

AUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 8 FEBRUARY 2021, COMMENCING AT 7.30pm. In accordance with the Provisions of the Coronavirus Act 2020 and the Local Authorities and Police & Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police & Crime Panel Members) (England and Wales) Regulation 2020, this meeting took place by Zoom Conferencing/electronic/telephone communication.

CHAIRMAN: Councillor Graham Jones

MEMBERS PRESENT: As recorded in the Register of Attendance (completed by the Clerk)

11299 APOLOGIES for attendance at the meeting were tendered on behalf of:

Councillor Mrs Boulton	-	safeguarding (Public Health Pandemic) but electronic/telephone communication
Councillor Ms Woolgar	-	ditto

APOLOGIES were READ and APPROVED.

11300 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – if a member requires advice on Declarations of Interest, he/she should contact the Clerk in advance of the meeting.

(Councillor Jones, as a resident of Greystokes, and Councillor Waugh, as the applicants were known to him as ex neighbours, declared Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in Planning Application 2020/1229/FUL; Councillor Mills, as a resident of Arnian Court, declared his Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in Planning Application 2021/0041/FUL; Councillor Mercer, as the owner/Company Director of part of the site, declared his Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in Planning Application 2020/1118/FUL)

11301 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 11 JANUARY 2021, copies circulated prior to meeting, were APPROVED as a correct record (for signature by the Chairman when appropriate to do so).

11302 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES (for information only):

a) Christ Church: Community Garden Proposal – additional information had been provided including details of the grant awarding body, ie the Whitemoss Community Fund. Members had initially supported the Environmental Scheme and wished the team at Christ Church every success with their ambition to create a local beauty spot in the Parish – a ‘green infrastructure’ with wildflowers, shrubs and plants plus seating areas – for the benefit of the local community (Minutes January 2021, Para.11293).

(Councillor Collins joined the meeting at this stage)

b) LCC/WLBC COVID-19 Community Testing (asymptomatic) – notification that due to staffing issues, the Emergency Planning Team would not be deploying the service in Aughton (Minutes January 2021, Para.11291).

11303 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON AGENDA ITEMS – confirmation that there had been no matters on agenda items raised by e-mail to the Clerk.

11304 PLANNING: Planning On-Line Public Notices - view plans on www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning

a) Weekly List Items

There were NO COMMENTS in the cases of:

2021/0022/FUL 2020/1268 2020/1243 2021/0042 2021/0047 2021/0048 2021/0065

In the case of:

2021/0009/FUL 82 Winifred Lane – members noted the ‘staggered’ appearance of numbers 80, 82 & 84 and would wish to ensure the extended roof over the balconies would not come forward of the building line.

Para.11304 PLANNING (Continued)

2020/1258/FUL 7 Narrow Croft Road – members considered this ‘retrospective’ application impacts on the street scene at this prominent corner location and may become a safety issue because of its height and siting for vehicles accessing/egressing the adjacent property in Croft Heys. A lower fence set back with some green relief would have been more acceptable to the ‘street scene’.

2020/1244/FUL Double Bank Farm, Firs Lane – members noted the pre-application advice and wished to ensure: a) the proposed design of the new build house and associated buildings respects its rural setting, surroundings and characteristics of the site in totality b) the scale of the proposal, by way of over-development, would not harm the openness of the Green Belt location c) agricultural need must be demonstrated and justified d) the new access proposed should be a traditional farm access track from Clieves Hills.

(Councillors Jones & Waugh having previously declared their Interests, were ‘muted’ and ‘went into the waiting room’ during discussion of the next planning application)

2020/1229/FUL 6 Greystokes – members raised no objections to the proposal but, should planning permission be granted, would request conditions be imposed in respect of ‘contractors’ working hours’ to protect residential amenity in this small narrow cul-de-sac, ie Monday to Friday 0800-1700 with no weekend working; sensible parking and no obstruction of driveways. There should be adequate means of access at all times for the fire brigade to all properties.

(Councillors Jones & Waugh resumed the meeting)

2020/1184/FUL 11 Old Rectory Green (correspondence from neighbouring properties had been circulated to members prior to the meeting and noted). The Parish Council had received letters of objection from Numbers 5, 9 & 10 on the latest planning application for Number 11. It was understood that the application had been ‘called in’ by Borough Councillor David Westley on the grounds of possible over-development, loss of residential amenity to neighbouring properties and concern about building over a major sewer.

Members supported this course of action and requested that in considering the proposals, full tree protection was afforded to the site, and the scale and design would not harm the characteristics of this important location/setting adjacent Holt Green Conservation Area.

(Councillor Mercer having previously declared his Interests, was ‘muted’ and ‘went into the waiting room’ during discussion of the next planning application)

2020/1118/FUL 67 Gaw Hill Lane – members considered the appropriateness of design of the alternative dwelling and wished to ensure it was in-keeping with the countryside and would not detract from the rural site location.

(Councillor Mercer resumed the meeting)

2020/1195/FUL Dog & Gun Inn, 233 Long Lane – the Parish Council would not support the removal of Planning Condition Number 8 – this was a key safety feature and should be retained. There was concern about the access from the development onto Long Lane, increased traffic and poor visibility splays so, in the interests of pedestrian and highway safety, further ‘traffic calming measures’ would be appropriate at this particular location.

2020/1064/FUL Elm Barn, Butchers Lane – members raised no concerns about its conversion provided the redundant agricultural brick built barn was structurally sound.

