

Helsby Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at 7pm on 10th December 2018 in Helsby Methodist Church.

Present:

Cllr. Chris Ellams – Chairman	Cllr. Stuart Hulse	Cllr. Peter Duffy
Cllr. Michelle Massey	Cllr. Alan Gardner	Cllr. Sam Johnson
Cllr. George Randles	Cllr. John Kimpton	Cllr. Alan McKie
Cllr. Polly Barry	Cllr. Sarah Temple	

Chairman's Announcements:

Congratulated Ho Ho Helsby for an excellent day's event on 1st December 2018. The Parade was fantastic and he personally thanked the working group and all the volunteers that made it such a huge success.

The Chairman asked members for opinion on start time for Wednesday's committee meetings. The majority of members chose 6pm start.

1. Public Air Time. Proposed by Cllr. Hulse, seconded by Cllr. Duffy and **RESOLVED – that the meeting be suspended for public participation – HPC235/18.** There being no matters put before the Council it was proposed by Cllr. Duffy, seconded by Cllr. Johnson and **RESOLVED – that Public Air Time be closed and the meeting reconvened – HPC236/18.**
2. Apologies for absence. Received and accepted from Cllrs. Holder, MacPherson and O'Neill.
3. Declarations of interest. Cllrs. McKie and Randles declared non-pecuniary interest in Items 13 and 20 as both were Executive members of the Helsby Community Sports Club. The Parish Clerk declared family interest in Item 20.2 as her daughter was immediate neighbour to Tor View.
4. Police Matter
 - 4.1 In the absence of PCSO Kopczyk, the Chairman read out his written report which included the following information: -
 - TruCam – continuing to deploy when weather permits;
 - Suspicious activity – neighbouring villages. PCSO asked if any suspicious activity, in Helsby, could be reported to the Police;
 - Ho Ho Helsby event – no issues from a policing perspective;
 - Local Beat Meetings for December – 2-3pm Saturday 15th JTO Tea Room and 11-12noon on 19th Helsby High School.The members expressed disappointment that PCSO had not provided figures relating to speeding prosecutions.
 - 4.2 PCC meeting with Parish & Town Councils on 13th November. Cllrs. Hulse and O'Neill attended. The contents of Cllr. O'Neill's report was duly noted.
5. Minutes of the previous meeting. Proposed by Cllr. Randles, seconded by Cllr. Duffy and **RESOLVED – that the minutes of the Helsby Parish Council meeting held at 7pm on 12th Nov 18 were accepted as an accurate record and duly signed by the Chairman – HPC237/18.**

6. Matters arising from the previous meeting
 - 6.1 Old Chester Road Bridge. A meeting took place on 28th Nov between Compass (owners of Rockcliffe) Cholmondeley Estates and Highways. Cllr. McKie attended and would send the report through when received. Once the remedial work had taken place, there should be no reason why Cholmondeley Estates should delay installing the replacement bridge – duly noted.
 - 6.2 Meeting with CWaC Art and Entertainments Officer. A meeting would be arranged in the New Year, attended by Cllr. O’Neill and the Parish Clerk, to obtain information on how the Parish Council can get hold of the £49,243, currently held by CWaC, to spend on Public Art in Helsby.
 - 6.3 Eccies. The terms of the RSK lease had been negotiated through the solicitor in line with the principals agreed and approved by the Parish Council that it is a 40-year lease with break clauses after 20 years. The tenant would be responsible for all maintenance. Re the electricity supply to the Air Monitoring Unit. The Parish Council was never a party to it and RSK are willing to negotiate an arrangement with Peel/Covanta. The Parish Council noted that the Parish Clerk would be signing the Lease before Christmas.
7. Minutes of the Standing Orders Committee meeting held on 26th November 2018. Cllr. Duffy presented the minutes that included the following recommendations: -
 - 7.1 Complaints Procedure. Proposed by Cllr. Duffy, seconded by Cllr. Temple and **RESOLVED – that the Parish Council accept the addition of ‘Complaints about a Council Employee’ to the official Complaints Procedure – HPC238/18.**
 - 7.2 Standing Orders. Proposed by Cllr. Duffy, seconded by Cllr. Temple and **RESOLVED – that the Parish Council accept the changes to the existing Standing Orders – HPC239/18.**
 - 7.3 Publication Scheme. Proposed by Cllr. Duffy, seconded by Cllr. Temple and **RESOLVED – that the Parish Council accept the changes to the existing Publication Scheme – HPC240/18.**
8. Burial Grants – no new applications received.
9. Councillor’s Surgery – 1st December 2018. Cllrs. Ellams, Kimpton and Randles attended when the following was discussed: -
 - Local business suspected of dumping asbestos in skip on the morning of the surgery. Cllr. Massey reported it to the members. Cllr. Ellams contacted all the right bodies but regrettably nothing could be done as the removal of the material had already taken place – duly noted.Lincoln Court Resident’s Association:
 - Enquiry about the opening date of new Post Office;
 - Street lamp between Loxley Hall and Lincoln Court – this was on private land and therefore the responsibility of the landowner;
 - Trees requiring pruning on verge outside Lincoln Court – Clerk to ask CWaC;
 - Bins not being emptied outside the Community Centre – same;
 - Old Springfield site – now demolished. The Parish Council did not have information re housing type or numbers;
 - Update on old Horse & Jockey sign – the members confirmed that the sign had been donated to the Parish Council;
 - Restricted parking in Frodsham and the effects it could have when the same was introduced in Helsby.

