

# Helsby Parish Council

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## Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at 7pm on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2018 in Helsby Hillside Primary School

### Present:

Cllr. Chris Ellams – Chairman  
Cllr. John Kimpton  
Cllr. George Randles  
Cllr. Sarah Temple

Cllr. Terry O’Neill – Vice-Chairman  
Cllr. Sam Johnson  
Cllr. Michelle Massey

Cllr. Alan Gardner  
Cllr. Polly Barry  
Cllr. Patricia Holder

### In attendance:

Mrs Marj Thoburn – Helsby News

1. Public Air Time. Proposed by Cllr. Gardner, seconded by Cllr. O’Neill and **RESOLVED – that the meeting be suspended for public participation – HPC124/18.** There being no matters brought to the council’s attention it was proposed by Cllr. O’Neill, seconded by Cllr. Johnson and **RESOLVED – that Public Air Time be closed and the meeting reconvened – HPC125/18.**
2. Apologies for absence. Received and accepted from Cllrs. Duffy, Hulse, McKie and MacPherson.
3. Declarations of interest. Cllr. O’Neill declared non-pecuniary interest in Items 14 & 20 as Executive Member of both Helsby Community Sports Club and the Cheshire Association of Local Councils. Cllr. Randles declared non-pecuniary interest in Item 14 as Executive Member of Helsby Community Sports Club – duly noted.
4. Police Matters
  - 4.1 Brief synopsis of PCSO Kopczyk’s report as follows:
    - Upper Rake Lane – incident where a resident was confronted by a group of youths (one was carrying a knife) when he challenged them about throwing stones at his vehicle – ongoing investigation. The police, in their normal routine, were patrolling the area;
    - Springfields – Weaver Vale Housing Trust would be demolishing the building in July/August. The building had been fenced off and the police were monitoring the area – no issues reported so far;
    - Choo Choo Helsby – well organised and all attendees were well behaved;
    - Transition talks. PCSOs had visited all local primary schools and spoken to Year 6 pupils who would be moving on to High School in September. PCSOs would be seeing the children again when they attended the induction at the High School next month. This strengthened PCSOs partnership working with local schools;
    - Laptop for Trucam. Cheshire Constabulary confirmed that a laptop had been obtained. We were just waiting for the software upload and, following that, the Trucam would be ready for operation. Cllr. O’Neill was instrumental in obtaining laptop through his attendance at PCC meetings as, originally, the constabulary was going to charge the parish council. Cllr. Johnson commented that the Trucam had not yet been calibrated and that Cheshire Constabulary was found to be lacking in this matter as they should have had the software available to download the information from Trucam;
    - 101 – PCSO asked residents to inform him about any issues with the 101 ‘non-urgent reporting’ phonenumber;
    - Local Beat Meetings. 2pm-3pm 12<sup>th</sup> June at JTO and 3pm-4pm 23<sup>rd</sup> June JTO

5. Minutes of the previous meeting. Amendment on Page 1518 Item 16.2 7<sup>th</sup> Line. Delete 'Temple' insert 'O'Neill'. Proposed by Cllr. Randles, seconded by Cllr. O'Neill and **RESOLVED – that the minutes of the Annual Meeting of Helsby Parish Council (as amended and initialled by the Chairman) be accepted as an accurate record and duly signed by the Chairman – HPC126/18.**
  
6. Matters arising from the previous meeting
  - 6.1 CWaC confirmed that the Planning Inspectorate had granted the appeal by permitting 3x pitches at the Gethsemane Traveller Site on Chester Road, Dunham Hill. The court date for Towers Lane Traveller Site hearing had not yet been confirmed – duly noted.
  - 6.2 The summer bedding plants had been purchased and planted – duly noted. Special thanks were expressed to Mr John Robotham (General Assistant) for watering the plants in the dry weather.
  - 6.3 Closure by CWaC of Old Chester Road from Crescent Drive to Robin Hood Lane due to unsafe bridge. Cllr. O'Neill had been chasing CWaC Highways to bring pressure to bear on Cholmondeley Estates (the bridge owners) to get on with the planning consent for replacement bridge. The road closure was now coming up to 12 months and causing inconvenience to our residents. Cllr. O'Neill reported that the matter had been passed to CWaC Bridges Dept and that the contractual works were imminent. Members were sceptical but hopeful.
  
