

# Helsby Parish Council

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## Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at 7pm on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2017 in Hillside Primary School

### Present:

Cllr. George Randles – Chairman

Cllr. Terry O’Neill

Cllr. Stuart Hulse

Cllr. Andy MacPherson

Cllr. Polly Barry

Cllr. Sam Johnson

Cllr. Alan Gardner

Cllr. Alan McKie

Cllr. Patricia Holder

Cllr. Sarah Temple

1. Public Air Time – proposed by Cllr. Hulse, seconded by Cllr. Gardner and **RESOLVED – that the meeting be suspended for public participation – HPC170/17.** There being no matters brought to the attention of the members it was proposed by Cllr. Johnson, seconded by Cllr. Gardner and **RESOLVED – that Public Air Time be closed and the meeting reconvened – HPC171/17.**
2. Apologies for absence. Received and accepted from Cllrs. Ellams, Kimpton, Duffy, Thorne and Crossley-Jones.
3. Declarations of interest. Cllrs. Randles, O’Neill and McKie declared non-pecuniary interest in Item 14 as Executive Members of Helsby Community Sports Club.
4. Police Matters
  - 4.1 PCSOs report was duly noted as follows:
    - Anti-Social Behaviour operation over the summer break was now finished however the PCSO would continue to monitor hotspots in Helsby. Incidences of ASB had been low;
    - Cyclists – PCSO had been made aware of a number of youths riding their bikes in an anti-social manner on and off the pavement. When spotted, cyclists were stopped and given advice about sensible riding. This was not just an issue with youths as PCSO had also spoken to adults riding inappropriately;
    - Travellers – Helsby was still having some minor issues with travellers. PCSO was dealing with them accordingly when they were stopped;
    - Speeding. Smiley SID deployed at various locations following resident’s concerns. Results of speed monitoring on Robin Hood Lane showed that a number of vehicles were travelling between 18 – 24 mph with only one motorist exceeding the limit excessively at 29mph;
    - Local Beat Meetings for September. 25<sup>th</sup> 12 noon Helsby Library and 26<sup>th</sup> 1pm JTO Tea Rooms
    - Cllr. Gardner reported that Lincoln Court Residents Association were complimentary about PCSOs presence in the area. PCSOs actions were effective and ASB had curtailed.
  - 4.2 Police & Crime Plan. Cllr. Hulse reported that he had written to PCC of Cheshire saying that ChALC had been omitted in the invitation to become involved in obtaining the views on local policing via Town & Parish Councils. He still awaited a response. It was agreed that crime in Helsby had decreased since the PCSO who was part-funded by the Parish Council. This was an opportunity to give feedback on residents’ views on local policing and so it was proposed by Cllr. O’Neill, seconded by Cllr. Barry and **RESOLVED – to confirm that Helsby Parish Council wished to be involved in PCCs survey – HPC172/17.**

