

Minutes

Aighton, Bailey and Chaigley Parish Council

AGM Monday 19TH May 2025 7:00 – 7:30 pm

Parish Council Meeting 19th May 2025 - 7:30 pm

	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
1	<p>Present: David Bland, Margaret Carrington (Chair), Des Harwood, Lynn Hepworth Christine Holden, Julie Chang (Clerk), Frances Ahearne (incoming Clerk), three members of the public attended.</p> <p>Apologies - none</p> <p>Minutes from last AGM Were proposed by Christine Holden and seconded by David Bland.</p>
2	<p>Matters Arising No matters arising from the minutes</p>
3	<p>Chair's report:</p> <p>It was with great sadness that we heard of the death of Chris Berry, a parish councillor for many years who was a very loyal and dedicated councillor. We extend our condolences to Chris's family and friends at this very difficult time.</p> <p>The Parish Council of Aighton Bailey and Chaigley works to fulfil its mission statement which is 'To deliver better services and local change.' To date the councillors have ensured the grassed areas belonging to the Parish Council are kept mown and tidy and have welcomed and supported financially the initiative to enter the Best Kept Village competition. This has encouraged volunteers to take ownership of their village and to create areas which are lovely to see and attract appreciative comments from the many visitors to the village. Councillors conduct regular risk assessments in support of this to ensure the village environment is a safe one. (Forward plan – Best Kept Village requirements)</p> <p>There is an ongoing issue in relation to parking, particularly when there is a football match, an event in the village hall, a Shireburn wedding and walkers requiring parking for the Tolkien Trail. Despite numerous correspondences with highways, however, their response is that until there is an issue, then they have other priorities in Lancashire. The Parish Council will, however, continue to remain vigilant on this matter.</p> <p>One of the duties of the Parish Council is to be aware of the many planning applications which occur in the parish and it is our duty to have an opinion in relation to these. This opinion is one which is decided jointly and with discussion unless there is a time limit and then opinions are gathered by email. Sometimes an opinion is one which is at odds with the person applying for planning permission, nevertheless, the councillors are required to state their opinion and encourage residents who are dissatisfied with the outcome to seek an appointment with Ribble Valley Borough Council Planning Department.</p> <p>In the forward plan for 2024/5 we needed to address the poor state of the village hall car park and were fortunate in obtaining the funds to do this. We now have a new tarmacked car park with lines for parking and a protected walk-way for children to use the playground, our thanks to all concerned in making this happen.</p> <p>We are responsible for the playground and our thanks to the councillors who check this is in good order and adhere to the requirements of a professional annual safety check. We will continue to consult with parents and children to see whether more equipment is required within the play area. (Forward Plan) Councillors are aware that there are issues relating</p>

	<p>to the Bayley Field and are supporting the Chair of the village hall in arranging for this to happen. (Forward plan)</p> <p>Finally I would like to thank all who volunteer on the Parish Council and although their work is unannounced – it is very much appreciated - for without their input, nothing would happen. Particular thanks to our clerk Julie Chang who has been excellent in the role and has now decided to leave us for pastures new – thank you Julie for a great job well done - and it is here that we welcome Francis Ahearne, our new clerk and hope she enjoys her role working within the council.</p> <p>Thanks also to Simon who has now decided that his years on the council must also come to an end and we thank him for his role on the finance committee, the SPID battery maintenance, helping Chris with the playground, footpath maintenance and his involvement in all business within the council – you will be missed Simon.</p> <p>Margaret Carrington – Chair Aighton Bailey & Chaigley Parish Council</p>
4	Annual accounts for the year April 2024 to April 2025 were reviewed and approved.
5	Election of Chair/Vice chair Margaret Carrington was re-elected as chair and voted for unanimously. Des Harwood was nominated as Vice Chair and approved by all.
6	Vacancies- there are currently two vacancies. There are certain procedures to be carried out in relation to appointing new councillors. In some situations councillors can be co-opted. 14 days notice must be given and the information is to be added to the ABC website and also the public noticeboard. David Bland outlined the process in detail.
7	Finance Committee: Discussion followed on the situation regarding the Bayley Field. Funds are needed going forward to carry out certain necessary works. The PC must be sure that there are sufficient funds in hand prior to sanctioning any schedule of works. It was agreed that costs should be borne equally between the PC and the Memorial Hall. Lyn Hepworth agreed to join the committee dealing with this matter.
	PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
1	Present David Bland, Margaret Carrington (Chair), Des Harwood, Lynn Hepworth Christine Holden, Julie Chang (Clerk), Frances Ahearne (incoming Clerk), three members of the public attended.
	Apologies - none
2	Minutes from the last meeting for approval – accepted as correct.
3	Matters Arising from minutes. None.
4	Matters raised by attending public. – One query was raised by a member of the public attending the meeting regarding the state of the Punchbowl site. Currently there is nothing further to report but it was agreed that the Clerk should write to the RVBC to enquire about the ongoing situation.
5	<p>Correspondence –</p> <p>Notice to remove the public telephone box has been received. After discussion about the viability of the PC taking over management of the telephone box it was agreed that no further action should be taken by the PC. The box will be removed at some point in the next few months.</p> <p>30.4.25 – RVBC settlement review – one query was raised about what are our exact boundaries.</p> <p>23.4.25 – volunteers – nothing to report</p> <p>16.4.25 – LALC – to be paid.</p> <p>15.4.25 – Simon Bailey’s resignation from the PC accepted with much regret.</p>
6	<p>Finance – Balance on 19.5.25 was £19,620.</p> <p>Cheques: 14.4. Julie Iddon, £40.65, 22.4 Prime Garden Services £432, 18.5 Frances Ahearne £480, 18.5 HMRC £120, 18.5 M Carrington £492.60.</p> <p>Income:</p>

