor Mark Winnington and Borough Councillor Barry Stamp.

The Chairman introduced Miss Jayne Cooper, the new Clerk to Haughton Parish Council

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| 1 | **To receive apologies and record absences**  Received from Ms M Lawrence and Mr A White |
| 2 | **To receive and confirm the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 28th April 2014**  The minutes were confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting and copies were available should any members of the public wish to review them. |
| 3 | **To welcome Staffordshire’s Police and Crime Commissioner, Matthew Ellis**  The Chairman welcomed Matthew Ellis to the meeting. Mr Ellis gave a detailed talk on his role over the past 2 years and improvements made during that time to enable a different type of policing in Staffordshire with improved links with local people and the police service. Subjects covered included the inherited challenging financial situation that is now back on track, the introduction of staff with specific areas of expertise within Mr Ellis’s team, new systems for re-offending, the use of modern technology that despite a financial injection of £20 million has proved to be the right decision and means police can now spend more time in the communities rather than inside offices. There had been a focus on un-insured drivers and this has resulted in Staffordshire being the only place in the country where numbers are falling. A new cadet’s scheme has been established which is having a positive impact, funds are now available for communities to bid for to help with community projects and public confidence has, reported Mr Ellis, strengthened.  Parishioners were then given the opportunity to address Mr Ellis with questions. Questions raised included:   * The reason for employing a mental health expert * Speeding traffic through Haughton * Police radar vehicles * The future of Police and Crime Commissioners with a possible change in Government * Cameras on traffic lights * Rehabilitation drug offenders * Stafford prison housing sex offenders and paedophiles   Mr Ellis gave detailed responses to each of the questions. In response to the question about speeding traffic in Haughton he said he is developing a new HGV Watch scheme so parishioners can report issues directly and well as revamping the Neighbourhood Watch, Countryside Watch and Speed Watch schemes. Mr Ellis asked Mrs Edwards, who had raised the concerns, to write directly to him.  There were no further questions and Mr Ellis was thanked for his talk. He left the meeting after taking photographs, to tweet to his followers, of the Best Kept Village children’s posters. |
| 4 | **To receive a report from the Parish Council’s Chairman, Cllr M Allen**  Cllr Allen gave a report following a productive year for the Parish Council over the past 12 months which included liaison with a housing developer following last year’s Parish Meting – no further information has been forthcoming since, work of the Best Kept Village Team including the fourth win in a row in 2014, liaison with Stafford Borough Council on its Local Plan and developing 11 key service villages of which Haughton is one, the defibrillator project that resulted in defibrillators being installed at 3 places in the village and the resignation of the former Clerk and appointment of a new Clerk. He added that there had been an uncontested election in Haughton with 5 councillors continuing and 2 new councillors. Finally the Chairman thanked two retiring Cllrs, Cllr Stamp and Cllr Little for their input to the Parish Council during their time as councillor, the former clerk and all serving councillors.    Parishioners were then given the opportunity to address Councillors with questions. One question was asked about the current situation with the Village Plan. The Chairman replied informing parishioners that Stafford Borough Council had, in June 2014, adopted its Local Plan. In the next 6-8 weeks, Haughton parishioners would be consulted on the proposed new settlement boundary for Haughton. The Village Plan, produced some years ago, would have proved beneficial to the village when the Borough Council was preparing its Local Plan. |
| 5 | **To receive reports from other Councillors including:**   1. **Vice Chairman’s report on Best Kept Village**   Cllr Warbrick expressed his delight in leading the BKV team during 2014 and would remain the Parish Council’s representative during the 2015 season. He introduced the new BKV leader, Mr Peter Lawrence, who reminded parishioners of the objectives of the team, the work carried out so far and planned work. Judging starts on 1st May. A Community Clean Up is scheduled to coincide with the Borough‘s Clean Up Initiative, on 6th May.  b) **Borough Councillors Reports**  Cllr Stamp explained the changes as a result of the Boundary Review and how Haughton, Church Eaton and Seighford had amalgamated and is now one of the largest in the Borough. He talked about the Borough Council’s Local Plan and the impact on key service villages. Gnosall, the neighbouring village had seen much development and this would have an impact on Haughton with an increase in traffic. Also the services in Gnosall that had closed such as the swimming pool and youth club would have an impact on Haughton parishioners.  The state of the village’s roads was also mentioned and Cllr Stamp said he was pleased to hear from Mr Matthew Ellis that there would be A HGV watch.  Finally Cllr Stamp explained to parishioners that he would be moving out of the village and had therefore retired as a Parish Councillor after 30 years. He passed on his best wishes to the Parish Council and to the new BKV team leader.   1. **County Councillors Report**   Cllr Winnington thanked the Parish Council for their work during the past 4 years. He talked about the positive growth in Staffordshire and how this would lead to happier living but would mean an increase in traffic throughout the Borough. The Safer Road Partnership is a coalition of the County Council, Staffordshire Police and Staffordshire Fire & Rescue and would work with communities on making roads safer. Cllr Winnington suggested the Parish Council attempts to revive the community speed watch scheme.  He explained that Council Tax had risen by 1.9% to support the older and more vulnerable people in the county. Cllr Winnington was pleased to report that the final section of cycle rout55 had completed and the route now has 12 uninterrupted miles of recreation space from Doxey to Newport in Shropshire. He confirmed he would take on board the matters about HGV’s travelling at high speeds through the Village and consider the options to alleviate this issue. He said Haughton is now connected to receive super fast Broadband and parishioners need to request it to receive it. Finally Cllr Winnington congratulated Haughton with the BKV results and Christmas lights event.  There were questions from residents particularly on speeding and the use of speed cameras to which Cllr Winnington replied that the County Council had moved away from permanent speed cameras and instead use mobile speed cameras that do have to be visible because of safety issues. This led to discussion about a long term solution for the A518 and A519 and the heavy use of these roads by HGV’s. There was clearly no simple solution but it was a serious concern of parishioners that building extra houses in surrounding villages without infrastructure would increase the problems. There was a suggestion that a reinstated railway would be beneficial and it was noted that there is a pressure group trying to achieve this.  Despite the interesting discussions around traffic and HGV’s, Cllr Winnington did agree to arrange a census to be carried out in Haughton to record the amount of vehicles and their speed. |

The meeting closed at 9.15pm with refreshments.