9.1 Surgery dates and Rota up to May 2019 (due to elections). The surgery dates were for the whole of 2019. The Clerk would prepare a new Rota following the elections for the period June to December. Proposed by Cllr. Temple, seconded by Cllr. Johnson and **RESOLVED – not to hold a surgery in January 19 – HPC241/18.**

10. Cheshire West and Chester Council Matters

10.1 Cllr. McKie reported the following: -

- The next Executive meeting would take place at 6.30pm on 13th Dec in Wyvern House Winsford;
- Footway Link from Hornsmill to A56 Lay-By. The footpath should be finished by Christmas. A meeting would be arranged to discuss how it would be manned. Close down periods for the lay-by have been suggested for drop-off and pick-up times. The Parish Council had received an email request for a crossing, at that location, for the new housing. Cllr. Hulse mentioned a Pelican Crossing and time constrained lower speed limit. Cllr. McKie responded that he had approached two local companies about funding for installation of a Pelican crossing and that this may happen without any cost to the Parish Council. He did not think that Highways would allow a 'variable hours restricted speed limit' on the main road.

10.2 Maltby Triangle. The Localities Manager contacted the Parish Council re our request to enter into negotiation with CWaC asking about taking over the ownership of said land. The members considered the following information: -

- a) CWaC would not transfer the freehold to HPCs due to where the land was situated so close to the junction. CWaC may need to upgrade or change the junction at some point in time;
- b) CWaC would consider entering into a long-term lease (30 years) with HPC. This would be subject to certain agreements / caveats, such as no development on the land, no further restrictions on the visibility splay etc;
- c) HPC would take on full responsibility for the maintenance of said land and all assets within the demise namely bench, bin and doggy bin. Maintenance included grounds, trees, bushes and flagged area and the leaseholder would be expected to take it on in its current condition.
- d) The Parish Clerk had obtained a quote from Northwich Town Council for grounds maintenance and that included grass collection.

Cllr. Randles expressed concern about taking on the land without any funding forthcoming from CWaC. Cllr. Hulse responded that the aim was to keep the land looking nice as it was strategically placed to be the gateway to the village. Much discussed ensued and so it was proposed by Cllr. Johnson, seconded by Cllr. Randles and **RESOLVED – that the Parish Council enter into an arrangement with Northwich Town Council to undertake the maintenance of land known locally as the Maltby Triangle subject to CWaC approval – HPC242/18.**

10.2 Potholes. Cllr. Johnson reported that CWaC Highways criteria for filling potholes was 40mm. Anything under that depth was left irrespective of the width of the pothole. Motorcycles and pedal cyclists found it much harder to cope with potholes.

10.3 Local Council elections 2nd May 2019. Cllr. Hulse reported that Chalc would be organising a seminar at 1.30 – 4.30pm on 7th February at Cheshire View for Clerks and members alike – duly noted. The cost for elections in Helsby would be £3,556 and this would appear in the budget for 2019. If no elections were called, the cost would be

£168 – duly noted.

