

AUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 10 APRIL 2017, IN AUGHTON VILLAGE HALL ANNEXE,
COMMENCING AT 7.30pm

CHAIRMAN: Councillor Ian Grant

MEMBERS PRESENT: As recorded in the Register of Attendance

10749 APOLOGIES were tendered on behalf of:

Councillor Gibbons	-	personal commitment
Councillor Jones	-	personal commitment

All APOLOGIES were READ and APPROVED.

10750 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – members were reminded to declare their interests before the start of each Agenda Item or when appropriate.

10751 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 13 MARCH 2017, copies circulated prior to meeting, were APPROVED and SIGNED as a correct record.

10752 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES:

a) Christ Church Aughton 150 years celebration service – the Chairman and representatives of the Parish Council attended the family service held on Mothering Sunday, 26 March 2017 together with the Mayor of West Lancashire Borough Council and the MP to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone. The Bishop of Liverpool took part in this special service and reported that ‘On the very day the foundation stone was laid by the Bishop of Chester and the community gathered at Christ Church, Brunel’s great ship the ‘Great Eastern’ steamed out of Liverpool – the ship was broken up at New Ferry in 1889. Christ Church, which was built from stone quarried from the now disused quarry situated between Delph Lane and Quarry Drive, lives on. The vicar of Christ Church, Reverend Ross Moughtin was made a Canon of Liverpool Cathedral on 21 March 2017’.

b) Town Green Lane Housing Land – confirmation received from WLBC that due to significant funding cuts, the environmental budget for providing/completing such schemes was regrettably no longer available. NOTED

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME – the Chairman adjourned the meeting at this stage and invited comments/questions from members of the public present.

A resident from The Serpentine spoke about Agenda Item 10 - the Public Meeting in Halsall on ‘Fracking’ and the possible effects of ‘Fracking’ in Aughton. He suggested an improvement to the Lancashire Constabulary Website on crime reporting. He then gave his views on the non-completion of the Housing Land Environmental Scheme on Town Green Lane and the poor maintenance of grass cutting on these grass verges compared to the Housing Land at The Grove. He suggested the Parish Council should apply to adopt this land.

The Chairman said this would set a precedent for other ‘green areas’ to be taken over by the Parish Council putting an extra financial burden on the Parish Precept. In the non-parished areas, such ‘green spaces’ would be funded from the Council Tax.

Borough Councillor David Westley explained the designated Housing Land grounds maintenance regime for Town Green Lane and The Grove.

Borough Councillor Maureen Mills, on behalf of ‘Halsall against Fracking’ asked the Chairman’s permission to speak. She introduced two members from the Formby Alliance of people who had done a lot of work with ‘Frack Free Burscough & Formby’. She offered to give a short presentation on

'Fracking' as she thought there was a lot of activity in the area and that Aurora were planning to put in an application on land to the far side of A59.

The Chairman said the Parish Council would welcome input should the application come forward but would have to offer the same invitation to the applicant in order to get a balanced view.

A resident from Granville Park gave her views on some tree pruning at Winifred Lane site. On planning, she was concerned about the amount of infill in Aughton and on CIL monies she thought developers should pay a commensurate amount with a higher levy being introduced for West Lancashire. She raised the problem of anti-social behaviour around Granville Park and large groups of youths around the parks and shops and asked if anything could be provided for young people in the Parish.

The Chairman said there had been a Youth Group, run by LCC, in Aughton Village Hall some years ago but the youth were not particularly interested. The matter of anti-social behaviour was regularly raised with the local police at the monthly informal meetings. He suggested local residents should continue ringing 101 or 999 to report such matters.

A resident from Long Lane spoke on the Local Plan Review and asked if the Parish Council would be submitting a response.

The Chairman said the matter had been included on the Agenda at 6b).

There being no further questions, the Chairman resumed the meeting.

10753 PLANNING

There were NO COMMENTS in the cases of:

2017/0230 0242/ADV 0255 0263 0130

In the case of:

2017/0136/FUL 152 Black Moss Lane – members considered the alteration from a detached bungalow to a pair of semi-detached dwellings would be detrimental to the 'street scene' and 'out of character' with neighbouring properties. An organised site visit was considered desirable to assess the impact on residential amenity, the street scene and possible over-development of the site.

