

# Helsby Parish Council

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## Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at 7pm on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2017 in Hillside Primary School

### Present:

Cllr. George Randles – Chairman	Cllr. Chris Ellams Vice-Chairman	Cllr. Terry O’Neill
Cllr. Stuart Hulse	Cllr. Tim Thorne	Cllr. Alan Gardner
Cllr. Sarah Temple	Cllr. Sam Johnson	Cllr. Alan McKie
Cllr. Peter Duffy	Cllr. Polly Barry	

### In attendance:

Alan Johnson, Glyn Blythin, Alan Scott, Mrs Johnson, Rachel Jameson – Helsby residents  
Andrew Riddoch – Frodsham resident  
PCSO Neil Flanagan – Cheshire Constabulary  
Mrs Marj Thoburn – Helsby News

1. CWaC Planning. The Chairman introduced Mr Rob Charnley – Principal Planning Officer who had been invited to give update on temporary Traveller sites in the area which included the Towers Lane Alvanley site.
  - CWaC could not evict Travellers from their own private land. This had to be done by legal process:
  - Occupiers at the Towers Lane site should have vacated by 19<sup>th</sup> May 2017. It was known that 2 families were still in occupation. CWaC had to go through legal process of eviction for this site and the same with 3 others local temporary Traveller sites;
  - CWaC had employed a Barrister to explore eviction and that local councils would be notified of the court dates. Rob could not give a definitive date when this would be:
  - The court used could be in Manchester. Human Rights, and the best interests of the children, had already been appraised by the Planning Inspector’s appeal decision. Ultimately the decision would be in the hands of the court
  - If CWaC was able to obtain an injunction from the courts, Travellers would be given a compliance period for them to comply with the injunction. If they did not, it would be for the court to decide the next step;
  - All travellers from the 4 sites had been sent 2 letters, on separate occasions, advising them that spaces were available on the 2 Council run sites at Winsford and Ellesmere Port. All had failed to take up residence. It was also clear, from the last visit, to the Towers Lane site that the Travellers did not want to engage with the Planning Department;
  - Rob invited residents and members to contact him if they required more information. The Chairman thanked him for attending.
2. Public Air Time. Proposed by Cllr. Johnson, seconded by Cllr. O’Neill and **RESOLVED – that the meeting be suspended for public consultation – HPC132/17.**
  - Speeding on Primrose Lane. Residents were very frustrated with the lack of action by either CWaC or by the Parish Council. Methods to slow the traffic down had been discussed but fell when it came down to funding. Cllr. Hulse had a long career with the Cheshire Constabulary. In his opinion, flashing signs were a waste of money as the data only confirmed that there was a problem with speeding but failed to stop it.

The only prevention was by engineering or enforcement. The Parish Council had received a TRO that the speed limit on Primrose Lane (the stretch between Alvanley & Helsby) was being reduced from 60 – 40mph. This could have a positive effect. The matter would be discussed at the next Environment Committee meeting taking place on 29<sup>th</sup> August 2017.

Proposed by Cllr. Hulse, seconded by Cllr. McKie and **RESOLVED – that Public Air Time be closed and the meeting reconvened – HPC133/17.**

3. Apologies for absence. Received and accepted from Cllrs. Holder, Kimpton, Crossley-Jones and MacPherson.

4. Declarations of Interest. Cllrs. McKie, Randles and O'Neill declared non-pecuniary interest in Item 14 as all were Executive Members of the Helsby Community Sports Club. Cllr. Temple declared non-pecuniary interest in Item 23.2 reimbursement of £9.99 for the purchase of A3 paper for Parish Council use.

4.1 Co-option. Mrs Polly Barry had applied to be considered for the role of North Ward Councillor and her application had been circulated with the agenda. Mrs Barry was asked questions to define suitability for the position and then it was proposed by Cllr. O'Neill, seconded by Cllr. Hulse and **RESOLVED – that Mrs Polly Barry of 4 Hillside Close Helsby be co-opted to serve as a Parish Councillor for North Ward with immediate effect – HPC134/17.** Cllr. Barry would sign Declaration of Acceptance of Office and be asked to complete Register of Interest.

