

AUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD MONDAY, 14 JUNE 2021, AT AUGHTON VILLAGE HALL ANNEXE, COMMENCING AT 7.30pm under strict COVID-19 Public Health Pandemic Guidelines.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: local residents wishing to raise any comments on any AGENDA ITEMS ONLY, were informed to e-mail the Parish Clerk – latest 12 noon, 12 June 2021.

CHAIRMAN: Councillor Graham Jones

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

11367 APOLOGIES were tendered on behalf of:

Councillor Collins	-	personal commitment
Councillor Mills	-	indisposed

APOLOGIES were READ and APPROVED.

11368 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – members were reminded to declare their Interests before the start of each Agenda Item or when appropriate.

11369 MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD 17 MAY 2021, copies circulated prior to meeting, were APPROVED and SIGNED as a correct record.

11370 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES (for information only):

a) Representation to Ormskirk School (1920) Scheme Foundation Trust – details had been forwarded to the Secretary and an acknowledgement was awaited (Para.11352).

11371 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – the Chairman welcomed Police Inspector Daniel Clough, Police Sgt Darren Carr, County/Borough Councillor David O’Toole, Borough Councillor Paul Turpin, one member of the press and 4 local residents (County Councillor Nikki Hennessy was attending as an Aughton resident). Correspondence from 2 local residents in respect of ‘youth issues’ had been read and responses noted.

The Chairman spoke about the problems around the Parish involving ‘youth and juvenile nuisance, damage and anti-social behaviour’ and invited a response from the local police.

An update was given by the police officers on incidents which had been logged and to which officers had been deployed between 1 April and 1 June. Some youths were spoken to, names taken, parents became involved and most were local youngsters. Some involved minor youth noise on parks (the police could not enforce people to be quiet on parks unless it was an unauthorised ‘Rave’ or similar event. Environmental Health dealt with such matters not the police) and 3 reports on criminal damage by youths. There had been an increase in reporting since 1 June, self generated by the police, and the police had increased patrols in the area as a result of the increase in anti-social behaviour particularly around the Co-op Convenience Store. The community bench outside the Co-op seemed to encourage youngsters to congregate and ride their bikes in a dangerous manner in front of the store. The store manager had engaged Security Guards during specific times and the local police were working with the staff at the store. The Inspector had authorised Dispersal Notices and gave an assurance that the police would continue to act on reports of anti-social behaviour, criminal damage and public order offences. They also wanted to look at preventative measures as moving youths from one area to another was not the answer. They wanted to work with the local community to drive out this unacceptable behaviour. Referring to all the traffic on social media, the police could not monitor Facebook Pages (surveillance legislation). Local residents were encouraged to report all incidents by contacting ‘101’ or on-line via <https://doitonline.lancashire.police.uk/> or Lancashire Talking (stayintheknow.co.uk) or by visiting Lancashire Talking to undertake a survey to help put officers in the right places, at the right times, to deal with issues that matter most to the community.

The Chairman thanked the officers for their report and said the Parish Council was extremely grateful for the police effort since the anti-social behaviour issues had ‘hit the fan’. The concern now was if problems

returned as soon as schools & colleges broke up through July & August and he asked if the police could help. Further views were expressed and a question and answer session took place with the police officers and Parish Councillors:

- An increased police presence plus the visits by the Street Pastors had made a visible difference.
- An approach had been made to the Manager at the Co-op Convenience Store and an assurance given by him that alcohol would not be served to anyone under '25', some of the grief outside the store was mainly due to this stance.
- Vehicles parking up in the area outside the shops on Town Green Lane plus youngsters on bikes doing 'wheelies' around the Co-op was making that location very congested and difficult for pedestrians crossing the road (Parkwise to be requested to visit, in the first instance, but if no improvement then LCC Highways may need to reassess the situation for parking outside the shops).
- Investment in further monitored cctv? - the police would support youth engagement rather than further investment in additional cameras. None of the incidents reported were coming from the monitored cctv columns just the '101' service or the on-line reports.
- Informal 'face to face' PACT meetings had been discontinued since the Public Health Pandemic – the police were asked to give consideration to this initiative re-starting once the Roadmap was lifted..
- Could the Aughton Police Station, opening the front desk with some volunteers, be considered again particularly evenings and during school holidays – the police advised that once the Roadmap was lifted they would see if they could make a difference re the Police Station and the Rail Station including more assistance from British Transport Police, eg ticket checks on trains and stations.

Local Residents:

- Some support for Police Community Support Officers on foot or bikes rather than in police vehicles – offering a visible police presence.
- Support for the retention of the seat outside the Co-op which was enjoyed by some of the older adults in the community.
- Could more attention be paid to 'drug-misuse' (police officers could search anyone suspected 'in possession').
- Some young people just wanted to meet up with their friends and some did not want to be 'organised'. Was there a need to find out just what additional facilities the Aughton youngsters wanted in the Parish. (Perhaps with the help of volunteers, there could be an informal development of the park off Swanpool Lane, owned by the Borough Council, as there were lots of young people in that area but there were no facilities on site).
- Support for the possible 'community engagement' proposal with all parties.
- Aughton residents were privileged to live in such a beautiful area and did not want all this spoilt by continual anti-social behaviour and nuisance.

The Chairman thanked the police officers for their attendance and they left the meeting at this stage.

