

Helsby Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at 7pm on 9th July 2018 in Hillside Primary School

Present:

Cllr. Chris Ellams – Chairman

Cllr. Sam Johnson

Cllr. Sarah Temple

Cllr. Alan McKie

Cllr. Terry O’Neill – Vice-Chairman

Cllr. George Randles

Cllr. John Kimpton

Cllr. Stuart Hulse

Cllr. Peter Duffy

Cllr. Alan Gardner

Cllr. Michelle Massey

In attendance:

Mr A Norton – Lodge Hollow resident

1. Public Air Time. Proposed by Cllr. Duffy, seconded by Cllr. O’Neill and **RESOLVED – that the meeting be suspended for public participation – HPC142/18.** Mr Norton expressed frustration that no action had been taken against existing ‘park and rail’ travellers who parked their vehicles on Lodge Hollow/Station Avenue without consideration to residents. No money had been spent to improve parking and the situation would be exacerbated by the opening of the Halton Curve. Much discussion ensued about charging for parking, limited parking and effect of displacement parking when rail users look for free parking around residential areas. Members of the Parish Council shared Mr Norton’s concerns many of whom were equally disappointed with Cheshire West and Chester and the rail companies ‘laissez-faire’ attitude. A couple of suggestions were put forward namely ‘Residents only parking permits’ and enforcement by the local constabulary. Proposed by Cllr. O’Neill, seconded by Cllr. Kimpton and **RESOLVED – that Public Air Time be closed and the meeting reconvened – HPC143/18.**
2. Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. Holder, Barry and MacPherson.
3. Declarations of Interest. Cllrs. O’Neill, McKie and Randles declared none pecuniary interest in Item 13 as all were Executive Members of Helsby Community Sports Club. Cllrs. Hulse and O’Neill declared none pecuniary interest in Item 19 and 21.2 as Executive Members of the Cheshire Association of Local Councils and the Cheshire Playing Field Association respectively. Cllr. Ellams declared none pecuniary interest in Item 17.3 as member of the North Cheshire Rail Users Group.

3.1 Co-optation of North Ward Councillors – still being advertised.

4. Police Matters

4.1 PCOS Kopczyk reported the following: -

- Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Latham Avenue – the young people had been identified and dealt with accordingly. Since then, there had been no further issues;
- Springfields – since the building had been boarded up and empty, it had been the focus of ASB and damage. PCSO was in regular contact with Weaver Vale Housing Trust (the building owners) who were trying to keep the building intruder-proof until it could be demolished;
- Library – possible attempted burglary of lead. PCSO would be checking CCTV to try and identify offenders;
- Helsby Hill fires – not thought to have been started deliberately;

- 101 Service – PCSO urged residents to report any problems with the service to the local constabulary;
- Local Beat Meetings 5.30 -7pm 10th July Library. 3-4pm 21st July JTO Tea Rooms & 1-2pm 26th July Tesco Library area.

4.2 Anti-Social Behaviour Springfields. Resident tried to report the matter using the 101 number which was the number specifically for members of the public to report non-urgent low-level crime. The resident gave up in the end after a long wait. Much discussion ensued and there wasn't one positive comment about the 101 number which, it was generally agreed, was futile and time-wasting. Proposed by Cllr. Hulse, seconded by Cllr. O'Neill and **RESOLVED – to write to PCC for Cheshire (copy to Acting Chief Constable) to report the ineffectiveness and shortcomings of phoning the 101 low level crime reporting service – HPC144/18.**

4.3 Other matters reported:

- Cllr. Kimpton reported that a speeding moped rider had been spotted in Lower Robin Hood Lane (no VRN given as vehicle travelling too fast) – PCSO to monitor;
- PCSOs and beat sharing. In the past PCSOs were able to provide cover in adjacent areas thus familiarising themselves with a wider patch. This worked. Regrettably, the constabulary had changed its policy and now PCSOs had to stay in the ward area that they were allocated to;
- Cllr. McKie was arranging a meeting with Latham Avenue residents to discuss the recent ASB;
- Mountain View – 4/5 youths running loose. 3/4 travelling in from Runcorn. Two had been identified and the names given to PCSO;
- 101 - Cllr. Temple proposed asking residents to log calls to 101 and the responses. This would provide evidence to substantiate the problem with the service. It was understood that the police were actively recruiting staff. Police records went on how long it took them to answer a call rather than the quality of the response and customer satisfaction.

5. Minutes of the previous meeting. Proposed by Cllr. Hulse, seconded by Cllr. Randles and **RESOLVED – that the minutes of the Helsby Parish Council meeting held on 11th June 2018 be accepted as an accurate record and duly signed by the Chairman – HPC145/18.**

6. Matters arising from the previous meeting.

6.1 Towers Lane Traveller Update. Rob Charnley reported that he had to update some documents for CWaC Legal Team before the final submission to the court so a court date should be known soon. Cllr. Randles remonstrated about the time that had lapsed since the deadline to vacate. 1 year and 51 days to be exact. Proposed by Cllr. Randles, seconded by Cllr. Duffy and **RESOLVED – to ask CWaC Planning to explain what the delay was in getting Towers Lane Travellers to comply with the deadline to vacate by 19th May 2017 – HPC146/18.**

6.2 Cheshire Energy Research Field Site – Community Engagement Event at Elton Community Centre on Tuesday, 24th July 6pm – 8pm. This was the UK Geenergy Observatories presentation by Prof Mike Stephenson. The Parish Council said it may attend only on the condition that it be also open to the public. The advertising confirmed that this was so. Cllr. O'Neill kindly agreed to attend. Cllr. Temple expressed apologies that she could not attend.

