

AUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

CHAIRMAN: Councillor Ian Grant

MEMBERS PRESENT: As recorded in the Register of Attendance

10543 APOLOGIES were tendered on behalf of:

Councillor Walne - personal commitment

APOLOGIES were READ and APPROVED.

10544 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – members were reminded to declare their interests before the start of each Agenda Item or when appropriate.

10545 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 11 JANUARY 2016, copies circulated prior to meeting, were APPROVED and SIGNED as a correct record.

10546 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES – none.

10547 NOTICE OF RESIGNATION OF A PARISH COUNCILLOR (Christ Church Ward) – the Chairman declared the Vacancy and, pursuant to Section 87(2) of the Local Government Act 1972, the relevant Notice would be given accordingly.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME – the Chairman adjourned the meeting at this stage and welcomed members of the public present.

A resident from Granville Park gave her views on the planning application at 9 Granville Park and raised objections to the change of materials, render altered, change to windows, proposed alteration to the building line, character of the Conservation Area, etc. She also gave her views on the planning application on land to the rear of 69-75 Town Green Lane and raised objections on access, loss of parking, insufficient space for turning of delivery vehicles, etc.

A resident from The Serpentine asked if there had been any progress in respect of the bus services through Town Green. He also raised the issues of the state of the footway/flooding outside the Dr's Surgery on Town Green Lane and the erosion of the Public Right of Way between Prescott Road and The Serpentine.

A resident from Long Lane raised the issue of the increase in traffic, increase in farm and waste vehicles, parking by contractors on the rail bridge in Long Lane.

A resident from Butchers Lane spoke about the problems with broadband speeds, the 60mph speed limit up until Brookfield Lane, the lack of street lighting, flooding under the bridge, delay in repairing potholes on Prescott Road some of which had been marked up since October.

Another resident from Long Lane suggested a fixed speed camera on Long Lane.

Another resident from The Serpentine spoke about 'policing of Aughton' and asked if police officers could attend Parish Council Meetings.

The Chairman responded to the points raised. He said that as most of these issues were the responsibility of Lancashire County Council, he asked the County Councillor present if these would be taken back to the Transport & Highway Authority. With regards to the attendance of police officers at meetings, a request

would be made for a representative of Lancashire Constabulary to attend the Annual Parish Assembly in May and it was hoped that a good number of local residents would attend.

Local residents were informed that they could also attend the Public PACT Meetings at Aughton Police Station on the second Tuesday of every month to raise policing issues with the local police officers.

Local residents would soon be able to attend Borough Council meetings to speak/raise issues at most meetings except full Council Meetings.

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

(Councillors Mrs Atherley, Grant & Jones declared PERSONAL NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS in 2015/1186/OUT, as they were known to the applicant)

10548 PLANNING

a) Weekly List Items

There were NO COMMENTS in the cases of: 2016/0003/FUL 2015/1273 1311 2016/0022

In respect of:

2015/1244/FUL 9 Granville Park – members could not support the proposed alterations at this prominent corner location as they would have a detrimental impact on the character and appearance of Granville Park Conservation Area. The proposed further loss of trees and the provision of a new driveway would harm the overall appearance of this important corner site. The proposed 2 storey extension would be forward of the building line which would significantly alter the shape of the house and result in ‘loss of openness’ and once again impact on the character and appearance of the Conservation Area.

2015/1186/OUT Land to the rear of 69-75 Town Green Lane (Outline – residential development) – members had no objections in principle to the proposed residential development of the land but considered 5 detached dwellings constitutes over-development in this particular location. The site was accessed onto the busy, sometimes difficult, junction of Bold Lane, Winifred Lane and Town Green Lane and it was noted that there were proposals for a modified access, however, the improved sightline (modified access) may not satisfy the requirements of LCC Highways Development Control for this particular location. Part of the site was currently used for parking for staff and customers to the parade of shops on Town Green Lane and also for occupiers of the house/flats above the shops and concern was expressed as to the displacement of these vehicles. Perhaps a Detailed Planning Application alongside an improved Outline Application should be submitted to ensure no loss of residential amenity to nearby properties and an acceptable development of this backland site.

