

HAUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer: Jonathan Brumwell

www.haughton-staffs.org.uk

[Email: clerk@haughtonpc-staffs.org.uk](mailto:clerk@haughtonpc-staffs.org.uk)

Minutes of the Meeting of Haughton Parish Council held at Haughton Village Hall at 7.00pm on Monday 24th July 2023

Present:

Parish Councillors: Ian Sunley (Chair), Michael Allen, Suzanne Beatty, Mark Burgess, Melvyn Cotterill, Peter Prokopa (Vice Chair), and Stuart Taylor.

Clerk: Jonathan Brumwell

Public Open Forum: No members of the public were present.

1. To receive apologies and accept and record any reasons for absences.

There were no apologies.

2. Declarations of interest

None.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 26th June 2023

The minutes were proposed, seconded and approved as a true and accurate record and were signed by the Chair.

4. Items to be taken with the public excluded

There were no items to be taken with the public excluded.

5. Reports from Borough and County Councillors, SPCA, PCSO, Chair, and Clerk

SPCA – Cllr Allen reported that Robert Pettigrew, the new Chief Executive of Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association, is now in post. Clare Rawlings is the newly-appointed Health and Wellbeing Officer.

Chair – Cllr Sunley reported attending the first Lower Reule Bioenergy Brookfield Farm Liaison Committee, being the only representative from a parish council. Issues raised included potentially increased traffic volumes to and from the site.

Clerk – No issues to report.

6. Planning

No notifications received.

7. Application to upgrade PF52 Haughton to a public bridleway

The Council noted that Staffordshire County Council had received an application under Section 53 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 for the upgrade of PF52 Haughton to the Definitive Map of Public Rights of Way (upgrade to bridleway).

RESOLVED that the Council does not object to the upgrade. The Clerk is to communicate this to the Rights of Way Officer with comment on the point of egress from PF52 onto Woodhouse Road.

8. Jim Jarvis Memorial Playing Field – Picnic Bench

The Council considered utilising remaining section 106 monies for the purchase of a recycled plastic picnic bench to be sited at the Jim Jarvis Memorial Playing Field and considered a short report identifying potentially suitable picnic benches.

RESOLVED to purchase a Marmax recycled plastic heavy duty picnic bench in rainbow colours at a cost of £428.00 (exclusive of VAT). The Clerk will obtain quotes for suitable fixings and installation.

9. Financial Report

(a) Expenditure incurred on behalf of the Council under the terms of Financial Regulation 4.1: none.

(b) Bank reconciliation as at 30th June 2023: noted.

(c) Payments for approval: To approve online payments and payment of direct debits as detailed below:

DESCRIPTION	NET	VAT	GROSS
Salaries and Expenses	£970.10		
Proludic (new play equipment)	£13,042.45	£2,608.49	£15,650.94
ALS Contracting (play equipment installation)	£6,125.00	£1,225.00	£7,350.00
Staffordshire CPRE	£36.00	£0.00	£36.00
Community Speed Watch	£19.88	£0.00	£19.88
<u>Direct Debit Payments</u>			
<i>EE Mobile</i>	£12.67	£2.53	£15.20

(d) Income Received: none.

10. Highways, public rights of way and related issues

a) Highways including grass cutting: MA reported repairs to some potholes on Station Road. MA further reported Severn Trent's intention to close Station Road between A518 and White Cross to all traffic for 3 days in October. MA and the Clerk will liaise with Severn Trent regarding the proposed closure.

b) Public Rights of Way: PP reported that he and the Clerk had recently walked Walks 1 and 2 which were in fairly good condition. Work was identified as required at one footbridge and a stile.

c) Village Tidy-Ups: Village Tidy-Ups are to be arranged for Wednesday 16th August and Thursday 7th September, both commencing at 6.30pm for one hour with volunteers assembling behind the shops. A Working Group was established (IS, SB, MB, and MC).

11. Point of Order

MA raised a point of order, the meeting having exceeded a period of 2 hours.

RESOLVED to suspend Standing Order 3(x) to enable remaining business to be dealt with as per Standing Order 3(x).

12. Reports from Councillors

a) Park: ST noted the Warden's report regarding damaged bins and a loose paling on the fence which appears now to have been repaired. The shrubs at the telephone box were identified as requiring pruning and details of work completed on each visit is to be included on invoices.

b) Football Pitch: ST reported that the worn area by the goal mouth was recovering.

13. Updates on projects and action points:

- Dale Common: Grazing tender to be published; seeding of spoil to be progressed by the Newt Conservation Partnership.
- New equipment at Jim Jarvis Memorial Field: the Clerk confirmed that the annual RoSPA inspection is confirmed for August at a cost of £75.00 for up to 5 items of equipment and £3.50 for each additional item of equipment, to include the newly-installed equipment.

14. Request to Hire Football Pitch

The Council considered a request received from AFC Gnosall to hire the football pitch for the 2023/24 season. No fixture list was available in advance.

RESOLVED that the request is approved in principle but will be subject to use of the football pitch by other hirers and does not confer an exclusive right of use.

15. Maintenance grant – St Giles Churchyard

The Council considered a request received from the Treasurer of St Giles' PCC for payment of the first part of the annual grant for maintenance of St Giles' Churchyard in the sum of £500.00, the balance of £500.00 to be paid in October as in previous years.

RESOLVED that the payment of £500.00 for maintenance of St Giles' Churchyard is approved.

16. Councillor Email Addresses

The Council considered the provision of official email addresses for use for Parish Council business for Councillors S Beatty and M Cotterill, and membership of Working Groups to include SB and MC.

RESOLVED that official email addresses be provided for use by Cllrs Beatty and Cotterill. SB to join Standards and Procedures Review Working Group; MC to join PROW Working Group; MB and MC to join Communications Working Group.

17. Future agenda items

The Council noted that future agenda items should be notified to the Clerk by Monday, 18th September 2023.

18. Date and time of next meeting

The Council confirmed the date and time of the next meeting as Monday, 25th September 2023 at 7.00pm.

19. Delegation to the Clerk

IS proposed a general delegation of powers to the Clerk during the period of the summer recess.

RESOLVED that powers be delegated to the Clerk until the next meeting of the Council.

20. Meeting Close

The meeting closed at 9.38pm.

Chair, 25th September 2023