2017/0183/OUT Garages to the East of Arnian Court, Molyneux Road – members referred to the previous Outline application on this site and would iterate comments. There were no objections in principle to development of this brownfield site. Access, however, to the site which backs onto the gardens of the Victorian houses in the Conservation Area (CA) was currently via a single track road so members would raise concerns about highway and parking issues, tree protection, loss of residential amenity and the views into and out of the CA dwellings. An organised site visit was considered desirable to allow members of the Planning Committee the opportunity to view, in particular, the highway and parking issues.

2017/0234/FUL 18 Swanpool Lane – members wished to ensure the increase in the ridge height to the roof and the proposed first floor extension to rear and side would not impact on the residential amenity of the neighbouring properties, particularly the adjacent bungalow.

2017/0248/FUL The Cockbeck Tavern, 58 Town Green Lane (Variation of Condition) – members could not support the proposal to vary the trading hours to 7am-11pm. There would be no objection to a 7am start provided a condition was imposed for a 10pm closing time, in line with other retail businesses in the Parish. This would ensure the protection of residential amenity in this 'rural village location' and prevent 'setting a precedent' for others to make similar applications.

2017/0270/FUL Land at the Junction with Long Lane, Aughton Park Drive (erection of 8 detached houses (3-4 bed) on land of former school playing field – members referred to the history of the site and the conditions imposed on the previous planning permission. As this land was previously allocated as a 'green space' in the Local Plan, the 'pocket park' proposal seemed inadequate in size. Referring to Local Plan Policy RS2, members questioned whether a proportion of the land proposed for new residential development of 8 detached dwellings should include Affordable Housing.

2017/0096/FUL 223 Prescott Road – members were concerned that the proposal to replace 2 detached properties with 4 detached dwellings would result in over development of the site and remove the character and green relief of this important frontage location along Prescott Road.

b) Appeals/Planning Control - none

10754 WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL:

a) Annual Stakeholder Survey 2017 – the Minutes of an Extraordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held 5 April 2017, copies circulated prior to meeting, were APPROVED and SIGNED as a correct record. The survey was being carried out for the Borough Council by Lancashire County Council's Business Intelligence Team. The information provided by individual residents, Parish Councils, local groups, organisations and businesses would be used by the Council as it made decisions about services and spending.

b) Local Plan Review (previously notified to members) – a brief report was given on the Workshop held for Parish Councils on 21 March 2017 which included a reference to The Localism Act and the National Planning Policy Framework which created 'a Duty to Co-operate' on Local Planning Authorities, County Councils and other prescribed bodies – copies of the Presentation had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. Public Consultation on the Review included the Champion Wrap-around and leaflet plus public consultation forums (places booked in advance). On-line Issues and Options Survey could be viewed at www.westlancs.gov.uk/localplan. After discussion, members referred to comments made in a letter to WLBC dated 26 October 2016 following the first consultation. It was AGREED to iterate these comments also stating that the Parish Council believed the current Local Plan was addressing the needs of Aughton and members did not see a Plan beyond that date was realistic as there would be many changes 'leading up' in the future.

c) Community Infrastructure Levy Funding available for Infrastructure projects in West Lancashire (details previously circulated to members) – members NOTED the information. There would be further consultation on CIL Funding Programmes later in the year.

d) Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) – notice received of CIL receipts due to Aughton Parish Council for Period 1 October 2016 to 31 March 2017, ie £11,813.35 (to Fund at Bank).

e) West Lancashire Design Awards 2017 – to consider any nominations. After discussion, it was AGREED to nominate two properties in Bold Lane, Holt Green both of which had undergone extensions/alterations. Moor Hall, Prescott Road was also considered but the total project was not yet completed.

f) Dog Control: Public Space Protection Order – important measures to keep children safe and reduce problems with dog fouling. Sites in Aughton had been circulated to members and were NOTED.

10755 LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL: Draft School Place Provision Strategy 2017/18-2019/20 members considered it was important to have local schools for local children and for siblings to go to the same school. It was felt the local School Governors had more expertise for passing comments on the Strategy.

10756 CHAIRMAN/PARISH CLERK'S APRIL MEETING WITH THE LOCAL POLICE – a brief report was given on the meeting held 6 April 2017. There had been 11 reported crimes since the last meeting including 2 domestic type, 1 wilful damage to the public bowling green at Winifred Lane, 1 theft from a vehicle (Swan Delph), 1 assault without injury (Royal Oak), 1 public order offence (Royal Oak), 2 criminal damage (other) (Sandy Lane/Beech Road, Cherry Tree Lane), 1 assault without injury (Derby Arms), 1 burglary in a dwelling (Prescot Road), 1 attempted burglary (Sefton Gardens).

