

HAUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Mrs. Susan Atkins.

www.haughton-staffs.org.uk

Email: clerk@haughtonpc-staffs.org.uk

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 22nd February, 2021 at 7.00 p.m. via Zoom.

Attendees: Cllr. M. Allen. Cllr. G. Anslow. Cllr. A. Hopper. Cllr. P. Prokopa.

Cllr. I. Sunley. Cllr. S. Taylor. Cllr. D. Warbrick.

County and Borough Councillor M. Winnington.

Public: One member of the public was present.

A representative of the Office for National Statistics gave a short presentation regarding the forthcoming Census. It was reported that by Sunday, 21st March everyone should receive a pack which will include a personal password log on so that the Census can be completed online. Paper copies will be available for anyone who cannot access the online form. It was confirmed that all information received will be anonymised.

The officer stressed that the information collated will be very useful for Parish Councils as it will give detailed information on a number of areas which could lead to planning for the future at a local level. It was stressed that it was important that Parish Councils were involved so that planning did not always take place at a Borough or County Level.

- 1. To receive apologies and accept and record any reasons for absences.**
None required.
- 2. To receive any Declarations of interest in the following agenda.**
Chair declared a peripheral interest in the Footpaths agenda item.
- 3. To receive and confirm the minutes of the meetings held on Monday, 25th January and Wednesday, 10th February, 2021.**
Resolved that the Minutes be accepted as a true record.
- 4. To receive any reports from Borough, County Councillors and PCSO.**
Borough Cllr. R. Sutherland sent his apologies.

Borough and County Councillor M. Winnington would join the meeting at approximately 8.00 p.m.

Cllr. Winnington reported that he was concerned about the planning application to change of use at land in Alstone Lane, Haughton.

Cllr. Winnington was informed as to the Parish Council's concerns.

Resolved to write to Cllr. M. Winnington regarding these concerns.

Cllr. Winnington was informed about the accident in Bradley/Dale Lane and listened to concerns of the Council regarding the safety of the "Give Way" sign. Resolved to write to Cllr. M. Winnington informing him of our concerns regarding the safety of this signage.

Cllr. M. Winnington reported that a 40 mph buffer zone at the entrance and exit to Haughton would need a survey and consultation period. Cllr. Winnington asked if the Parish Council would wish to help with the cost involved in establishing this buffer zone.

Cllr. Winnington was asked about the availability of the jetter to clear drains.

Cllr. Winnington indicated that he did not know of the plans for the use of the jetter.

Cllr. Winnington reported that even with the specific allocation by central Government to road repair there was still a considerable shortfall in available funds to remedy the problems on the roads.

5. To consider planning matters, including planning decisions, notifications of appeals. Planning Application 21/33774/COU – change of use at land adjacent to Rose Cottage, Alstone Lane, Haughton. The development is described as change of use from chemical treatment and processing agricultural seed to farmers (Class B8) to storage and supplying bulk aggregates direct to the construction industry.

There were a number of questions and comments the Parish Council wished to make to the Planning Department regarding this application and they are as follows:-

There is concern regarding the passage of heavy goods vehicles on a regular basis along Alstone Lane which is a single track country road with issues about the degradation of the verges of the lane from the hgv's and the space available to turn into the yard. It was felt that Alstone Lane is a country lane and is not designed for the volume and size of the traffic of hgv's, this together with the heavy traffic to Wells Farm would put an extra strain on the local network.

Questions were raised as to what is the acceptable size of the vehicles, could a weight limit be put in place, what would be the trading hours of the company and could the prescribed number of deliveries a day be adhered to and who will police these if the company do not keep to the agreement?

A further question was asked as to whether the aggregate is to be stored or will there be some processing involved?

The Parish Council felt that if we are looking at the storage of aggregate this is abrasive in nature. It then follows that any dust which may be blown on the wind will also be abrasive and it is known to be both a respiratory irritant and potentially carcinogenic. It is possible, therefore, that there is a potential public health risk to the parishioners of Haughton.

6. To consider matters of finance including

a). **Accounts for approval**

DESCRIPTION	NET	VAT	GROSS
Salaries and Expenses	£544.13	0.33	£546.46

Resolved to approve these payments.

b). **To receive financial statements.**

Resolved that financial statements for the month be accepted.

c) **To consider the addition of a fourth cheque signatory.**

Resolved to add Cllr. G. Anslow as a cheque signatory.