- 4.3 Frodsham Police Station Consultation ending on 25<sup>th</sup> Sept. The existing station was used mainly by staff as an amenity. The desk had closed some time ago. Proposal to close the station and transfer everything over the road to the Fire Station. The members were in favour as it made sense.
5. Minutes of the previous meeting. Proposed by Cllr. Barry, seconded by Cllr. Hulse and **RESOLVED – that the minutes of the Helsby Parish Council meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> August 2017 be accepted as an accurate record and duly signed by the Chairman – HPC173/17.**
6. Matter arising from the previous meeting
- 6.1 Timer replaced on bridge lantern lights – noted.
7. Minutes of the Health & Safety Committee meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> August 2017. Cllr. Gardner presented the minutes the contents of which were duly noted.
8. Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> August 2017. Cllr. Hulse presented the minutes that included the following recommendations: -
- 8.1 Speeding. Proposed by Cllr. Hulse, seconded by Cllr. Gardner and **RESOLVED – to obtain the full costs of laying grasscrete to grass verge outside No. 59 Primrose Lane (for Police Camera Van) and to investigate the purchase and running costs of a TruCAM – HPC174/17.**
- 8.2 Village Environment. Proposed by Cllr. Hulse, seconded by Cllr. Gardner and **RESOLVED – to write to CWaC Highways to bring pressure to bear on both Tesco and Brookhouse to agree whose responsibility it was to maintain the Laurel hedging along Callender Way – HPC175/17.**
- 8.3 Control Gear. Proposed by Cllr. Hulse, seconded by Cllr. Gardner and **RESOLVED – that the Parish Council, in accordance with s.144 of the Local Government Act 1972, employ Weaver Vale Housing Trust to purchase and install Control Gear on Lighting Column No's. 88 & 90 (Chester to Warrington bound) at a cost of £400 plus VAT per column – HPC176/17.**
- 8.4 Trees. Proposed by Cllr. Hulse, seconded by Cllr. Gardner and **RESOLVED – that the Parish Council, in accordance with s.144 of LGA1972, employ Weaver Vale Housing Trust to test and install 3,000 mini bulbs on each of the 3 trees adjacent to Lighting Column No's. 88 & 90 costing £600 plus VAT per tree – HPC177/17.**
- 8.5 Christmas 2017 lighting installation. Proposed by Cllr. Hulse, seconded by Cllr. Gardner and **RESOLVED – to obtain costs from Weaver Vale Housing Trust to test, install and remove Christmas features (trees that have already been wrapped with the mini-bulbs will only require testing) – HPC178/17.**
- 8.6 Maltby Triangle - Gateway to the Village. Cllr. Temple suggested that the Parish Council should explore the maintenance costs and long-term impact of taking on the land as CWaC may wish to retain ownership but allow the Parish Council to maintain it. Either way Cllr. Temple was reticent to commence negotiations before some preliminary work. The members noted Cllr. Temple's concerns. It was proposed by Cllr. Hulse, seconded by Cllr. Gardner and **RESOLVED – that the Parish Council, in accordance with ss. 9 & 10 of the Open Spaces Act 1906, write to Cheshire West and Chester Council with a proposal that Helsby Parish Council would be pleased to commence negotiation to consider taking on the ownership (in perpetuity) of the land known locally as the Maltby Triangle located at the junction of Chester Road / Robin Hood Lane – HPC179/17.**

- 8.7 Footpaths. Proposed by Cllr. Hulse, seconded by Cllr. Gardner and **RESOLVED – that the Parish Council, in accordance with s.164 of the Public Health Act 1875, approve payment of £22.50 per annum for the membership of and affiliation to the Peak & Northern Footpaths Society – HPC180/17.**
9. Burial Grants – no new applications received.
10. Councillor’s surgery held on 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept 2017. Cllr. Duffy reported the following matters that were discussed at the recently held surgery that he attended along with Cllr. Gardner:
- Update on Towers Lane Traveller site – still with CWaC Legal;
  - Fracking – resident was informed that the Parish Council had not received any notification from the Planning authority that an application to frack, in the Helsby area, had been received;
  - Local Schools – resident informed that the Education Authority were aware of the number of new dwellings being passed and had confirmed that there were sufficient school places;
  - Horse & Jockey – concern about the number of dwellings planned for the site. Planning had approved the application for 15 x dwellings therefore, it must be assumed, that the ratio is acceptable
  - Barkers Garage – the re-opening of the garage was welcomed
  - Bike Shop – did not like seeing an empty building and hoped for new business to move in
  - Hedge adjacent to Lincoln Court – causing obstruction to motorists
  - ASB – pleased to report lack of problems.
11. Cheshire West and Chester Council
- 11.1 Cllr. McKie – no matters to report
- 11.2 Electoral Review of Cheshire West and Chester: Draft recommendations. The inspector’s recommendation was that “We consider the evidence of Helsby Parish Council to be persuasive in relation to the parish’s distinctiveness and so propose to include a single-councillor Helsby ward in our draft recommendations”. There now followed a further consultation period closing on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2017. Proposed by Cllr. Temple, seconded by Cllr. Gardner and **RESOLVED – that the Parish Council write to The Local Government Boundary Commission confirming that we fully supported the Inspector’s recommendations for single councillor Helsby ward – HPC181/17.**
12. The Marshes Community Benefit Fund – latest round of funding closed on 31<sup>st</sup> August 17.
13. Frodsham Wind Farm LLP – next meeting scheduled for 13<sup>th</sup> October at 6pm in Castle Park.
14. Helsby Community Sports Club. Cllr. Randles reported that the Planning Department would accept Section 73 administered phasing of the development for the new premises. He asked that the Parish Council to consider sending a letter of endorsement for the changes. Cllr. Temple again expressed opposition to the phased development on the grounds that Helsby was giving up a valuable piece of real estate and in return was unlikely to ever get the full development package. It was proposed by Cllr. Randles, seconded by Cllr. Hulse and **RESOLVED – to write to CWaC Planners supporting the phased development of Helsby Community Sports Club – HPC182/17.** The majority of members voted in favour of Cllr. Randles proposal, with one member voting against the proposal and one abstaining.