A representative from the Aughton Residents Group spoke about the recently published Strategic Housing and Employment Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA) and distributed a map containing the 56 sites in Aughton/Ormskirk most of which were in the Green Belt and were categorised as 'parked' but noting the Safeguarded/Plan B sites NW Parrs Lane. The current Local Plan was on course and had achieved the 80% target. The 'trigger' would not be 'fired' under the current Local Plan. However, under a new Local Plan, the Borough Council may rewrite the policies. He asked for the support of all Aughton Councillors in protecting Aughton's Green Belt

Councillor O'Toole said for the last 40 years he had defended this beautiful area but spoke about the issue of 'pre-determination' on planning matters.

The Chairman said although this item had not yet been discussed, he felt Aughton Parish Council would not wish to see further development in the Green Belt. He said the Group were always welcome to come to the meetings to give their views on any Agenda Items including the Local Plan but requested in future ARG met their Borough Councillors separately to discuss/debate the latter.

11372 POLICING OF AUGHTON – members noted the verbal report from the two police officers attending and it was AGREED to continue looking into ‘community engagement’ with Edge Hill University and the Christ Church Youth Team including the possibility of engaging the assistance of the Street/School Pastors and parents and volunteers.

11373 CCTV: additional infrastructure and improved monitoring – in view of the police response, it was AGREED to continue to monitor the situation but not commit to more resources for CCTV – alternative diversionary measures to be considered.

11374 PLANNING:

a) Weekly List Planning Application (view plans on www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning)

There were NO COMMENTS in the cases of:

2021/0525 0600 0602 0555 0596

In the case of:

2021/0551/FUL 4 Delph Lane – members noted the Pre-Application for this latest proposal and considered the proposed boundary alterations more in-keeping with the distinctive character of Granville Park Conservation Area.

2021/0569/FUL 11 Old Rectory Green – members noted the objections and concerns of nearby residents and the Pre-Application details in respect of LP policies and the NPPF. Local residents appeared to have genuine concerns about the impact on the drainage and public sewers which ran through the plot and served ‘Old Rectory Green’ dwellings. The Parish Council wished to ensure these matters were addressed with the relevant authority prior to consideration of planning permission.

2021/0573/FUL Blakewater House, Fir Tree Lane – members noted the proposed ‘eco’ fencing and wished to ensure sufficient green relief/landscaping along site boundary.

2021/0545/FUL Gorse Hill Nature Reserve, Holly Lane – members noted the proposed building would be used for agricultural purposes (storage of hay) and the application was therefore noted without comment.

2021/0648/FUL Moor Hall Restaurant, Prescott Road – members noted:

- a) the proposal would result in a limited change to the important setting of the Grade II Listed Moor Hall.
- b) there would be no domestic paraphernalia associated with the woodland lodges.
- c) further information had been requested from the MWL Bat Group and LCC in respect of Flood Risk Management/Drainage requirements.
- d) adequacy of parking for the whole site needed to be assessed.
- e) installation of services to the Luxury Suites – full tree protection must be afforded to the site and the installation of services should not impact on the trees.

Should planning permission be granted, conditions should be imposed in respect of contractors’ parking arrangements on-site rather than off-site in neighbourhood roads, blocking driveways and access/visibility (as in previous development of Moor Hall Barn and extension to the car park for staff).

2021/0488/FUL Blakewater Farm, Fir Tree Lane – members noted the proposed replacement of the agricultural storage building but on a smaller footprint – without comment.

2021/0660/FUL 5 Beech Road – members noted the Pre-Application and the proposal which would not affect/overlook at the rear and raised no comments.

b) Planning Applications receiving a Refusal Decision – none to report.

c) WLBC Strategic Housing and Employment Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA) 2020/21 - view www.westlancs.gov.uk/shelaa - it was AGREED to DEFER THIS ITEM UNTIL THE NEXT MEETING.

d) West Lancashire Electoral Review (Local Government Boundary Commissioner for England) – view www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk - notes circulated prior to meeting. Members noted the timetable for the Review and agreed to participate in the period of consultation on the draft recommendations scheduled to be published in November 2021.

Para.11374 (Continued)

e) WLBC: Budget Consultation (previously circulated to members) – members considered there should be no increase in the Council Tax and the level of services should be maintained or improved but not reduced; use of reserves to allow savings to be made.

11375 VACANCIES IN THE OFFICE OF PARISH COUNCILLOR:

a) Resignation of Parish Councillor for Holt Green Ward – it was with regret that the Chairman announced the resignation of Dr David Gallagher. Notice of the Vacancy would be given, pursuant to Section 87(2) of the Local Government Act 1972. The Chairman recorded his thanks to the local resident for his valuable contribution during his time in office.

b) Other Vacancies – to arrange date for Interviews with local residents applying for approved Co-option vacancies. It was AGREED to schedule a meeting of the Interview Panel during the first week of August.

11376 OPSTA MEMBERSHIP – it was RESOLVED to renew membership in the sum of £10 (corporate).

11377 PARISH COUNCIL OFFICE COMPUTER – it was RESOLVED to purchase a replacement computer from the Office Equipment Repairs & Renewals Fund, when appropriate to do so (COVID-19 Roadmap).

11378 ACCOUNTS (circulated to members)

Income	-
Expenditure	(includes VAT)
OPSTA – membership renewal	10.00
Rawsthorne Commercial Landscaping – grounds maintenance, part Hedging (pedestrian safety), tipping, fuel costs for tractor	3,579.64
Aughton Village Hall – hiring charges	75.00
Agricultural Repair Services Ltd – Kubota Tractor parts and labour repairs	643.44
Salaries – part-time Clerk/part-time Park-keeper	1,497.33
HM Revenue & Customs – Income Tax & NIC	172.65

It was RESOLVED that all the foregoing accounts be paid.

11379 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 12 July 2021.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.40pm.