

AUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 8 AUGUST 2016, IN AUGHTON VILLAGE HALL ANNEXE,
COMMENCING AT 7.30pm

CHAIRMAN: Councillor Ian Grant

MEMBERS PRESENT: As recorded in the Register of Attendance

10648 APOLOGIES were tendered on behalf of:

Councillor Mrs Atherley	-	personal commitment
Councillor Roberts	-	personal commitment

APOLOGIES were READ and APPROVED.

10649 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – members were reminded to declare their interests before the start of each Agenda Item or when appropriate.

10650 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 11 JULY 2016, copies circulated prior to meeting, were APPROVED and SIGNED as a correct record.

10651 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES (for information only) – none.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME – the Chairman adjourned the meeting at this stage and invited comments/questions from members of the public present. He referred to Agenda Item 7b) WLBC ‘Meeting the Budget Challenge 2016’ and a question and answer session took place with local residents over the items contained in the Survey including the possibility of a use of the underspend/useable balances from last year’s Borough Council budget/accounts.

A local resident from The Serpentine gave his views on the use of Parish Council expenditure for a SPID for Long Lane, NWS signage (Drugs) and shrubs/planting/maintenance of the Borough Council Housing land on Town Green Lane.

The Chairman said the idea/provision of a SPID would need the full support/approval of the police and LCC Highways; the NWS signage (Drugs Zero Tolerance) would be made an Agenda item for consideration at the October meeting. With regards to the Borough Council Housing Land, the residents of Aughton already paid an additional amount by way of the Parish Precept. This item should be a budget item for the Borough Council. Skelmersdale and Ormskirk residents (non-parished areas) did not pay for their landscaping. By carrying out this request, Aughton residents would be paying twice (double rating).

A resident from Westhaven Crescent spoke about the triangle of grass in Parrs Lane/Malt Kiln Lane, the highway verge and the lack of maintenance.

The Chairman said the matter would be taken up with the landowner.

A resident from Holt Green thanked the Parish Council for installing a replacement noticeboard. There being no further questions, the Chairman resumed the meeting.

10652 PLANNING

a) Weekly List Items

There were NO COMMENTS in the cases of:

2016/0740/FUL & 2016/0773/FUL

In the case of:

2016/0694/ARM Mews Cottage, 31 Brookfield Lane – with local knowledge, for many years now there had been drainage/sewerage problems in Brookfield Lane. Members were concerned that the building of two

additional dwellings at this location may exacerbate the problems. A separate system to manage foul and surface water drainage was therefore considered essential.

2016/0713/FUL 16 Swanpool Lane – members expressed concern about the proposed lighting on the gable end build-up at the side/rear. An amended specification should be considered to protect the privacy and residential amenity of the neighbouring property.

2016/0720/FUL & 2016/0721 Moor Hall, Prescott Road – members could not support the proposed later closing times for both these applications. Concern was expressed that the extended hours could create loss of residential amenity, by way of noise and disturbance from late night traffic, to those dwellings in the vicinity of the site including Prescott Road/Sefton Gardens.

2016/0751/FUL The Conifers, 143 Moss Delph Lane – members raised no objections to the proposal to retain the existing access arrangements – Moss Delph Lane was not the widest of roads and highway issues were always a concern so the most appropriate access/egress arrangement was supported.

2016/0779/FUL South Springs, St Michael Road – members wished to ensure full Tree Protection measures were given to this important site.

b) Appeals/Planning Control – none.

10653 LANCASHIRE CONSTABULARY: POLICING OF AUGHTON – Police & Communities Together (PACT) – a brief report was given on the PACT PANEL Meeting held 2 August 2016. There had been 5 reported crimes since the last meeting including 1 attempted theft of a bike (The Serpentine); 1 attempted burglary (Narrow Lane); 1 burglary in a dwelling (Butchers Lane); 1 damage to a motor vehicle (Thornhill); 1 criminal damage to a mature tree on land owned by Aughton Parish Council (Rachel Taylor Memorial Playing Field – the incident was under police investigation). Additional information, on a comparison of reported crimes in Southern Parishes, there had been 14 reported crimes with 5 of those in Aughton. In respect of the number of incidents dealt with other than reported crimes, there had been 181 incidents with 82 of those in Aughton. Discussion took place over anti-social behaviour (ASB) – there had been 11 cases reported of nuisance/ASB in Aughton. Local residents were being encouraged to call the ‘101’ number to report any such incidents.

After discussion, it was AGREED to invite, once in post, the new Chief Superintendent at Lancashire Constabulary to attend a future Parish Council meeting, say, November or December. Local residents would be able to convey their concerns to him over ASB and drug taking/dealing issues.

(Councillor Walne, interested in purchasing an empty property in Aughton, declared a NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST in 10654 b) Council Tax Discounts on Empty Properties) and took no part in the discussion on this item.

10654 WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

a) ‘Call for Sites 2016’ - consultation 14 July – 9 September 2016 – members AGREED it was for the landowners to put forward any sites in the Parish for consideration.

b) Meeting the Budget Challenge 2016 – consultation deadline 4 September 2016 – members considered the Borough Council’s proposals to make savings, efficiencies and increases in income to balance the budget for 2017/18 (the council needed to identify £870,000) and submitted the Parish Council’s views on:
Garden Waste Collection – introduction of an annual charge of £30 to collect garden waste plus an extra charge of £25 for any additional bin (disagree); Garden Waste Collection during the winter – discontinue collections between November to February (disagree – support 3 months only) – WLBC should consider their underspend from the last year’s budget/accounts to prevent an additional annual charge being necessary on council tax payers. West Lancashire residents unwilling or unable to pay may decide to put green waste into the grey bins thus putting even more pressure on the refuse collection service. It would encourage fly-tipping, cause environmental issues such as additional car trips to the tip; CCTV – reduce live monitoring in off peak/quieter periods (disagree) & remove some of the CCTV cameras in areas with lower crime rates (disagree) – CCTV was a vital part of ‘policing’ especially in the rural parishes; Street Scene Services – review mechanical sweeping and street cleansing prestige work (disagree – WLBC should maintain quality

services but improve the specification for tree lined routes and 'leafy' areas. Leaves left in gullies for too long caused blocked grids and flooding and detrimentally impact on residential amenity; Static Recycling Bins – proposal to remove static recycling sites across the Borough (disagree – need to encourage recycling); Public Toilets – proposal to rationalise public toilet provision to reduce costs (disagree – lack of public toilets could affect businesses, shoppers and visitors to the area); Council Tax Discounts on Empty Domestic Properties – proposal to reduce the time period for discretionary Council Tax Discounts by half (agree)

10655 ACCOUNTS (circulated to members):

Income	-
Expenditure	(includes VAT)
Imprest Renewal	96.66
Rawsthorne Commercial Landscaping – grounds maintenance plus repairs to boundary fencing (part) and sports housing	3265.00
Lancashire Turf Supplies Ltd – intensive bowling green maintenance plus repairs to bowling green mower	226.32
Salaries – part-time Clerk/part-time Park-keeper	1313.59
HM Revenue & Customs – Income Tax & NIC	157.89

It was RESOLVED that all the foregoing accounts be paid.

10656 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 12 September 2016.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.25pm.

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