

AUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 11 SEPTEMBER 2017, IN AUGHTON VILLAGE HALL ANNEXE, COMMENCING AT 7.30pm

CHAIRMAN: Councillor Graham Jones

MEMBERS PRESENT: As recorded in the Register of Attendance

10830 APOLOGIES were tendered on behalf of:

Councillor Mrs Atherley - personal commitment

APOLOGIES were READ and APPROVED.

10831 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – members were reminded to declare their interests at the start of each Agenda Item or when appropriate.

10832 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 14 AUGUST 2017, copies circulated prior to meeting, were APPROVED and SIGNED as a correct record.

10833 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES (for information only):

a) West Lancashire Borough Council: Standards Regime & Code of Conduct Training – details of the training and format for the evening were confirmed (refer Minutes August 2017, Para.10826). Members were asked to confirm attendance with the Clerk.

10834 VACANCIES IN THE OFFICE OF PARISH COUNCILLOR:

a) to complete the final stage of the co-option process (refer Minutes June 2017, Para.10795) – the Chairman reported on the procedure to date, including the meeting of the Interview Selection Panel and said that both applicants had different skills and interests but both appeared to be committed to contributing to the Parish Council's aims and objectives in serving the local community. The Chairman then made the following recommendation: to fill two of the current five vacancies by co-opting David Gallagher (Christ Church Ward) and William John Pendleton (Town Green Ward). This recommendation was APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

The new members then READ and SIGNED their DECLARATIONS OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE in the presence of the Clerk/Proper Officer of the Council. A Form of Written Undertaking to observe the Code as to the Conduct which was expected of Members of Aughton Parish Council was signed by both new members. Members were advised of the action to be taken in respect of the completion of the Disclosable Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests Form. The Clerk would grant a Dispensation to both new members 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'.

The Chairman welcomed the new Parish Councillors to their voluntary roles and thanked them for their interest in serving the local community.

b) to confirm response to Notice dated 18 August 2017 in respect of resignation of two councillors (refer Minutes August 2017, Para.10819) – confirmation had been received that a requisition for an election by poll had not been received within the timescale. The Parish Council would now seek to fill any remaining vacancies by co-option.

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

The Chairman welcomed local residents and County and Borough Councillors to the meeting.

County Councillor Greenall spoke about the traffic problems on Long Lane. He had contacted Highways Portfolio Holder and was expecting an update. He was working with local councillors to request the police to get more involved in this matter.

On the issue of Aughton Park Station and the need for better access for all to and from the platforms, he confirmed he was meeting with Mersey Travel in the coming week and would ask if the issue had been raised before and take soundings. He would keep the Parish Council and local residents updated on this matter.

A question and answer session took place with local residents from Long Lane, Redsands, The Serpentine, Prescott Road and Borough & County Councillors present on the poor state of the Parish, including services such as grounds maintenance, grass cutting, weed control, bin collection; outstanding maintenance to PF.25; houses of multiple occupancy and the loss of council tax from such properties; speeding vehicles on Long Lane & Prescott Road, SPIDs update; also congestion and obstruction on Town Green Lane/Prescot Road area near the primary school; replacement to low level footway lighting unsatisfactory; neighbourhood watch, antisocial behaviour and the lack of a visible police officer presence in Aughton.

The Chairman said most of the issues raised were the responsibility of Lancashire County Council and West Lancashire Borough Council and should be taken up with the relevant councillors (after the Public Forum, outside the meeting). The Parish Council had a limited budget and there was only so much it could do on providing facilities, upkeep and maintenance of land & buildings which were under Parish Council control. On policing, the Parish Council was continually speaking to the police on local issues and the concerns about 'the policing of Aughton' would be raised with Chief Inspector Jill Halliwell at the next monthly meeting.

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

#### 10835 PLANNING

a) Weekly List Items – there were NO COMMENTS in the cases of:  
2017/0765/FUL 0792 0851 0866 0821

In the case of:

2017/0810/FUL 20 Granville Park – members referred to comments made in respect of 2016/1205/FUL.

In respect of the current application, members considered the proposed rendering of the walls to the entrance would impact on the special character and appearance of Granville Park Conservation area and an alternative should be considered which would enhance the frontage of the property.

