



An Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council

**WILL BE HELD VIA MS TEAMS
MONDAY 22 JANUARY 2024 at 6:30pm**

Agenda

109 Apologies for Absence

To receive apologies from councillors.

110 Declaration of Interests

To receive any declarations of interest (prejudicial or otherwise) with regard to items on the Agenda.

Unless already entered in the Council's Register of Members' interests, members are required to disclose any personal interest, (which includes any disclosable pecuniary interest), they may have in any of the items included on the agenda for the meeting in accordance with the Code of Conduct adopted by the Council. Members are reminded that if they have any personal interests of a prejudicial nature or a disclosable pecuniary interest they must not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter and must leave the room. Any member needing clarification must contact the Clerk.

111 Matters Introduced by Members of the Public – *for information*

An opportunity for any members of the public present to raise issues for the attention of members.

112 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council

(4 December 2023) – *for approval* (enclosed)

To receive and approve the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 4 December 2023 for signature by the Chairman.

113 Matters Arising – *for information only*

An opportunity for members of the Council to report on any matters that have arisen since the meeting in December that are not otherwise included on the agenda.

114 Planning Applications – *for consideration & agreement*

A/21/92629/MAJOR*	Leyland Mills Leyland Mill Lane Wigan WN1 2SB	Residential development of 10 four storey four bedroom detached dwellings and 7 three storey five bedroom
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		detached dwellings, etc following demolition of existing mill buildings <i>(Representation submitted - decision deferred subject to submission of revisions by September 2023 deadline)</i>
A/22/94184/FULL	Rothwells Stud Sennicar Lane Wigan WN1 2SN	Erection of four detached dwellings, following demolition of indoor riding arena, stables and store <i>(Objection submitted – awaiting decision – non-determination appeal dismissed by Planning Inspectorate)</i>
A/23/96328/VAR	Mowpin Lodge New Road Haigh Wigan WN2 1PF	To vary condition 2 of Planning Permission Reference A/23/94895/LA - to alter the extent of the new hard and soft landscaping adjacent to Mowpin Lodge gate
A/23/96413/VAR	Mowpin Lodge New Road Haigh Wigan WN2 1PF	To vary condition 2 of Listed Building Consent Reference A/23/94896/LBLA - to alter the extent of new hard and soft landscaping adjacent to Mowpin Lodge gate

Members are invited to note the current status of the above applications with regard to which the Council have submitted representations, consider any new applications submitted since the last meeting and agree the best way forward.

***A/21/92629/MAJOR**

It has recently been brought to the Chairman's attention that trees have been cut down and a large sewage disposal tank has appeared on site. To date there have been no indicators that a decision has been made on the application. In view of this an enquiry has been sent to the officer listed on the planning website to establish whether there have been any further developments in the process. If not, clarification about why trees have been cut down and preparations made to instal a septic tank/clargesta system has been sought. A response from the planning officer is awaited.

115 Annual Parish Meeting - *for update and agreement*

- (a) During the Council meeting in December it was agreed that Cllr Clare Kenyon would approach Al&Al about the possibility of their providing an update with regard to the Masterplan on a date in May,

rather than in March. As Haigh Hall will not be available, it was agreed that the availability of the Stables should be looked into.

(b) To date one nomination for a Community award has been received.

In view of this the deadline for nominations has been extended to 28 February.

Members are invited to receive an update on progress with the above and agree the way forward with regard to outline plans for the 2024 Annual Parish Meeting.

116 2024 Newsletter – *for discussion and agreement*

It was reported in 2023 that residents very much appreciated receiving a printed copy of the newsletter and its delivery to their homes. With this in mind it is perhaps time to consider the 2024 newsletter.

Members are invited to discuss and agree the following:

- When the 2024 edition of the newsletter is to be published.
- Possible content.
- Who will be responsible for co-ordinating the content and the design of the newsletter.
- Where it will be printed.
- How it is to be distributed to **every home in the Parish.**

117 Meeting with Wigan Council Officers

– for discussion and agreement (enclosed)

(a) The minutes of the meeting with Wigan Council officers on 12 December 2023 are enclosed. Members are invited to discuss the minutes and those who attended are invited provide feedback on the meeting.

(b) The next meeting will be via MS Teams at 4pm on 18 March 2024. Members are invited to put forward and agree agenda items for the meeting.

118 Grit Bin for Hall Lane – *for discussion and approval*

Following the meeting with Wigan Council officers in December the Parish Council wrote to the Director of the Environment to raise concerns about the lack of gritting by Wigan Council in the vicinity of Hall Lane. Paul Barton has replied. In his reply he has explained that ‘the area in question is classified as an unadopted highway and by definition the council do not have any jurisdiction to carry out any maintenance or accept liability attributed to this area’.

