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**Haughton Parish Council
Newsletter**

**November
2016**

Welcome to the latest edition of the Haughton Parish Council Newsletter. Since the last newsletter a year ago there have been changes to the way the Parish Council works, we have had a Speed Watch meeting, we have been awarded money from Tesco Bags of Help and we have a new clerk.

New Clerk

As you were aware from the last newsletter Jayne Cooper joined us in April 2015 as our clerk. Unfortunately, Jayne was also clerk for another larger Parish Council which has just taken on a number of extra services from the county, the result of which was that Jayne was asked to increase the number of hours she worked for them. As there are only so many hours in a day Jayne had to give up one of her other smaller councils, and so officially left us at the end of June, although she has been supporting the new clerk during handover. Our new clerk is Lisa Horritt, who is also clerk to some other parish councils, although this time we are probably the largest, so hopefully will not have the same problem again. Lisa's contact information is clerk@haughtonpc-staffs.org.uk and telephone (weekdays only) on 01785 240358.

Changes to Parish Council Regulations and funding

The Parish Council currently provides support for village organisations and also village maintenance, namely grass cutting, playing field maintenance, the amenity truck for bulk waste and dog glove provision. We receive some funding from the county for grass cutting (only what they would spend) and also an annual allowance, called the concurrent allowance, for the maintenance of the playing field, again only a proportion of the true cost. We have to pay for the amenity truck and the dog gloves in order to give the village a better service.

If you read the newspapers or watch the news on television you will have noticed that the government is trying to reduce the amount of money it gives to local councils, particularly at County and Borough level, hence they try to pass on some of their workload to the parishes. As yet we have not had anything, but there have been several hints from the County Council that they are looking for 'collaboration' on projects to save money. At present there appears to be no financial support for these 'collaborations' but we will look at each project to assess the benefit to the village.

The government has also decided to reduce its audit overheads for small councils with a budget of £25000 or less. To explain, every year the Parish Council has had to submit its

account to a government appointed auditor for approval and if we are audited without fault then they charge us £120 and we can display the audited accounts on the Village Notice Board. If we have some corrections to make they charge us more, but we have avoided that for many years now (we do not like to waste your money on errors).

In order to save money the government will no longer ask that we have our accounts audited externally (HURRAH £120 SAVED) but that instead we have a website where we show all our meetings' information such as the agenda, the accounts where we spend more than £150, the minutes of the last meeting and our annual accounts at year end. Unfortunately this has meant setting up a new website, independent of the village web site, which costs us £120 a year to maintain (BANG GOES OUR £120 SAVING). The new site is at www.haughtonpc-staffs.org.uk and all the Parish Council information is on there including how to contact all the councillors and the reports for past and current meetings. There is also a link from the village website www.haughton-staffs.org.uk if you select the Parish Council section. If you have difficulty with seeing this information, please contact the clerk on 01785 240358 who will help.

[HAUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL](#)

Serving the local community



Heading of new parish council website

Tesco Bags of Help Money



Tesco has teamed up with Groundwork on its Bags of Help initiative in hundreds of regions across England and Wales. The scheme will see three community groups and projects in each of these regions awarded grants of £12,000, £10,000 and £8,000 – all raised from the 5p bag charge.

Bags of Help offers community groups and projects in each of Tesco's 416 regions across the UK a share of revenue generated from the 5p charge levied on single-use carrier bags. The public will now vote in store from 31st October – 13th November on who should receive the £12,000, £10,000 and £8,000 awards. In total, there is over £12.5 million up for grabs.

We have put in an application for some money to improve the football facilities at the playing field and also to protect the smaller children by erecting fencing around the younger children's equipment with the aim of stopping them running onto the football pitch when a match is in progress, and also to try and stop dogs fouling around the play equipment. (It is illegal, we provide pooper bags and bins but some people still do not clean up after their dogs).

We are now looking for all our villagers to vote for us in one of the 3 local Tesco stores in Stafford.

TESCO Express on Stone Road.
TESCO Express on Wolverhampton Road
TESCO Extra on Newport Road.

The more people vote for us the more we will get.

Meeting on Community Speed Watch 2nd November



Over the last few weeks there have been several reports of vehicles travelling at high speed through the village. The police recorded one vehicle at 70mph near the Bell Inn. There have been numerous requests for something to be done, so a meeting was organised for the villagers, the Community Speedwatch coordinator for Staffordshire Police, Michelle

Shaker, County Councillor Mark Winnington and the Safer Roads Partnership Community Infrastructure Liason Manager, Mark Keeling.

Over 40 people attended the meeting. Mike Allen, Chair of Haughton Parish Council, introduced everyone and briefly explained the problem we have in the village of speeding traffic, particularly in the early morning and late at night, and said that despite what has already been done the problem is getting worse. Michelle Shaker then described how the Community Speed Watch cameras work and the training given, however she explained that equipment only works in daylight. There followed a discussion about the safety of the people on the Community Speed Watch Teams and it was confirmed that the police took any harassment to the community teams as seriously as they would harassment of their own officers. Volunteers were asked to start a team in Haughton.

Mark Keeling then quoted the figures of a recent survey done near the Bell Inn in the village showing that over a 24 hour period 9000 vehicle had passed through the village at an

average speed of around 35mph. He was asked whether the village could have average speed cameras of the type fitted in Woodseaves and he said that we currently did not fit the criteria required. It appears we have not had any deaths from road accidents in the last three years. He accepts that we already have numerous “safety measures’ and suggested that the best approach is the Community Speed Watch and putting 30 mph stickers on our wheelie bins (contact Parish Clerk if you want some). It was pointed out that some of our problem appeared to be caused by traffic diverting to avoid the Woodseaves cameras and so we should also have them. Councillor Winnington then explained there was no money available even if we did get agreement, but agreed to price up the cost of an installation and pass it to the Parish Council. A request for solid white lines through the village was also made, and Mark Keeling agreed to investigate those as well as repainting the existing lines. Three people signed up for the Community Speed Watch team on the evening with four more taking the forms home. If you wish to volunteer for the Community Speed Watch please contact the Lisa Horritt the parish clerk on 01785 240358. The more people we have, the more frequently we can monitor speed through the village. Watch this space.

How to see what we are doing

Details of Parish Council meetings, together with the minutes and accounts, are displayed on the Parish Notice board at the corner of Royds Close opposite the shops and are also available on the parish council website www.haughtonpc-staffs.org.uk

All our meetings are, and always have been, open to the general public. Our next three meetings will be held in the Village Hall from 19:30 on

28th November 2016

23rd January 2017

27th February 2017

Contact information

Name	Contact info
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Parish Clerk	
Lisa Horritt	01785 240358
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County Councillor	
M. Winnington	01785 822224