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

a) **Highways**

Reported that there had been another accident on the A518 at the junction of Dale Lane and Bradley Lane. It was reported that signage was not clear and that the "Give Way" sign was seen to be at the Dale Lane opening rather than at the end of Bradley Lane. Reported that the sign was often obscured by the hedge. It was also reported that the Bradley Lane sign "unsuitable for hgv's" was only visible in one direction.

Reported that one of the tubs that are normally planted which are located on the corner of Jolt Lane was found in the road (A518) and had to be relocated to its original place. The state of the tubs are also a cause for concern.

Resolved for Chairman to expedite a satisfactory resolution to a potential hazard.

i. To discuss speed issues on the A518 linked to the recent survey on speeding through Haughton.

Resolved to defer this item until the arrival of Cllr. M. Winnington to the meeting.

ii. To receive reports from Councillors on the state of the entrance to Grassy Lane from Prince Avenue.

Reported that the state of the entrance to Grassy Lane was in a good condition although there was some signs of tyre marks.

Resolved to defer this to the next meeting with Councillors to consider a physical barrier to motorists parking or accessing Grassy Lane.

b) Footpaths.

To discuss the recent survey of Haughton's footpaths and rights of way. Reported that the Footpaths Department were only prepared to receive reports on their portal. Cllr. Sunley has volunteered to transfer the information from the usb to the portal but pointed out that this was very time consuming. Reported that the Footpaths Officer is attending the May meeting and further advice regarding this information on the footpaths which has been collected could then be obtained.

8. To receive report from Councillors/Clerk on:

a) Park.

Reported that canes are being taken from the hedge and that approximately 50 more are needed.

Clerk to supply canes to the Park Warden.

Reported that there was some drainage from the Park on the Grassy Lane side but two of the black pipes had no flow of water through them.

Resolved to accept a quote for repair to the Basketball stand at a cost of £150 and if the ground sinks again to decide whether additional remedial action is necessary.

b) Football Pitch.

Reported that the drainage for the Football Pitch runs on the side of the zip wire through a field and into a large drain in Brazenhill Lane.

Resolved to meet for an on site discussion and to share information from plans. The meeting will be held outside, suitably distanced, with Councillors involved with the park.

9. To review the updated Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.

Resolved to ratify Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.

10. To receive a report on the progress of the Telephone Box.

Reported that two quotes were received and resolved to accept a quote for £450 for the internal refurbishment of the telephone box.

11. To receive for consideration a draft of the proposed survey of Haughton parishioners.

Reported that the survey was still a work in progress and this would be deferred until the next meeting.

12. To discuss the future of the dog dispenser bags in Haughton.

It was reported that 200 dog bags were put in the dog dispensers every week. Resolved to carry on with providing this service until public opinion had been sought from the upcoming local survey.

13. To discuss issues regarding Dale Common.

i. Advertising offers for tenders for the lease of Dale Common for a calendar year.

Resolved to ask for tenders for the lease of Dale Common for a calendar year.

ii. To consider planting on Dale Common.

Reported that a representative from Staffordshire Wildlife Trust would be looking at the site in the near future and it was therefore resolved to defer this item to the next meeting.

14. To discuss requirements for 2021 regarding the strimming of Grassy Lane and areas around stiles on public footpaths.

Resolved to continue the 2020 strimming programme through 2021.

Cllr. M. Winnington left the meeting.

To exclude members of the press and public from item 15 below, whilst confidential information is discussed.

15. To receive an announcement from Chairman on behalf of the Clerk.

Chairman informed the Parish Council that Clerk had tendered her resignation. Due to Covid-19 Clerk had offered to extend her notice period until a replacement could be found.

Resolved to agree to a constantly reviewed period of notice.

Resolved to convene the Personnel Committee who would agree the job description, advertise locally and countywide, shortlist applicants, interview applicants and make a recommendation to full Council for approval and appointment.

It was resolved as an additional requirement to co-opt a Clerk if necessary.

16. To confirm the date of the next meeting on Monday, 22nd March, 2021.

17. Meeting Close.

Meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.

DRAFT