

HAUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Suzanne Potts

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MINUTES.

Minutes of the meeting held Monday 25th July, 2022, at 7.00p.m at Haughton Village Hall.

Attendees: Cllr. M. Allen. Cllr. G. Anslow. Cllr. P. Prokopa. Cllr. I. Sunley. Cllr. S. Taylor.
Clerk to the Parish Council - S. Potts. County Cllr. M. Winnington joined the meeting at 7.38pm. PCSO Emma Fry joined the meeting to deliver her report.

Public: Two members of the public was present for the first part of the meeting.

Public Open Forum – No issues were raised.

1. To receive apologies and accept and record any reasons for absences. Cllr. Woodcock tendered an apology and was unable to attend due to a holiday. Borough Cllr. R. Sutherland tendered an apology due to a conflicting council meeting.

2. To receive declarations of interest from members regarding items on the agenda. None received.

3. To receive and confirm minutes of meeting held on Monday 27th June, 2022. The minutes of the meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record.

4. Information from Jonathon Groom of Staffordshire Wildlife Trust regarding potential opportunities at Dale Common to create ponds and potentially restore floodplain meadow-type grassland was presented to council. Council agreed in principal to the changes subject to further detail being provided and agreed to proceed to the next stage of discussions.

5. To receive reports from Borough, County Councillors, Clerk, SPCA and PCSO. PCSO Emma Fry reported that in the last month there had been 1 incident of antisocial behaviour, 1 criminal damage, 1 suspicious incident, plus one other crime. This includes the damage to the Haughton sign on Station Road. Cllr. Allen reported that SPCA Chief Executive Andrew McCrae had now retired, council agreed for a letter of thanks to be issued. Clerk's report included details of working group and committee meetings that had taken place since the previous parish council meeting. Cllr. Winnington said that he had received complaints about the greenway not being cut back.

6. To consider planning matters, including planning decisions, notifications of appeals and updates. Reference 22/35886/FUL – Land adj. 1 Brazenhill Lane, Haughton. Council instructed clerk to notify the Borough Council of the following objections: negative impact on street scene, concerns expressed by residents and traffic concerns due to the proximity to a road junction. The Parish Council consider this application to be in breach of the Borough Council's strategy for the retention of open spaces. This particular open space has been undeveloped for over 40 years.

7. Finance a) The following expenditure was approved for payment.

DESCRIPTION	NET	VAT	GROSS
Salaries and Expenses	£741.95		£741.95
Haughton Village Hall	£119.00		£119.00
JR Landscaping	£466.25	£93.25	£559.50
Haughton PCC - Grant	£500.00		£500.00
Greenaway Timber Products	£120.00	£24.00	£144.00
<i>*Get composting.com (O.No 3592879) – 6 bins</i>	£99.58	£19.91	£119.49
<i>*Get composting.com (O.No 3592055) – 6 bins</i>	£99.58	£19.91	£119.49
TOTALS	£2,146.36	£157.07	£2,303.43

*Payments made using HPC debit card since last meeting.

b) Financial reports were received and accepted.

8. To discuss highways, public rights of way issues including those requiring reporting.

a) Highways – speed and volume survey has been completed, results are awaited. Community Speed Watch team is fully trained, wheelie bin ‘30’ stickers have been ordered for A518 and a £20 budget was allocated for the replacement of batteries in the Speed Watch device. It was agreed to write to David Williams, Cabinet Member for Highways regarding the possibility of certain lanes being designated as Quiet Lanes.

b) Public Rights of Way – funding request for part funding of improvements to footpath 5 has been submitted. A complaint has been received about Footpath 1, a response from Paul Rochfort, PROW officer is awaited. Clerk was requested to write to Paul Rochfort to assess whether it is possible to move forward with the creation of a volunteer group with the assistance of Staffs County Council.

9. To receive report from Councillors/Clerk on:

a) Park. Park warden’s report had been circulated prior to the meeting. Wooden pales which had been vandalised have been reaffixed, graffiti removed from the skate park, a wooden tread on the zip wire has been replaced but others are needed. A letter has been sent to Stafford Borough Council regarding ownership of the field being transferred to Haughton Parish Council. ROSPA inspection is due in August. Park Warden is to refurbish a dog glove dispenser.

b) Football Pitch. Pitch is in good condition in spite of the hot weather.

10. Parish Councillor vacancy. Council received a recommendation from the Personnel Committee to appoint Mark Burgess to the position of Councillor. Council accepted the recommendation and instructed Clerk to inform Mark Burgess of the decision.

11. The start time of Parish Council meetings was reviewed. It was agreed that the start time would remain as 7pm.

12. Allimore Green – two guided walks arranged by Haughton Parish Council and Staffs Wildlife Trust have taken place. Council approved a £50 donation to the two charities of the neighbour's choice who kindly supplied refreshments on both visits. A letter of thanks is also to be issued.

13. Projects - Composter bins for Haughton initiative, 53 bins have been requested, 50 have so far been delivered. Council approved a Climate Change grant application to fund the purchase of thermal imaging equipment for use by villagers. It was agreed that councillor support with administration for the project would be required.

14. \$106 monies as a result of Redfern Rise development. School council had been consulted regarding choice of play equipment for the park. Cllr. Taylor will investigate cost of play equipment and benches.

15. Communications sub group. Council agreed for three Councillors to receive social media training via SPCA at a cost of £90.

16. Correspondence / communications received.

A report of damage to the Arriva timetable had been received, this has been passed onto Arriva. A complaint about shrubbery being overgrown by the village hall was passed to the village hall committee. Information supplied by the Gnosall Surgery Participation Group will be included in the next Bugle issue. Two reports have been received regarding criminal damage to the Haughton sign in Station Road, this is now being dealt with by the Police. Email had been received by Cllr. Prokopa regarding community fibre broad band with an estimated timescale of 12 months for this to be implemented.

9.00pm – Standing orders were suspended – Council agreed to continue the meeting to the end of the agenda.

Members of the press and public were excluded from the following item as it contained confidential information.

17. Clerks hours – a recommendation was received from the Personnel Committee following review of Clerk's hours conducted on 12th July. The recommendation was to increase clerk's hours from 10 to 12 per week from September. This was agreed with a further review after 6 months.

Park warden – Clerk and Cllr. Taylor had completed a 6 month review with the park warden. A pay review for the park warden was agreed by council.

18. To receive any future agenda items.

Cllr. Taylor requested funding for the BKV project be considered at the September meeting.

19. Powers were devolved to Clerk until the next Parish Council meeting and the scope is to ensure the smooth running of council in the absence of the monthly meeting.

20. The date / time of next meeting was confirmed as 7pm Monday 26th September 2022. Council was advised of Clerk's holiday – 20th to 29th August inclusive (five days holiday entitlement).

21. Meeting closed at 9.19pm.