

AUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 10 SEPTEMBER 2018, 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 local residents and Borough & County Ward Councillors. Also representatives from The Moss Alliance Group – Mr John Wilkinson and Ms Moira O’Mahoney – and Lancashire County Council – County Councillor Keith Iddon, Cabinet Member for Highways and Phil Durnell, Head of Service for Highways - who would be making brief presentations during the Public Forum.

10999 APOLOGIES were tendered on behalf of:

Councillor Gallagher	-	personal commitment
Councillor Grant	-	personal commitment
Councillor Woolgar	-	personal commitment

APOLOGIES were READ and APPROVED.

11000 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – members were reminded to declare their Interests before the start of each Agenda Item or when appropriate.

11001 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 13 AUGUST 2018, copies circulated prior to meeting, were APPROVED and SIGNED as a correct record.

11002 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES (for information only): there were no matters to be reported.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME – the Chairman adjourned the meeting at this stage and invited the LCC representatives to speak. County Councillor Iddon said he had been elected some 13 years ago and this year he had been made Head of Highways. He gave a brief description of his role as Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport which included responsibility for Roads including Street Lighting; Bridges; Network Management including Highway Maintenance and Traffic Control Systems; Traffic and Road Safety, Safety Engineering and Traffic and Safety Policy; Passenger Transport, Policy, and Local Bus Services. He referred to budget cuts – he had £50m per year to spend on highways plus an extra £10m to spend this year on road defects due to the extremely bad Winter - and said he was doing his best for the whole of Lancashire within his limited funding pot. He touched on his responsibility for footpaths, street lighting, grass verges and all road gullies and he mentioned the problem with potholes – to resurface all the roads in the County would cost some £500m and he had just a £50m challenge. He confirmed that regular inspections were carried out on all roads (category of roads and time of inspection carried out on a national basis), and potholes were being dealt with and some resurfacing work but all being done to preserve LCC assets with just £10m. Surface dressing and mending potholes was carried out to prolong road surface life until proper resurfacing could be carried out when money available. He would continue to do the best he could for the people of Lancashire.

A Question and Answer session took place on many highway issues including the provision of SpIDs and the Parish Council’s proposals for funding at least 3 subject to LCC’s approval (letter with LCC) – the Chairman referred to the problem on Long Lane and correspondence from LCC who were liaising with the local police on speeding vehicles; blocked gullies, road surface breaking up, potholes and drainage issues on Scarth Hill Lane; Middlewood Road/Whalley Drive, Parris Lane, Prescott Road, Town Green Lane, Long Lane & Bold Lane potholes and blocked gullies; holes on surface of Pedestrian Road Bridge and potholes on footway over the railway lines on Town Green Lane; flooding issues on Prescott Road near Doctors Bridge; overgrown hedges around the Parish especially on A59 and adjacent the cycle tracks

(LCC's new policy would be to pursue landowners and after due process and if work not carried out, the authority would undertake the work and invoice the landowner); overgrown conifer hedge between Rail Station on Long Lane and onto Aughton Park Drive (the Clerk had been in touch with agent of the developer of the adjacent field and he had confirmed the trees would be removed mid September, just before building work commenced); the responsibility of the statutory undertakers for repairing footways after maintenance work; the state of some of the roads and verges whilst Virgin Media were working throughout the Parish; the safety barrier protecting the footway on Prescott Road outside 278 Prescott Road, in the vicinity of Town Green School, had been 'driven into' and urgent attention was essential to reinstate or replace the barrier, in the interests of children's safety; gullies on Town Green Lane outside Number 32 were malfunctioning causing heavy flooding and problems for school children, who regularly had to wade through deep water.

Councillor Iddon pointed out that 'blocked gullies' was a 'reactive service'. He suggested all these problems be e-mailed to himself or the Parish Clerk or reported on LCC website under 'Report It' when a log reference would be confirmed enabling local residents to keep track of the complaints.

The Chairman thanked the LCC representatives for attending and then introduced Mr John Wilkinson from The Moss Alliance who had been granted permission by the Chairman to give a short presentation to inform everyone on the situation regarding the plans for siting a well pad at Great Altcar and potential developments elsewhere in the Licence PEDL.164. He pointed out that if a planning application was submitted, and it was felt appropriate to invite the applicant to give a presentation, then this would try to be arranged.

