



**Haigh**  
PARISH COUNCIL

**An Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council  
WILL BE HELD AT ST DAVID'S PARISH ROOMS  
MONDAY 22 JANUARY 2024 at 6:30pm**

**Agenda**

**130 Apologies for Absence**

To receive apologies from councillors.

**131 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.

**132 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.

(a) A new resident of Mayflower cottages has asked whether the Parish Council could look into the possibility of a public litter bin being located somewhere in this area to prevent unwanted dog fouling bags and rubbish littering the area as it is a thoroughfare for dog walkers.

The resident has suggested that a litter bin may be best placed at the entrance to Trevore Drive from the cottages side.

(b) The same resident wishes it to be brought to the Parish Council's attention that there is no heart defibrillator within this area or 200 yards from where they live. The resident is a nurse and is of the view that, as it is a remote private road, it may be worth looking into this.

(c) There is a third issue in connection with Mayflower Cottages. The road has 2 lamp posts which are very old and do not work. For safety it would be great if these could be replaced with solar lights.

The first two were raised with the Wigan Council officer attending the meeting with the Parish Council on 18 March 2024 and have since been passed on to that officer. The third has been passed on to Wigan Council's Street Lighting unit.

### **133 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council**

**(22 January 2024)** – *for approval* (enclosed)

To receive and approve the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 22 January 2024 for signature by the Chairman.

### **134 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.

### **135 Ratification of Decisions Taken at Meetings Held Virtually**

Council meetings held on 4 December 2023 and 22 January 2024 were held virtually. For legal reasons formal decisions taken during virtual meetings need to be ratified at formal Council meetings held face-to-face.

*Members are invited to ratify the following decisions:*

#### **4 December 2023**

##### Minute 92

**Resolved:** The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on Monday, 23 October 2023 were agreed to be a true and correct record.

##### Minute 98 – Plans for the Annual Parish Meeting

**Resolved:** 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 would not be available, the availability of the Stables would be looked into.

##### Minute 100

**Resolved:** The Asset Register for 2023-24 was approved.

##### Minute 101

**Resolved:** The H&S risk assessments for 2023-24 were approved.

##### Minute 102 – Accounts 2023-24

**Resolved:** The above items were approved for payment.

##### Minute 102 – Quarterly Budget Monitoring

**Resolved:** To cover the overspend members approved a virement of £997 from the General Reserve to the 'Clerk Salary' cost centre.

##### Minute 108 – NJC Naational Pay Award

**Resolved:** The Council approved the NJC National Pay Award, which would be backdated to 1 April 2023.

#### **22 January 2024**

##### Minute 112

**Resolved:** The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on Monday, 4 December 2023 were agreed to be a true and correct record.

Minute 118 – Grit Bin for Hall Lane

**Resolved:** The Council approved the project retrospectively.

Minute 120 – Grant Awarding Policy Review

**Resolved:** Members agreed that paragraph 5 should be amended to read: “*The size of any grant awarded is at the discretion of the Parish Council.*”

Minute 121 – Community Grants 2024

**Resolved:** The Council agreed that local groups would be invited to bid for community grants. There would be no upper limit on the size of grant for which a group could bid. The deadline for bids was set at 31 March 2024 and the award of grants would be made at the Annual Parish Meeting (date to be confirmed).

Minute 124 – Bridge 63

**Resolved:** Cllr Andrew Keogh would draft a letter, which would be sent via the Clerk to the building’s current owner, who would need to be identified via a Land Registry search.

Minute 125 – Accounts 2023-24

**Resolved:** The above items were approved for payment.

Minute 126 – 2024-25 Budget & Precept

**Resolved:** The Council approved a budgeted expenditure of £13,929 (including an expenditure contingency of £500) and set a precept of £8,400 for the financial year ending 31 March 2025. The total reserves were estimated to stand at £17,107 on 1 April 2024.

