

HAUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

HELD ON MONDAY, 27th SEPTEMBER, 2021 AT 7.00 P.M IN HAUGHTON VILLAGE HALL.

Present: Parish Councillors Cllr. M. Allen, Cllr. D. Warbrick, Cllr. I Sunley, Cllr. G. Anslow, Cllr. S. Taylor, S. Potts, Clerk. Staffordshire County Councillor: Cllr. M. Winnington.

43 members of the public.

1. To receive any apologies.

Apologies received from Cllr. P. Prokopa, Mr. Derek Butlin, the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Village Hall Committee, Borough Cllr. R. Sutherland,

2. To receive the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 29th April, 2019.

The minutes of the meeting were confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

3. To receive the Chairman's Report.

Councillor Allen welcomed those present and told the assembly that there had been an election since the last Parish Assembly, two Councillors had retired and two new Councillors had been gained. The Clerk, Susan Atkins had also retired from the role in early 2021 and a new Clerk, Suzanne Potts had been recruited. Councillor Allen reported that the work of the Haughton Charity had continued behind the scenes throughout the Covid-19 crisis and he also thanked the Village Hall Committee for their efforts in keeping the Village Hall open through lockdown. The Council had also lost a Councillor due to resignation but that Councillor had left a complete compendium of Public Rights of Way and the Chairman thanked her for her fantastic effort in putting that together. Cllr. Allen then thanked serving Councillors and the Park Warden for their contribution since the last Parish Assembly.

4. Presentation of the Haughton Parish Survey Results 2021 – Cllr. I. Sunley.

Subjects covered by the survey included Communication, Traffic and Transport, Crime, Housing, Amenities and Recreation, Footpaths and Commons, Dog Gloves, Covid-19 Memorial, Environment. Details were given of the results of the survey via a PowerPoint presentation.

Questions from the public.

A number of questions were raised by a member of the public in relation to footpaths and the public rights of way network. The questions concerned safe access to footpaths and the responsibility of the County Council in maintaining the network and ensuring its accessibility. Answers were given by Cllr. I. Sunley and Cllr. M. Winnington who explained that as a result of increased usage during the lockdown periods the County Council has seen an increase in reported issues resulting in a backlog of jobs. This combined with a lack of funding has led to delays in issues being rectified.

5. The Chairman welcomed the following guests who had been invited to take part in a discussion concerning speeding traffic in the village:

Staffordshire County Councillor - Mark Winnington

Deputy Commissioner, Police / Fire and Rescue / Crime - Helen Fisher

Strategic Community Infrastructure Mgr, Staffs County Council – Mark Keeling

Strategic Governance & Commissioning Mgr, Staffs Safer Roads – Mel Langdown.

Cllr. M. Winnington told the assembly that he is concerned about the speeding issues through Haughton and Gnosall.

Concerns were expressed by those present about general speeding and also overtaking within the 30mph limit. The meeting was told by Mel Langdown that the speed camera van did not come to Haughton as the criteria had not been met by the most recent survey.

It was acknowledged by Mark Keeling that a fresh speed survey is required, this will take place after the opening of the relief road in Stafford as this may lead to increased traffic through the village.

Helen Fisher encouraged the re-instigation of the Community Speedwatch Group and promised officer support from time to time, Helen said she would work with Cllr. Winnington on this. Volunteers are needed to reform the group.

Mark Keeling was asked to look at the possibility of double white lines through the village and also at 30mph repeater signs on lampposts.

The Parish Council has committed £2,500 toward the cost of 40mph buffer zones at either end of the village. Cllr. Winnington asked those present if they would prefer flashing speeding signs, a number of people said they would prefer these and Cllr. Winnington said that he would take this up with the Parish Council.

Questions from the public.

A member of the public raised safety at the Brazenhill Park as an issue, concerns will be fed to the Police.

A question was asked about what is needed to change the criteria for double white lines, Mark Keeling explained that the criteria is governed by Department of Transport rules.

A question was asked about the possibility of a mini-island being installed, Mark Keeling explained that this was problematic both financially and also with regard to space needed.

6. There were no further questions, Cllr. M. Winnington thanked those present for their input and Cllr. M. Allen thanked everyone for attending.

The meeting was closed at 9.15 pm

Chairman.....

Date