

HAUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Mrs. Susan Atkins

www.haughtonpc-staffs.org.uk

Email: clerk@haughtonpc-staffs.org.uk

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 25th November, 2019 at 7.00 pm at Haughton Village Hall.

Attendees: Chairman Cllr. M. Allen. Cllr. G. Anslow. Cllr. A. Hopper
Cllr. P. Prokopa. Cllr. I. Sunley. Cllr. S. Taylor. Cllr. D. Warbrick.
Clerk S. Atkins.

Public: One member of the public present.

Public Open Forum

No issues were raised.

1. To receive apologies and accept and record any reasons for absences.
None received.
2. To receive any Declarations of interest in the following agenda.
None received.
3. To receive and confirm the minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 28th October, 2019.
Resolved that the minutes be accepted as a true record.
4. To receive any reports from Borough, County Councillors and PCSO.
PCSO entered the meeting at 8.00 and reported that there was nothing of significance to report in our area although there had been a number of vans broken into and tools taken.
Councillors commented on the problem of drug use on the football field car park and in Station Road. PCSO Officer just asked that any problems seen need to be registered with the Police either on 101 or via facebook.
5. To consider planning matters, including planning decisions, notifications of appeals.
Planning Application 19/30947/FUL – Land 100M South of Hazel Grove Holly Lane – construction of a pond for the sole benefit of wildlife.
Resolved that there was no objection to this retrospective planning application.

6. To consider matters of finance including
 a). Accounts for approval

DESCRIPTION	NET	VAT	GROSS
Salaries and Expenses	£565.75	£4.46	£570.21
JWH – Football Pitch	£270.00		£270.00
JWH – Haughton	£267.00		£267.00
RICOH	£219.23	£43.85	£263.08
Village Hall	£23.00		£23.00

Resolved to approve these payments.

- b). To receive financial statements.
 Resolved that financial statements for the month be accepted.

7. To receive the Clerk's report.

Clerk reported that the interim audit had been carried out and that as the income/expenditure would exceed £25,000, an external audit would be required at a cost of £200 plus VAT. The date for the final year end audit is 29th May, 2019 at 10.00 am in the Village Hall.

Highways Liaison for Staffordshire confirmed that the Horse Chestnut Tree was on land owned by Staffordshire County Council and therefore the tree would be inspected and any action taken by them.

Due to the General Election, Council have been informed that local election charges will not be billed until January/February 2020.

Clerk confirmed that the lease on the photocopier would now be terminated following the last edition of the Parish Magazine.

Clerk reported that a parishioner had requested a speaker for the Parish Meeting be engaged to talk about "scamming", both electronically and by personal calls and letters.

It was agreed to engage a speaker for the Parish Meeting on this topic.

M. Winnington entered the meeting at 7.40 pm

8. To discuss Highways, footpath issues including those requiring reporting.

- a). Highways
 Reported that activity had been noted regarding trees in Watery Lane.

Reported that the lamp close to the "splitter" at the entrance to Haughton from Stafford had still not been fixed following a recent road traffic accident.

Reported that a bus stop sign was lying on its side following a recent road traffic accident between Gnosall and Haughton.

Reported that the location of this sign was not situated in the Parish of Haughton.

Reported that the issue with water on Bradley Lane occurred because a ditch had been filled and a 3" pipe placed at the bottom which could not take the flow of water. Cllr. M. Winnington acknowledged that there was a problem in this area.

Cllr. M. Winnington acknowledged that the problem with flooding was that we had just had too much rain and fields had reached capacity and water was then building up on the roads.

b). Footpaths.

Reported that there was some confusion about what was the County Council's responsibility with regard to footpath signs and stiles and what the Parish Council could repair or replace with regard to said stiles and signs. Reported that new stiles were in evidence in Brazenhill Lane and the Greenway. It is feared that there may be duplication of maintenance if the Parish Council replace a stile or footpath signs only to find that the County Council had already listed them for repair or renewal. In addition the Greenway had been strimmed along its entire length and while thanking the County Council for this work it would be expedient if the Parish Council were informed that this was going to be undertaken.

Cllr. M. Winnington has asked for an e-mail to be sent to him so that he can ask for clarity on this matter.

Reported that there was a build-up of water along Footpath 16 – Grassy Lane. It was felt that the use of a jetter which would jet the pipes under the road from Prince Avenue to the top of Grassy Lane would benefit the movement of water and help alleviate some flooding by the bus stop.

Cllr. Winnington asked if an e-mail could be sent to him so that he could investigate the possibility of the use of a "jetter" in this instance.

9. To receive report from Councillors on:

a). Park

i. To consider a quote for £60 to remove the bush/tree on the park.

Resolved to accept the quote for £60 to remove the bush/tree on the park.

Cllr. S. Taylor offered to remove the debris from this work off site and the ground should be levelled off after removal to ensure that there is not a hole left on the playing field.

Any subsequent planting to fill this area is to be on the January Agenda.

Reported that a working party had tidied up an area of undergrowth between the two hedges on the playing field and that another working party will be convened when the weather permits.

Reported that there is still concern regarding two Horse Chestnut trees in Haughton, one on the playing field and one on the A518 as they both seem to be suffering from disease.

Resolved that both Horse Chestnut trees should be assessed for diseases and to ensure safety of parishioners.

Reported that there was very little litter on the field or car park during the month, although a bag of dog faeces had been placed in the Moathouse Lane Bin.

Reported that cladding had been fitted to the three posts on the playing field and that the Park Warden had made an extremely good job of fitting these. Reported that Council are awaiting delivery of the tops for the cladding, but that failing their arrival in the near future, the order will be cancelled and our Park Warden has informed us that he would be able to make something to cover the tops.

10. To discuss 2020/21 Budget and projects/spends required.
Resolved to agree the precept for 2020/2021 at £20,718.
Reported that in order to aid with further budgeting that village groups who feel they may like to apply for a grant/donation should inform us of their interest by the November 2020 meeting for the 2020/2021 budget setting. .
11. To consider the purchase of glass to further the refurbishment of the telephone box to a cost of up to £720.
Resolved to purchase the glass and frames for the refurbishment of the telephone box to a cost of up to £720.
12. To devolve powers to the Clerk until the next Parish Council Meeting and to confirm the scope of those powers.
It was agreed that powers be deferred to the Clerk and the scope would be to ensure the Council can run in the absence of the monthly meeting.
13. To receive Chairman's Announcements.
The Chairman wished all Parish Councillors and Clerk the Compliments of the Season.
14. Correspondence.
Correspondence was received from SPCA regarding their AGM to be held on Monday, 2nd December, 2019 at 6.45 pm.
15. To receive any future agenda items.
To investigate recharging points for electric vehicles.
16. To confirm the date of the next meeting on Monday, 25th January, 2020 at 7.00 p.m. at Haughton Village Hall.
17. Meeting Close.
Meeting closed at 9.35 p.m.