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11. The Marshes Community Benefit Fund – no matters to report.

12. Frodsham Wind Farm – Cllr. Ellams reported the following: -

- The Wind Farm was continuing to operate as expected and the performance of the turbines was good. For September the output was 7334 Megawatts, against a budget of 7441 Megawatts.
- There were minor downtime events due to bat curtailment. The turbines continued to turn as planned. The Wind Farm was continuing to work with CWaC on bat curtailment.
 - Trained sniffer dogs were on site once a month as part of the habitat work.
 - The bat survey data (from Apr – Sep) was continuing to be analysed by the Wind Farm. Reports could be found on the Frodsham Wind Farm website on the Habitat Management Link.

Next meeting Friday, 8th March 2019 18:00hrs Castle Park Frodsham.

13. Helsby Community Sports Club – no matters reported.

14. Helsby Community Association - HCA

14.1 Installation of an Online Booking System. HCA approached Cllr. Ellams for advice on the shortlisted systems. In Cllr Ellams's opinion, both were over engineered for the needs on any Community Centre and suggested a package used by other organisations which was a simple booking form sent out by the Booking Clerk. Unfortunately, the advice was not taken and HCA have chosen an over complicated system that will most assuredly require some form of administration. The system cost £120 per annum, for a link to a website. Cllr. Ellams hoped that it was fully GDPR compliant. The system was live and users had already experienced problems – duly noted.

14.2 Cllr. Holders report was duly noted however the members were disappointed that HCA had refused consent to hang the old Horse & Jockey sign in the main hall. Another approach would be made asking them to reconsider. There was plenty of wall space on either side of the main stage and also in the adjacent Committee Room.

15. Cycle North Cheshire. Cllr. Duffy had circulated the minutes of the meeting held on 15th November by email. The next meeting was scheduled for 9th January 2019 – duly noted.

16. Protos – Cllr. Temple reported the following: -

- The Community Benefit Fund meeting was held on 6th December to consider bids for the £6,000. Successful applicants included St Laurence Bell Ringers (IT items), Little Stanney (road signs) and Friends of Elton School. Peel confirmed a grant pot of £30,000 for 2019;
- Main Community Forum would take place on 12th December. Cllr. Temple will attend when there will be an announcement made that Progressive Energy are proposing to build a Bio-substitute Natural Gas (BioSNG) facility which will feed into the National Grid. Progressive Energy would be giving a presentation at the meeting. This would be followed by community events and consultations in the New Year. This will be a major application and decided by CWaC.

17. Miscellaneous Matters

17.1 Review of Neighbourhood Plan. The Clerk will arrange meeting (in the New Year) with interested volunteers – duly noted.

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17.2 Remembrance Day. Card from the Secretary of St Paul's PCC thanking the Parish Council for arranging the cleaning of the War Memorial – duly noted.

17.3 Helsby Beacon. The Clerk had received notification, from the Pageantmaster, that the next National Beacon Scheme event would be for the 75th Anniversary of 'Victory in Europe' VE Day in May 2020 – duly noted.

17.4 Grounds maintenance contract 2019. Proposed by Cllr. Hulse, seconded by Cllr. Kimpton and **RESOLVED – that the Parish Council, in accordance with s.8(l)(i) ss. A of the Local Government Act 1894, employ Northwich Town Council to undertake the grounds maintenance of the Parish Council's lands for 2019 – HPC243/18.**

17.5 The National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) had agreed the new pay scales for 2019-2020 to be implemented from 1st April 2019. Proposed by Cllr. Kimpton, seconded by Cllr. Hulse and **RESOLVED – that the Parish Council, in accordance with s.112-119 of the Local Government Act 1972, increase the Parish Clerk's salary, in line with NJC agreed new pay scales valid from 1st April 2019 – HPC244/18.**

18. Transport Matters – Cllr. Ellams reported the following: -

- Ongoing issues associated with recent storms in combination with ageing trains have led to an unprecedented number, around a third, of trains being out of service, and this has meant that reduced services are running across the network. Many services have been amended and priority given to the areas of greatest need;
- Continued problems resulting from damage to wheels caused by seasonal conditions means that a number of trains are currently undergoing repair at Transport for Wales depots, where engineers are working around the clock;
- Services on the North Wales to Manchester have been terminating at Oxford Road due to the shortage of available rolling stock. Arriva North are not fairing much better with similar cancellations on some of their routes.