Additional information, on a comparison of reported crimes in Southern Parishes, there had been 26 reported crimes with 11 of these being in Aughton. In respect of the number of incidents dealt with other than reported crimes, there had been 200 incidents with 100 of those being in Aughton.

10757 AUGHTON SPORTS ASSOCIATION – a brief report was given on the meeting held 22 March 2017 in the Sports Pavilion off Winifred Lane which was attended by representatives of the many clubs using the facilities. Sports Club members were most grateful for use of the facilities and looked forward to the Summer season. The bowling green was in excellent condition following a recent spate of ‘vandalism’ and thanks were given to the contractors involved with the maintenance of the green.

10758 NEIGHBOURING PARISH OF HALSALL: Public Meeting held 21 March 2017 at the Memorial Hall to raise awareness ‘Do you want to be fracked’ – a brief report was given by the Aughton Parish Council representative who attended the first meeting held since Aurora Energy gave notice of a planning application submission during 2017 for further exploration.

The Chairman confirmed that should a planning application be submitted, the Parish Council would call a special meeting with full debate and presentations from both parties.

10759 PARISH FINANCE (refer Minutes March 2017, Para.10746) (notes circulated prior to meeting) – an update was given on the following:

- a) Memorials Cleaning – seeking clarification of tenders and the matter would be brought back to a future meeting. NOTED
- b) CCTV upgrades I & II –
 - i) all electrical work in the Sports Pavilion and Village Hall (overlooking the car park) had been completed. It was RESOLVED to approve payment to Steve Green Electrical Limited of Ormskirk in the sum of £233.50 (plus VAT) (Sundry Creditor)
 - ii) installation/completion of the new stand-alone cctv system in the Sports Pavilion had been completed (Upgrade I) – it was RESOLVED to approve payment to iD Business Limited of Rufford in the sum of £1,306 (plus VAT) (Sundry Creditor)
 - iii) upgrade II – system in the Village Hall (overlooking the Car Park) – awaiting final quotation. This internal system was being moved to enable it to be housed in a more secure cupboard plus additional cameras.
- c) Lighting Columns at Winifred Lane Car Park & Floodlights on Tennis Courts – it was RESOLVED to authorise payment for the upgrade to P & R Electrical of Skelmersdale in the sum of £4,400 (plus VAT) (Sundry Creditor). It was AGREED, should it be necessary, to delegate approval to the Chairman & Vice Chairman for additional funding should the need arise to ensure the equivalent luminance between the existing/proposed LED lighting on the tennis courts.
- d) Litter Collection – it was RESOLVED to authorise payment to Caravan & Camping of Southport in the sum of £1,360 (inc VAT) for the supply of 6 x 4 single axle trailer with extension caged sides and a drop down tail gate, plus fitting of a tow bar (swan neck detachable) with electrics– for the use of the Part-time Park-keeper to accommodate the proposed changes to the WLBC litter/dog waste collection over the coming months (Sundry Creditor).

10760 ACCOUNTS (circulated to members)

Income

Interest from Investment – Treasury Stock (Sept 2016 & Mar 2017)	549.36
WLBC – CIL receipts due before 30 April 2017 – Period 1.10.16-31.3.2017	11,813.35

Expenditure

(includes VAT)

Agricultural Repair Services Ltd – service/parts PC Tractor (Sundry Creditor)	359.51
Rawsthorne Commercial Landscaping – grounds maintenance (Part Sundry Creditor)	2,693.00
Steve Green Electrical Ltd – cctv upgrade electrical work (Sundry Creditor)	280.20
Warbreck Garden Centre – 2 benches for bowling green (Sundry Creditor)	259.98
S R Moorcroft (Contractor) – repairs/painting at Sports Pavilion (Sundry Creditor)	120.38
P & R Electrical – upgrade to lighting on tennis courts and car park (Sundry Creditor)	5,280.00
ID Business Ltd – cctv upgrade (Sundry Creditor)	1,567.20
Caravan & Camping of Southport – purchase of trailer/towbar/electrics for Park-keeper's duties (Sundry Creditor)	1,360.00
Salaries – part-time Clerk & part-time Park-keeper less deductions (salary increases)	1,331.71
HM Revenue & Customs – Income Tax & NIC	154.83

It was RESOLVED that all the foregoing accounts be paid.

10761 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Annual Meeting 8 May 2017, commencing 7.15pm.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.00pm.