

Helsby Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at 7pm on 9th September 2019 in the Upper Hall of Helsby Methodist Church

Present:

Cllr. Stuart Hulse – Chairman	Cllr. Sam Johnson Vice-Chairman	Cllr. Peter Duffy
Cllr. Chris Ellams	Cllr. Michelle Massey	Cllr. Mallie Poulton
Cllr. Polly Barry	Cllr. George Randles	Cllr. Mags Porter
Cllr, Patricia Holder	Cllr. Sarah Temple	

In attendance:

Mr Rob Charnley – CWaC Planning Project Manager
Mrs Marj Thoburn – Helsby News
Mr Tony Angles plus 5 other residents

Chairman’s announcements: The Chairman congratulated Ho Ho Helsby for organising and promoting the ‘Scarecrow’ event. He expressed enormous thanks to Mrs Marj Thoburn and the editorial team of Helsby Newsletter. It involved a huge amount of work and it was always interesting.

1. Traveller Site Towers Lane Alvanley. Mr Rob Charnley – CWaC Planning Project Manager had been invited to give an update on the latest planning status. There have been a number of temporary Gypsy/Traveller - G/T sites that the Planning Inspector has allowed. If a site has an injunction on it, the occupiers risk a prison term if non-compliant. Prior to the Alvanley site hearing (4 pitches), a new planning application for 2 pitches was received by CWaC. As a rule, planning authorities do not have to process new applications whilst the current is going through the legal proceedings. However, this was challenged by the G/T Barrister and was successful. This means the application for the injunction (4 pitches) must be put in abeyance until CWaC determine planning application for the 2 pitches. All the comments that were made on the 4 pitches cannot be copied over to the new planning application. The whole process starts again. Contact Rob on rob.chnarnley@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk Pitches are family units and include multiple caravans and utility block. Comments need to be sent in to CWaC for the new application. Members of the public can rest assured that their names and addresses will be redacted from the comments they send in online. If the application for 2 pitches was successful, the hardstanding that served the 4 pitches would be reduced accordingly.
2. Public Air Time. Proposed by Cllr. Johnson, seconded by Cllr. Ellams and **RESOLVED – that the meeting be suspended for public participation – HPC151/19.** Much discussion ensued. If the new application for 2 pitches was not approved, it’s likely to be appealed and the legal process would ensue. Rob explained that CWaC had a shortfall of 16 pitches to meet target which puts the authority in a weaker position if they can’t deliver sites. It’s a difficult challenge to find sites. The Local Plan Part 2 has been adopted. Greenbelt trumps everything unless very special circumstances can be evidenced. Rob did not have the figures relating to legal costs but he reported that CWaC had never had to pay appeal costs for the other party. CWaC lost one appeal in Dunham Hill. The adjacent G/T site (separate family) was cleared and an injunction obtained. Since then, families were coming back. The matter was with CWaC Legal team. CWaC had no G/T sites going through court at this time.

Cllr. Randles asked if 'Inappropriate development of the Greenbelt' would be a suitable response in planning terms and ruination of greenbelt due to the hard landscaping. Rob confirmed the former but, in planning terms, greenbelt was all about keeping green spaces next to the built environment, differences in landscape would not be a strong enough case.

Concern that if the 2 pitches were approved, as the family grew, more mobile homes would move in with the intention of living as a family group. Planning applications would follow. CWaC cannot stop someone from putting in a planning application. If approved, it wouldn't set precedent. Each must be decided on merit but, if CWaC don't provide sites, they may have to grant permission.

There being no other matters brought to the Parish Council's attention, the Chairman thanked Mr Charley for attendance and he left the meeting to a round of applause. Proposed by Cllr. Randles, seconded by Cllr. Holder and **RESOLVED – that Public Air Time be closed and the meeting reconvened – HPC152/19.**

3. Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllrs. Gardner, MacPherson, Kimpton and O'Neill.
4. Declarations of interest. Cllr. Randles declared non-pecuniary interest in Item 18 as Executive Member of Helsby Community Sports Club. Cllr. Temple declared pecuniary interest in Item 24.2 accounts £9.97 claim for the purchase of a gate lock.