5. Police Matters

5.1 PCSO John Kopczyk's report read, in his absence, by PCSO Neil Flanagan:

- ASB issues: antisocial behaviour by the Community Centre involving youths seemed to have gone quiet. There had been no reports into 101. PCSOs would continue to robustly police and patrol the area on a regular basis at the times issues may occur. They also had reports of youths on bikes in The Windings car park;
- Traveller issue: recent reports about Travellers coming into the area causing issues with the youths of Helsby. This would be given regular attention to establish names and movements;
- Horse & Jockey: evidence of drug activity which was being closely monitored. The youths had gained re-access to the building causing Health & Safety concern. Asked if the Parish Council could bring pressure on the owners to either secure or demolish the building;
- Helsby Hill: reports of youths making camp fires and possible drug taking. PCSOs had attended with the Fire Service and would continue to police the area. Leaflet circulated re dangers of fires spreading;
- Parking issues: there were a few issues in the area which the PCSOs were aware of and would deal with in the appropriate manner;
- Local Beat Meetings for July. 18<sup>th</sup> at 3pm in JTO Tea Rooms and 24<sup>th</sup> at 11am in Helsby Library.

5.2 Other Items that were discussed:

- CCTV installed in the Community Centre. An incident that happened on 1<sup>st</sup> July had been auto removed from the CCTV. The camera, which was being installed on 28<sup>th</sup> July to overlook the outdoor gym, had a 2-week recording period – duly noted.
- Bikes in Helsby Quarry causing erosion of footpaths;
- Booking on. The PCC for Cheshire was now happy that PCSOs could Book-On away from Blacon. This meant that our PCSO could Book-On in Frodsham and have a vehicle available to him.
- A meeting had been arranged on 19<sup>th</sup> July at 6.30 in the Community Sports Club for residents of Back Crosland / Crosland Terrace to discuss parking issues.

- Road Safety Partnership conference. Trucams. It was known that, when worn by officers and PCSOs, the quality was good enough for speeding enforcement. PCSO Flanagan confirmed that there was only one Trucam in the Chester Local Policing Unit. He was asked to get the purchase costs for the Parish Council.

6. Minutes of the previous meeting. Note the following amendment to the txt: -

Item 11.1 Page 1396 3<sup>rd</sup> para 4<sup>th</sup> line - after 'then' insert 'she would consider whether'. Proposed by Cllr. Ellams, seconded by Cllr. O'Neill and **RESOLVED – that the minutes of the Helsby Parish Council meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2017, as amended and initialled by the Chairman, be accepted as an accurate record and duly signed by the Chairman - HPC135/17.**

7. Matters arising from the previous meeting

7.1 Proffits Lane field proposal for 23 affordable dwellings. The Public Consultation event, held on 8<sup>th</sup> July, was well attended. 40 members of the public turned up and overwhelmingly objected to the proposal. Cllr. Temple was working on the draft response (for the Parish Council) to object to the proposal on the grounds of greenbelt and insufficient evidence that there was a need for more affordable dwellings in Helsby.

7.2 Bridge Lantern Lights x 8. The lights (Helsby to Chester bound) were still not working and the test certificate didn't show anything amiss. KDE were asked to alter the time switches to see if that worked.

7.3 Tesco – articulated lorry reversing to first roundabout. The Clerk apologised for not having written to the Store Manager. This would be rectified as soon as time permitted.

7.4 Hope Farm, Blue Bridge Lane – caravan pegs. We still awaited news from Planning Enforcement.

8. Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2017. Cllr. O'Neill presented the minutes that included the following recommendations: -

8.1 Investments. The committee recommendation was to close the Co-Op investment and use the money to open up a Community Saver paying 0.5% gross with Skipton. Skipton had subsequently confirmed that the account was not open to incorporated bodies. The Parish Council was a 'Body Corporate' as defined in the 1972 Local Government Act. Proposed by Cllr. O'Neill, seconded by Cllr. Hulse and **RESOLVED – to keep an account open with the Co-Op until a more favourable interest-bearing account could be found – HPC136/17.**

8.2 Internal Audit. Proposed by Cllr. O'Neill, seconded by Cllr. Hulse and **RESOLVED – that the Parish Clerk actions both issues as raised by the Internal Auditor of the accounts for 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017 – HPC137/17.**

8.3 Local Living Wage. Proposed by Cllr. O'Neill, seconded by Cllr. Hulse and **RESOLVED - to collect the following information for discussion at the next Finance Committee meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> September – HPC138/17:**

- To ask other Town/Parish Councils what pay rate they paid their General Assistants;**
- To total how much it would cost to pay the GAs the Local Living Wage either from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017, 1<sup>st</sup> July 2017 or 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018;**
- If an increase was recommended, how would the Finance Committee justify paying an increase in 2017/18 bearing in mind that the salaries budget had already been set for the current fiscal year;**
- Cllr. Temple and the Parish Clerk would produce a paper detailing i) – iii) which would be presented to the next Finance Committee meeting**

