

HAUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Mrs. Susan Atkins

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MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 28th September, 2020 at 7.00 pm via Zoom.

Attendees: Cllr. G. Anslow. Cllr. A. Hopper. Cllr. P. Prokopa. Cllr. I. Sunley. Cllr. S. Taylor.

Clerk S. Atkins.

Borough Councillor R. Sutherland and County Councillor M. Winnington.

Public: No members of the public were present.

In the absence of Chairman and Vice Chairman, Cllr. I. Sunley was formally chosen as Chair for the night.

1. To receive apologies and accept and record any reasons for absences.
Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. M. Allen and Cllr. D. Warbrick.
2. To receive any Declarations of interest in the following agenda.
Cllr. R. Sutherland declared an interest in any planning items.
3. To receive and confirm the minutes of the meetings held on Monday, 27th July, 2020.
Resolved that the minutes be accepted as a true record.
4. To receive any reports from Borough, County Councillors and PCSO.
Cllr. R. Sutherland reported that there had been 45 representatives from Parish Councils at the recent Parish Forum.

5. To consider matters of finance including

a). Accounts for approval

DESCRIPTION	NET	VAT	GROSS
Salaries and Expenses	818.02		818.02
JWH	894.00		894.00
X2 Connect	100.00	20.00	120.00
ROSPA	86.00	17.20	103.20
HPCC	500.00		500.00
Lock and Window Doctor	165.00		165.00
HMRC	70.40		70.40

Resolved to approve these payments.

To receive financial statements.

Resolved that financial statements for the month be accepted.

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

Highways

a). To consider any areas that require drainage work in light of Cllr. M. Winnington's communication stating that extra money is available for this work.

Reported that drainage concerns regarding Watery Lane and Bradley Lane together with the A518 by the bus shelter and Princes Avenue had already been forwarded to Cllr. M. Winnington.

Also reported that a drainage work completed by a local farmer would have a negative impact on the amount of water collecting in Watery Lane.

Reported that there was concern for dying trees on Brazenhill Lane highway which could cause an accident if they were to come down during inclement weather. There was also concern that these trees may be subject to a Tree Preservation Order.

Cllr. R. Sutherland offered to investigate the status of these trees and to let Cllr. M. Winnington know the outcome.

Reported that Stafford and Rural Homes confirmed that permission had been given for an entrance to be made to a home in Prince Avenue, with a dropped kerb to follow.

Reported that a brown bin in Prince Avenue needs to be removed and there is also a derelict car that has not been moved for approximately 7 months.

Cllr. R. Sutherland offered to look into the problem of the brown bin.

Footpaths.

Reported that the style on Footpath 36 by Station Road Car Park has been reported to Footpaths Officer as the style needed some repair and there had been complaints as wire netting and barbed wire had been attached to the style and some walkers had injured themselves on this.

7. To consider the Rospa Report on the Park.

Resolved to ask for quotes to remove the basketball hoop from the backboard which will then be painted by the Park Warden, together with greasing the bearings on the basket swing and making flush the grass surrounding the basketball hoop to eliminate a trip hazard.

Resolved to look at the perimeter fence by the car park to ascertain if it is necessary to repair/renew certain panels.

a). To consider the setting aside of £3,000 to complete work on the Park in line with ROSPA report and to repair/replace a part of the perimeter fence.

Resolved to set aside £3,000 towards replacement matting on the park and any future repairs/renewals on pieces of equipment or fencing.

Cllr. M. Winnington entered the meeting at 7.50 pm.

8. To receive report from Councillors/Clerk on:

a) Park.

Park Warden reported that maintenance had taken place on fence pales, cladding caps and a metal seat on the park. It was also reported that the new sapling hedge had been damaged by the main entrance to the park by hedge cutting. It was suggested that a polite reminder should be given to the hedge cutter to avoid the new hedge.

Reported that the stumps of a bush which was due to be removed had now grown into saplings and needed removal as soon as possible.

Resolved that Clerk should contact the original contractor to see if he was now in a position to undertake this work.

Reported that a hole in the hedge had appeared from Grassy Lane into the park. It was also reported that this may be due to bikers gaining access to the park in order to track around the trees.

Resolved that Clerk would obtain quotes to fence the gaps in the hedge to stop anyone from accessing the park through the hedge.

b) Football Pitch.

Clerk reported that the football pitch was now being rented by Stafford Rangers Juniors Football Club who used the pitch for training on Saturday mornings 10.30 to 11.30 approximately and played matches on Sunday afternoons.

9. Report from Cllr. Sunley regarding the Parish Forum.

Cllr. Sunley reported that at the Parish Forum the Borough Council went over their efforts to cover problems created by Covid 19. Gnosall Parish Council detailed how they had used a mobile phone number which the Clerk and Councillors manned and fed out requests from parishioners to local volunteers. It was thought this may be a useful way forward for Parish Council involvement in the future.

Cllr. Sunley also reported on changes to Staffordshire County Council and Borough Council which would streamline local government with Parish Councils taking on more duties to cover any gaps.

Cllr. Sunley also commented on the white paper on Planning which Parish Councils have been invited to feed into. Cllr. I Sunley will share the link with Councillors for a response by 28th October, 2020.

10. To consider future support for St. Giles Church.

Resolved to pay the second half of the grant which is used towards the costs of cutting grass in the churchyard.

Reported that a tree in the churchyard sheds seed pods which make the path unsafe. Clerk to ask Streetscene to clear the pathway to make safe.

11. To consider cleaning of the War Memorial.

Three quotes were received for cleaning of the War Memorial ranging from £1,600 to £1,700. However, all three companies did state that the Memorial should not be cleaned in less than 6 years from the previous clean. This would mean that we would be looking at 2021/2022 at the earliest.

A mid term clean had been investigated only using water and a hard brush.

Resolved to look at this again next year.

12. To consider "The Lights" in view of Covid 19.

Reported that The Lights will not go ahead as they normally do this year. There will be no buckets for collections and no media promotion of The Lights over the internet. There will be a further update next month.

13. To consider Staffordshire Superfast Broadband Voucher scheme.

It was acknowledge that parts of Haughton have very poor Broadband service and Councillor P. Prokopa offered to carry out some initial research into the voucher scheme.

Cllrs. R. Sutherland and M. Winnington left the meeting.

To exclude members of the press and public from item below, whilst confidential information is discussed.

14. To consider the proposed increase in Clerk's salary in accordance with NALC guidelines with this backdated to 1st April, 2020.

Resolved to increase the Clerk's salary in accordance with NALC guidelines and with this to be backdated to 1st April, 2020.

14. To confirm the date of the next meeting on Monday, 26TH October, 2020 at 7.00 p.m. Venue to be decided at a later date.

15. Meeting Close.

Meeting closed at 8.35 pm.