Mr Wilkinson informed everyone that the area was surrounded by Petroleum Exploration Development Licences (PEDLs) 164, 261 & 262 (Aurora) and 165 (Cuadrilla). The PEDL.164 Licence Obligations – Part A, may see a planning application by the end of the month, a well dug within 2 years and Part B surveys by 2021, planning by 2022 and a well by 2024. In January 2018, a Scoping Opinion for a proposal to drill and test 2 exploratory boreholes on land at Suttons Lane, Great Altcar was submitted to LCC. Two wells were planned near Great Altcar, a vertical borehole down to 3,000m and another vertical down to 2,200m with a lateral side track of 1,500m.

A Question and Answer session took place with Mr Wilkinson on several matters most of which could be viewed on the Factsheet on The Moss Alliance website www.themossalliance.org. Mr Wilkinson said it seemed appropriate to try and arrange a full presentation by The Moss Alliance in Aughton in the near future.

The Chairman thanked the representatives from The Moss Alliance for attending.

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

11003 PLANNING

a) Weekly List Items

There were no comments in the cases of:

2018/0771/FUL 0839/LDC 0747 0874 0843 0866

b) Planning Committee – a brief report was given on the meeting held 6 September 2018.

i) Planning Applications - The RECOMMENDATIONS were READ and the RESULTS NOTED. 2018/0401/OUT 67 Gaw Hill Lane – this application was refused at the July Committee Meeting but the item was returned to the September Planning Committee Meeting for further consideration. After discussion, the application was REFUSED for the following reasons: the proposed development would conflict with Policies EC1, EC2 & GN4 of the Local Plan and NPPF in that it had not been robustly demonstrated that the site was unsuitable for an on-going viable employment use.

ii) Local Plan Review – Proposed Local Plan Preferred Options Consultation: Minute of Planning Committee – 6 September 2018:

Agreed: That the following agreed comments be referred to Cabinet:

A That Planning Committee wished it to be emphasised that the public consultation on the Preferred Options document will allow members of the public and other stakeholders to put forward suggestions/observations for consideration by Officers and Members before a final draft of the Local Plan is produced.

B That consideration be given to holding one additional event to be held outside of Skelmersdale in the South Eastern Parishes.

In addition to the agreed comments moved and seconded as detailed at A and B, the following comment C was moved and seconded:

'That Planning Committee have serious concerns over the Local Plan Preferred Options as it considers the Local Plan Review Cabinet Working Group has exceeded its remit. It was set up to carry out the planned 5 yearly review of the Adopted Local Plan 2012/27 and to make recommendations to the Cabinet. Instead, it has exceeded its remit and put forward Preferred Options for a completely new Local Plan.

The Preferred Options recommend scrapping the existing Local Plan that still has 9 years to run yet it is meeting local housing need, has delivered the planned number of new homes and continues to provide the necessary 5 year supply of housing land. It has also withstood legal challenges in respect of rogue developments and proved to be robust.

The proposal for a new 30 year Local Plan 2020/50 is unprecedented and it is felt impractical to accurately forecast that far ahead, the future housing and employment needs of the Borough. The proposal to plan for 15,992 new homes can only be a very rough estimate given the official population forecast only project to 2041 and even the Treasury has difficulty forecasting medium term economic growth.

It is also proposed to stop the established practice of safeguarding sites identified for future development. This would mean the Council abdicating its responsibility to manage the release of sites and allow developers, or 'market', to decide which sites should be developed first. It would also mean that all the sites needed for the next 30 years would be made available for development from 2020/21.

Apart from wanting a huge increase in the annual target for both housing building and commercial development, the Preferred Options propose to provide land to meet the future housing and commercial development needs of Merseyside – 6,256 new homes and hundreds of acres for employment use.

The proposed release of up to 1,500 acres from the Green Belt or Safeguarded Land is cause for considerable concern. The need to take such drastic action is a direct consequence of the issues detailed above.

The Planning Committee urge Cabinet to reject the Preferred Options and instruct the Local Plan Review Cabinet Working Group to prepare new proposals that are in line with the original remit, ie to review the existing Local Plan 2012/27 and make suitable recommendations to update, amend and perhaps extend it for a further 5 or 7 years.'

