

TONGE WITH THE HAULGH AREA FORUM

MEETING – WEDNESDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER, 2015

Present – 5 members of the public attended the meeting

Councillor Donaghy	- Tonge with The Haulgh Ward
Councillor Sherrington	- Tonge with The Haulgh Ward

Also in attendance

Pauline Dixon	- Neighbourhood Manager Rumworth/Area Working Lead
Sue Vickers	- Business Support Officer
Jason Molyneux	- Bolton Council
Peter Watson	- Bolton Council
Cath Conniffe	- Bolton Council
Bushra Khan	- Bolton Council
Sarah Taylor	- Bolton at Home
PC Paul Milligan	- Greater Manchester Police
PCSO Emma Goddard	- Greater Manchester Police

Apologies for absence were submitted by David Crausby MP and Councillor Nick Peel.

Councillor Donaghy in the Chair

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS

Councillor Donaghy welcomed everyone and introduced himself, Councillor Sherrington and other Officers in attendance.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM COUNCILLORS AND OFFICERS

There were no Declarations of Interest.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 11th March 2015 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

4. PRESENTATION – HOUSING STANDARDS

Councillor Donaghy introduced Peter Watson, Principal Environmental Health Officer, Bolton Council, who gave a presentation on Housing Standards. The main points were as follows;

- Housing disrepair
- Accumulation of waste in back yards

Peter further explained that the work of Community Housing Services includes amongst other issues, investigating complaints regarding poor housing conditions in privately rented properties including flats, bedsits, student properties etc. He explained that the Department works closely with colleagues in Housing Advice to give information and guidance to tenants, Community Safety and Anti-Social Behaviour teams, the Fire Service, the Police, Education and Enforcement.

A number of questions followed the presentations and was answered at the meeting.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted

5. UPDATE ON AREA FORUM BUDGETS

Councillor Donaghy introduced Pauline Dixon who gave a brief overview on the budgets available for 2015/17.

- The Flat Rate Budget for 2015 to 2017 is £9,375.
- The Highways Maintenance Budget for 2015 to 2017 is £19,200.

Resolved – That the update be noted.

6. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS SESSION

Councillor Donaghy introduced this item on the agenda and invited residents to ask any questions or put forward any comments they had regarding issues and concerns in the Ward.

Q1 A written question was submitted:
When are the pavements going to be completely re-done in Wisbeck Road and are all the road signs really necessary?
When will tree-cutting take place on Council land behind Wisbeck Road, Staton Avenue and the back of the flats on Shireburn Avenue?

A Cllr Sherrington explained the history of the number of signs which was accepted however there was a recognition that the number of signs needed to be revisited to ascertain if they were all now necessary along with an inspection of the footways by highways.

Highways to be requested to look into these issues and report back to the Councillors and the resident.

Pauline Dixon explained that the trees were the responsibility of Bolton at Home and the matter had been referred to them. The resident confirmed that Bolton At Home had contacted them and had informed the resident that an inspection of the trees had been carried out in June and they were deemed safe. Sarah Taylor was asked to obtain a copy of the inspection report for the resident.

Q2 A resident suggested it may be more economical to combine future Area Forums and increase the number of meetings held.

A Councillor Donaghy will take that suggestion back for consideration.

Resolved – That the questions be noted and those which were not answered be directed to the appropriate departments or partner agencies.

7. CHAIR'S CLOSING REMARKS

Councillor Donaghy thanked everyone for attending and especially to Pauline Dixon for facilitating this meeting on behalf of Area Co-ordinator, Idris Jeewa. He asked it be noted that Tonge with The Haulgh Area Forum sends deepest condolences to Idris, who has had a family bereavement earlier in the week and who will be in our thoughts and prayers at this very difficult time for himself and his family.

Councillor Donaghy then reminded the meeting that forthcoming Councillor Surgeries will be held at Tonge UCAN Centre on the following dates:

1st Monday of the month 6pm – 7pm

3rd Friday of the month 5pm – 6pm

Councillor Donaghy also confirmed that the next meeting of the Area Forum will be held at Tonge UCAN Centre on 9th March 2016 at the usual time.

(The meeting started at 6.32pm and finished at 7.22pm)