

## AUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 14 OCTOBER 2019, AT AUGHTON VILLAGE HALL ANNEXE, COMMENCING AT 7.30pm

CHAIRMAN: Councillor Graham Jones

MEMBERS PRESENT: As recorded in the Register of Attendance

The Chairman welcomed the representatives from Lancashire Constabulary, Chief Inspector Ian Jones, Sgt Billy Matthews and PCSO Jillian Reid who would be speaking on 'the Policing of Aughton' during Public Question Time.

11181 APOLOGIES were tendered on behalf of:

Councillor Mrs M Boulton - personal commitment

APOLOGIES were READ and APPROVED.

11182 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – members were reminded to declare their interests before the start of each Agenda Item or when appropriate.

11183 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 9 SEPTEMBER 2019, copies circulated prior to meeting, were APPROVED and SIGNED as a correct record.

11184 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES:

- a) letter of thanks from the Vicar of Christ Church for the Graveyard Grant (Minutes Sept 2019, Para.11178 a).
- b) Finance Committee – to confirm the date of the next meeting - Thursday, 28 November 2019, 8pm. (Minutes Sept 2019, Para.11178 b).
- c) to confirm a positive response from Edge Hill University (Minutes Sept 2019, Para.11175 a) – a meeting to be arranged with all parties late November.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME – the Chairman adjourned the meeting at this stage and welcomed Mr Clive Grunshaw, the Lancashire Police & Crime Commissioner.

Chief Inspector Ian Jones gave an update on 'the Policing of Aughton' since his last visit in May 2019. With regards to the anti-social behaviour issue, he said the police had not been fully aware of what was going on in Aughton and he was grateful to the Parish Council and some local residents for pointing out what was happening, where and when. Aughton ranked high in the County for nuisance and antisocial behaviour but a plan had now been put in place to try and eradicate this. He had looked at what there was for youth in the area and, although it was not his role, he had gone to the Police & Crime Commissioner for assistance and funding to:

- Set up a Boxing Club in Ormskirk.
- Set up a New Zone Bus to visit the hotspots in the area.
- Working with the police cadets.
- Try and educate youngsters through the schools on knife crime, drug use, etc.

He went on to:

- Give an update on the serious incident, with the use of firearms, at a property in Back Lane, Aughton.
- Noted the problems at the Quarry Woodland, off Delph Lane, on the park off Cherry Tree Lane and the site off Winifred Lane including the playarea, car park, bowling green and Sports Pavilion area.
- Give a brief update on the proposed dedicated Task Force of Police Officers to be introduced in

West Lancashire to tackle the issues that matter most to local residents, eg nuisance & anti-social behaviour, drug-dealing, etc.

- PCSOs were now trained up on pedal cycles and were being trained to operate speed guns.
- The introduction of ‘mini police’ – school children to encourage parents not to park on yellow lines outside schools etc.
- Finally, the CBM vacancy on his team had now been filled and the officer would be taking up the post as soon as possible.

A question and answer session then took part with the Chief Inspector on various issues including Working with the British Transport Police at both rail stations in Aughton; Mischief Night - all police staff were on duty – problem youngsters to be taken to a dedicated area in Skelmersdale awaiting ‘parental release’; Police/Public Protection Orders; Reassurance to stop antisocial behaviour; Drug taking by youngsters and how the police were trying to deal with the problem, mainly through the parents; Police numbers reduction over the last few years but the force now hoped to get back to the previous level of officers for Neighbourhood Policing - Task Team, Response Team, Neighbourhood Team; Questions on the statistics produced on the Police Website; the problems with the ‘101 service; Suggestions for engaging with young people and the older youths; Aughton Police Station, Neighbourhood Watch & refurbishment of Skelmersdale Police Station.

The Chairman thanked the Chief Inspector and his staff for attending the meeting and said he hoped they would return to Aughton at a future meeting to give a further update on the Policing of Aughton.

Mr Clive Grunshaw, the Lancashire Police and Crime Commissioner, was then invited to speak. He touched on his role as the PCC for the last 7 years and then covered 3 main aspects:

- the Budget – cuts in budget, reduction in police officers, policing to threat, harm and risk, cuts on all services.
- the Police & Crime Commissioner Plan 2016-2021 which outlined the priorities for Lancashire Constabulary over the coming years, and
- the Chief Constable, who was responsible for policing but he was accountable to the Police & Crime Commissioner.