15. Helsby Community Association
  - 15.1 Treasurer of the Community Association confirmed that the receipts/payments fluctuated from month to month depending on invoices. The Community Association was in good hands and had a reserve fund – duly noted.
  - 15.2 Fun Quiz organised for the evening of Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2017 – duly noted.
  - 15.3 CCTV on side of building had a 14-day cycle – duly noted.
  
16. Weaver & Sandstone Cycle Forum – next meeting scheduled for 13<sup>th</sup> Sept. The group was busy fundraising. Cllrs. Ellams, Duffy and Mr David Temple were forming a cycle strategy and were in a position to sit down with cycle forum members to discuss the groups aspirations for Helsby and surrounding area.
  
17. Protos – Cllr. Temple reported that the next meeting was on 19<sup>th</sup> Sept.
  
18. Ho Ho Helsby – no matters reported.
  
19. Miscellaneous Matters
  - 19.1 Harmer’s Wood – letters from Mrs A Davies dated 12<sup>th</sup> August and 11<sup>th</sup> September 2017. Proposed by Cllr. Hulse, seconded by Cllr. Temple and **RESOLVED – that the Parish Council note the contents of the letters dated 12<sup>th</sup> August and 11<sup>th</sup> September 2017 received from Mrs A Davies – HPC183/17.**
  - 19.2 Allotment. Proposed by Cllr. Hulse, seconded by Cllr. Temple and **RESOLVED – that the Parish Council enter into an Allotment Tenancy Agreement with D & M MacMaster of The Rock Helsby for Plot 13b (small plot) Queens Drive Allotment Gardens – HPC184/17.**
  - 19.3 Helsby Village ‘Best-Kept’ Competition 2017 – the results were duly noted.
  - 19.4 Helsby Grant Show. The next show would take place on the evening of 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2017. Invitations had been sent to 50 of the known active groups/schools/church/charities in Helsby. Applications were invited for 8 x £500 and 1 x £1,000. Cllr. McKie was thanked for his grant of £1,000 from his discretionary fund.
  - 19.5 Remembrance Day 12<sup>th</sup> November 2017. Royal British Legion ‘Poppy Appeal’. Proposed by Cllr. O’Neill, seconded by Cllr. Hulse and **RESOLVED - That the Council, in accordance with Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, should incur the following expenditure which, in the Council’s opinion is in the interest of the area and its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure to donate £250 to the Royal British Legion ‘Poppy Appeal’ for the purchase of a Civic Poppy Wreath for Remembrance Day – HPC185/17.**
  - 19.6 Transport Matters – the Clerk read out Cllr. Ellams report: Work on the new Mersey Gateway Bridge was ahead of schedule and (on budget) was due to open as soon as mid-October 2017. Halton Borough Council had refused requests from local residents to walk over the bridge prior to opening unlike the Queens Ferry crossing in Scotland where residents were allowed. The Scottish bridge cost £1.2 billion and was free to cross. The Mersey Gateway Bridge cost £600m and was tolled – duly noted.
  
20. Cheshire Association of Local Councils
  - 20.1 Digital Engagement & Social Media Seminar – Cllr. Hulse reported that the course was cancelled, last minute, by the NALC Lecturer. ChALC were £500 out of pocket and the management was pursuing the matter with NALC – duly noted.

20.2 AGM taking place on the evening of 19<sup>th</sup> October in Middlewich. Motions, for ChALC to action, were being invited – duly noted.

20.3 An information session had been arranged by ChALC on 12<sup>th</sup> Sept for Town & Parish Council along the Sandstone Ridge. Cllrs. Barry, Hulse, O’Neill and the Clerk attending – duly noted.

