

AUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 11 MAY 2015, IN AUGHTON VILLAGE HALL ANNEXE, COMMENCING AT 7.30pm

CHAIRMAN: Councillor David Gallagher

MEMBERS PRESENT: As recorded in the Register of Attendance

10420 AUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL 2015/CO-OPTION/APOLOGIES:

- a) AUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL 2015 – notice was given of the Uncontested Election:
- |                    |   |  |
|--------------------|---|--|
| Christ Church Ward | - | Councillor D Gallagher<br>Councillor I D Grant<br>Councillor G M Roberts |
| Delph Ward         | - | Councillor Mrs U Atherley<br>VACANCIES (2)                               |
| Holt Green Ward    | - | Councillor G R Jones   |
| Town Green Ward    | - | Councillor J D Walne<br>VACANCIES (2)                                    |
| North East Ward    | - | VACANCIES (2)  |

The Parish Council was, from 7 May 2015, able to seek to fill the vacancies by co-option.

It was confirmed that all members of Aughton Parish Council present had made and signed their Declarations of Acceptance of Office in the presence of the Clerk to the Council/Proper Officer before the start of the meeting.

b) CO-OPTION – although there was no statutory requirement to give public notice of local council vacancies which remain unfilled after an ordinary election (s.21(2) Representation of the People Act 1985), it was AGREED that the vacancies would be advertised on Parish Council noticeboards and on the APC website for a minimum of 14 working days. A person is eligible to be co-opted provided he/she is qualified to be a councillor pursuant to s.79 and is not disqualified pursuant to s.80 of the Local Government Act 1972.

c) APOLOGIES – were tendered on behalf of:  
Councillor Grant - longstanding personal commitment

APOLOGIES were READ and APPROVED.

Councillor Gallagher remained in the Chair for the next item.

10421 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL FOR 2015/2016 – with the prior consent of Councillor Ian Grant, it was PROPOSED by Councillor Graham Jones and SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Una Atherley, that Councillor Ian Grant be elected CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL for the ensuing year. There being no other nominations, it was RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY. Councillor Grant had previously confirmed in writing his willingness to stand for Chairman should he be nominated and seconded for the honorary position.

10422 CHAIRMAN'S DECLARATION OF OFFICE – it was AGREED UNANIMOUSLY that Councillor Grant could make his Declaration of Office in the presence of the Clerk, the Proper Officer of the Council, at the first available opportunity before the next monthly meeting.

10423 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL – it was PROPOSED by Councillor Dudley Walne and SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Una Atherley that Councillor Graham Jones should serve as

Vice-Chairman of the Council for the ensuing year. There being no other nominations, it was RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY.

In the absence of the new Chairman of the Council, Councillor Jones as Vice-Chairman took the Chair.

Councillor Jones wished to record his thanks to the outgoing Chairman, Councillor David Gallagher, for all his hard work over the past 12 months, for representing the council on various outside bodies and for continuing to manage the Parish Council's website.

#### 10424 CODE OF CONDUCT/DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Code of Conduct – it was confirmed that pursuant to the Local Government Act 2011, Sections 28 & 30/Localism Act 2011, Sections 27 & 28, all members of Aughton Parish Council present had signed a Form of Written Undertaking to observe the Code as to the Conduct which was expected of Members of Aughton Parish Council.

Declarations of Interest - action to be taken by members in respect of Disclosable Pecuniary & Non-Pecuniary Interests, Notification and Register of Interests/Gifts of Hospitality, etc was confirmed and NOTED.

Members were reminded that should any changes occur after completion of the form, formal notice must be given within 28 days of becoming aware. It was RESOLVED to delegate authority to the Proper Officer/Parish Clerk in respect of consideration of requests for dispensations in respect of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests. As requested by members, the Proper Officer/Parish Clerk would grant a Dispensation to each Parish Council member in respect of the Budget and Setting the Parish Precept. Without the Dispensation, 'the number of persons prohibited from participating in this particular business would be so great a proportion of the body transacting the business as to impede the transaction of the business'.

Members were reminded to declare their interests before the start of each Agenda Item or when appropriate.

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

Local residents from Long Lane and Parrs Lane asked the Parish Council to send a robust letter to WLBC supporting the refusal of the Redrow & Wainhomes planning applications for development of the Aughton Plan 'B' site. Discussion took place over the WLLP policies relevant to these applications. A resident from the Serpentine gave his views on the election of the Parish Council Chairman and considered it more democratic for the public to elect a Chairman. He also raised issues about the housing land on Town Green Lane which was earmarked for improvements. An update was given on this matter.

Discussion took place over the Parish Council quorum, the co-option procedure and any local residents wishing to show an interest in becoming a Parish Councillor were invited to contact the Clerk.

Borough Councillor David O'Toole referred to a local petition forwarded to the Magistrates Court in Ormskirk concerning local residents' objections to the possible return of two dogs involved in a vicious attack on an innocent member of the public. It was confirmed that a copy of the petition had been received by the Parish Council.

