

Minutes

Aughton, Bailey and Chaigley Parish Council

Parish Council Meeting 15th September 2025 - 7:00 pm

	PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
1	Present: Margaret Carrington (Chair), Des Harwood, David Bland, Isaac Nutter. John Wilkinson, Frances Ahearne (Clerk). Apologies – received from Christine Holden. Lynn Hepworth and Vinnie Joseph. Niall MacFarlane as Chair of the HGMH Committee also attended. John Wilkinson was welcomed to his first meeting as a Councillor.
2	Minutes from the last meeting for approval – accepted as correct. Proposed by David Bland and seconded by Des Harwood.
3	Matters Arising from minutes. None.
4	Matters raised by attending public. – none.
5	Correspondence – 1) Insurance renewal – this has been received in the sum of £4913.52. HGMH will pay 50% of this cost.
6	Finance – Balance at bank on 1.9.25 is £25572.06 Bank statement for the month of August was not available as it had not arrived before Julie Chang left on vacation, so an estimated figure was put in. The above figure is the actual after receipt of bank statement. Julie Chang and the clerk are going over to Virgin Money bank in Burnley as soon as Julie returns from her vacation towards the end of September to deal with amending the mandate, bank statements and signatories on the account. Monthly account update: The Chair requested that accounts be sent out with the agenda for each meeting. Tree felling by Old Police House – three quotes had been received, and it was agreed to go with the quotation from Winstanley tree services as it was the most competitive. Internal/external audit. There are still some outstanding queries from Littlejohn's on the audit, which are currently being dealt with. It is hoped the file will be completed and closed in the near future. The councillors all expressed their appreciation to both Julie Chang and Christine Nutter for all their hard work on this audit. Cheques. Cheques agreed: 1) AJ Gallagher Insurance premium 17.9. £4913.52 (797), 2) Prime Garden Services 17.9. £432 (798), 3) RVBC 17.9 £49.17 (Remembrance Day) (799), 4) LALC 17.9. £35 (clerks online training seminar) (800). Concurrent grant – being processed by RVBC. Funds should be paid by end of September. Internal/external Auditor: Christine Nutter has notified the clerk that she will be unable to continue as our auditor due to other commitments. The council expressed their thanks and gratitude to Christine for all the help she has given in recent years. The Clerk is to write to Christine about this.
7	Planning Applications: 1) Deerhurst – no objections, 2) Garden room at 5 The Dene -no objections.
8	Forward Plan: 8a) – Bayley Field – see below. 8b) - Best kept village – Result of the final between Hurst Green and West Bradford to be announced in October.

	8c) - Playground – The Chair is in the process of obtaining specific quotations from three companies and is also starting the process of obtaining grants from various organisations.
9	Risk Assessments: - clerk to update and send out for review It was suggested that John Wilkinson take over responsibility for the Bayley Field assessment, as he will be dealing with the drainage works etc. Chair to get in touch with Christine Holden about this change.
19	Any other business – Bayley field drainage. Niall Macfarlane raised this issue with the PC in connection with the previously quoted price of approximately £10000 to complete the necessary works. Previously it had been agreed that the PC would contribute fifty percent of the total required. Discussion followed on the problems, and it was agreed to wait for some months until the ground has dried out sufficiently. John Wilkinson volunteered to get further quotations for the necessary work and to report back to the Council as he felt the work could be done at a more competitive price. Niall was to send John the relevant details so that quotations could be based on like for like. Playground – the Chair is working on getting quotations and is also applying for grants. There have been various quotations requested. As the total cost is likely to be in the region of £30,000 it is necessary to obtain as much funding as possible. It was agreed that the PC would probably need to contribute approximately £4000 to the final costs. This amount should be held available in our accounts. Bayley Field/Park Play – discussion on this subject followed. A risk assessment is required from them prior to the event commencing in mid-October. The clerk is liaising as required in order to obtain this information and will inform Niall as chair of HGMH about the ongoing arrangements with Park Play. Remembrance Day – After much discussion, it was agreed that Des Harwood would attend a meeting in the college at the request of Catherine Hanley who is now acting as liaison between the PC and the college with all the relevant groups. Clerk to check that Ventbrook are aware of situation Des Harwood will report to the next meeting. Tree felling – Winstanley Tree services are to carry out this work at the appropriate time. Clerk to check that the company will liaise with RVBC as necessary to complete all the official paperwork if there is any need to close roads or footpaths. Once felled the trees etc. will be cut up as firewood logs and left for residents to take away. Footpath bridge near river Ribble at bottom of Lambing Clough Lane. Enquiries are ongoing with the relevant authorities to ascertain responsibility for the repairs. Clerk will continue to liaise with these authorities and report back when the situation is made clear. Safeguarding policy – the Council does need to get a safeguarding policy in place. After discussion it was agreed John Wilkinson would be the councillor responsible for drawing up a draft policy for agreement. This policy is to be based on what is currently used by the memorial hall for their lettings. Christmas party – David Jacques has applied for the usual grant from RVBC for the party, which is held every year in the memorial hall. However, the grant has to come to the PC, as the coffee stop group do not have a bank account. Parking throughout village - John Wilkinson brought up the question of the difficulties experienced on a regular basis with parking throughout the village. The visitors following the Tolkien Trail exacerbate this. It was agreed to look further into the possibility of extending the yellow lines throughout the village where appropriate. Discussion also followed on the possibility of making more car parking space in other areas

20	Date of Next Meetings: 20 October, 17 November, no meeting in December, 19 January 2026, 16 February, 16 March, 20 April.