20156/0030/FUL 11 Old Rectory Green – members could not support this application in its current form. The proposed increase in the size of the dwelling would impact on the adjacent neighbouring properties by way of overlooking and loss of residential amenity. An organised site visit was considered desirable to allow members of the Planning Committee the opportunity to view the proposals for this Cul-de-sac development and assess the concerns of local residents.

2016/0037/FUL 35 Long Lane – members expressed concern about the impact the development might have on the row of trees near the site boundary and would wish to ensure that should planning permission be granted, there would be full tree protection throughout any building work on site.

2015/1190/FUL (addition to list) Land at the junction with Long Lane – variation of condition No. 21 imposed on planning permission 2015/0274/FUL. Members wished to iterate comments made on a previous request for the variation of hours, ie ‘members were strongly opposed to the proposed extension to the premises opening hours, ie Mondays to Saturdays between 07.00 and 23.00 and Sundays and Public Bank Holidays between 08.00 and 22.00’ – the proposal would result in further loss of residential amenity to surrounding properties (retired persons bungalows and apartments, also the houses in close proximity in Long Lane and the new development of Mount Carmel Gardens). The original condition imposed (21) should be more than adequate to meet residential needs and should not be varied/extended.

b) Appeals/Planning Control

- i) Notice of Appeal Decision from Dept for Communities and Local Government on Land off Butchers Lane (Hive Energy) – the Appeal was recovered for the Secretary of State’s determination in pursuance of Section 79 of, and paragraph 3 of Schedule 6 to, the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, because it involved a proposal for significant development in the Green Belt – APPEAL DISMISSED and planning permission refused for the construction of a solar farm, to include the installation of solar panels to generate electricity with transformer housing, DNO substation, switch room, operation and storage rooms, security fencing and cameras, landscaping and other associated works (ref: 2014/0601/FUL).
- ii) Notice of an Appeal Lodged – 2015/0777/FUL 201 Long Lane – first floor extension to the side and single storey extension to the front of detached property (procedure – written representations).
- iii) Planning Control – Notice of carriageway patching on Prescott Road between Town Green Lane and the boundary with Sefton Borough starting on 22 February with completion expected on 26 February. A road closure would be put in place for the duration of the work.

10549 LANCASHIRE CONSTABULARY: POLICING OF AUGHTON – Police & Communities Together (PACT) – a brief report was given on the PACT Panel Meeting held 2 February 2016. There had been 10 reported crimes since the last meeting including 2 burglaries (Cherry Tree Lane & Winifred Lane), 1 criminal damage (Dog & Gun Pub, Long Lane), 1 Theft (Back Lane), 1 drugs warrant issued (Whalley Drive), 1 cannabis user (Redsands), 2 Theft (Back Lane & Granville Park), 2 domestic type (Liverpool Road). Additional information, on a comparison of reported crimes in Southern Parishes, there had been 22 reported crimes with 10 of those in Aughton. In respect of the number of incidents dealt with other than reported crimes, there had been 171 incidents with 72 of those in Aughton. Discussion took place over the collection by the Park-keeper of another 74 silver mini gas canisters at Winifred Lane site - the police could only charge any offender (if caught) with littering as these were not classed as illegal drugs but, once again, parents would be warned of the dangers by Facebook. An update was given on the Neighbourhood Watch initiative.

(Councillor Roberts, as a Governor at Aughton Town Green Primary School, declared a NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST in the next item)

10550 AUGHTON TOWN GREEN PRIMARY SCHOOL – to consider a request from a parent helper at the School for the use of Winifred Lane Car Park as a ‘drop-off point’ for a School Walking Bus Scheme (early mornings – 8.20am to 8.40am). After discussion, members AGREED to support the initiative on a 3 month trial basis subject to conditions including a Risk Assessment by LCC Highways. The Scheme would not only encourage children to walk but also help to alleviate the traffic congestion around the school. An alternative safer site was also suggested, ie Cockbeck Tavern car park. The matter would be updated in due course.