He spoke about the proposed increase in police officers by the Government and the allocation for Lancashire; the proposed introduction of dedicated Task Force Officers to give ‘visibility’, TACOS and the Drone Team, the need to reconnect with the Neighbourhood Force and empower with the community; and finally, Our Lancashire and the Volunteer Partnership to be launched on ‘Lancashire Day on 27 Nov’.

A question and answer session then took place with Mr Grunshaw on various issues, and he responded accordingly. He said local residents could contact him direct through his website

[www.lancashire-pcc.gov.uk](http://www.lancashire-pcc.gov.uk) which also covered in detail many of the issues raised above.

The Chairman thanked Mr Grunshaw for visiting Aughton to update local residents on Policing in Lancs.

Local residents also gave their views on the Licensing and Planning Application for 69 Town Green Lane. There being no further comments, the Chairman resumed the meeting.

#### 11185 WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL:

##### i) PLANNING

(\*Councillor Ian Mercer, as an owner of nearby properties, declared his DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS in 2019/0896/FUL and left the meeting during discussion of the item)

a) Weekly List Items (items marked \* were considered under the Parish Council Prior Notification Procedure (PNP) to meet the deadline for response.

There were NO COMMENTS in the cases of:

\*2019/0886/FUL 0918 0954 0895 0965 0989

In the case of:

(Para.11185 Continued)

\*2019/0717/FUL 6 Redsands – members noted the pre-application advice, in particular, in respect of ‘parking space’. There were no objections raised on the proposed alterations to the dwelling.

(\*Councillor Mercer left the meeting at this stage)

2019/0896/FUL 69 Town Green Lane – change of use from current (retail) to a bar serving food (A1 to A3/A4 use class); proposed alterations to rear courtyard to provide additional external seating and revised vehicular parking – the Parish Council, with local knowledge, raised the following concerns/objections to the proposed change of use from current retail to a bar serving alcohol and operating an off-licence, with provision for alcohol to be consumed on the premises and food to be served to customers at the premises, also with outdoor seating and limited car parking.

- Public Nuisance – the selling of alcohol on and off the premises would give rise to ‘noise nuisance’ which would have an adverse impact on the adjacent dwellings and surrounding residential properties given the proposed operating hours.
- With the reduction in police officers across the county, easy access via two Rail Stations, our geographical nearness to Merseyside and Ormskirk, and the lack of a regular visible police presence in the Parish, Aughton has seen a large increase in ‘Nuisance and Anti-social behaviour’ over the last 12 months. Consultation with the Lancashire Constabulary over the proposed change of use for this village location, proposed hours of use, public safety conditions and a crime and disorder objective would, therefore, be requested.
- Parking – there is very limited parking provision on site, particularly for the proposed staff numbers, or in the immediate vicinity, so late night taxis would be the only safe method for customers leaving the premises given the proposed operating hours. The Parish Council Car Park, off Winifred Lane has been provided for the hirers of Aughton Village Hall plus its Annexe, the users of the Sports Pavilion and its facilities, the use for local residents wishing to use the playarea, dog walking and other family activities including visiting the dentist and doctors’ surgeries during the daytime. This car park would not, therefore, be made available to staff and customers of the proposed licensed premises.
- Outside Areas – strong objections to this proposal for the use of outside areas for ‘smoking and drinking alcohol’ given the nearness of the residential properties eg. Potential noise and/or disturbance associated with customers.
- Network Rail’s comments on ‘rights of access’ were noted and this would give rise to problems for delivery vehicles etc.

(\*Councillor Mercer resumed the meeting at this stage)

b) Appeals – Notice of an Appeal Decision for 21 Greenwood Close – Dismissed (Inspectorate Reference APP/P2365/D/19/3231953 – conflicts with LP Policy GN3 and the Design Guide.

Planning Control – none

Licensing: Premises Licence Application at 69 Town Green Lane (refer Minutes September 2019, Para.11174 b) Planning Control Licensing) – Notice from Licensing that the application had been rejected as it was not advertised in accordance with the Licensing Act 2003 Regulations. The applicant had been advised that the application must be resubmitted. The Parish Council was therefore required to resubmit its representation – NOTED.

c) BT plc Payphone Kiosk Removal (phone boxes which had very little use over a significant period of time including Aughton Kiosk 01695 423723 at junction of Springfield Road/Smithy Lane) – 90 day consultation period. Members raised no objections to the proposal.

d) WLBC Cabinet Meeting held Tuesday, 10 September 2019 – the decisions made on the Agenda Items on the Local Plan Review were NOTED.

Liverpool City Region Spatial Planning Statement of Common Ground – report Agreed with any minor amendments arising from consideration of the document by the Combined Authority delegated.