	<p>Finance committee report and budget : a meeting of the finance committee was agreed for Monday 26th May at Lyn Hepworth's home. (deferred to 9th June). Due to the fact that there was more than £35,000 in hand for the last financial year, the council will be subject to an external review. Asset register – is outstanding and needs to be updated. Christine Richards will be carrying out an internal audit of the PC accounts before the end of June.</p>
7	Planning Applications: 22.4.25 Hazlemere, Longridge Road, no objections.
8	<p>Forward Plan :</p> <p>8a) – Bayley Field –Discussions have taken place with members of the PC and the Memorial Hall about the costs etc for the required works on the Bayley Field. It was agreed that the quotation received from one company should be accepted as soon as possible in order to avoid any increase in price prior to the works commencing later this summer/early autumn. It was felt that the PC must show proper governance of council funds and it was not necessary to apply for any grants at this time. The question of VAT refunds was also discussed.</p> <p>8b) Best kept village – it was agreed we should remain in this competition.</p> <p>8c) Playground – Isaac Nutter is to ask the children in the local primary school about their suggestions for any additional equipment.</p>
9	Risk Assessments: David Bland will send the clerk updated forms which are to be completed by all users of the Bayley Field who book through the Memorial Hall Committee. These forms are to be completed and received prior to any event taking place. Updated forms should also be sent to the Memorial Hall Committee for their onward use.
10	Remembrance Sunday: The road closure procedure will be the same as last year. Quotation received of £980 for this to be done.
11	Bicycle Ride: in Memory of Chris Berry planned to take place on 12 th July.
19	<p>Any other business –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. New bench: Margaret Carrington, Chair, would like to replace one of the broken benches near the Boer War Memorial with a new bench in memory of her husband John. This proposal was warmly accepted by all present. 2. Trees by Old Police House: Discussion followed on the current state and safety of some of the trees on the banking by the old police house. The Clerk was asked to approach Josh Leyland to see if he is able to carry out the work and to provide a quotation. 3. Tree being felled at Green Gore: discussion took place about the felling of a tree on the Stonyhurst Estate near to a property at Green Gore. It was agreed the clerk should write to Carter Jonas who manage the land to enquire as to whether permission was granted prior to the felling. 4. Smithy Row: The hedgerow leading from the end of Smithy Row to the sheep fields is very overgrown in places. It was agreed to ask Josh Leyland to carry out this work if possible and as soon as convenient. His invoice should then be submitted to PC for approval. 5. Bayley Arms: It was felt that it would be appropriate to write to Liz Johnson and Barry Ward to thank them for all their efforts in connection with fundraising for the purchase and ongoing management of the Bayley Arms.
20	Date of Next Meetings: 16 June, 21 July, 18 August, 15 September, 20 October, 17 November, no meeting in December, 19 January 2026, 16 February, 16 March, 20 April.