5. Police Matters

5.1 PCSO Niall Dudley's report: -

- Deployed TruCam four times in Helsby. 13 caught on Chester Road and 16 on Primrose Lane. Kingsley and Gowy 27 vehicles, 4 in Chester villages and 49 drivers exceeding the speed limit in Frodsham.
- Youth Engagement event 18th August Parish Field was well attended by young people and parents;
- School's returning. The local Police Base would still be at Helsby High and surgeries held weekly which are open to students. Both primary schools have been offered dates for the Let's Walk programme to be delivered to children with the aim to teach road safety;
- Social Media. Follow activities on Facebook 'Helsby Police' and Twitter @HelsbyPol;
- Surgeries High School 19/09 12-1pm, 25/09 5-6pm, 30/09 12-1pm 08/10 12-1pm. Tesco 13/09 4-5pm, 28/09 10-11am, 09/10 10-11am. Library 17/09 10-11am, 04/10 4-5pm.

5.2 Cllr. Johnson attended the meeting with PCC on 5th September and reported the following: -

- PCSO's now in 120 parishes all fully funded by Cheshire Constabulary;
- Cheshire Constabulary employ 200 PCSOs and 2,000 officers;
- Cllr. Johnson spoke to PCC who was surprised that Helsby had purchased its own TruCam. Cllr. Johnson asked for prosecution numbers from its use and he was put in touch with PCC's Clerk. PCC was dismayed to hear that Cheshire Constabulary had taken on the maintenance and liability of Helsby's TruCam.
- The Chief Inspector who attended was very knowledgeable.

5.3 Cash tills at Tesco. Stolen JCB smashed into and grabbed Cashpoint till and put it through the open roof of a waiting transit van that was subsequently found on fire on A5117.

- 5.4 PCSO – a few concerns were raised about the various sightings of Helsby's PCSO in Frodsham. It was generally acknowledged that this was a reciprocal arrangement as Frodsham's PCSO made regular visits to Helsby.
6. Minutes of the previous meeting. Proposed by Cllr. Randles, seconded by Cllr. Barry and **RESOLVED that the minutes of the Helsby Parish Council meeting held on 12th August 2019 be accepted as an accurate record and duly signed by the Chairman – HPC153/19.**
7. Matters arising from the previous meeting
- 7.1 Pub Signs. Planning consent for erection near the Highway was not required as the signs were classed as Public Art. The signs would be attached to the brick bus shelters with a small information plaque. The Clerk had asked Mrs Lorimer to furnish the words.
- 7.2 Defibrillators – both units had now been officially accepted for use by North West Ambulance Service. Weekly checks were being undertaken by Parish Council staffs.
- 7.3 Closure of Old Chester Road for Bridge work. Awaiting response from Cholmondeley Estates to our request for Method Statement and Risk Assessment. Councillors voiced frustration at the lack of progress.
- 7.4 Cheshire Wildlife Trust. Cllr. Temple, Mr D Temple and Mr D George met with rep from CWT to discuss surveying the cemetery/allotment site. CWT were keen for designation to acknowledge the importance of the site in terms of wildlife species – duly noted
8. Minutes of the Health & Safety Committee meeting held on 27th August 2019. Cllr. Ellams presented the minutes that included the following action: -
- 8.1 Damaged railings on pathway that linked Rake Lane and Vicarage Lane. Pete Atkinson CWaC Public Rights of Way Officer had been out to site. In his opinion, the railings were in poor condition needed complete replacement. He discussed the matter with his Line Manager and agreed to replace with wooden railings – duly noted.
9. The Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 27th August 2019 were duly noted.
10. Burial Grant. Proposed by Cllr. Ellams, seconded by Cllr. Duffy and **RESOLVED – that the Parish Council, in accordance with s.214 of the Local Authorities Cemeteries Order of 1977, grant Exclusive Rights of Burial for a term of 75 years for Plot No. C.6 Central Area in Helsby Public Cemetery, Old Chester Road received from Mrs L Murray of Helsby – HPC154/19.**
11. Councillor's Surgery. Cllr. Ellams reported the following from the recent surgery held on 7th September that he attended along with Cllrs. MacPherson, Gardner and Bowers: -
- Hale View Road residents – given advice re planning application bordering their property; Lincoln Court Residents Association
 - Request for double yellow lines on the Frodsham Station approach by Morrisons. Passed to Cllr. Poulton who would bring it to the attention of Frodsham Town Council;
 - Car parking around the village – although members shared concerns, there was very little to be done about it unless vehicles caused obstruction;
 - Removal of fence at *cul-de-sac* between Lower Robin Hood Lane and Parkfield Drive. Calling for replacement fence.

