

AUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 9 OCTOBER 2017, IN AUGHTON VILLAGE HALL ANNEXE, COMMENCING AT 7.30pm

CHAIRMAN: Councillor Graham Jones

MEMBERS PRESENT: As recorded in the Register of Attendance

10843 APOLOGIES were tendered on behalf of:

Councillor Mrs Atherley - personal commitment

APOLOGIES were READ and APPROVED.

10844 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – members were reminded to declare their interests at the start of each Agenda Item or when appropriate.

10845 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 11 SEPTEMBER 2017, copies circulated prior to meeting, were APPROVED and SIGNED as a correct record.

10846 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES (for information only):

- a) West Lancashire Borough Council: Standards Regime & Code of Conduct Training – the Clerk had circulated to all members the relevant papers from the Workshop held 20 September 2017 (refer Minutes August 2017, Para.10826 & Minutes September 2017, Para.10833).
- b) Traffic Problems on Long Lane – a letter dated 5 October 2017 from Lancashire County Council, Director of Public Health and Wellbeing giving an update on this matter was READ and NOTED. A further update had been requested once the outcome of the meeting with the Police and the Speed Tasking Group was known.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME – the Chairman adjourned the meeting at this stage. He welcomed Chief Inspector Jill Halliwell and Sgt. Dave Rigby and asked them to receive and address the concerns of the Parish Council and local residents on ‘the Policing of Aughton’.

The Chief Inspector gave a brief overview of policing and said she was more than happy to attend any future Parish Council meetings to help address any local issues or community concerns.

She touched on Aughton’s main problems with burglaries and large scale organised crime, stealing keys and high value cars, some making their way into containers going into ports, all mostly using false number plates. She urged everyone to try and put visible immobilisation on vehicles, steering wheel locks etc and referred to the relevant Campaign on Facebook and asked anyone with information on this and any other crime to use ‘101’ or Crimestoppers 0800 555 111.

She also spoke about burglaries and informed everyone about the current operation and the need to keep policing the borders.

On the current police complement, she confirmed that a new Community Beat Manager would be covering Southern Parishes shortly (the current CBM being restricted). The force had lost some 900 police officers but was now recruiting again.

A question and answer session took place on:

- The problems sometimes encountered with the ‘101’ system.
- Neighbourhood Watch and the lack of information and supervision.
- Drug problems.

- Lack of police patrols.
- Improving visible police officer presence.
- Serious nuisance and antisocial behaviour (there were vehicles dedicated to antisocial behaviour hotspots and incidents between 5pm-10pm each evening) – parents needed to take more responsibility.
- Parking issues and obstruction around Town Green School on Town Green Lane & Prescott Road, also around the junction with Granville Park.
- Police resources and policing to ‘risk and threat’.
- Division boundaries – these were not changing but 1 Division had been split into 3 and Chief Inspector Halliwell was responsible for West Lancashire. The Chief Superintendents had been taken back to HQ to look at their roles across the Force.

The Chief Inspector said she would encourage local residents to pass any information onto Crimestoppers – the police were good at crime prevention but it was up to local residents to make it more difficult for the criminals to commit crimes.

Chief Inspector Halliwell went on to inform everyone that Skelmersdale Police Station would be closing in January/February for approximately one year for a rebuild/refurbishment so all admin staff and police officers would be moving to Ormskirk Police Station. When asked about the police complement for Aughton, she confirmed 1 Community Beat Manager and 2 Police Community Support Officers. One PCSO was, however, moving to join Essex Police but the post would not be lost (this was not an attempt to save money) and a replacement would be found as soon as possible. She also confirmed that she was committed to retaining Aughton Police Station which was manned by volunteers. Referring to the budget cuts, she said that some police officers were retiring but the Force was also recruiting.

Finally, Chief Inspector Halliwell said she hoped local residents would make good use of the ‘101’ service and Crimestoppers (100% anonymous and a system which the police looked at every day). If, however, there were no satisfactory responses or if the problems persisted, she asked residents to contact Sgt Rigby or the Parish Clerk who would then make contact with her.

The Chairman thanked Chief Inspector Halliwell for attending and said the Parish Council looked forward to a return visit at a future monthly meeting.

A resident from The Serpentine spoke on behalf of the owner of Number 26 The Serpentine and the planning application at Number 24 for a single storey extension at the side and a detached double garage at the side (fronting onto The Serpentine) following demolition of existing detached garage. The proposed garage alongside Number 26, would encroach within 8” of the boundary, would cause loss of light and affect the outlook from the two main rooms at the side of the property. The owner of Number 41 The Serpentine was also raising objections.

Another resident spoke about the proposed development near Arnian Court on the site of the existing garages. She asked where the owners of the flats were going to park if the site was developed?

Borough Councillor David Westley said the site had received outline consent and the owner of the garages was not the owner of Arnian Court. The Planning Officers had taken legal advice and had to look at the site separately. The Reserved Matters application would follow and refer to the Outline application consent.

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

10847 PLANNING

a) Weekly List Items – there were NO COMMENTS in the cases of:
2017/0883 0812 0898 0930 0949 0964 0948 (Retrospective)

In the case of:

2017/0924/FUL 24 The Serpentine – the Parish Council raised no objections to the extension improvement. Members did however raise objections to the garage proposal which appeared to be double the size of the original (which had been demolished and a new hardstanding completed). Its close proximity to the adjacent property at Number 26 would result in loss of light – there were two main side windows, would have an overbearing effect and result in loss of residential amenity. An organised visit was considered desirable to allow Planning Committee Members the opportunity to view the corner site location, the scale of the proposed garage and its effect on the residential amenity of Number 26.