19. Cheshire Association of Local Councils. Cllr. Hulse reported that the next meeting would be 12th December 2018 – duly noted.

20. Planning

20.1 The following comments would be sent in to the Planning Department: -

App No.	Address	Proposal	Comments
18/04352/FUL	88 Robin Hood Lane	Single and first storey side and rear extensions	No objections
18/04391/REM	Land at Helsby Sports and Social Club	Erection of 119 dwellings (Outline Application 14/04044/OUT)	No objections
18/04463/REM	Land at Clifton Vicarage Lane	Approval of reserved matters following outline application 18/01260/OUT – erection of one new dwelling with garage and widening of existing access	Awaiting ward member recommends

That with regard to 18/04391/REM, it was proposed by Cllr. Kimpton, seconded by Cllr. Barry and **RESOLVED – that the Borough Council be advised that the Parish Council has no objections to Planning Application No. 18/04391/REM – HPC245/18.**

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20.2 The following decisions, received from the Planning Authority, were duly noted: -

18/00103/FUL Land adjoining Three Stumps Old Chester Rd (erection of one dwelling) **Refused**

18/02800/S73 Tor View, Beech Tree Walk (Removal of Condition 2) – approved.

18/03053/OUT Land at Tesco Stores Chester Road (commercial pod A1, A3 or A5) – approved.

18/03380/FUL Proffits House, Proffits Lane (sgle storey, detached shed in garden) – approved.

18/03897/FUL 35 The Rock (single storey side extension) – approved.

21. Accounts

21.1 Bank Reconciliation. The Chairman checked the NatWest figures against his mobile app and confirmed that they were correct. Proposed by Cllr. Hulse, seconded by Cllr. Kimpton and **RESOLVED – that the Bank Reconciliation Sheet detailing £173,527.16 held in balances as at 10th December 2018, be accepted as accurate and initialled by the Chairman – HPC246/18.**

21.2 Payments. Proposed by Cllr. Duffy, seconded by Cllr. McKie and **RESOLVED – that the following payments totalling £22,968.91, paid by either Direct Debit or under delegated authority, be approved and duly noted – HPC247/18: -**

Method	To whom paid	Particulars of payment	Amount
DD	Scottish Power	Electricity – Helsby Community Centre	97.00
DD	Water Plus	Wastewater – same	29.58
Charges	National Westminster Bank	Annual charge – Safe Custody Hold	25.00
Bacs	Mrs P Holder	Quiz Prize – Helsby Community Centre	10.00
Bacs	Arndale Transport Limited	Office rental – December 2018	320.00
Bacs	Helsby Methodist Church	Hall hire 12 th Nov	17.00
Bacs	Shaw & Sons Limited	Burial Receipt Book BUR32A	22.45
B trans	Jeanette Hughes	Stationery & office equipment £53.28	
		Eccies – electricity bill £105.08	158.36
Bacs	BT	Fixed charges for services	49.06
Bacs	Employees 3 x Part-Time	November 18 salaries	1692.49
Bacs	HM Revenue & Customs	PAYE & NI on above salaries	519.52
DD	NEST	Employer/employee pension Nov 18	341.66
Bacs	Mr T J O'Neill	Travel expenses	9.90
Bacs	Mr R J Maddock	Emptying spoil heap – cemetery	280.00
Bacs	Soft Surfaces Limited	Installation of Wetpour – teen/swing	14374.80
Bacs	Northwich Town Council	Christmas tree purchase and install	2,670.00
Bacs	Chesh West & Chester Council	Grant for Hornsmill path works scheme	2,100.00
Bacs	Smith of Derby Limited	Annual clock maintenance	252.00

22. Date of the next meetings: -

12th December – Health & Safety, HR, Environment, Parks Cemetery Allotments

7th January – Finance Committee

14th January – Helsby Parish Council

The meeting closed at 8pm

Chairman’s signature..... Dated.....

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