2017/0830/FUL 1B Aughton Park Drive – members noted the amended proposal for an attached garage to the side of the dwelling and would wish to ensure full tree protection was afforded to the site.

2017/0857/OUT Aughton Mens Guild Hall, Liverpool Road – members commented as follows:

a) there should be no encroachment into the Green Belt, ie outside existing site boundary b) there should be no impact on highway safety c) there should be sufficient outdoor amenity space to serve both dwellings d) the Local Planning Authority should be satisfied there was no longer any proven need to use this building for community use.

b) Appeals/Planning Control – none.

10836 MAGHULL DRAFT NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN (details circulated to members prior to meeting) members had read and NOTED the draft plan without comment.

10837 VICE-CHAIRMAN/PARISH CLERK'S SEPTEMBER MEETING WITH THE LOCAL POLICE a brief report was given on the meeting held 6 September 2017. There had been 18 reported crimes

since the last meeting including: 1 wilful damage (internally at Aughton Village Hall); 1 criminal damage to a building (other) (Winifred Lane); 3 criminal damage to vehicle (Delph Lane (2) & St Michael Park (1); 5 burglary in a dwelling (Whalley Drive, Narrow Lane, Delph Park Avenue, Back Lane, Parrs Lane) 1 attempted burglary in a dwelling (Cherry Tree Lane); 3 domestic incidents; 1 criminal damage to a building (Crescent Green); 1 interference with a motor vehicle (Back Lane); 1 theft of a pedal cycle (Bold Lane); 1 theft of vehicle parts (Long Lane). Additional information, on a comparison of reported crimes in Southern Parishes, there had been 41 reported crimes with 18 of those in Aughton. In respect of the number of incidents dealt with other than reported crimes, there had been 183 incidents with 77 of those being in Aughton. The issue of serious nuisance at Cherry Tree Lane area and Rachel Taylor Memorial Playing Field/public open space was discussed as a complaint had been made by a local resident. The Neighbourhood Police Team had become involved, visited the complainant and confirmed they would be carrying out extra patrols of that area. As there were other 'serious nuisance areas', this procedure would be welcomed right across the Parish. It was confirmed that Chief Inspector Jill Halliwell would be attending the October Parish Council Meeting to discuss the concerns of the Parish Council and local residents on 'the Policing of Aughton'.

10838 WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL: Meeting the Budget Challenge 2017 (details previously circulated to members) – members commented on the Borough Council's proposals for savings, efficiencies and increases in income. The Clerk would compile the response.

10839 AUGHTON SPORTS ASSOCIATION – after consideration of suitable dates, it was agreed the next meeting would be held on Tuesday, 17 October. NOTED.

10840 THE GUIDE DOG CHARITY – to consider a request for the siting of a Textile Clothing Bank at Winifred Lane Car Park (details previously circulated to members). Members noted the proposal for this worthy cause but as the land was owned by West Lancashire Borough Council whose current policy was to remove all recycling banks from land in their ownership, eg Bottle & Paper Banks, and for local residents to use 'the doorstep method' for recycling of bottles, newspapers, textiles, etc. it was unlikely that the Borough Council would give approval/planning permission if approached by the charity. The Parish Council regretted it could not help on this occasion but suggested the use of charity bags to local residents may assist the charity.

10841 ACCOUNTS (circulated to members)

Income

WLBC – Parish Precept Part II 28,478.50

Expenditure (includes VAT)

Imprest Renewal 113.74

Rawsthorne Commercial Landscaping – grounds maintenance/hedging etc 3,597.00

British Telecommunications plc – One Bill telephone/business broadband 155.66

Robins Bridge Nursery – reimbursement of BKGK vouchers 2013-16 (Part) 'Free Resource' 455.00

Desktop NW Ltd – printer toners 111.60

Aughton Village Hall – hiring fee (3 months) 75.00

Salaries – part-time Clerk/part-time Park-keeper 1,331.71

HM Revenue & Customs – income Tax & NIC 154.83

It was RESOLVED that all the foregoing accounts be paid.

10842 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 9 October 2017.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9pm.