## 21. Planning

21.1 The Councils’ responses to the following new planning applications were duly noted:

App Number	Address	Proposal	Comments
17/03490/FUL	263 Chester Road	Single storey side / rear extn	<b>No objections</b>
17/03555/FUL	57 Primrose Lane	Single storey rear extension. Modifications to front door and garage door. Change of flat roof to from flat to pitch	<b>No objections</b>

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

16/02916/FUL	Land between 78 & 80 Bates Lane (new dwelling with garage)	Approved
17/02135/FUL	136b Chester Road (new 5 beds detached dwelling)	Approved
17/02824/LBC	Helsby Railway Station (refurb signal box plus gates & fence)	Approved
17/02972/FUL	4 Old Chester Road (side and rear extension)	Approved
17/03145/FUL	77 Latham Avenue (demolish garage and erect sgle storey extn)	Approved

21.3 Land at Proffits Lane – erection of 23 affordable dwellings – approved at the Planning Committee meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> Sept. Cllr. Temple was thanked for an excellent presentation. Colin Moss spoke on behalf of the residents and Cllr. Lynne Riley as ward member for Frodsham. All voiced opposition to the proposal. The members voted 6-5 for the proposal and so it was approved even though Head of Planning (Mrs Fiona Hore) gave at least 3 planning policy points that it could have been refused on. Conditions would be applied to the approval document that the dwellings be affordable in perpetuity and that allocations would only be considered from people connected to Helsby. Proffits Lane residents met with local MP who would be writing to the Secretary of State to ask if the approval could be overturned. Cllr. McKie would also write. It was thought that Cholmondeley Estates could be looking at developing other land in Helsby although this was hypothetical as far as the Parish Council was aware at this time. Cllr. O’Neill commented that the planning application should fulfil Helsby’s needs for affordable homes and should protect more greenbelt land from being developed.

## 22. Accounts

22.1 Bank Reconciliation. The Chairman checked the figures through mobile app and confirmed that they were correct. Proposed by Cllr. Hulse, seconded by Cllr. MacPherson and **RESOLVED – that the Bank Reconciliation sheet detailing £228,747.93 held in balances as at 11<sup>th</sup> September 2017 – HPC187/17.**

22.2 External Audit of the Council's accounts 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017. BDO had returned the Annual Return with no matters to report to the Parish Council. The Council was obligated to display the Annual Return, including BDO certificate and Notice of Conclusion of Audit for at least 14 days as soon as reasonably possible before the 30<sup>th</sup> Sept and that the AR must be made available for public access for a period of not less than five years. Proposed by Cllr. Hulse, seconded by Cllr. MacPherson and **RESOLVED – to accept the External Audit of the Councils' accounts for Year Ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017 undertaken by BDO and to note that there were no matters reported to the Parish Council – HPC186/17.** The Clerk was thanked.

22.3 Payments. Proposed by Cllr. Hulse, seconded by Cllr. MacPherson and **RESOLVED – that the following payments totalling £3,994.42, have been paid by cheque, Standing Order, Direct Debit and under delegated authority – HPC187/17:**

Method	To whom paid	Particulars of payment	Amount
Chq505	N/W Air Ambulance Charity	Donation	150.00
6	Scottish Power	Monthly electricity p/m Comm Centre	148.00
DD	Water Plus	Same – water	29.93
DD	Northwich Town Council	Grass cutting – July 2017	470.40
Bacs	Employees	August 2017 – salaries	1,867.71
Bacs	HM Revenue & Customs	PAYE & NI on above salaries	484.85
Bacs	NEST	Employer & employee pension contrib	78.69
DD	Chalc	Cllrs. Ellams / Johnson course fees	150.00
Bacs	Jeanette E Hughes	Travel expenses £7.20 Postage stamps £56.00 Stationery £45.89	109.09
Bacs	Chalc	Cllr. Barry – course fees	35.00
Bacs	Mr T J O'Neill	Travel expenses – CWaC HQ Chester	8.00
Bacs	KDE	New timer on Bridge Lantern	162.75
Bacs	Strong Brickwork & Construct	September 2017 office rent	300.00
SO			

23. Date of the next meetings:

~~Human Resources Committee 18<sup>th</sup> September 2017.~~ Cancelled - no business to discuss  
 Finance Committee 25<sup>th</sup> September 2017  
 Helsby Parish Council 9<sup>th</sup> October 2017

24. Part B – Exclusion of press and public. Proposed by Cllr. MacPherson, seconded by Cllr. Barry and **RESOLVED - that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paras 7, 8, 9 and 12 of Schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1972 – HPC188/17.**

25. Eccies – negotiations ongoing with regards to the lease.

The meeting closed at 7.58pm

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