In order to support the activity, Mr Barton is happy to provide the Parish Council with one of the green grit bins that are available to purchase usually by community and residents’ groups. He is happy to provide the grit bin free of charge and include the initial stock of grit salt. However, this is on the understanding that the Parish Council takes on the responsibility for its upkeep and arranges for the grit bin to be restocked as and when required once the initial stock the council will supply is exhausted.

Wigan Council can arrange delivery once the Parish Council has confirmed the exact location where the grit bin will be sited.

Since receiving the above reply the Chairman, following consultation with members, has obtained permission in writing from the owner of a grass verge in Hall Lane to site the bin on a portion of the verge on the basis that the owner of the verge will have no responsibility for the bin. Three members have created a flagged area on the verge where the grit bin will be located and a risk assessment will be carried out. The Parish Council's insurers will be informed and the grit bin has been ordered.

Members are invited to approve the above project.

119 Canal Towpath – *for consideration and agreement* (enclosed)

The Chairman is due to meet with Wigan Council officers, Wigan councillors and representatives of the Canal and Rivers Trust on 31 January to discuss the way forward with regard to the upgrade of the canal towpath. He will provide an update on progress so far.

In the light of the forthcoming meeting members are invited to discuss and agree the size of grant the Parish Council could offer towards the cost of the upgrade.

N.B: This should be considered in conjunction with information about the reserves available in documents associated with Item 126.

120 Grant Awarding Policy Review – *for review & approval* (enclosed)

The Parish Council's Grant Awarding Policy (adopted in 2013) is enclosed.

Paragraph 5 of the Policy currently reads:

“The size of any grant awarded is at the discretion of the Parish Council but will not exceed £250 in any one application.”

The motion is: “That paragraph 5 of the Grants Policy agreed on 21 February 2013 be deleted.”

Members are invited to review the Policy and consider the above motion and any others made during the discussion. Members are subsequently invited to and approve any revisions agreed during the meeting.

121 Community Grants 2024 – *for agreement* (enclosed)

Following the review during the last Council meeting of the funds currently held in the General Reserve, the proposals listed below have been put forward. The aim is to distribute part of the current general reserve to worthy local causes and at the same time provide publicity for the important work of the Parish Council in the local community.

Proposals:

1. That £5,000 be allocated from the general reserve to “community grants 2024”.
2. That local groups are invited to bid for community grants, with a suggested upper limit of £500.
3. That the cut off date for bids be 29 February 2024.

4. That the award of grants be made at the Annual Parish Meeting (date TBC).

Members are invited to consider the above and agree the best way forward.

N.B.: This should be considered in conjunction with information about the reserves available in documents associated with Item 126.

122 Haigh Community Group – for discussion and agreement

To discuss the proposal that an Haigh Community Group that is independent of the Parish Council and eligible to bid for grants that the Parish Council cannot apply for should be set up and agree the best way forward.

123 Haigh Windmill – for discussion and agreement

In the light of the recent vandalism, members are invited to discuss Haigh Windmill and agree the best way forward.

124 Bridge 63 – for discussion and agreement

Bridge 63 (the former Crawford Arms) remains derelict.

Members are invited to discuss it to see if there is any route the Parish Council can follow to prevent its further demise.

125 Accounts 2023-24 – for approval (enclosed)

Income : **£nil**

Expenditure:

No	PAYEE	NARRATIVE	NET	VAT	PAYMENT
40	Employee No.1	Salary (Dec & Jan) - net	£632.72	N/A	£632.72
41	HMRC	Tax (Dec & Jan)	£158.20	N/A	£158.20
42	Employee No.1	Mileage	£ 5.20	N/A	£ 5.20
Total:			£796.12	N/A	£796.12

Balance at bank on 31 December 2023 = **£23,706.33**

Estimated balance at bank following the above expenditure

= **£22,910.21**

Members are invited to approve the above payments and the virement described in the enclosed document.

126 2024-25 Budget & Precept – for discussion & approval (enclosed)

127 Text for Council Tax Letter – for discussion & agreement

Below is the text approved for inclusion on the 2023/24 Council Tax Letter:

For 2023/24 we have approved an increase in the precept from £3,478 to £4,200. This equates to an average increase of approximately £2.90 for the year across all properties.'

Members are invited to discuss and agree the text for the 2024/25 Council Tax Letter.

128 Clerk's Report – for information (to follow)

129 Date of Next Meeting: 25 March 2024 at St David's Parish Rooms

Please let the Clerk know if you intend to join the meeting by emailing clerk.haighpc@gmail.com by Saturday, 20 January 2024.

Copies of Parish Council Minutes are lodged at Aspull Library and may be accessed online on Wigan Council's website.

K Pilkington

Krystyna Pilkington
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