(Councillor Mills having previously declared his Interests, was ‘muted’ and ‘went into the waiting room’ during discussion of the next planning application)

2021/0041/FUL Garages to the East of Arnian Court – reference was made to the history of the site and the previous proposals – members wished to ensure the change of house-type would not affect the views into and out of the Victorian houses to the rear of the site in Granville Park Conservation Area nor result in loss of residential amenity to neighbouring properties by way of overlooking or loss of privacy. Full tree protection should be afforded to the site.

(Councillor Mills resumed the meeting)

11305 CHARITY NAME ‘RACHEL TAYLOR FOR A PLAYING FIELD’ – in compliance with current regulations, it was confirmed and NOTED that an Annual Update Form had been submitted to the Charity Commission. There were no fund or bank accounts for reporting just information for record purposes.

11306 WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL:

- a) LALC - West Lancashire Area Committee Virtual Meeting – a brief report was given on the virtual meeting held 14 January 2021 which included discussion on ‘the role and future direction of the Area Committee’.
- b) Parish Clerks’ Liaison Virtual Meeting – a brief report was given on the virtual meeting held 22 January 2021 which included the attendance of officers from the Borough Council Financial Services for an open discussion on ‘finance – concurrent grant funding, council tax support grant, etc and the possibility for Clerks to receive these figures a little earlier in the year to assist with ‘Estimates’.
- c) Planning Service Review – the Clerk reported on her Virtual Interview held 26 January 2021 with Red Quadrant, the consultants assisting with the Borough Council Review – the discussion included improvements to the Planning Enforcement Process, closer working and more feedback to Parish Councils.

11307 PARISH COUNCIL FINANCE & SETTING THE PRECEPT FOR 2021/2022 – Minutes of Estimates Meeting (full Council) held Monday, 25 January 2021, copies circulated prior to meeting, were:

- a) Received, Approved and Signed as a correct record and to further consider items raised under Agenda Item 5 of the Estimates Meeting -

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL):

Project 1 Bowling Green (Green Infrastructure) (refer Minutes December 2020, Para. 11279e) – to confirm completion of fence installation and it was RESOLVED to approve and release funding in the sum of £5,895 (plus VAT) to Urban Fencing of Wigan (cheque 004203). Arrangements had been made to straighten and strengthen the main gate post by a local engineer and it was RESOLVED to approve payment to C M Griffin Engineers Ltd of Southport in the sum of £120 (plus VAT).

Pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, it was RESOLVED that because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and the press leave the meeting during consideration of the next item 11307 Playareas. Any members of the public viewing the proceedings would now be removed from the Zoom Meeting.

No members of the public were present.

Project 3 Playareas on 3 sites – the Clerk/RFO had issued 5 invitations to tender for replacement safety surfacing (returnable date 30 November 2020) and 3 contractors submitted tenders. 2 of the sites had secured partnership funding with the Borough Council in the sum of £5,000 APC/£5,000 WLBC each site, with the remaining balances on all three sites to be allocated from CIL monies. After discussion, it was AGREED to accept the lowest offer for undertaking the work on all three sites simultaneously, to ensure best price and best value, from RTC Safety Surfaces in the sum of £39,195 (plus VAT).

- b) LCC Loan (Land at Delph Park Estate & Land in Quarry Drive for Public Open Space): to consider a Premature Loan Repayment – full details previously circulated to members and any decision to be made by way of RESOLUTION. After discussion, including the comparison of interest rates, the following RESOLUTION was made:

‘Aughton Parish Council should make a Premature Loan Repayment for both Loans in the sum of £7,038.39 as per quotation from Lancashire County Council Treasury Management using General Reserve Funding’

The MOTION was that this RESOLUTION be AGREED –

(VOTE – For the Motion 9 (Councillors Jones, Collins, Gallagher, Greene, Mercer, Pendleton, Roberts, Waugh, Mills)

Against the Motion 0

Abstentions 0

The Chairman declared the MOTION WON.

Arrangements would be made for the repayment to be made on an appropriate date with Lancashire County Council – this was APPROVED by all members.

Para.11307 (Continued)

c) To confirm the Parish Precept 2021/2022. Referring to the Minutes of the Estimates Meeting at a) overleaf, all other RECOMMENDATIONS in those Minutes at Para. 6b) c) & d) and the Alternative Proposal on Sheets 1-3 were APPROVED. The Parish Precept 2021/2022 was confirmed as follows:

Precept to be raised for Council Tax £60,727 with a Tax Base of 3574.13 giving a Band D equivalent tax level of £16.99 (£16.79).

11308 APC WEBSITE – to receive a report from the Webmaster on items raised at the last meeting. The ‘redirect’ issue had now been fixed and it was AGREED to arrange the Website Certification for the best price up to £100.

11309 ACCOUNTS (circulated to members)

Income

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Expenditure	(includes VAT)
C M Griffin Engineers Ltd – re-alignment of bowling green gate post including painting	144.00
Urban Fencing Ltd (cheque 004203)	7,050.00
Rawsthorne Commercial Landscaping – Winter maintenance (2 months) budget allocation	3,820.00
Global Maintainance Ltd – power sweep to 3 tennis courts	360.00
Dr D Gallagher - Webmaster (volunteer professional services) – purchase of professional SSL OV 1 year for website (confirmed 9.2.21)	98.99
Salaries – part-time Clerk/part-time Park-keeper	1,354.20
HM Revenue & Customs – Income Tax & NIC	164.03

It was RESOLVED that all the foregoing accounts be paid.

11310 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 8 March 2021 and it was AGREED to invite Public Participation on Agenda Items only at the meeting via Zoom.

The Chairman received the Resignation of Councillor Mercer at this point in the meeting and the Clerk advised that this would be formally notified as an Agenda Item at the March Meeting. Councillor Mercer was thanked for all his hard work with the Council during his term of office.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.05pm.