7. Minutes of the Health & Safety Committee meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2018. Cllr. Gardner presented the minutes and the recommendations as follows:
  - 7.1 Health & Safety Policy. Proposed by Cllr. Gardner, seconded by Cllr. O'Neill and **RESOLVED – that Helsby Parish Council accept the existing unamended Health & Safety Policy as fit for purpose – HPC127/18.**
  - 7.2 Tesco. The first part of the recommendation was to write to Tesco asking if they could remove banners from wall adjacent to the mini-roundabout. Members were reticent to agree as it could be construed that the Parish Council had 'double standards' as it had no issues with banner advertising at the Community Sports Club. It was unanimously agreed to remove the first part of the recommendation. Proposed by Cllr. Gardner, seconded by Cllr. O'Neill and **RESOLVED – to write to Brookhouse asking if they would install Belisha Beacons on either side of the road next to the white (zebra type) road markings at the start of the Tesco site – HPC128/18.**
  
8. Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2018. The Parish Council considered the recommendations as follows: -
  - 8.1 St Paul's Churchyard. It was CWaCs responsibility to maintain the churchyard which was looking in a very neglected condition as the grass had not been cut since last September. The committee recommended a strongly worded letter but Cllr. Temple asked if the wording could be softened. Proposed by Cllr. Randles, seconded by Cllr. Temple and **RESOLVED – to write to CWaC expressing the Parish Council's disappointment at the way St Paul's Churchyard was being neglected – HPC129/18.**
  - 8.2 Planters. Proposed by Cllr. O'Neill, seconded by Cllr. Temple and **RESOLVED – that the Parish Council seek the following information – HPC130/18: -**
    - (i) **Ask Honeywell (the landowners) if the Parish Council could remove the 3x conical cement planters and replace with 2x metre squared green planters;**

- (ii) **Price up 2x metre squared planters in Helsby Parish livery (Linden Green) from the suppliers Amberol;**
- (iii) **Obtain costings for removal of 3x conical and installation of 2x 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 some of the remaining 'New Homes Bonus Reserve' money.**

Since the meeting, a resident had asked if they could purchase a planter for the purpose of dedicating it to a deceased relative. They did not wish to sponsor a planter, just to purchase one and place dedication on the sides. Mrs Thoburn reminded members that this was not the policy as planters were sponsored by local people and an acknowledgement to the sponsor was placed on to the sides. It was agreed to pass the request to the next Environment Committee meeting for discussion.

8.3 Christmas Illuminations 2018. Proposed by Cllr. Barry, seconded by Cllr. O'Neill and **RESOLVED – to increase the Christmas lighting display by tree wrapping another two trees along the main road adjacent to Helsby High – HPC131/18.**

8.4 Bridge Lantern Lights. Proposed by Cllr. O'Neill, seconded by Cllr. Johnson and **RESOLVED – that the Parish Council, in accordance with s.144 of the Local Government Act 1972, pay KDE £420 + VAT to undertake the appropriate work required to ensure that the 8x lantern lights switch on at dusk and go off at dawn – HPC132/18.**

9. Burial Grant. Proposed by Cllr. O'Neill, seconded by Cllr. Temple 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 Cremated Remains Plot No. 9 in Helsby Public Cemetery, Old Chester Road received from Mrs J Crane of Helsby – HPC133/18.**

10. Councillors Surgery – 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2018. Cllrs. Hulse and McKie attended.

- Resident from Latham Avenue – update on Towers Lane Traveller Site;
- Resident from Lincoln Court Resident's Association. Confirmed that the recent study to assess the number of pedestrians crossing outside Lincoln Court did not match criteria required to get a traffic-light controlled crossing on the main road.

11. Cheshire West and Chester Council – no matters reported.

12. The Marshes Community Benefit Fund. Cllr. Ellams reported that applications were now being sought for the next round £60,000. Deadline for applications was 31<sup>st</sup> August 2018 – duly noted.

