

Helsby Parish Council

Minutes of the Environment Committee held at 7.12pm on 29 May 2018 in the Committee Room

Present:

Cllr. Stuart Hulse – Chairman

Cllr. Terry O’Neill – Vice-Chairman

Cllr. Chris Ellams

Cllr. Polly Barry

Cllr. Sam Johnson

Cllr. Michelle Massey

1. Public Air Time. Proposed by Cllr. O’Neill, seconded by Cllr. Ellams and **RESOLVED – that the meeting be suspended for public participation – E06/18**. There being no matters brought to the committee’s attention it was proposed by Cllr. Johnson, seconded by Cllr. Barry and **RESOLVED – that Public Air Time be closed and the meeting reconvened – E07/18**.
2. Apologies for absence – receive and accepted from Cllr. McKie.
3. Declarations of interest – none reported.
4. Minutes of the previous meeting. Proposed by Cllr. Johnson, seconded by Cllr. Ellams and **RESOLVED – that the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 26 Feb 18 be accepted as accurate and duly signed by the Chairman – E08/18**.
5. Matters arising from the previous minutes
 - 5.1 TruCam. The device had now been calibrated and the PCSO had been tasked, by his superiors, to obtain a laptop to run the software – 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 the request to the Localities Team – awaiting response. Bedding plants were on order for the Jubilee feature – duly noted.
 - 5.3 Request to Tesco Stores to ascertain if they would consider erecting Belisha Beacons on crossing just after Calendar Gardens mini-roundabout. Although a response was awaited from Tesco, the Health & Safety Committee had recommended, to the Parish Council, that we write to Brookhouse (the site owners) with the same request.
 - 5.4 Village Best-Kept Competition. The Parish Council had advertised, in the Spring edition of Helsby News, inviting residents to nominate their gardens. Unfortunately, not one person had come forward to enter their gardens into the award category. The Clerk had taken the steps to ask editorial staff to run the add again with the deadline for entry placed at 30th June - **agreed**.

6. The Environment Committee budget, for the current fiscal year 2018/19, was duly noted as follow:

Budget Heading Code	Description	Budget 2018/19 £	2018/19 Spend to date £	Predicted To 31/03/19	Comments
223	Litter / dog / grit bins	400	0	400	
224	Village Awards	200	35	200	
225	Ho Ho Helsby	1,000	0	1,000	
227	Bridge Lantern Lights	1,200	92	1,200	
228	Christmas Lights	15,500	0	15,500	
228a	Christmas Tree	2,600	0	2,600	
229	SherwoodCourt Land	560	0	560	
230	Street furn/BT boxes	500	0	500	
231	War Memorial	1,500	0	1,500	

Notes to the aforementioned budgets:

Budget heading 227 – KDE Ltd had been asked to check out the timing on the lantern lights both sides of the Sandstone Bridge – **Clerk to progress.**

Budget heading 231 – Quadriga had been notified that the quote was acceptable and to undertake the cleaning process some time in October (before Remembrance Day) – duly noted. During this discussion, councillors expressed concern about the state of St Paul's churchyard which was the responsibility of CWaC. The Probation Service used to manage the grounds but didn't any longer due to lack of washroom facility and shortage of supervisors. Cllr. Hulse remarked that there were two WWII graves in the churchyard. Cllr. Massey reported that local volunteers were now maintaining St Lawrence churchyard in Frodsham. The members did not feel that this would be appropriate for St Paul's due to Health & Safety implications. Better to leave it to those who were responsible. It was proposed by Cllr. O'Neill, seconded by Cllr. Johnson and **RESOLVED – that the Parish Council be RECOMMENDED to write to CWaC expressing disgust at the way St. Paul's churchyard was being neglected – E09/18.**

Budget heading 230 – the members discussed request for the removal of 3x concrete conical planters to be replaced with 2x of the metre squared planters in Helsby Parish Council livery on the land opposite Land of Beds. It was proposed by Cllr. Hulse, seconded by Cllr. Ellams and **RESOLVED – that the Parish Council be RECOMMENDED to seek the following information – E10/18:**

- (i) **Ask Honeywell (the landowners) if the Parish Council could remove 3x conical and replace with 2x metre squared green planters;**
- (ii) **Price up 2x of the metre squared planters in Helsby Parish Council livery from Amberol;**
- (iii) **Obtain costings for removal of 3x conical planters and installation of 2 x of the metre squared planters;**
- (iv) **Contact Honeywell, Heat Trace and Land of Beds to ask if they would consider funding (ii) & (iii) above or, failing that, use up the reserves from the New Homes Bonus**

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. Cllr. Ellams informed members that the parish council was eligible to apply to Marshes Community Benefit Fund (MCBF) and this was verified by Cllr. Massey. The Clerk would apply.
- 7.2 Purchase of mini-bus. A scoping report was required to estimate costs and usage. Cllr. Hulse gave an example of the benefits of ownership. The committee agreed to keep Cllr. Hulse’s mini-bus proposal as a regular agenda item.
8. A Nation’s Tribute and WW1 Beacons of Light 11th November 2018. The Parish Council was already committed to the scheme by lighting the purpose-built beacon at the top of Helsby Hill. However, the National Trust had been explicit in its instructions that they would allow the Parish Council to use its property on the condition that the event was not advertised as open to the public therefore the parish council could not advertise it as a public event and it would not appear in any official campaign details. It was agreed to take the following actions:
- (i) Contact Civil Aviation Authority for approval;
 - (ii) Contact Mr Graham Hillyer for assistance with transporting the beacon;
 - (iii) Contact Gleaves to obtain cost for 2 x propane cylinders
9. Christmas Illumination 2018. Members discussed the existing features. There was manoeuvrability in the budget that would allow the committee to consider extending the display - subject to CWaC approval. Cllr. Ellams suggested linking cable lights from one lighting column to the next – just like the Frodsham display. Cllr. Massey commented that Ho Ho Helsby (HHH) had applied to MCBF for funding to illuminate a Fir tree in the Children’s Play Area. Cllr. Massey was asked if HHH could put in a proposal for the parish council to consider before HHH progressed the matter any further. Cllr. O’Neill reported that Mr Mark Avis had expressed willingness to fund the costs of tree wrapping a tree. He was unsure whether Mr Avis would be doing this through HHH or the parish council. Proposed by Cllr. Barry, seconded by Cllr. Ellams and **RESOLVED – that the Parish Council be RECOMMENDED to increase the Christmas lighting display by tree wrapping another two trees along the main road adjacent to Helsby High – E11/18.** Cllrs. O’Neill / Barry to progress.
10. Sherwood Court site. The General Assistant would paint out the graffiti on the shelter – duly noted.
11. Other Matters
- 11.1 The Green Party had posted leaflets through letterboxes highlighting, amongst other issues, the state of the Horse & Jockey building. The leaflet was bringing pressure on CWaC to do something. The whole site was still on the market.
- 11.2 Closure of Old Chester Road for bridge improvements. Cllr. O’Neill reported that Highways had passed the matter over to bridges – duly noted.

12. Date of the next meeting – Tuesday 28 Aug 18.

The meeting closed at 8.10pm

Chairman’s signature..... Dated.....

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