

Helsby Parish Council

Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held at 7.41pm on 26th February 2018 in the Committee Room

Present:

Cllr. Stuart Hulse – Chairman

Cllr. Terry O’Neill – Vice-Chairman

Cllr. George Randles

Cllr. Sam Johnson

Cllr. Alan Gardner

Cllr. Chris Ellams

In attendance:

Cllr. Alan McKie

1. Public Air Time. Proposed by Cllr. Randles, seconded by Cllr. Gardner and **RESOLVED – that the meeting be suspended for public participation – E01/18.** There being no matters brought to the committees’ attention it was proposed by Cllr. Gardner, seconded by Cllr. Johnson and **RESOLVED – that Public Air Time be closed and the meeting reconvened – E02/18.**
2. Apologies for absence – none.
3. Declarations of interest – none reported.
4. Minutes of the previous meeting. Proposed by Cllr. Johnson, seconded by Cllr. O’Neill and **RESOLVED – that the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 13th December 2017 be accepted as an accurate record and duly signed by the Chairman – E03/18.**
5. Matters arising from the previous minutes
 - 5.1 TruCam. Ordered and expected any day now. Purchase price was £5,999 + VAT. Annual verification of calibration £249 + VAT payable annually for the life of the TruCam. Costs will come out of New Homes Bonus Reserve fund – duly noted.
 - 5.2 Maltby Triangle. Request sent to CWaC to consider beginning negotiations with the Parish Council re proposal to take over the grounds maintenance of the area. The Properties Manager had referred our request to the Localities Team – awaiting response.
 - 5.3 Request to Tesco Stores to ascertain if they would consider erecting Belisha Beacons on crossing just after Calendar Gardens mini-roundabout. Awaiting a response.
 - 5.4 Ho Ho Management Team will now be independent from the Parish Council. Complimentary items to the event, that will benefit Helsby residents, may be considered by the Parish Council providing that the items will be added to the assets register and belong to the community.
 - 5.5 Best-Kept Christmas Illuminations – the results were as follows:

1st Tea Rooms, Chester Road
2nd Headlines, Latham Avenue
3rd Helsby Post Office

All winners had been informed – duly noted.

6. The Environment Committee budget, for the existing and ensuing fiscal year 2018/19, was discussed and annotated as follows:

Budget Heading Code	Description	Budget 2017/18 £	2017/18 Spend to date £	Predicted To 31/03/18	Budget recommended for 2018/19 £
223	Litter / dog / grit bins	400	0	400	400
224	Village Awards	200	0	200	200
225	Ho Ho Helsby	1,000	840 ^(a)	840	1,000
226	Road Safety	0	0	7,200 ^(b)	0
227	Bridge Lantern Lights	500	1,098	1,192 ^(c)	1,200
228	Christmas Lights	15,500	5,803	20,141 ^(d)	15,500
228a	Christmas Tree	2,400	2,550	2,550	2,600
229	SherwoodCourt Land	500	235	560 ^(e)	560
230	Street furn/BT boxes	300	0	300	500^(f)
231	War Memorial	0	0	0	1,500^(g)

- (a) Ho Ho Helsby budget will be used to pay for traffic management = £840
(b) New Homes Bonus reserves will be used to pay TruCam costs
(c) Includes electrical test and new timers. Old Vicarage Tree Surgery had been employed to cut back overgrown branches and we await invoice approx. £82.
(d) £15,670 planned expenditure. Balance of £4,471 to be paid out of grants received from RSK and Ho Ho Helsby
(e) Includes Old Vicarage Tree Surgery quote to cut vegetation down to 4ft all around. This had been undertaken and we awaited invoice of £323 or thereabouts.
(f) The Parish Council now owned 2 x ex BT phone boxes. The budget had been increased to include replacement glass in case of vandalism.
(g) New budget heading created. Estimated for cleaning/preparing for WW1 centenary.

7. Environment Committee expenditure – 5 Year Plan.

7.1 Defibrillators for BT phone boxes plus installation estimated to be in the region of £3,750. Investigate grants from British Heart Foundation and Protos.

7.2 Purchase of mini-bus. If a need for transport for the elderly and infirm ever arose, a scoping report would be required to estimate costs and usage of mini-bus.

7.3 Upgrade of Disabled Toilet at Helsby Community Centre. Helsby Community Association had applied to Marshes Community Benefit Fund for funding.

8. Public Space Protection Orders – Dog Control. Consultation relating to the control of dogs across the borough. This committee had been tasked to investigate and respond. Cllr. Hulse reported that, under the specific powers of the Clean Neighbourhood Act, Parish/Town Councils could employ a person to enforce dog controls. Cllr. O'Neill supported CWaCs proposals but thought that employing a Dog Warden would, at this time, be cost prohibitive for Helsby. Proposed by Cllr. Hulse, seconded by Cllr. Johnson and **RESOLVED – that the Parish Council be RECOMMENDED to support CWaC proposals detailed in the Public Space Protection Orders – Dog Control consultation document – E04/18.**

9. Village 'Best-Kept' Competition 2018. Members kindly agreed to judge the following categories:

Cllr. Ellams Community Business Award (shops and businesses into a single category)
Cllr. Hulse South Ward Garden
Cllr. Johnson Central Ward Garden
Cllr. Gardner North Ward Garden
Cllr. O'Neill Planter

The Clerk had placed an add in the next edition of Helsby News inviting people to submit their gardens for judging.

10. Helsby War Memorial. Estimates had been obtained for the professional repair and cleaning of the War Memorial in plenty of time for the WW1 centennial service on 11th November 2018. The members fully discussed the proposals and breakdown of costs. It was agreed that Cllr. Randles check the paving surrounding the base of the memorial to ascertain if the work was necessary, prior to the committee deciding whether to obtain further quotes. Proposed by Cllr. Johnson, seconded by Cllr. Gardner and **RESOLVED that the Parish Council be RECOMMENDED to employ Quadriga to undertake the following work to the Helsby War Memorial before 11th November 2018 costing £800 + VAT and £650 + VAT respectively – HPC05/18:**

- i) **Steam clean memorial, base, rear wall & paving to remove algae and superficial dirt deposits;**
- ii) **Rake out and re-point memorial.**

11. A Nation's Tribute and WW1 Beacons of Light 11th November 2018. The Parish Council had already committed to the scheme and would arrange to transport and light up the purpose-built beacon at the top of Helsby Hill. The National Trust was explicit in its instructions to allow the Parish Council to use its property conditionally on the proviso that the event would not be advertised as open to the public. Therefore, it would not appear in any official campaign details. The Clerk would seek permission from the Civil Aviation Authority to light the beacon and would ask the owner of Harmer's Lake Farm to assist with transporting and lighting the beacon.

12. No urgent matters were reported.

13. Date of the next meeting – to be advised.

The meeting closed at 8.03pm

Chairman's signature..... Dated.....