**136 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 detached dwellings, etc following demolition of existing mill buildings <i>(Representation submitted - decision deferred subject to submission of revisions by September 2023 deadline – revisions still awaited)</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)</i>

		<i>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 <i>(Approved with conditions)</i>
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 <i>(Approved with conditions)</i>

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**

Following the submission of an enquiry by the Parish Council the Planning Officer advised that there was no further update on the application – it is still pending determination. The applicant had advised they would be submitting additional revised information. However, this has not yet been submitted.

In January it was brought to the Chairman’s attention that trees had been cut down and a large sewage disposal tank has appeared on site. Clarification was sought about why trees had been cut down and preparations had been made to install a septic tank/clargesta system. The Trees & Woodlands Officer has advised that permission had been granted to remove four trees in total. One was a sycamore which was on a former raised bed and had started to lean and three to allow for the installation of a new septic tank to stop effluent leaking into the river. All of the trees are to be replaced with Oak.

**Tent Pegging Arena in Pendlebury Lane**

In January it was reported that to date nothing had been removed from the field in Pendlebury Lane. There was speculation that the owners may have been given a certain amount of leeway because of the weather and ground conditions. The Clerk was asked to write to the Planning Department to ask them why there did not appear to have been a further response from enforcement officers.

In early February the Planning Enforcement Officer at Wigan Council replied to the Clerk’s email and provided an update on the owner’s non-compliance with the enforcement notice. The matter had been referred to Wigan Council’s Legal team, who would list the proceedings with the Court and a first hearing date would be set in the coming weeks. The Enforcement

Officer is not sure how long all this will take before the case is fully heard in Court and a judgment is made. Once a date is known he will provide a further update.

### **137 Meeting with Wigan Council Officers**

#### **(a) Feedback – for discussion**

The minutes of the meeting with Wigan Council officers on 18 March 2024 will be circulated when they have been received.

*Members who attended are invited provide feedback..*

#### **(b) Dates of Future Meetings – for approval**

The following dates have been proposed for future meetings with Wigan Council officers:

- Monday, 17 June @ 4pm
- Monday, 2 September @ 4pm
- Monday, 9 December @ 4pm
- Monday, 10 March @ 4pm

All meetings will be held via MS Teams.

*Members are invited to approve the dates.*

### **138 Annual Parish Meeting 2024 - for information and agreement**

#### **(a) Presentation by Al&Al, Date & Venue of APM**

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. It has now been confirmed that Al&Al are happy to provide an update on progress with the Masterplan at the Annual Parish Meeting, which will be held at 7pm on Tuesday, 21 May in the School Room at the Stables.

*Members are invited to approve this arrangement.*

#### **(b) APM Agenda**

The agenda for the 2023 APM is shown below:

1. Welcome by the Chairman
2. Apologies
3. Matters Introduced by Members of the Public
4. Minutes of the last Annual Meeting (7 March 2023)
5. Clerk's Report
6. Presentation by Al & Al

This year we will also need to include the Community Awards.

*Members are invited to discuss and agree the agenda.*

#### **(c) Advertising and Admission to the APM**

In 2023 admission to the APM was by ticket only and it was advertised approximately a month before the event.

Light refreshments were also served at the end of the meeting.

*Members are invited to discuss and agree the arrangements for 2024.*

**139 Community Awards – for agreement**

To date two / three nominations for a Community award have been received. In January the date agreed as the deadline for nominations was extended to 24 March. An appeal for nominations has been included in the newsletter, which is due to be published this coming week – later than previously intended. As the APM is due to take place in May it is suggested that once the deadline for nominations should be extended to 6 May (the day before the Annual Meeting of the Council) to give people more time to put forward nominees, if that is what members wish to do.

*Members are invited to agree the best way forward.*

**140 Bubblefest 2024 – for approval**

To date working party meetings have been held in January and February. A date for the meeting in March was not set during the meeting in February.

The following were proposed during the meeting in February:

- (a) That Cllr Paul Kenyon should be appointed as Event Leader and Cllr Andrew Keogh should be appointed Deputy Event Leader.
- (b) That volunteers should be offered a meal voucher (value to be agreed) plus FREE entry to the Bubblefest for three others.
- (c) That the Clerk should be delegated to discuss with Mr Keith Bergman the possibility of Haigh Woodland Park's providing two experienced members of staff to cover the entrance on the day. The Council are willing to cover their salaries for the time they will be required.
- (d) That posters will be prepared by Cllr Clare Kenyon and printed by Digital Impressions.