- Lincoln Court grassed area required cutting – Clerk to ask CWaC;
 - Positive comments about CWaCs wild flower displays within the grass verges dotted about Helsby;
 - Thanked the Parish Council for the work they do.
12. Cheshire West and Chester Council
- 12.1 Cllr. Bowers was not present.
- 12.2 Request for licence to plant trees along narrow verge between Parkfield Drive and Lower Robin Hood Lane. The Clerk rang Highways for advice and spoke to Steve Bentley Highways Engineer about the proposal to request licence to plant trees as a barrier. This did not find favour on Health & Safety grounds. The Parish Council would also be solely liable and take full responsibility for any barrier scheme. CWaC would prefer to keep the verge as it was and would be reticent to spend money unless it became an issue. Acting on resident's information, it was clear that vehicles were bumping over the kerb using it as a shortcut. Cllr. Hulse commented that it was an offence to drive on the pavement. Proposed by Cllr. Hulse, seconded by Cllr. Ellams and **RESOLVED – that the Parish Council write to CE of CWaC and Highways to request barrier replacement, at their expense, on the narrow verge at *cul-de-sac* between Lower Robin Hood Lane and Parkfield Drive – HPC155/19.**
- 12.3 Parking village centre and around the station. Following our request for meeting with Highways, Steve Bentley responded asking for a summary of the issues to enable them to undertake some preparatory work, prior to attending a meeting, in terms of the trouble spots. The Parish Council's predicted congestion in surrounding roads and estates did not appear to have occurred so far but this was being monitored locally. Councillors had identified Crescent Drive as becoming more congested with very inconsiderate parking. It would be indefensible if the Parish Council did not do something about that and so it was proposed by Cllr. Johnson, seconded by Cllr. Ellams and **RESOLVED – that Highways be invited to attend a meeting to discuss the junction of Crescent Drive / Chester Road with a view to consider Enforceable Parking Restrictions – HPC156/19.**
- 12.4 Council-wide Enforcement Policy Consultation which is open to 4th Nov 2019. Principle of delegating enforcement powers to Parish & Town Councils, initially on a pilot basis, for the issue of low-level environmental crime. For example, the issue of fixed penalties for dog fouling. Members reported that the Parish of Helsby rarely (if ever) saw any enforcement officers. Proposed by Cllr. Randles, seconded by Cllr. Poulton and **RESOLVED to write to Lyn Collins – CWaC Operational Support Lead, to say that Helsby Parish Council does not consider that it should be its responsibility to issue fixed penalty notices and does not wish to become involved in the pilot scheme or, if it became a live scheme, to have any devolved powers - HPC157/19.**
- 12.5 Proposed conservation area. Mrs Lorimer, Cllrs. Hulse, Ellams and O'Neill will attend a meeting on 11th Sept with Kirsty Henderson – CWaC Built Environment Officer (Conservation and Design) to go through the process – duly noted.
13. The Marshes Community Benefit Fund. Cllr. Ellams reported that the date for applications for funding closed mid-August and that he had seen no other press release regarding how and when to apply for any funding.

14. Frodsham Wind Farm. Cllr. Ellams reported that there had not been any meetings called since before the local elections in May. Cllr. Temple said that Peel must arrange meetings of the Liaison Committee as this was a condition of the planning consent – duly noted.
15. Helsby Community Association – no matters reported.
16. Cycle North Cheshire. Cllr. Duffy reported that the group were working on A56 corridor to get the children to school. They were also working with Sustrans who want to do something with the disused Tesco to Mouldsworth line but funding was a major issue (due in-part to all the sandstone bridges).
17. Protos. Cllr. Temple reported that the next meeting of the Community Benefit Funding Panel was 25th September (Cllr. O'Neill to attend in her absence) and that the main Community Forum was scheduled for 9th October – duly noted.
18. Helsby Community Sports Club
 - 18.1 Draft lease for parish office. Cllr. MacPherson was examining the lease and was hoping to have comments ready for October meeting – duly noted.
 - 18.2 Bonfire Night and Firework Display planned for Friday 1st November.
19. VE Day Celebrations. The Scout HQ building has been booked for inaugural meeting on 26th Sep. Cllr. O'Neill has produced an agenda for the meeting and action plan for completion on the night – duly noted.
20. Transport Matters – Cllr. Ellams reported the following: -
 - Arriva announced that the 18:20hrs X30 service from Warrington to Chester had been withdrawn due to falling demand. Cllr. Ellams wrote to his MP, CWaC Councillor and Arriva. Arriva responded that it was a commercial decision;
 - The Halton Curve service to Liverpool Lime Street had been prone to cancellations due to a shortage of Train Crews;
 - Part of the Northern Rail franchise was that they would introduce a second service on the Mid Cheshire Line (Chester to Manchester via Mouldsworth Delamere etc). This was now not likely to happen due to track problems at Mickle Trafford. Cllr. Ellams thought that it was more likely to be lack of rolling stock – duly noted.
21. Review of Helsby Neighbourhood Plan – no matters reported.
22. Cheshire Association of Local Councils
 - 22.1 Annual Meeting 2019 Thursday 24th October. Cllrs. Hulse and O'Neill will be attending as Executive Members. Cllr. Poulton and the Parish Clerk will be attending on behalf of Helsby Parish Council – duly noted.
 - 22.2 Annual Meeting 'Member Council Motion'. We are invited to put forward motion(s) that will be discussed at the meeting and if approved, will require action by the Association. Proposed by Cllr. Temple, seconded by Cllr. Massey and **RESOLVED to put forward a motion for consideration by Chalc members that "Powers to devolve should be by agreement and that Town / Parish Councils should not be compelled to issue fixed-penalty notices on low-level environmental crime – HPC158/19.**