13. Frodsham Wind Farm. Cllr. Ellams reported that no complaints had been received from the public. Barriers were now in place and fly-tipping occurrences had reduced. Peel had confirmed that dogs must be kept on a lead at all times due to the ecological importance of the site. The only dog currently allowed of the lead was 'Arnold the bat dog' who was trained to sniff out bat carcasses as part of the continuing survey. Next meeting 19<sup>th</sup> October – duly noted.

14. Helsby Community Sports. Cllr Randles reported the following:

- The 'Heads of Terms' for the development of the site was now with CWaC for signing;
- Fun Day, organised by scouts, was on 14<sup>th</sup> July;
- Fishing would cease in the lagoons on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2018. The ponds would be decommissioned under the supervision of the Environment Agency.

15. Helsby Community Association

15.1 The Association had been successful in obtaining a grant from Marshes Community Benefit Fund for £2,100 towards the refurbishment of the Accessible Toilet in the Community Centre / Library building. The grant was conditional providing that an extension to the current lease with Cheshire West and Chester Council could be negotiated and increased by at least 10 years. The existing lease expired April 2019. The Parish Council was assisting in this matter and Property Services had confirmed that a draft Heads of Terms, for a new agreement, would be forthcoming. Clerk continues to chase.

16. Cycle North Cheshire – Cllr. Duffy circulated the latest newsletter – duly noted.

17. Protos

17.1 AGM of the Protos Community Forum would take place at 7pm on 20<sup>th</sup> June in Elton Community Centre – duly noted.

17.2 Community Benefit Fund meeting was taking place 13<sup>th</sup> June to consider applications that would then go forward to the Protos Community Forum for ratification. Cllr. Temple had been approached asking if she would be prepared to take on the Chairmanship of Protos Community Forum. She would accept the role if elected.

18. Miscellaneous Matters

18.1 UK Geoenergy Observatories Communications Manager had asked if the Parish Council would be interested in hearing Mike Stephenson's presentation. They offered to do a presentation at a Parish Council meeting or by grouping together councillors from Helsby, Ince, Elton, Thornton and Dunham Hill. They would cover the costs of hall hire. After careful consideration it was proposed by Cllr. Temple, seconded by Cllr. Randles and **RESOLVED – to accept the offer from UK Geoenergy Observatories Communications Manager to attend a presentation, given by Mike Stephenson, jointly with other councils on the condition that it was open to the public - HPC134/18.**

18.2 SLCC Cemetery Course. Proposed by Cllr. Temple, seconded by Cllr. Johnson and **RESOLVED – that, in accordance with expenditure under s.214 of LGA1972, approval be granted to the Parish Clerk to attend an all-day course on ICCM cemetery training provisionally booked for 21<sup>st</sup> August costing £75 – HPC135/18.**

19. Transport Matters. Cllr. Ellams reported the following: -

- Halton Curve – the first official train ran over it last Sunday departing from Liverpool South Parkway and arriving in Cosford in Shropshire. The Regional Manager of ARRIVA Trains Wales confirmed that 2 trains were available and 19 staff to man them when the Halton Curve opened December 2018;
- Keolis Amey was taking over the franchise from ARRIVA Trains Wales;
- CWaC Parking Strategy had not yet been published;

- Helsby Station did not provide accessible access to disable users. Cllr. Ellams reported that the train service had a strategy for people to alight at Frodsham and go down the Drovers Road.
20. Cheshire Association of Local Councils. The next Executive meeting would take place on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2018 – duly noted.