A recorded vote was taken on comment C – LOST FOR – 5 AGAINST – 8

A Motion was then made from Councillor J Hodson (Relevant Portfolio Holder)

- a. That the agreed comments of the Planning Committee be noted.
- b. That the Local Plan Preferred Options document provided at Appendix C to the report be approved for a 6 week public consultation exercise, subject to the revision of Para.3.12 in order to provide further clarification of the calculation for the housing requirement for the local plan.
- c. That the Director of Development and Regeneration, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning, be authorised to finalise and make amendments, prior to public consultation, to the Local Plan Preferred Options following consideration of any agreed comments from the Executive Overview & Scrutiny Committee.
- d. That call-in is not appropriate for this item as the report is being considered at the next meeting of the Executive Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 27 September 2018. Agreed

11004 CHAIRMAN/VICE-CHAIRMAN/PARISH CLERK'S SEPTEMBER MEETING WITH THE LOCAL POLICE – a brief report was given on the informal meeting held 5 September 2018. There had been 12 reported crimes since the last meeting including:
2 domestic incidents; 1 possession of article with blade or point linked to 1 criminal damage to vehicles (Whalley Drive); 1 harassment; 2 assaults with injury (domestic incidents); 1 other theft or unauthorised

Para.11004 (Continued)

taking (Westhaven Crescent); 1 shoplifting (Co-op Convenience Store); 1 assault with injury (Springfield Road Nursing Home); 2 burglary from a dwelling (Delph Park Avenue, Cherry Tree Lane). Additional information, on a comparison of reported crimes in Southern Parishes, there had been 22 reported crimes with 12 of those being in Aughton. In respect of the number of incidents dealt with other than reported crimes, there had been 171 incidents in Southern Parishes with 87 of those being in Aughton. There had been 7 cases of 'nuisance' reported in Aughton. An update was given on the Cherry Tree Lane area which had been receiving extra attention by the local police. It was noted that Chief Inspector Jill Halliwell had moved on and been replaced by Chief Inspector Ian Jones.

11005 WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL – Gambling Act 2005: consultation on revised Licensing Policy (draft Policy Statement had been circulated to members prior to meeting) – members NOTED the revised Policy without comment.

11006 LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (County Road; High Lane & Holborn Hill, Ormskirk; Liverpool Road and Northway AUGHTON (Revocations, 40mph speed limit and Derestriction) Order 201 – consultation – members raised no objections to the proposals.

11007 PLAYAREAS – to receive inspection reports, note repairs and approve payment (notes circulated prior to meeting) – members NOTED the reports, repairs undertaken (part 1) and approved payment to Yates Playgrounds Ltd in the sum of £1,195 (plus VAT) (Budget Allocation).

11008 VACANCIES IN THE OFFICE OF PARISH COUNCILLOR – to complete the final stage of the Co-option process (refer Minutes May 2018, Para.10937) – the Chairman reported the Interview Selection Panel had interviewed a prospective candidate who appeared to be committed to contributing to the Parish Council's aims and objectives in serving the local community (details circulated prior to meeting). The recommendation was then made that Mrs Cynthia Morrison be invited and co-opted onto Aughton Parish Council to fill a vacancy in Delph Ward. The recommendation was APPROVED AND RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY. The new member then READ and SIGNED the DECLARATION 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 the Conduct which was expected of Members of Aughton Parish Council was signed by the new member Councillor Mrs Cynthia Morrison.

11009 ACCOUNTS (circulated to members)

Income

WLBC – Parish Precept (Part II)	28,694.50
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Expenditure

(includes VAT)

Imprest Renewal	45.02
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Rawsthorne Commercial Landscaping – grounds maintenance	2,182.00
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Aughton Village Hall – hiring (3 months)	90.00
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Yates Playgrounds Ltd – inspection reports/repairs etc	1,434.00
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British Telecommunications – One Bill telephone/business broadband	236.00
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Redgate Roofing – Sports Pavilion – roofing/downpipe/outlet to roof repairs	120.00
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Salaries – part-time Clerk/part-time Park-keeper	1,359.12
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HM Revenue & Customs – Income Tax & NIC	156.00
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It was RESOLVED that all the foregoing accounts be paid.

11010 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 8 October 2018.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.15pm