Borough Councillors David & Marilyn Westley attended the meeting to thank those Aughton residents who voted for them in the recent Borough Elections.

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

#### 10425 STANDING ORDERS/FINANCIAL REGULATIONS:

a) Standing Orders dated May 2004 (reviewed annually and last revised 21 January 2015) – as no further amendments had been received or were considered necessary, it was RESOLVED that Standing Orders dated January 2015, peculiar to Aughton Parish Council, be ADOPTED for the ensuing year.

b) Financial Regulations dated May 2004 (reviewed annually and last revised 21 January 2015) – as no further amendments had been received or were considered necessary, it was RESOLVED that Financial Regulations dated January 2015 be ADOPTED for the ensuing year.

10426 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 13 APRIL 2015, copies circulated prior to meeting, were APPROVED and SIGNED as a correct record.

10427 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES (for information only) – none.

10428 ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY HELD 13 APRIL 2015, copies circulated prior to meeting, were read and noted as a correct record. The Minutes would be approved and signed by the Chairman at the 2016 Annual Parish Assembly.

(Councillor Mrs Atherley, as a nearby local resident, declared a NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST in 2015/0358/FUL and Councillor Walne, as a nearby local resident, declared a NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST in 2015/0398/FUL)

10429 PLANNING:

a) Weekly List Items

There were NO COMMENTS in respect of:

2015/0351/FUL 0398 0412

In the case of:

2015/0358/FUL Mount Carmel Preparatory School – members had no further comments to make on the proposed development of the former school site.

2015/0374/FUL 3 Cut Lane – members had no further comments to make on the proposed development of this site.

2015/0373/COU Eastwood Farm, Narrow Lane, Halsall – should further temporary permission be granted, members wished to ensure that the Local Planning Authority had clear evidence and were satisfied that the applicant continues to develop the enterprise.

2015/0329/OUT & 2015/0335/HYB Land to the North-West of Parris Lane & Land to the East of Prescott Road – members AGREED to object to these planning applications as they were contrary to WLLP Policy and considered that the Significant Issues raised in the APC letter dated 17 February 2012 at the Preferred Options Stage of the Local Plan were still relevant.

2015/0411/COU Birches Brow, Formby Lane – members wished to ensure that this was not an application for an HMO (WLLP RS3) and that any such change of use would require additional planning permission. Concern was expressed, however, about: ‘noise impact’ at this rural location from 9 serviced guest rooms, ‘car parking issues’ from the proposed increased use; additional traffic accessing and egressing the site, which is situated on a bad bend in the road which could detrimentally affect the flow of traffic on Formby Lane.

b) Appeals/Planning Control -

Notice of an Appeal Lodged in respect of 2014/0248/UAU Thorn Tree Farm, Prescott Road – without planning permission the change of use of land from agriculture to domestic garden ancillary to the residential use of the adjacent property. The appeal is to be heard at a Public Local Inquiry before an Inspector.

Notification of New Addresses – site location: development at 223 Prescott Road. Members had no objections to the proposed name – Quarry Green.

c) Planning Committee Report Meeting held 19 March 2015 – 2014/1257/FUL Land at Aughton Chase, Springfield Road – erection of 10 No. detached dwelling houses with garages, following demolition of show centre, redundant barn and vacant dwelling house, including alterations to existing access roads – Approved with conditions. NOTED

10430 PARISH DEEDS & SECURITIES - it was RESOLVED that the list submitted be APPROVED, a token inspection of the records having already been carried out. These would be available for inspection by auditors if requested.

10431 REPRESENTATION OF THE COUNCIL ON OTHER BODIES AND COMMITTEES/RESPONSIBLE MEMBERS – ITEM DEFERRED UNTIL JUNE MEETING.

10432 RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER/SYSTEM OF INTERNAL AUDIT/RISK MANAGEMENT – ITEM DEFERRED UNTIL JUNE MEETING.

10433 CHEQUE SIGNATORIES – ITEM DEFERRED UNTIL JUNE MEETING.

10434 AUGHTON UNITED CHARITIES – copies of the unaudited AUC Statement of Accounts 2014/2015 was circulated to members and NOTED. A brief report was given on the work of the Charity which had 2 meetings per year and continued to give money each Christmas to beneficiaries living in the Parish.

10435 AUGHTON VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – it was PROPOSED by Councillor Jones and SECONDED by Councillor Roberts that Councillor David Gallagher would represent Aughton Parish Council on the Management Committee for the forthcoming year. AGREED. A brief report was given on the work of the Management Committee, the current and future improvements/maintenance work to the Village Hall and the proposal to improve the acoustics in the Annexe.

