

Minutes

Aighton, Bailey and Chaigley Parish Council

Parish Council Meeting 16 March 2026 - 7:00 pm

| PARISH COUNCIL MEETING | |
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| 1 | <p>Present: Cllr. Margaret Carrington (Chair), Cllr. Des Harwood, Cllr. Vinnie Joseph, Cllr. Isaac Nutter, Cllr. Lynn Hepworth, Cllr. Christine Holden, Frances Ahearne (Clerk), RVBC Cllr Jan Alcock.</p> <p>Apologies – Cllr. John Wilkinson and Cllr. David Bland. Niall MacFarlane as Chair of the HGMH Committee also attended. No members of the public attended.</p> |
| 2 | <p>Declarations of Interest – The Chair declared an interest in the planning application for 8 Longridge Road.</p> |
| 3 | <p>Minutes from the last meeting for approval – accepted as correct. Proposed by Cllr. Harwood and seconded by Cllr. Joseph.</p> |
| 4 | <p>Matters Arising from minutes. None.</p> |
| 5 | <p>Correspondence – the Clerk confirmed that a purple wreath for Remembrance Day has now been ordered via the Animals in War group. This is to signify the contribution made by all animals during various wars and times of conflict and was agreed at the previous council meeting.</p> |
| 6 | <p>Finance –Actual Balance at bank on 4.3.26 is £41470.84</p> <p>Monthly account update: cheques issued: 1) 14.2.26 C. Holden (818) £73.98 (new hosepipe). Monthly DD 2.3.36 for website is £36.96.</p> <p>Finance meeting report circulated to all councillors. This was reviewed and all in agreement.</p> <p>It was noted that Cllr Bland wishes to hand over responsibility for dealing with HMRC within the next 12 months. There will be a requirement for another councillor to take this on at some point.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Clerk should look into the possibility of purchasing a Microsoft 365 business account for all parish work rather than using her personal account as is currently the situation. It was agreed it would be better to differentiate between home and business use.</p> <p>Grass cutting contract for 20267-27 with Prime Gardening Services was agreed along with their proposed increase in cost of £10 plus VAT per visit.</p> |
| 7 | <p>Planning Applications: 1) Land off Shire Lane, 2) 8 Longridge Road.</p> <p>Discussion followed on these applications and the Clerk was instructed to write to the Ribble Valley Borough Council to raise objections.</p> <p>1) Shire Lane. The Council then discussed this application and it was agreed that a letter of objection should be sent to RVBC stating that in the Parish council's view this project was:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not in keeping with the local area.• Access to Shire Lane is very limited as it is a narrow road and visibility to the main road is also restricted• it is in an AONB• Possible impact on village school and other services in the area. <p>2) 8 Longridge Road. At this point the Chair left the meeting as she had declared an interest in the application. Discussion followed and it was agreed that the letter of objection should refer to:</p> |

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| | <p>a) There is very limited parking availability and access to the parking area is shared with an adjoining property.</p> <p>b) Visibility and access from the property's parking area to the main road is limited because of the contours of the road.</p> <p>c) Granting approval to the application could potentially set a precedent for other applications.</p> <p>d) Previous applications to have the property approved as a separate dwelling have been refused on various grounds.</p> |
| 8 | <p>Forward Plan:</p> <p>8a) - Best kept village – discussion followed on description in accounts relating to any donations made for village. As there is no competition scheduled for 2026 we should revise the wording of this in our budget.</p> <p>8b) - Playground – Repairs and improvements have been completed. Update from Chair.</p> <p>8c) – Bayley Field – currently in abeyance until a review later this summer. However, the initial project costs are being looked into and could be subject to revision. Chair of the Memorial Hall committee, Niall Macfarlane, was requested to send a copy of the initial tender to the Chair of the ABC Council for further discussion at a later meeting.</p> |
| 9 | <p>Risk Assessments: - Three monthly check lists being reviewed.</p> |
| 10 | <p>Any other business –</p> <p>Tree felling –Due to delays with the initial contractor the parish council agreed to revisit the situation and it was decided to appoint Josh Leyland to carry out the works as soon as possible. Concerns had been raised about the delays and the condition of some of the trees which it was felt were becoming hazardous.</p> <p>Safeguarding policy – It is hoped that our safeguarding lead, Cllr Des Harwood will be able to complete the relevant online course in the near future.</p> <p>Parking throughout village- The clerk has again contacted the LCC and has received a response from an Engineer Technician within the Highways Department at LCC that he is liaising with another colleague who has had prior involvement with the matter about attending any site meeting and with potential dates. When this information is to hand then he will get in contact with us.</p> <p>Bayley Arms Hotel – There is still concern about the lack of information concerning the sale/purchase of the hotel. There is some hope that more details about the situation may be forthcoming before too long.</p> <p>Defibrillator for Chaigley Ward: Cllr Joseph reported back that he has consulted with residents and the matter is still under review.</p> <p>Councillors were given various sets of information from both the RVBC and LCC relating to the proposed Local Government reorganisation which is still in the decision making process.</p> <p>LALC: The Clerk informed the council that LALC (Lancashire Association of Local Councils) has online and in person training events for councillors and Clerk which are available via the LALC website and the parish council is currently a member of this organisation</p> <p>RVBC Parish Liaison Committee meetings: Cllr Alcock mentioned that there had been very little attendance from ABC Councillors in recent years. Cllr Joseph agreed that he would attend the next Liaison meeting.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 7.55pm.</p> |
| 11 | <p>Future Meeting dates 2026 - 20 April, 18 May, 15 June, 20 July, 17 August, 21 September, 19 October, 16 November, no meeting in December.</p> <p>2027 – 18 January, 15 February, 15 March (up to financial year end 26-27).</p> |