

HAUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer: Jonathan Brumwell

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Minutes of the Meeting of Haughton Parish Council held at Haughton Village Hall at 7.00pm on Monday 25th September 2023

Present:

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

In attendance:

Clerk: Jonathan Brumwell

County Cllr Mark Winnington

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

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

RESOLVED that apologies are accepted and approved from Councillor Peter Prokopa (Vice Chair).

2. Declarations of interest

None.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 24th July 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 the Chief Executive of Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association is holding meetings with groups of local council Chairmen. The Chief Executive has also proposed that SPCA becomes a company limited by guarantee. Cllr Allen reported that the recently-appointed Health and Wellbeing Officer has left SPCA.

County – Cllr Winnington reported that it had been quiet at County level over the summer and that he was happy to take questions.

Cllr Taylor asked about the timing of roadworks in Stafford.

Cllr Winnington said that the situation had not been helped by roadworks on A34. However, the works were to install cycle lanes that were a prerequisite for further funding.

Cllr Sunley raised Community Speedwatch and enquired when the next watch was to be done in Gnosall.

Chair – Cllr Sunley reported that a fallen branch in Brazenhill Lane had been removed by the County Council within 24 hours. Cllr Sunley also reported that one tree had been removed and another pollarded on Moathouse Drive, and the horse chestnut had received a crown lift.

Cllr Sunley reported that Village Tidy-Ups on 15th August and 20th September had been well-attended.

Continued...

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

Clerk – The Clerk reported that no tenders had been received for grazing at Dale Common. The Clerk also reported correspondence from a resident regarding damage at Grassy Lane following hedge-cutting. Parts of the lane edge have fallen into the brook and will need to be cleared before winter. The Chairman will ask Brian Parker if he would be able to assist with clearing the brook.

6. Planning

Update

22/35886/FUL: Proposed erection of one two bedroom dwelling - Land Adjacent To 1 Brazenhill Lane, Haughton, ST18 9HS – The Clerk attended Planning Committee 9 August 2023 and presented the Parish Council's objections. Committee deferred its decision on the matter. Cllr Winnington confirmed that the application had been approved at the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 20 September 2023.

7. Financial Report

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

(b) The Chairman informed the Council that it would be necessary to update the signatories on the Stafford Railway Building Society account.

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

DESCRIPTION	NET	VAT	GROSS
Salaries and Expenses	£732.90	-£96.00	£828.90
JR Landscaping	361.25	72.25	433.50
JRB Enterprise Ltd (dog poo bags)	314.55	62.91	377.46
TOTAL	£1,408.70	£231.16	£1,639.86
<u>Direct Debit Payments</u>			
<i>EE Mobile</i>	£12.67	£2.53	£15.20

(d) Income Received: none.

8. Highways, public rights of way and related issues

- Highways including grass cutting: MA reported that repairs on Station Road by Severn Trent had been completed with minimal disruption.
- Grass-cutting – A meeting with JR Landscaping is to be requested to discuss grass-cutting.
- Public Rights of Way: There were no reports. Cllr Prokopa had reported via email clearing the Dale Lane entrances to Dale Common PROWs on the second Village Tidy-Up.

9. Item Brought Forward

The Chairman proposed that Item 11(a) be brought forward to enable Cllr Winnington to participate.

RESOLVED that Item 11(a) be brought forward.

10. FLIRE5-XT Thermal Imaging Camera Training Course and handbook

Cllr Sunley informed the Council that during training it had been emphasised that the lens of the thermal imaging camera was very delicate and under no circumstances should it be cleaned with a cloth. As a result it would be inadvisable to loan the camera to individuals and surveys would need to be carried out by trained members of the Council.

Continued/...

10. FLIRE5-XT Thermal Imaging Camera Training Course and handbook cont/...

Cllrs M Burgess, S Beatty, and M Cotterill and County Cllr M Winnington volunteered for training. Cllr Sunley will arrange a training webinar.

Cllr Burgess asked what advice we would give residents after they had had a survey and SBEN (Staffordshire Business & Environment Network) was suggested as a source.

11. Jim Jarvis Memorial Field - RoSPA Annual Inspection Report

The Council received the annual RoSPA inspection report for play equipment at the Jim Jarvis Memorial Field. The Clerk reported that the wooden tread on the zip wire had been replaced from the stock held by Cllr Taylor and that the Warden had said he would be able to remove the branches identified as being too close to the swing. Signage for the basketball court is to be investigated as it is believed that there is a sign in storage available to be installed.

RESOLVED that the report is approved and adopted.

12. To receive reports from Councillors

a) Park: Cllr Taylor reported that the missing bin lid at the Skate Park is now causing the bin to fill with water.

The zip wire tubing is splitting and will need to be replaced.

The basketball hoop netting is missing and needs to be replaced.

The hedge inside the park needs to be cut back.

b) Football Pitch: Cllr Taylor reported that the grass is very long and that there is a hole in the goalmouth that needs filling. Stafford Rangers to be contacted re use of pitch.

13. Updates on projects and action points:

Picnic bench – a site visit will be held at 10:00am on 14th October to agree the location at the Jim Jarvis Memorial Field where the picnic bench is to be installed.

14. 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).

15. Stafford Borough Council Planning Application Validation Criteria - Consultation

Council **deferred** consideration of this matter to the October meeting.

14. Defibrillators – replacement batteries

The Council considered the purchase of replacement batteries for the Parish Council's AEDs.

Recent readiness checks showed two current batteries to be at the end of their effective life.

Prices were obtained from three suppliers (all prices are exclusive of VAT):

Supplier A	£252.64
Supplier B	£223.00
Supplier C	£205.00

RESOLVED to purchase two replacement AED batteries from supplier C (AED Donate) at a cost of £205.00 per battery (exclusive of VAT).

16. Remembrance - Wreath

The Council considered obtaining a wreath from the Royal British Legion to be laid at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday and an appropriate donation for the same.

RESOLVED that a wreath be requested from the Royal British Legion and a donation of £50.00 be made.

17. Future agenda items

Councillors were asked to think of ideas with ball park costs that could be discussed at the next meeting for inclusion into next years budget. As an example Cllr Sunley suggested the purchase of new speed awareness signs.

The Council noted that future agenda items should be notified to the Clerk by Monday, 16th October 2023.

18. Date and time of next meeting

The Council confirmed the date and time of the next meeting as Monday, 23rd October 2023 at 7.00pm.

19. Meeting Close

The meeting closed at 9.21pm.

Chair, 23rd October 2023