2017/0861/FUL Welbak, Parrs Lane – members supported WLBC's tree officer comments and had no further comments to raise on the proposal.

2017/0940/FUL Lyncroft, Butchers Lane – members raised no objections to the application providing the proposal would not impact on the residential amenity of local residents living in close proximity.

b) Appeals/Planning Control – Notice of an Appeal Decision in respect of Charlton, Quarry Drive (planning application 2016/1183/FUL) – APPEAL DISMISSED – the demolition of the existing dwelling would fail to preserve or enhance the character or appearance of the Conservation Area, it would conflict with WLLP Policy EN4 and Supplementary Planning Document Design Guide dated 2008 which seeks to ensure that development protects heritage assets, including conservation areas and respects local distinctiveness and character.

c) Planning Committee – a brief report was given on the meeting held 5 October 2017. The RECOMMENDATIONS were READ and the RESULT NOTED.

(2017/0703/FUL Land at the Junction with Long Lane, Aughton Park Drive – erection of 8 detached houses (3-4 bed) on land of a former school playing field. APPROVED with Conditions. LCC Highways comments were NOTED.

10848 VICE-CHAIRMAN/PARISH CLERK'S OCTOBER MEETING WITH THE LOCAL POLICE – a brief report was given on the meeting held 4 October 2017. There had been 9 reported crimes which included 1 domestic type incident, 1 theft of a pedal cycle (Smithy Lane), 1 attempted burglary (Prescot Road), 1 criminal damage to a motor vehicle (an Ormskirk crime reported by an Aughton resident), 1 criminal damage to a dwelling (Prescot Road), 1 theft/serious nuisance (Middlewood Road), 2 burglary in a dwelling (Parrs Lane & Mill Lane), 1 incident of graffiti to a timber fence (Granville park). Additional information, on a comparison of reported crimes in Southern Parishes, there had been 14 with 9 of those being in Aughton. In respect of the number of incidents dealt with other than reported crimes, there had been 161 incidents in Southern Parishes with 72 of those being in Aughton. Discussion took place over 'serious nuisance and antisocial behaviour' around the Parish. The current police complement was discussed.

10849 PARISH FINANCE:

a) External Audit: completion of Audit for the year ended 31 March 2017 – External Auditor's Certificate & Opinion/Public Notice. Notice of Conclusion of Audit (Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015) dated 6 September 2017 for display in a conspicuous place for 14 days and on the website. The Annual Return Parts 1, 2 & 3 were approved and accepted by the Parish Council and would be displayed on the website. There were no issues arising from the audit. It was RESOLVED to approve payment to BDO LLP for the audit fee in the sum of £300 (plus VAT).

b) Finance/Governance – it was AGREED to hold the next Committee Meeting on Wednesday, 29 November 2017, at Aughton Village Hall Committee Room, commencing 7.30pm.

10850 COMMUNITY EVENTS:

- a) Aughton's Best Kept Garden Competition – to consider the arrangements for the Presentation of Awards. It was AGREED to hold the Presentation to trophy winners on either Saturday, 11th or 25th November 2017, in Aughton Village Hall Annexe, commencing at 11am (to be confirmed). It was RESOLVED to take all expenses from LGA s.137 (Free Resource).
- b) Remembrance Sunday – to consider the arrangements. The Parish Council had been invited to attend St Michael's Church this year for the Remembrance Sunday Service on 12 November 2017, meeting in the Church Hall at 10.10am for 10.30am service. This would be followed by a gathering in Aughton Village Hall before the procession to the Ceremony of Remembrance at Granville Park War Memorial at approximately 12.15pm. Light refreshments would be served back at the Village Hall after the service. It was RESOLVED to take all expenses from LGA s.137 (Free Resource).
- c) Festive Lighting at Town Green Lane Shops – it was AGREED to light up the village on 4 December 2017 (a partnership arrangement with a local business).

10851 LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (LALC):

- a) National Association of Local Councils: Consultation – Planning for the right homes in the right places (circulated to members prior to meeting) – deadline for response 27 October. After discussion, it was AGREED a small Working Group would attempt to consider the papers but the short timescale was noted. The Clerk reported that at a recent Joint Liaison Meeting (WLBC & Parish Clerks) she had requested guidance and a presentation to all Parish Councils on the Local Plan Review – currently at the stage of preparing Preferred Options for a new Local Plan which would supersede the existing adopted West Lancashire Local Plan 2012-2027. NOTED
- b) LALC Annual General Meeting to be held at County Hall on 18 November – to consider the submission of any resolutions and sending representation. Members had no matters for submission and consideration at the AGM. It was AGREED the Clerk would represent the Council at the meeting and any members interested in attending should confirm with the Clerk.

10852 ACCOUNTS (circulated to members)

Income	
WLBC – contribution towards Concurrent & General Expenditure (Part II)	4,062.50
Expenditure	(includes VAT)
Imprest Renewal	108.48
Rawsthorne Commercial Landscaping – grounds maintenance	2,198.00
BDO LLP – external audit fee	360.00
Viking Tree Services (approved Arboricultural Contractor) – tree management	
Work at War Memorial & Winifred Lane	2,160.00
S Moorcroft (part-time Park-keeper) – 2 months expenses	55.35
Salaries – part-time Clerk/part-time Park-keeper	1,331.51
HM Revenue & Customs – Income Tax & NIC	155.03

It was RESOLVED that all the foregoing accounts be paid.

10853 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 13 November 2017.

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