10436 AUGHTON SPORTS ASSOCIATION – COMMITTEE ARRANGEMENTS DEFERRED UNTIL JUNE MEETING.

A brief report was given on the meeting held 31 March 2015 in the Sports Pavilion. There had been good attendance and the sports clubs expressed their gratitude for the use of the facilities, the good maintenance of the bowling green and playing field and the recent further drainage improvement work which was completed in good time for the start of the cricket season. A vote of thanks was given to Councillors Howard Huyton & Mrs Diana Brown for their long service as Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Aughton Sports Association. Both had agreed to continue in office until the Annual General Meeting of ASA to be held in September.

10437 CIVIC SUNDAY – ITEM DEFERRED UNTIL JUNE MEETING.

10438 AUDIT 2014/2015 (notes circulated prior to meeting):

- a) External Audit – the annual audit arrangements by BDO LLP were NOTED with the final date to approve the Annual Return Section Statement of Accounts being 30 June 2015.
- b) Independent Internal Audit – it was AGREED, for the fifth year running, to seek the appointment of Mr A Gore of Ormskirk (ex CILCA Parish Clerk).

10439 INSURANCE POLICIES (notes circulated prior to meeting) – members considered the tailor-made package of covers and policy improvements offered and maintained from the world's leading insurance broker Aon UK Ltd. After some discussion, it was RESOLVED to renew the premium, index-linked, by 1 June 2015 to Aon Limited for the Amalgamated Policy in the sum of £4,353.80 (£4,353.80) - includes Insurance Premium Tax and LTU Discount of 5%. It was also RESOLVED to renew the premium paid to Aon Ltd for the Agricultural Vehicle Policy (PC Kubota Tractor) – comprehensive cover, nil excess, any authorised driver, no claims discount 65% in the sum of £456.86 (includes Insurance Premium Tax) by 1 June 2015. It was AGREED to review the insurance policies on an annual basis.

10440 LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (notes circulated prior to meeting) – after a brief discussion on the benefits of membership, it was RESOLVED to approve payment to LALC in the sum of £815.64 (Subscriptions NALC £377.16; Subscriptions LALC £391.62; Contribution to Area Secretary £12.86; Local Council Review £34.00).

10441 LANCASHIRE CONSTABULARY: POLICING OF AUGHTON – Police & Communities Together (PACT) – a brief report was given on the PACT Panel Meeting held 6 May 2015. There had been 6 reported crimes since the last meeting including 1 assault with injury (Parrs Lane); 1 dog 'out of control' (Noel Gate residential property); 1 harassment – cyber crime; 1 burglary in a building other than a dwelling (Holt Coppice); 1 criminal damage (property on Liverpool Road); 1 interference with a motor vehicle (Winifred Lane), incidents of ASB = 4. Additional information, on a comparison of reported crimes in Southern

10441 (Continued)

Parishes, there had been 15 reported crimes with 6 of those in Aughton. In respect of the number of incidents dealt with, other than reported crimes, there had been 216 incidents with 76 of those in Aughton, mainly dealt with by the PCSO's. Confirmation received from the Geographic Inspector to Aughton Parish Council of a reduction in the police complement for Southern Parishes, end of April, from 1 CBM and 2 PCSO's to 1 CBM and 1 PCSO. The situation would continually be reviewed to ensure the best coverage in all areas. Members expressed their disappointment at the reduction in police officers but agreed to continually monitor the situation via PACT.

(Councillor Gallagher left the meeting at this stage)

10442 PARISH FINANCE:

- a) Drainage Improvement Work at Winifred Lane Playing Field – it was RESOLVED to approve payment to Pope's (Hightown) Ltd in the sum of £8006.90 (plus VAT) for the final payment of this rolling programme of drainage improvement work on this extremely busy public open space, completed within the timescale.
- b) Alt-Crossens Intermediate Drainage Group – to consider financial support (notes circulated prior to meeting). ITEM DEFERRED UNTIL JUNE MEETING pending further information.
- c) Sports Pavilion Building Upgrade – an extension to the response time was AGREED and the matter would be considered further at the June Meeting.

10443 ACCOUNTS (copies circulated to members)

Income	(includes VAT)
WLBC – CIL payments (notified at April Meeting)	107.16
WLBC – contribution towards Concurrent & General Expenditure Part I	5,078.50
Expenditure	
Imprest Renewal	58.47
Desktop NW Ltd – stationery replenishment/printer part	291.18
Rawsthorne Commercial Landscaping – tree work (removal dead trees etc) S.CREDITOR	705.00
Rawsthorne Commercial Landscaping – grounds maintenance	1,773.00
Aon Ltd – Amalgamated Policy Renewal LTA	4,353.80
Aon Ltd – Vehicle Insurance Policy Renewal – PC tractor	456.86
Lancashire Association of Local Councils – membership/subscription renewal	815.64
Pope's (Hightown) Ltd – Final payment for drainage improvement works	9,608.28
Salaries – part-time Clerk/part-time Park-keeper	1,282.52
HM Revenue & Customs – Income Tax & NIC	173.41

It was RESOLVED that all the foregoing accounts be paid.

10444 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 8 June 2015.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.30pm.