- 8.4 The Eccies. Proposed by Cllr. O'Neill, seconded by Cllr. Hulse and **RESOLVED – to respond positively to local businessman's proposal saying that the Parish Council was open to ideas but that they were not in a position to proceed at this time – HPC139/17.**  
Proposed by Cllr. O'Neill, seconded by Cllr. Duffy and **RESOLVED – that the Eccies be discussed at the next meeting of the Environment Committee being held on 29<sup>th</sup> August 2017 – HPC140/17.**
9. Burial Grant. Proposed by Cllr. Ellams, seconded by Cllr. Hulse and **RESOLVED – that Helsby Parish Council, in accordance with s.214 of the LGA1972 and the Local Authorities Cemeteries Order of 1977, approve the application for Grant of Exclusive Rights of Burial for a term of 75 years for Plot CRS5 (Cremated Remain Section) in Helsby Public Cemetery, Old Chester Road received from Mr Geoffrey Ellis of 1 Bank House Lane Helsby – HPC141/17.**
10. Councillor's Surgery held on 1<sup>st</sup> July. Cllrs Duffy and O'Neill attended. The following items were discussed and duly noted by the Parish Council: -
- Request for more visibility from PCSO during the school holidays;
  - Problem with children riding cycles in the area. Residents informed PCSOs who resolved the issue;
  - Proffits Lane field / Horse & Jockey / Bike Shop – given update;
  - What was the possibility of a pedestrian crossing outside Lincoln Court? Suggested resident applies for money from the Marshes Community Benefit Fund;
  - Overgrown hedges emanating from some of the rear gardens of Hemlegh Vale – PCSO and Highways informed. Cllr. Hulse expressed deep concern that one of the owners of the overgrown hedges would find it impossible to maintain the hedge due to disability.
  - Ditches along Rake Lane were regularly blocked and full of detritus – Clerk to contact Highways;
  - Frequency of grass cutting throughout the village – Clerk to contact Streetscene
11. Cheshire West and Chester
- 11.1 Cllr. McKie reported the following matters: -
- Horse & Jockey Site – the Section 106 agreement (the amount of money a developer had to hand over for projects / improvements that benefitted the community) should be signed off this week and it was hoped that the owners would then proceed to the next stage which was the demolition of the building to make way for the 14 new dwellings. Cllr. McKie was unaware of where the s.106 money would be allocated to. Cllr. O'Neill commented that any s.106 money should be spent in the community where the development was being built
  - Leisure Services Review. It was presumed that the report had been finalised and yet, the Parish Council had not been informed therefore it was proposed by Cllr. McKie, seconded by Cllr. O'Neill and **RESOLVED – to write to CWaC to obtain the outcome of the Leisure Services Review for Helsby & Frodsham – HPC142/17.**
- 11.2 CWaC Community Infrastructure Levy Examiner's final report. The precis of the report was duly noted and was as expected.
12. The Marshes Community Benefit Fund. Complaint had been received about the lack of transparency in the selection process. The 2<sup>nd</sup> round of funding was now open for applications but Cllr. Ellams had not seen it advertised yet – duly noted.