*Members are invited to approve the above.*

Members are also invited to agree a date for the next Working Group meeting. The date suggested is Wednesday, 27 March at 7pm via MS Teams.

**141 Canal Towpath – for discussion and agreement**

To receive an update from the Chairman on progress with the project to restore the canal towpath in Haigh and to agree funds to be ring-fenced for the project.

**142 Bridge 63 – for discussion**

Following the Parish Council meeting in January the owner of Bridge 63 (the former Crawford Arms) was identified via a Land Registry search and a letter inviting them to meet with the Chairman to discuss the Parish Council's concerns was sent to them. A holding reply was received from the owner advising the Council that they were in discussion with Wigan Council's Planning Department about the

building's future and would update the Parish Council about progress with this once more was known.

Since then the Chairman had heard from a reliable source that the owner of the former pub/nightclub was consulting other agencies informally via the Planning Department about the future of the property.

Subsequently an enquiry about what was happening was submitted to the Planning Department. A reply is awaited.

*Members are invited to discuss the matter.*

#### **143 Christmas Decorations – for information and consideration**

An enquiry has been sent to the Street Lighting officer to establish whether he is yet in a position to address the Council on the matter of Christmas motifs and what it involves. He has been advised of the dates of the meetings in March and May. A reply is awaited.

#### **144 Accounts 2023-24**

Income: £nil

Expenditure:

No	PAYEE	NARRATIVE	NET	VAT	PAYMENT
43	Employee No.1	Salary (Feb & Mar) - net	£632.72	N/A	£632.72
44	HMRC	Tax (Feb & March)	£158.20	N/A	£158.20
45	Employee No.1	Mileage	£ 5.20	N/A	£ 5.20
46	Digital Impressions	Newsletter printing	£203.00	N/A	£203.00
	<b>Total:</b>		<b>£999.12</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>£999.12</b>

Balance at bank on 31 January 2024 = **£22,910.21**

Estimated balance at bank following the above expenditure  
= **£21,911.09**

*Members are invited to approve the above payments.*

#### **145 Quarterly Budget Monitoring – for review & approval (enclosed)**

Most cost centres are online. The one exception is the 'Community Engagement' cost centre, which is showing an overspend of £177. This is because both the 2023 and 2024 newsletters have been printed during the 2023-24 financial year.

*To balance the overspend members are invited to approve a virement of £177 from the 'Contingency' cost centre to the 'Community Engagement' cost centre.*

#### **146 Review of Reserves – for agreement (enclosed)**

The Parish Council currently has £7,000 in unallocated reserves (*see Budget Tracker*), which need to be ring-fenced for other projects. To date agreement has not been reached with regard to the future use(s) of these funds.

The following proposals are put forward for consideration:

1. That £5,000 be allocated to "Community Grants 2024".
2. That up to £7,000 should be allocated to one or more of the following reserves:
  - Haigh Windmill

- Canal Towpath
- Participatory Budgeting Projects
- Christmas Decorations
- Community Grants 2024

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

**147 Asset Register 2023-24 – for approval** (enclosed)

The Asset Register has been updated since the meeting in December 2023 to include the grit bin in Hall Lane.

*Members are invited to approve it.*

**148 Text for Council Tax Letter - for approval** (enclosed)

The text about the 2024 Precept for inclusion in the Council Tax letter to be sent to residents was agreed informally by members in February and sent to Wigan Council for publication.

It is enclosed.

*Members are invited to approve it retrospectively.*

**149 Clerk's Report – for information** (to follow)

**150 Date of Next Meeting:**

7 May 2024 – Annual Meeting of the Council at St David's Parish Rooms

**Please let the Clerk know if you intend to join the meeting by emailing [clerk.haighpc@gmail.com](mailto:clerk.haighpc@gmail.com) by Saturday, 23 March 2024.**

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

*K Pilkington*

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