

## HAUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Mrs. Susan Atkins.

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### MINUTES.

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2020 at 7.00 p.m.  
via Zoom

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

Cllr. S. Taylor. Cllr. D. Warbrick.

Clerk: S. Atkins.

Borough Councillor Cllr. R. Sutherland.

County and Borough Councillor M. Winnington.

Public: No members of the public were present.

1. To receive apologies and accept and record any reasons for absences.  
Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. G. Anslow.
2. To receive any Declarations of interest in the following agenda.  
None received.
3. To receive and confirm the minutes of the meetings held on Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> October, 2020.  
Resolved that the minutes of 26<sup>th</sup> October, 2020, be accepted as a true record.
4. To receive any reports from Borough, County Councillors and PCSO.  
Cllr. M. Winnington reported that he was trying to get Amey to repair the flashing 30 mph signs but pointed out that these signs were at the end of their working life. The Parish Council could replace these signs at their own expense of between £350 - £400 per unit but M. Winnington would explore whether the cost would be solely at the Parish Council's expense or whether the County could also contribute to the cost. Following the audit by the Safer Roads Partnership if the need for new 30 mph signs is backed up by data the County will replace them but the audit recently undertook is within safety margins.

It was noted by Parish Councillors that the positioning of the speed assessors was on a curve when motorists would be slowing down and that speeding was more noticeable at night. It was questioned whether there was any value in the survey being repeated at a different time and in different places.

Cllr. Winnington has flagged up as important the bus stop gulley defect as anyone waiting at the bus stop is getting soaked from standing water. In addition there is a need to lift the inspection drain to see the state of the drains which may be compounding this problem.

Cllr. Winnington reported that the County Council was working with landowners to ensure that ditches were cleaned out to prevent flooding. He did emphasise that Council policy was to give priority to areas where lives or homes were threatened. He did also point out that climate change had had an impact on flooding.

Cllr. R. Sutherland reported that the brown bin service payment of £36 should be paid by 1st January, 2021. He also confirmed that there will be an indicator on the bin which will be house specific to identify who has paid for this service.

5. To consider matters of finance including

a). Accounts for approval

DESCRIPTION	NET	VAT	GROSS
Salaries and Expenses	663.97	0.25	664.22
JWH	602.00		602.00
SPCA	25.00		25.00
Royal British Legion	50.00		50.00
HAGS	25.00	5.00	30.00
Parish Online.	80.00	16.00	96.00

Resolved to approve these payments.

b). To receive financial statements.

Resolved that financial statements for the month be accepted.

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

a) Highways

Resolved to ask County Council to look into the possibility of a buffer zone by 40mph signs being placed between the Bradley turn coming from Stafford and the two sets of bends from Gnosall to prepare motorists for the 30mph speed limit going through Haughton.

Reported that there are two trees in a garden which borders Brazenhill Lane which appear to have died. It was noted that there was a possibility of danger to passing people or traffic during inclement weather.

It was noted that the Borough or County Council are the appropriate authorities to enforce any action.

Resolved to write a letter to the resident reminding them of their responsibilities with regard to the safety of trees which are situated on their land providing there is solid legal grounds to do so.

Council received an update on Watery Lane and this was noted.

b) Footpaths.

Cllr. A. Hopper reported that her inventory of all the footpaths in Haughton was nearly complete. The Parish Council thanked Cllr. A. Hopper for her time and effort in walking all the paths and complimented her on providing a comprehensive document which included photographs.

Resolved to send this inventory to the Footpaths Officer at Staffordshire County Council.

Resolved to send a letter of thanks to two parishioners who accompanied Cllr. A Hopper on her walks and assisted in the compilation of documentary evidence for this inventory.

It was reported that Mr. P. Rochford, Footpaths Officer for the County Council was willing to talk to Parish Councils about footpaths and bridlepaths.

Resolved that Cllr. S. Taylor would look into this offer with a view to Mr. P. Rochford giving a talk to the Parish Council.

It was reported that a working party to maintain footpaths and bridlepaths comprising volunteers with some contribution from the County Council was well worth exploring.

Resolved that Cllrs. A. Hopper and S. Taylor would investigate and report back to Parish Council.

7. To receive report from Councillors/Clerk on:

a) Park.

Reported that maintenance had taken place on the park comprising refixing a loose pale, adjustment of latch on the small gate and repair of the gate.

Following minor vandalism to the safety matting which had been lifted out of position this had now been rectified.

Dog faeces were found by the zip wire.

i. To receive quotes for fencing part of the perimeter of the park.

Resolved to accept a quote for partial fencing of the perimeter of the park.

b) Football Pitch.

Reported that Stafford Rangers Juniors had used the pitch for two sessions of training, but that all matches had been cancelled until January, 2021.

Resolved to defer the billing of use of pitch until the position becomes clearer regarding the extent to which they have been able to use the pitch due to Covid 19.

8. To discuss 2021/2022 Budget and projects/spends required.

Resolved to agree the precept for 2021/2022 at £21,230 and this would represent a 0% increase to the tax payer from last year.

9. 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. Clerk to consult with the Chair, Vice Chair or any other councillor chosen by the Clerk on relevant issues.

**To exclude members of the press and public from item 10 below, whilst confidential information is discussed.**

10 To consider the review of Clerk.

The position of Clerk was reviewed.

11 . To confirm the date of the next meeting on Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> January, 2021 at 7.00 p.m. Venue to be decided at a later date.

Confirmed that the date should read Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2021 at 7.00 p.m. Venue to be decided at a later date.

12. Meeting Close.

Meeting closed at 10.00 p.m.