## 21. Planning

21.1 The following comments, sent in to the Planning Authority, were duly noted: -

| App No.      | Address                            | Proposal  | Comments   |
|--------------|------------------------------------|---|--|
| 18/01543/S73 | Plot 8 Ince Resource Recovery Park | Removal of Condition 13 (railway line into the site) of planning permission 16/03074/FUL (Energy from Waste Facility) | <b>Objections on the grounds that the applicant is trying to back out of multi-modal sustainable transport</b> |
| 18/01500/FUL | 17 Sherwood Grove                  | Second floor side extension (resubmission)  | <b>No objections</b>   |

21.2 The following decisions, received from the planning authority, were duly noted: -  
 18/01134/FUL 22 The Paddock (single vehicle wooden carport) Approved  
 18/01204/FUL Rockmount OCR (2-storey rear & sgle storey side extns) Approved  
 18/01500/FUL 17 Sherwood Grove (2<sup>nd</sup> floor side extension – retro) Approved

21.3 Horse & Jockey Site. Proposed by Cllr. Randles, seconded by Cllr. O'Neill and **RESOLVED – to write to the owners of the Horse & Jockey Site with request that they remove the buddleia on Health & Safety grounds – HPC136/18.**

21.4 Helsby Post Office – following recent closure, the Post Office was open for business as usual. Members could view the recent consultation about the Post Office on Consultation Hub – Helsby WA6 0AB.

## 22. Accounts

22.1 Annual Insurance Premium. Proposed by Cllr. O'Neill, seconded by Cllr. Kimpton and **RESOLVED – that the Parish Council, in accordance with s.219 of LGA1972, approve the increased premium £2,129.48 due to insuring The Eccies building – HPC137/18.**

22.2 Bank Reconciliation. The Chairman checked the figures on his mobile banking app against the Nat West accounts and confirmed that the figures were correct. Proposed by Cllr. O'Neill, seconded by Cllr. Temple and **RESOLVED – that the Bank Reconciliation Sheet detailing £256,565.08 as at 11<sup>th</sup> June 2018 be accepted as accurate – HPC138/18.**

- 22.3 Payments. Proposed by Cllr. O'Neill, seconded by Cllr. Temple and **RESOLVED – that the following payments totalling £6,098.07 paid by standing orders, direct debit or under delegated authority be approved and duly noted – HPC139/18: -**

| Method | To whom paid              | Particulars of payment             | Amount   |
|--------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|----------|
| DD     | Water Plus                | Wastewater – Helsby Community Cent | 29.87    |
| DD     | Scottish Power            | Electricity – same                 | 148.00   |
| DD     | NEST                      | Employer/employee pension contrib  | 141.66   |
| Bacs   | DTM Legal                 | Land Registry Fee                  | 40.00    |
| Bacs   | ChALC                     | Cllr. Barry training fees          | 150.00   |
| Bacs   | Cllr. Ellams              | Chairman's allowance 2018/19       | 150.00   |
| Bacs   | BHIB Insurance Brokers    | Annual premium (includes Eccies)   | 2,129.48 |
| Bacs   | Arndale Transport Limited | Office rent for June 2018          | 320.00   |
| Bacs   | Northwich Town Council    | Grass cutting April 18             | 411.60   |
| Bacs   | Employees 3x Part-time    | May 18 salaries                    | 1,872.75 |
| Bacs   | HM Revenue & Customs      | PAYE & NI on above salaries        | 505.98   |
| Bacs   | Mr S Jones                | Petrol for mowers                  | 17.05    |
| Bacs   | Jeanette Hughes           | Stamps £59.10, Paper £18.58        |          |
|        |                           | Compost for Oak Tree £4.00         | 81.68    |
| 5066   | Mr Dave Weaver            | Bedding plants                     | 100.00   |

23. Dates of the next meetings:

25<sup>th</sup> June – Finance Committee 7pm Committee Room

9<sup>th</sup> July – Helsby Parish Council 7pm Hillside Primary

24. Part B – Exclusion of the Press and Public. Proposed by Cllr. O'Neill, seconded by Cllr. Kimpton 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 – HPC140/18.**

#### PART B

#### Confidential Item

25. The Eccies. Proposed by Cllr. O'Neill, seconded by Cllr. Kimpton and **RESOLVED – that the Parish Council grant approval to RSK Group to 1) install a 'number-lock barrier' at the entrance to the Eccies; 2) to put up a short piece of fencing and gates preventing people walking around the rear and side of the Eccies building – HPC141/18.**

The meeting closed at 8pm

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

