

**HAUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**Clerk: Mrs. Susan Atkins.**

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**MINUTES**

**Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 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. Three members of the public were present.**

- 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.**  
Chairman M. Allen declared a peripheral interest in Item 6.
- 3. To receive and confirm the minutes of the meetings held on Monday, 22 February, 2021.**  
Resolved that the minutes be accepted as a true record.
- 4. To receive any reports from Borough, County Councillors and PCSO.**  
M. Winnington had reported that Planning Application Number 21/33774/COU – change of use – Alstone Lane, Haughton had been called in before the full planning committee due to concerns about extra large vehicular traffic generation, recycling and processing of materials on the proposed site, hours of operation and the need for a travel plan due to the rural nature of the roads.  
  
Cllr. M. Winnington joined the meeting at 20.05 p.m.  
  
The Parish Council expressed their thanks for the grant linked to climate change which had been recently received and would be spent on bicycle racks around the village to encourage cycling rather than car use.
- 5. To consider planning matters, including planning decisions, notifications of appeals. Planning Application Number 20/3222/FUL – land west of Stallbrook Hall, Derrington.**  
Resolved that a reply of no comment should be given on the above application.

**6. To consider whether to subscribe to SPCA and NALC affiliation.**

Resolved to subscribe to SPCA and NALC affiliation for 2021/2022.

**7. To consider matters of finance including**

a). Accounts for approval

DESCRIPTION	NET	VAT	GROSS
Salaries and Expenses	£588.57	£3.56	£592.13
Town & Parish Council Websites	£130.00		£130.00
SPCA	£288.00		£288.00
HMRC	£39.40		£39.40

Resolved to approve these payments together with a late invoice received in respect of the park to the value of £130. In addition it was approved that Clerk could pay for additional invoices received before the end of March to a value of £750.

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

Resolved that financial statements for the month be accepted.

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

a) **Highways**

Reported that work had started on Watery Lane with new drains being installed and tarmacking due to start once the problems with drainage had been completed.

It was resolved to make a formal request to enquire as to the likely cost of a 40 mph buffer zone at both the Stafford and Gnosall entrance to Haughton.

Reported that Staffordshire County Council had received an extra £5 million to deal with pot holes and the public should be encouraged to report potholes.

Cllr. M. Winnington reported that he had not heard anything from Highways regarding the siting of the "Give Way" sign at the end of Bradley Lane/A518 junction.

Reported that a tree had been cut down on the area of grass owned by the Borough Council along Moathouse Drive. A substance had also been applied to kill the stump.

Resolved to enquire as to whether the Borough Council had given permission to remove this tree and why.

It was noted that with the removal of the above tree and of the three trees planted earlier one had died, this would mean that 2 new trees need to be planted on the green to replace the one which had been removed and the one which had died.

**i. To consider a physical barrier at the entrance of Grassy Lane from Prince Avenue.**

Resolved to keep under review the condition of the entrance to Grassy Lane from Prince Avenue .

**b) Footpaths.**

Reported that the upload of the conditions of the Footpaths in Haughton to the County Council portal had been completed up to Footpath 20.

Reported that planings would be received shortly to raise a short distance of the level of Grassy Lane by 6 cms and take out the hollow that has developed along the path.

**9, To receive report from Councillors/Clerk on:**

**a) Park.**

Reported that children had pulled out the recently supplied canes which are used to support the new hedge.

Resolved that the Parish Council would not continue to replace the canes.

Some small repair jobs were reported by the Park Warden and clerk would liaise to ensure that the necessary parts required would be supplied to complete this work.

Reported that the light owned by Severn Trent did not appear to be working at present. Resolved to inform Severn Trent to expedite a repair.

**i. To consider a request, following anti-social behaviour on the park, for a gate which can be locked at the entrance to the playing field car park.**

Resolved to contact the local PCSO regarding nuisance behaviour and to write to the Chief Constable of Staffordshire regarding the above problem. In addition it was resolved to log all problems on the park to create evidence for the future.

**b) Football Pitch.**

Reported that Stafford Rangers Juniors Football Club would begin training in April and some games would be played with the season being extended to the end of June.

Resolved that Clerk would contact the above organisation to negotiate payment for the rental of the pitch bearing in mind the difficult nature of the year due to Covid 19.

Resolved that Cllr. S. Taylor would inspect the pitch to assess its condition for the commencement of the shortened football season.

**10. To discuss the purchase and installation of cycle racks upon receipt of the £1,000 grant.**

Resolved that Cllrs. P. Prokopa and S. Taylor would inspect the potential sites to inform the type of rack that will be required in various locations for discussion at the next meeting.

**11. To ratify the Risk Assessment Policy for 2021.**

Resolved to ratify the Risk Assessment Policy for 2021.

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

Resolved to accept the draft of the proposed survey of Haughton parishioners.

Resolved to spend £70 on printing the survey for distribution to Haughton parishioners and for this to be on the Parish Council website with replies either in hard copy to be put into a special box cited at the Post Office or completed forms returned via the website.

**13. To discuss the future of the dog dispenser bags in Haughton.**

Resolved that this will be deferred until replies have been received from parishioners via the Haughton survey.

**14. To consider tenders received for the rental of Dale Common.**

Resolved to accept the one tender received for the lease of Dale Common for one year.

**15. To consider Staffordshire Wildlife Trusts offer to advise with regard to the planting of Dale Common in line with its natural habitat.**

Resolved for Parish Councillors to visit Dale Common to assess the site.

**16. To consider a memorial to remember the challenges posed by Covid 19 in line with Covid Day on 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2021.**

Resolved to enquire of parishioners, via the proposed survey, how and if they would like a memorial to remember the challenges posed by Covid 19.

**To exclude members of the press and public from item 17 below, whilst confidential information is discussed.**

**17. To review honorarium paid to Park Warden in view of the increase in the minimum wage from April, 2021.**

Resolved to increase the honorarium paid to the Park Warden in the light of the increase in the minimum wage from April, 2021/

**18. To receive an interim report from Personnel Committee on the vacancy for a Clerk/RFO for Haughton Parish Council.**

Reported that there had been interest from four potential candidates. It was also noted that the closing date was not until 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2021.

Clerk confirmed that she was prepared to continue in the position for a further four weeks.

**19. To confirm the date of the next meeting on Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2021.**

**20. Meeting Close.**

Meeting closed at 21.08 p.m.

21/13

DRAFT