Local Plan Review:

- that the current Local Plan Review cease in its entirety.
- that the current Local Plan Cabinet Working Group be dissolved.
- that a new Local Plan Cabinet Working Group be established to commence work imminently on a new Local Plan, including preparing new evidence studies where

necessary, in accordance with Government Guidance in order to deliver a new 15 year Local Plan.

- that the Leader advise the Borough Solicitor of the Terms of the Reference, the size and composition of the new Working Group, including the appointment of Chairman and Vice-Chairman.
- that the appropriate budgetary provision for the preparation of a new Local Plan and its evidence be considered as part of the budget-setting process for 2020/21 and beyond.

ii) Standards Committee – members NOTED, without comment, the approval of the procedure for Parish Council representation and the invitation to submit the name of a member they would wish to see appointed to serve on the Standards Committee.

iii) Parish Clerks' Liaison Meeting held 4 October 2019 – a brief report was given on the meeting which included the Policing of West Lancashire from Chief Inspector Ian Jones, Our Lancashire – a Lancashire Volunteer Partnership (view [www.lancsvp.org.uk](http://www.lancsvp.org.uk)), an update to the Parish & Town Council Charter for West Lancashire, an update on the draft Policy for the provision of Litter Bins, and Parish Council Representation on Standards Committee.

11186 CHAIRMAN/VICE-CHAIRMAN/PARISH CLERK'S OCTOBER MEETING WITH THE LOCAL POLICE – a brief report was given on the informal meeting held 9 October 2019 – PCSO Jillian Reid attended. There had been 21 reported crimes since the last meeting including 4 domestic incidents, 2 malicious communications, 4 cases of assault, 1 harassment, 4 burglary in a dwelling (Long Lane, Scarth Hill Lane, Holly Lane, Liverpool Road), 3 criminal damage excluding a vehicle (Delph Common Road, Town Green Lane, Delph Park Avenue), 1 case of arson (domestic related), 1 missing from home incident (person found), 1 vehicle crime (Moor Hall). In Aughton, other than reported crimes, there had been 98 incidents. Discussion took place over the many youngsters on bikes riding around the Parish in the dark without lights on their bikes (dangerous and intimidating). The Public Bowling Green and the rear the Sports Pavilion were still considered 'hot spots' now particularly late evening. Pavement parking in Granville Park and Town Green Lane were also reported.

#### 11187 COMMUNITY EVENTS:

- a) Remembrance Sunday: details were confirmed – St Michael's Church for the Remembrance Sunday Service, 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).
- b) Festive Lighting at Town Green Lane Shops – it was AGREED to 'light up the village' during the first week of December 2019 – a partnership arrangement with a local business.
- c) 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 Saturday, 30 November, 11am at Aughton Village Hall Annexe. It was RESOLVED to take all expenses from LGA S.137 (Free Resource).

11188 LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS: 75<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting to be held Saturday, 23 November at Howick House, Penwortham. Members noted the arrangements and there were no items raised for discussion on this occasion.

#### 11189 PARISH FINANCE:

- a) External Audit: completion of Audit – members received for approval and acceptance the Final Certificate of Audit for the year ended 31 March 2019 (displayed on the website). It was RESOLVED to approve payment to PKF Littlejohn LLP for professional services rendered for external audit in the sum of £300 (plus VAT).
- b) Ormskirk Preston Travellers Association – it was RESOLVED to approve payment of £10 for membership renewal.

c) Lancashire County Council: the granting of a Street Works Licence (S.50 New Roads and Street Works Act 1991) to execute works and place apparatus on the highway (Bold Lane, Long Lane & Prescott Road) - it was RESOLVED to approve payment in the sum of £522.00.

11190 ACCOUNTS (circulated to members)

Income

WLBC – Contribution towards Concurrent & General Expenditure Part II	3,554.50
--	----------

Expenditure

(includes VAT)

Imprest Renewal	69.61
S Moorcroft – part-time Park-keeper expenses (1 month)	28.35
Rawsthorne Commercial Landscaping – grounds maintenance	1,730.00
PKF Littlejohn LLP – external audit fee for professional services rendered	360.00
OPSTA – membership renewal	10.00
Lancashire County Council – S.50 Licence Agreement for Highway work and to place apparatus on the highway	522.00
Global Maintenance Ltd – to power sweep treatment on 3 public tennis courts (moss treatment and removal)	360.00
Salaries – part-time Clerk/part-time Park-keeper	1,430.05
HM Revenue & Customs – Income Tax & NIC	154.46

It was RESOLVED that all the foregoing accounts be paid.

11191 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 11 November 2019.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.50pm.