23. Planning

23.1 The Parish Council's responses to the following new planning applications: -

App No.	Address	Proposal	Comments
19/02938/FUL	The Barn, 130A Chester Rd (Badger's Barn Nursery)	Change of use of nursery into dwelling, internal alterations and porch extension	No objections
19/03082/FUL	2 Linden Drive	Single storey side and rear extensions	No objections
19/02566/FUL	Land adj to Area 12 Ince Resource Recovery Park Grinsome Road Ellesmere Port	Erection of a 132KV/33KV/11KV Primary substation with associated underground cables and mess buildings	No objections

23.2 The following decisions, received from planning, were duly noted: -

18/04704/FUL 116A Chester Road (raise roof height and extensions) Approved
 19/01411/FUL 76 Old Chester Road (sgle storey extn & incorp annex in dwelling)
 Approved
 19/02451/FUL 10 Balmoral Drive (two storey side extension) Approved

23.3 Sandstone Wall at Horse & Jockey Site. Proposal by Cllr. Temple seconded by Cllr. Johnson and **RESOLVED - to write to the developer, with a copy to CWaC Planning, noting the Parish Council's disappointment at the loss of the sandstone wall and requesting that ideally it is replaced, or at the very least the remaining end is tidied up to a neat finish – HPC159/19.**

24. Accounts

24.1 Bank Reconciliation. Proposed by Cllr. Ellams, seconded by Cllr. Poulton and **RESOLVED – that the Bank Reconciliation sheet detailing £269,740.99 held in balances as at 9th September 2019 be accepted as accurate – HPC160/19.**

24.2 Payments. Proposed by Cllr. Ellams, seconded by Cllr. Poulton and **RESOLVED – that the following payments totalling £4,807.57 paid by either cheque, standing order, direct debit or under delegated authority, be approved and duly noted – HPC161/19: -**

Method	To whom paid	Particulars of payment	Amount
Chq507	Royal Soc Protection of Birds	In memory of Miss S Crossley-Jones	100.00
5	Scottish Power	Electricity – Helsby Community Centre	173.00
D/D	Water Plus	Wastewater – same	30.53
D/D	NEST	Employee/er contribution Aug 2019	548.08
D/D	BT	Calls	11.66
D/D	SLCC	Branch Conference fees	40.00
Bac	Helsby Methodist Church	2.5 hours 12 th August	21.25
Bac	Mrs S Temple	Padlock for Parish Field gate	9.97
Bac	Northwich Town Council	Grass cutting July 2019	705.60
Bac	Ches Assoc of Local Councils	3 x course fees	105.00
Bac	Jeanette Hughes	Ring binders & key rings £6.96	
B trans		Water Plus balance for Eccies £98.59	
		Postage stamps £102.50	208.05
	Smith of Derby	Annual clock maintenance costs	259.20
Bac	Alvanley Agricultural Services	Honda 12Y collect and repairs	54.00
Bac	Part-time employees x 3	August 2019 salaries	1,563.26
Bac	HM Revenue & Customs	PAYE & NI on above salaries	509.43
Bac	BT	Icloud installation & line package	148.54
Bac	Arndale Transport	Office rent for September 2019	320.00
SO			

25. Dates of the next meetings: -

- 30th Sept Human Resources Committee 6.30pm start
30th Sept Finance Committee to follow on after the close of the HR Committee
14th Oct Parish Council

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

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