

HAUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

HELD ON MONDAY, 23RD APRIL, 2018 AT 7.00 P.M. IN HAUGHTON VILLAGE HALL.

Present:-

Parish Councillors: Cllr. M. Allen. Cllr. D. Warbrick. Cllr. I Sunley. Cllr. G. Anslow.
Cllr. Tim Grattage. Cllr. S. Taylor. S. Atkins, Clerk.

Staffordshire County Councillor: Cllr. M. Winnington.

30 members of the public.

1. To receive any apologies.

Apologies received from Borough Councillors. Ray Sutherland and Stephen Leighton.

2. To receive the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 24th April, 2017.

The minutes of the meeting were confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

3. To welcome Mr. A. Campbell – Haughton Owl Sanctuary.

Cllr. Allen welcomed Mr. A. Campbell who gave a presentation about the history and work of Haughton Owl Sanctuary. Mr. Campbell said that the main focus of the Rescue Centre was the rehabilitation of birds and their release back into the wild. The main reasons for primarily Owls being given to the Rescue Centre were: people who were not able to cope with their captive bred pets, chemical poisoning, road traffic accidents (largest number) and being shot with pellet guns. In the last 3-4 years Haughton Owl Sanctuary has released approximately 200 owls into the wild. Rehabilitation of owls takes approximately 8-9 months, the aim is to return to birds the location where they were found. There is minimum contact with humans to enable them to be returned to the wild. Unfortunately he reported that there were some birds who could not be rehabilitated and they had to be euthanised.

Mr. Campbell also mentioned that a number of owl boxes had been placed around the village.

4. To receive the Chairman's Report.

Councillor Allen informed the assembly of the departure of Councillor Alison Heath and Clerk, Ms. Lisa Horritt and the arrival of Councillor Stuart Taylor and Clerk, Mrs. Susan Atkins. Achievements included the completion of the playing field fence using the Tesco Grant and, as part of the playing field maintenance, there will be a clean-up of the play equipment.

The War Memorial has now been listed which means it now has a protected status and has been spring cleaned and planting around the memorial has been removed to prevent splashing of dirt during rain.

Three defibrillators are now in place in public areas and are being maintained.

From Staffordshire County Council - Co-operation of PCs has been requested.

There has been a survey of Grassy Lane and actions taken to ease the flow of the water in the ditch together with trimming the hedge.

Street furniture and cleaning of signs have been undertaken

BKV efforts are cost effective and highly beneficial in keeping areas tidy and spotting areas which need attention.

We have now been allowed to plant without a licence.

There has been a survey of footpaths together with an adoption of more of the frequently used footpaths. The Council has applied for a strimmer and safety equipment of £500 from Staffordshire County Council.

Additional legal requirements have now come into operation these being

Transparency Code.

General Data Protection Legislations

New Audit Procedures.

5. Borough and County Councillors reports.

Borough Councillors were not present – however a report had been sent in by Cllr. Ray Sutherland.

The only Borough Council issue outstanding at this time and requires attention is a Section 106 monies available in Haughton. This contribution of £20,090 is in relation to planning application 13/19305. The Rectory, Rectory Lane, Haughton, and is available for improvements to open space.

The following were suggested by Haughton Parish Council with responses from Borough Council.

1) Improvement in biodiversity in Grassy Lane and near the brook. Including works to the corner of the car park/Brazenhill Lane. Estimated cost £4,000.

Response from SBC – This would require further information to gauge if the proposal would “improve the open space”.

2) Additional play equipment for Haughton Play Area – Estimated Cost £10,000

Response from SBC – This would be deemed eligible.

3) Changing room with meeting room/office which would be situated on the playing field. Estimated cost £35,000

Response from SBC – The changing room would be classified as improvements to the playing pitches and would be eligible. However, the meeting room/office would not be eligible.

4) Resurfacing of Village Hall Car Park. Estimated Cost £14,000.

Response from SBC – This would not be classified as improvements to the open space and therefore would not be eligible.

The normal procedure with regard to allocating this funding is primarily for the Parish Council to arrange a public meeting. At the meeting the local Borough Councillors need to formally give support to the project voted for. Once agreement is reached, the office will draft a report for Cabinet to authorise the allocation of the funding to the project.

6. County Councillor – Mark Winnington was welcomed to the meeting by the Chairman at 8.05 pm.

He noted that superfast broadband is now received by 95% of properties. Work is continuing on the final, most rural 5%.

A further £5 million pounds has been invested to tackle the problem of an increasing number of potholes due to the recent freeze/thaw cycle in the weather. Carriageway surfacing works on the A518 will be undertaken in the coming weeks and he asked members of the public to report highway defects of concern directly to the website.

It was noted that the lack of policing in the area is constantly being highlighted. It is hoped that as more police officers become available there will be a greater police presence in the area.

The County, as with other Councils is continuing to juggle finances, as less grant is made available from central government. Unfortunately with the increasing social budget pressures, there has had to be an increase in the County share of the Council tax by nearly 5%.

7. To receive questions from parishioners.

Parishioners were invited to ask questions. There were questions about:

- Use of the 106 monies.
- A potential footpath from Villa Farm into Haughton.
- Recent Planning Application.
- Gully Emptying
- Heavy Vehicle use down Bradley Road through to Penkridge.

There were no further questions and the meeting was closed at 8.35 pm

Chairman.....

Date