10551 LALC WEST LANCASHIRE AREA COMMITTEE MEETING – a brief report was given on the meeting held 21 January 2016 which had included items on the Withdrawal of Bus Subsidies and Flooding/Closure of Pumping Stations.

The Chairman asked for the Alt-Crossens Catchment Area to be considered as an Agenda item at the next APC meeting.

10552 CHARITY NAME ‘RACHEL TAYLOR FOR A PLAYING FIELD’ – in compliance with current regulations, it was confirmed that an Annual Update Form had been submitted to the Charity Commission. NOTED.

(All members present had declared their DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS in the next item, having all been granted DISPENSATIONS in respect of any matters relating to ‘discussing/debating the Budget and Setting the Parish Council Precept)

10553 PARISH COUNCIL FINANCE & SETTING THE PRECEPT FOR 2016/17 – copies of Minutes of Estimates Meeting held 20 January 2016, circulated prior to meeting, were RECEIVED, APPROVED and SIGNED as a correct record. It was RESOLVED to approve all the RECOMMENDATIONS. After discussion, it was RESOLVED to approve the Parish Precept amount as follows:

(Para.10553 Continued)

Precept to be raised for Council Tax £56,903 with a Taxbase of 3493.13 giving a Band D equivalent tax level of £16.29 keeping the same Band D equivalent as the previous year. It was NOTED that the Council Tax Support Grant and Concurrent Grant amounts would be notified to Parish Councils following the decisions made at the WLBC meeting on 24 February 2016.

10554 PARISH FINANCE:

- a) External Audit Arrangements from 1 April 2017 (notes circulated prior to meeting) – after discussion, it was AGREED that Aughton Parish Council would come under Group 1 of the Regulations, ie Opted-in Authority – the creation of a Sector-Led Body was aimed at easing the administrative burden, reducing costs and ensuring quality, while maintaining the opportunity for a local approach to auditor appointment.
- b) Sports Pavilion Improvements – it was noted that the contract work, ie replacement windows, pointing and replacing external marine-ply timber with bricks had been completed. It was RESOLVED to approve payment to Paul Lea (Builder) in the sum of £3,045.00.
- c) Playareas:
 - i) Beech Gardens Capital Scheme – it was RESOLVED to approve payment to Yates Playgrounds Ltd in the sum of £845.00 (plus VAT) for completion of Part I of the scheme. Part II would be completed before the end of March, when ground conditions improved.
 - ii) Repair & Maintenance (previously authorised) – it was RESOLVED to approve payment to Yates Playgrounds Ltd in the sum of £570.00 (plus VAT).
 - iii) To receive Inspection Reports – it was RESOLVED to approve payment to Yates Playgrounds Ltd in the sum of £200 (plus VAT) for inspection of 4 sites.
 - iv) Recommendations from the Reports – as the recommendations involved painting of equipment, the item was deferred pending improved weather conditions. At William Arnold Silcock Memorial Playing Field, 3 of the swing seats had incurred ‘dog-bite’ damage. Although the noticeboard inside the playarea indicated ‘No Dogs’, it was AGREED to install 2 ‘no dogs except guide dogs’ signs to be securely fixed to the gates at a cost of £48 each.

10555 ACCOUNTS (circulated to members)

Income	-
Expenditure	(includes VAT)
Imprest Renewal	57.12
Chubb Fire & Security Ltd – annual inspection/replacement item & parts (Sports Pavilion)	59.20
Lancashire Turf Supplies Ltd – bowling green intensive maintenance/service/parts to mower	414.72
Rawsthorne Commercial Landscaping Ltd – Winter Maintenance	1524.00
Yates Playgrounds Ltd – inspection reports fee	240.00
Yates Playgrounds Ltd – playarea repairs (previously authorised)	684.00
Yates Playgrounds Ltd – Capital Partnership Scheme Part 1	1014.00
Paul Lea (Builder) – Sports Pavilion improvement scheme – completed	3045.00
Salaries – Part-time Clerk & Part-time Park-keeper	1190.80
HM Revenue & Customs – Income Tax & NIC	173.41

It was RESOLVED that all the foregoing accounts be paid.

10556 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 14 March 2016.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.10pm.