13. Frodsham Wind Farm LLP – Cllrs. Ellams and McKie reported the following: -
- Turbines running at 98% efficiency;
  - A turbine rotated at 20 revolutions per minute. The blade tips moved through the air at 150mph;
  - The turbines had been switched off from late evening to early morning due to a certain species of Bat. Peel spent £40,000 on monitoring but nothing yet. Trained dogs would be brought in to sniff out any dead bats on the ground to see if there was negative impact on the species;
  - Marsh Harrier has bred but we awaited fledglings;
  - Increasing amount of fly tipping – Peel not keen to put cameras in;
  - Re-graded road surface around Protos and Lordship Lane;
  - Complaints about TV interference and channels flipping in the hot weather were ongoing. The window to complain, about the turbines, closed February 2018;
  - The next meeting would take place at 6pm on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2017 in Castle Park.
14. Helsby Community Sports Club – Cllr. Randles and O'Neill reported the following:
- The top bidders for the 120-dwelling building development were being interviewed by Saville's who would make recommendation to Brookhouse on whom to accept. The Club would then know the deficit (shortfall in funding for the new Community Sports Club);
  - Meetings were ongoing with Football Association and Active Cheshire. If 3G pitch was justified Helsby would work with Frodsham to get up to £400,000 funding. The FA would take over the tendering process.
15. Helsby Community Association – no matters reported.
16. Weaver & Sandstone Cycle Forum – Cllr. Duffy reported the following:
- Helsby Cycle Strategy was progressing. Mr David Temple and Cllr. Ellams were working on the draft which would be sent in to Frodsham group who had access to expertise;
  - They awaited an update from Ms Sarah Dobbins CWaC on whether Network Rail were willing to work on clearing the disused Manley/Mouldsworth line;
  - The next meeting was on the 12<sup>th</sup> July.
17. Protos – Cllr. Temple reported the following from the recently held AGM and Community Forum meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> June:
- Biomass facility – commissioning of plant will start in September. The Environment Agency is involved about fire measures;
  - Ground being prepared for the Timber Recycling unit;
  - Energy from Waste – Biffa partnering Covanta;
  - Manchester Council was terminating waste contract and taking over part of the waste management stream until a new partner could be found. This would not affect what went to the INEOS facility and thus would not impact the Protos EfW development.
  - Community Benefit Fund of £30,000 per annum would open up to the wider area (including Helsby) beginning of 2018. This was a discretionary fund by Peel. The arrangements for administering the fund would be reviewed at the next meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept based on experience to date. Cllr. Temple would report back after that so Helsby groups could be notified to get bids in as soon as the fund opened.

18. Ho Ho Helsby Christmas Event Group – Cllr. O'Neill reported that the Bingo fundraiser was successful. The group's main aim was getting enough money in to ensure a fully funded event.

19. Miscellaneous Matters

19.1 Allotments. Proposed by Cllr. Hulse, seconded by Cllr. Temple and **RESOLVED - to enter into Allotment Tenancy Agreements with the following Helsby residents – HPC143/17**

<b>C Moulton of Chester Road</b>	<b>Plot 6r (small size) QD site</b>
<b>E Secher &amp; N Guntupalli of Hornsmill Way</b>	<b>Plot 10r – as above</b>
<b>G Ainsworth of The Rock</b>	<b>Plot 15b – as above</b>

19.2 CF Fertilisers – Cllr. O'Neill reported the following from the recently held Liaison Committee: -

- Good occupational safety record – 12 months and over 1.3 million-man hours since the last recordable injury at Ince;
- 24 apprentices going through the CF process costing £600,000 per annum. Cllr. O'Neill was enthusiastic about seeing a relationship develop between Helsby High School and CF Fertilisers;
- CF had £10,000 left in its charity fund for local people and to publicise the grants available [www.cffertilisers.co.uk/about-us/corporate-social-responsibility/charity/](http://www.cffertilisers.co.uk/about-us/corporate-social-responsibility/charity/)

20. Transport Matters

- Parliamentary train (could be the last one) leaving Helsby at 8.02am on 29<sup>th</sup> July on Halton Curve to Liverpool South Park Way. The work to open up the line commercially was on target to open in Autumn 2018;
- Only one bus per hour was now running through to Chester since the x21 had ceased. Cllr. McKie had tried to raise a meeting. The x21 was stopped on the business case. Travellers could still get to Chester by Rail as well as getting onto the X2 which terminated at Chester via Ellesmere Port;
- Old Chester Road closed to traffic and pedestrians between Robin Hood Lane and Crescent Drive due to deterioration of bridge. Clerk had written to Highways for more information on estimated length of closure.

21. Cheshire Association of Local Councils – Cllrs. O'Neill and Hulse reported the following:

- The Executive Committee invited a representative from the Fire Brigade Union. Cllr. Hulse expressed deep concern that there were only 3-4 crew members per fire appliance in CWaC as opposed to all neighbouring counties having 5. Mini fire engines had been taken out of service as the foam used to distinguish fires was hazardous to the environment. One of the Chester City pumps had been transferred to the new station near Costco. This could be disastrous if a fire started on the ancient walls. The Cheshire Fire Service had £39m in reserves. Members of the public were encouraged to write in to the Fire Brigade if they wished to express their concerns;

- ChALC would arrange a meeting in September with reps from the Planning Department. emphasis would be on the Planning Portal and paperless circulation of planning applications;

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Chairman's initial.....

