

## HAUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Mrs. Susan Atkins

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### MINUTES

**Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> January, 2020 at 7.00 pm at Haughton Village Hall.**

**Attendees: Chairman Cllr. M. Allen. Cllr. A. Hopper. Cllr. P. Prokopa. Cllr. I. Sunley.**

**Cllr. S. Taylor.**

**Cllr. D. Warbrick.**

**Clerk S. Atkins.**

**Public: Two members of the public were present.**

#### **Public Open Forum**

Members of the public raised concerns about the recent “Haughton Lights” event.

The main issues centred around parking, with residents drives being obstructed and when drivers were asked to move their car, residents were being verbally abused. In a number of cases Police were called out due to the traffic and abuse problems. In addition it was felt that with cars parking where they can, adults and children getting out of cars and crossing the A518 to look at both sides of the road, slow moving traffic, cars trying to park and other car drivers desperately trying to race through past the traffic jams that this was an “accident waiting to happen”. Questions were raised of the legal position if someone was injured. It was reported that more visitors than normal had been to see the lights and that this was due to extra publicity from two national newspapers and the role of social media. It was felt that facilities needed to be provided for the influx of visitors.

1. To receive apologies and accept and record any reasons for absences.  
Apologies were received from Cllr. G. Anslow and Borough Councillors R. Sutherland and M. Winnington.
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, 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2019.  
Resolved that the minutes be accepted as a true record.
4. To receive any reports from Borough, County Councillors and PCSO.  
None received.

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5. To consider planning matters, including planning decisions, notifications of appeals. Planning Application Number 20/31727/HOU – 10 Redfern Rise, Haughton. Resolved that whilst there is initially no objection to the planning application, it was noted that a query should be raised as to whether there was a caveat on the time span for building changes on recently built housing developments.
6. To consider matters of finance including

a). Accounts for approval

DESCRIPTION	NET	VAT	GROSS
Salaries and Expenses	£647.31	4.48	£651.79
Village Hall (Electricity)	£21.23		£21.23

To receive financial statements.

Resolved that the accounts were approved and financial statements for the month be accepted.

7. To receive the Clerk's report.  
Nothing to report.

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

a). Highways

Cllr. A. Hopper reported that the ownership of the trees in Watery Lane were still under discussion.

It has been agreed that the drains in Watery Lane need to be cleared but that the vegetation in the lane needs to be cleared before this work can go ahead.

It was confirmed that the flooding in Bradley Lane would come out of M. Winnington's £20,000 highways budget.

It was reported that the A518 was inspected every four weeks and any remedial work considered necessary would then be carried out. The flooding by the bus stop was not therefore considered a priority for the County Council.

Clerk reported that M. Winnington had been contacted regarding this flooding and had agreed that something should be done.

- i. To consider applying to the Severn Trent Community Fund to alleviate flooding around the Prince Avenue area in Haughton. Resolved to enquire as to whether the Parish Council would be eligible for a grant relating to sustainable drainage with regard to the flooding of the A518 and surrounding issues.

b). Footpaths.

Reported that following a recent working party on Grassy Lane the flow of water was much improved. In addition it was noted that working parties were unable to locate the land drains and that the Parish Council may need to look at raising the footpaths in the hollows in Grassy Lane to improve drainage.

Reported that Principal Rights of Way Officer from County Council had replied to a question put to Mark Winnington regarding what the County planned to do in the near future regarding footpaths in the Haughton area. Whilst the reply set out the legal obligations of the Council it did not answer the direct question in relation to Haughton.

Resolved to ask for further clarification on intended work by the County Council in the Haughton area.

Reported that the finger posts are within the scope of the Parish Council.

9. To receive report from Councillors on:

a). Park

Reported that the cladding on the posts near the rotating dish had now been fully fitted.

Minor maintenance work had also been completed but it was reported that the pole holding the dog glove dispenser on Moathouse Drive is loose. Also reported that a bag of dog faeces had been placed in the Moathouse Lane bin.

Following the planting of the hedge on the park it was reported that canes and sleeves used to support and protect the new hedging were missing. The Park Warden has been able to locate approximately 50 of these from around the playing field. Resolved to ask Park Warden if he will replace these.

Reported that dog gloves were put in the dispensers on 24<sup>th</sup> January and a dispenser was empty on the 25<sup>th</sup> January. It is thought that dog walkers are not just taking one or two bags but are accessing handfuls at a time.

Resolved to ask Park Warden if he will note whether the dispensers are empty when he comes to refill them every week to monitor usage.

b). To consider a quote for grass cutting and maintaining the park.

Resolved to accept the quote for cutting and maintaining the park for 2020 and to enquire of our contractor whether the price will remain the same for 2021 and if so run this through as a 2 year contact with the next tendering process being consolidated for 3 years for Haughton grass cutting and the park cutting and maintenance.

- c). To consider reviewing the future of the Park in the light of the future Stafford Plan.  
Resolved to defer this item until February, 2020.
10. To consider any actions necessary following a review of the Parish Plan.  
Resolved to defer this item until February, 2020.
11. To consider and review the 2019 Haughton Lights.  
Resolved to draft a letter to Highways, and emergency services outlining the Parish Council's concerns regarding health and safety and other issues during this event.
12. To consider a VE Day Memorial event on 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2020.  
  
Reported that following the Parish Newsletter no organisations had shown an interest in organising an event on this day.  
Resolved to take this to the BKV Committee on 19<sup>th</sup> February and that if there was again no interest shown in holding an event, the Parish Council would cancel the Village Hall booking.
13. To consider the purchase and installation of signs to notify the position of defibrillators in Haughton.  
Resolved not to purchase and install signs to notify the position of defibrillators in Haughton.
14. To consider investigating recharging points for electric vehicles in Haughton.  
Resolved to investigate a grant to install recharging points for electric vehicles in Haughton.
15. To consider the donation of two bottles of wine received by the clerk from a contractor to village organisations for use as a raffle prize.  
Resolved to donate one bottle for the use of St. Giles Church and one bottle for the Gardening Guild both to be used as raffle prizes.
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16. To receive Chairman's Announcements  
Reported that a third date of 2<sup>nd</sup> February had been added to SPCA Parish Councillors Training Course.  
Also reported that in the future training schemes for Parish Councillors would be enhanced in content to reflect additional areas which were being put on local councils.

18. Correspondence.  
Correspondence was received from Houghton Village Hall Committee  
Open Space Questionnaire  
Parish Forum invitation from Stafford Borough Council.  
Resolved that the two attendees would be Cllr. A. Hopper and Cllr. I. Sunley.  
Cllr. M. Allen would also attend as the SPCA representative.
19. To receive any future agenda items.  
To consider whether we have the opportunity to plant more trees.  
To consider the purchase of a bench on the A518 between St. Giles Church and the bus stop.
20. To confirm the date of the next meeting on Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2020 at 7.00 p.m. at Houghton Village Hall.
21. Meeting Close.  
Meeting Closed at 9.02

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