

HAUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

2 Ashmore Drive, Gnosall, Stafford, ST20 0RP Tel: 01785 824749

Clerk's Report – April 2015

New IT equipment – as approved by Council in March, this equipment was purchased and installed. I thank Cllrs for agreeing to this request. I will be obtaining the printer from Julie Hill later this week.

Planning

A planning application at Lower Reule Farm has been received. The Planning application is being considered by Staffordshire County Council and all related documents have been received by email. I will forward the email to all Cllrs to view before Monday's meeting. If cllrs are happy to receive details of planning applications as and when they are received, to view documents on line ready for discussion at the next Council meeting, I am happy to forward details by email.

Correspondence

- Results of the uncontested election have been received from SBC. Details will be posted on the village notice board. We have two new councillors, Mr Timothy Grattage and Ms Alison Heath. The first meeting of the new Council will be held on Tuesday 26th May. At this meeting you will be requested to sign a Declaration of Acceptance of Office.
- A temporary traffic regulation notice for a temporary road closure, Brazenhill Lane for repair and maintenance between 9am and 4pm on 11th May 2015
- Weekly email bulletins from Staffordshire Parish Council's Association. In a recent bulletin details of a new Transparency Code were included. I include an extract below. I do believe that this will affect Haughton and therefore suggest at the next meeting, this is discussed in more detail once I have had time to read and understand the requirements.

Smaller Authorities (Transparency Requirements) (England) Regulations

Transparency obligations for parish councils with an annual turnover not exceeding £25,000

A new NALC Briefing L02-15 (copy attached) has been issued, confirming that the Smaller Authorities (Transparency Requirements) (England) Regulations 2015/494 came into force on 1st April. The Regulations will make compliance with the Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities issued in December 2014 mandatory for parish councils and other smaller authorities with a turnover not exceeding £25,000, with effect from 1st July. (See also note below in Jonathan Owen's report re funding to enable compliance; more details of this will follow in due course)

I am not sure what the previous arrangement has been but if Cllrs wish to receive a copy of the SPCA bulletin, I am happy to forward this on by email to you as and when received.

- Invitation to The Annual SBC Council meeting and Mayor Making Ceremony on Saturday 16th May at 10.30am
- Invitation from Mayor to Gala performance, Much Ado About Nothing, on 30th June 2015

Plan For Stafford Borough

On 8th April, the Chairman and I met with Melissa Kurihara, Senior Planning Officer at SBC, to discuss part 2 of the Plan for Stafford Borough and particularly the proposed settlement boundary for Haughton. The Local Plan for Stafford Borough consists of two documents:

- 1 The Plan which sets the strategic policies for the Borough and contains the development strategy including identifying sustainable settlement hierarchy, allocates the main strategic development locations and sets out topic specific policies. This was adopted in June 2014.
- 2 Part 2 – sets the settlement boundaries for the settlements in the sustainable settlement hierarchy, established boundaries for recognised industrial estates and considers retail frontages.

SBC agreed last year to engage further with parish councils as part of the development of The Plan for Stafford Borough - part 2. At the meeting, the proposed settlement was shared in advance of the public consultation. The map showed a settlement boundary for the village and the policy presumption would be that development outside the proposed boundary would not be acceptable but development within would be acceptable. The changed settlement boundary included houses already built and the 11 houses yet to be built. The map also identified land which is proposed to be designated as either Local Green Space or as a Community Facility. SBC based this boundary on discussions held with Haughton PC previously. Subject to Cabinet approval, the document will be published for a 6 week consultation period in June/July 2015 and the parish council will be invited to make comments at this stage. SBC would like community knowledge and advice on the proposed areas of green and community spaces.

Jayne Cooper

Clerk, Haughton Parish Council, 21st April 2015