- Joint Cheshire East and Cheshire West and Chester Forum. PCC for Cheshire and Asst Chief Constable in attendance. Main topic was about PCSOs and funding. Cllr. O'Neill expressed deep concern that Helsby's PCSO was on patrol in Frodsham and doing Community Speed Watch in Kingsley. Helsby's PCSO was funded by Helsby residents and should not be seen out and about in other areas who did not pay for a PCSO. Proposed by Cllr. O'Neill, seconded by Cllr. Hulse and **RESOLVED – to write to Cheshire Police Constabulary to say that Helsby Parish Council was putting the constabulary on notice that it is considering withdrawing funding for a PCSO 2018/19 – HPC144/17.** The Chief Constable decreed he was going to put a PCSO in every ward. We believed that every ward received the same service whether they paid or not.
- Road Safety Conference. Cllr. O'Neill and Ellams would download the data from Helsby's Speed Indicator Device and send it through to Liz Cunningham of Cheshire Constabulary;
- Dashcam located front or rear of vehicles and mobile phone footage. An incident captured by the aforementioned devices could be used for prosecution purposes providing that the owner gave a statement;
- Cheshire Playing Fields Association – could run out of money within 15 years.

## 22. Planning

22.1 The council's responses to the following new applications were duly noted:

App Number	Address	Proposal	Comments
17/02534/FUL	6 Hornsmill Way	Single storey rear extension and alteration to existing conservatory roof	<b>No objections</b>
17/02702/FUL	29 Mountain View	First floor side extension to form two new bedrooms	<b>No objections</b>
17/02824/LBC	Helsby Railway Station Station Avenue	Refurbishment of signal box, including installation of security gate and fence	<b>No objections</b>

22.2 To following decisions received from Planning were duly noted: -

17/02100/FUL 16 Swireford Road (sgle storey side and front extn & 2-storey rear) Approved  
 17/02534/FUL 6 Hornsmill Way (sgle storey rear & alt to exist conservatory roof) Approved

22.3 Horse & Jockey building – Clerk asked to contact owner about removing vegetation.

22.4 Proffits Lane field proposal for 23 affordable dwellings and the impact on local schools. The implication was that the Head of Helsby High had no objections to the application on the grounds that the developer would hand over much needed funds of £40,000 should the plans be given approval. It was understood that this was not the case. The Education Authority would receive any funds due. The Head would be considering the safety aspect

and student numbers. High school teachers were regularly seen making sure children used the overhead gantry to cross the main road – noted.

23. Accounts

23.1 Bank Reconciliation. Cllr. Ellams had checked the apps against the corresponding figures relating to the NatWest accounts and confirmed that they were correct. Proposed by Cllr. Hulse, seconded by Cllr. O’Neill and **RESOLVED – that the Bank Reconciliation sheet detailing £235,900.36 held in balances as at 10<sup>th</sup> July 2017 be accepted as accurate – HPC145/17.**

23.2 Payments. Proposed by Cllr. O’Neill, seconded by Cllr. Duffy and **RESOLVED – that the following payments, totalling £6,200.58, have been paid by cheque, Standing Order, Direct Debit and under delegated authority – HPC146/17:**

Method	To whom paid	Particulars of payment	Amount
Bacs	R Maddocks	Cemetery maintenance	470.00
Bacs	J Hughes	Travel expns £9.60 & plants £106	115.60
Bacs	Northwich Town Council	Grounds maintenance	588.00
Bacs	Kestrel Image Makers	2 x Planter stickers	20.00
Bacs	Mrs Sarah Temple	Purchase of A3 photocopier paper	9.99
Bacs	Employees x 3	June 2017 salaries	1,867.71
Bacs	HM Revenue & Customs	PAYE & NI on above salaries	484.85
DD	NEST Pension provider	Employer/Employee contribution June	78.69
Bacs	Duttons Mower World Limited	Repairs to strimmer	21.54
Bacs	Neuro Muscular Centre	Print of Summer news + Chair’s AR	886.00
Bacs	T J O’Neill	Travel expenses	20.00
DD	Water Plus	Water – Helsby Community Centre	29.93
DD	Scottish Power	Electricity – same	106.00
Bacs	Mr J B Robotham	Purchases for grounds maintenance	48.06
Bacs	MRI Polytech	Product for safety surface maintenance	107.40
Bacs	KDE	Electrical test of 8 x Lantern lights	569.28
DD	BT	Calls and rental	360.93
SO	Strong Brickwork & Constr	July 2017 office rent	300.00
5055	Ches West & Chester Council	Hillside Primary Hall Hire Apr-Jul 17	116.60

24. Date of the next meetings

24.1 Parks, Cemetery & Allotments 31<sup>st</sup> July 2017

24.2 Parish Council 14<sup>th</sup> August 2017

The meeting closed at 8.40pm

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

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Minutes of the Helsby Parish Council meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2017