- 6.3 Horse & Jockey building and site. Planning Enforcement Office was in contact with the owners to clean the site up. Cllr. Randles reported that a container had been craned on site. Members were hopeful that this was the beginning of the development.
7. Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 25th June 2018. Cllr. O'Neill presented the minutes that included the following recommendations: -
- 7.1 Internal auditor's recommendation to increase *de-minimus* (this was the amount the Parish Council could spend without obtaining 3 quotes). Proposed by Cllr. O'Neill, seconded by Cllr. Duffy and **RESOLVED – that the Parish Council 1) increase *de-minimus* from £1,000 to £5,000: 2) amend Item 11.1 (b), (c) and (g) of the existing Financial Regulations to reflect the increase to £5,000 – HPC147/18.**
- 7.2 Budget Analysis. Proposed by Cllr. O'Neill, seconded by Cllr. Duffy and **RESOLVED – to accept the Budget Analysis dated 25th June 2018 as attached to the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting of the same date – HPC148/18.**
- 7.3 Wage increase for the Parish Clerk. Proposed by Cllr. O'Neill, seconded by Cllr. Duffy and **RESOLVED – that the Parish Council, in accordance with s.12-19 of the Local Government Act 1972, 1) increase the Parish Clerk's salary for LC2 Scale Point 29 in line with the agreement between National Joint Council for Local Government Services and that the increase be backdated to 1st April 2018: 2) that the payment the Clerk currently receives for the role of Burial Clerk remains the same – HPC149/18.**
8. Burial Grant(s) – no applications received.
9. Councillor's Surgery 7th July – Cllrs. Ellams, Kimpton and Randles attended: -
- Latham Avenue resident – Towers Lane Traveller Site update;
 - Lincoln Court Residents Association. Mopeds speeding up and down Lower Robin Hood Lane – passed to PCSO. New houses opp Lincoln court, average 3 cars per house. Break-ins at Springfields – PCSO informed. Ask when Horse & Jockey would be demolished – unknown.
 - Resident from Old Chester Road – issues with development going on next door. Residents advised to contract Planning Enforcement and Building Control.
10. Cheshire West and Chester Council
- 10.1 Cllr. McKie reported that the next full council meeting was on 19th July. CWaC had received £6m from government to sort out roads. Cllr. O'Neill expressed concern about the length of time Old Chester Road had been closed due to unsafe bridge. A stretch of Old Chester Road was also closed for 2 weeks from Alvanley Road to Bates Lane Crossroads. He suspected that this was causing difficulties for the fire crews getting to the grass fires at the top of Helsby Hill. Cllr. McKie had arranged a meeting with Bridges on 19th to progress bridge replacement on Old Chester Road – duly noted.
- 10.2 Pathway around the Parish Field. Quotes had been received from 3 x contractors and the Parish Council had applied to CWaC for £31K of the Section 106 money which would cover costs (exclusive of VAT). The project was in the Helsby Parish Council 'Business Plan' and the s106 money was matched to projects categorised by CWaC as 'Informal Open Spaces'. Proposed by Cllr. Temple, seconded by Cllr. O'Neill and **RESOLVED – that the Parish Council, in accordance with expenditure under ss.9 & 10**

of the Open Spaces Act 1906, approve spending up to £31k (excl VAT) of Section 106 money on the installation of a circumference pathway around the Parish Field – HPC150/18

Page 1530

Chairman's initial.....

Money was also available through s106 for 'Formal Open Space' and 'Public Art'. Cllr. O'Neill encouraged members to come up with ideas as, ideally, the money should be spent on improving life in Helsby. Cllr. Temple commented that the Mere's Edge Play Area (owned by Persimmon and managed by POS Landcare) did not have a lot of play equipment and S106 money could be spent there for sake of the money going to other areas. Cllr. O'Neill reminded all that areas with Neighbourhood Plans could get 20% of Community Infrastructure Levy – duly noted.

10.3 Property Services had sent over 'Heads of Terms' for 25 Year Lease between CWaC / HPC for Helsby Community Centre. The Lease fairly mirrored the existing 40-year lease which was due to expire April 2019. CWaC also asked the Parish Council for £700 to cover legal costs. The success of the grant award, from Marshes Community Benefit Fund, to upgrade the Accessibility Toilet, was dependent on an extension to the existing lease. Many grant funders would not consider granting money on buildings with short leases. Cllr. Duffy (and other members) expressed unwillingness to pay any CWaC costs and reminded all that when Cllr. Peter Connor was a member, CWaC was willing to hand over the Community Centre to the Parish Council but, unfortunately Central Libraries blocked it. Proposed by Cllr. O'Neill, seconded by Cllr. Temple and **RESOLVED – that the Parish Council, in accordance with expenditure under s.133 of LGA1972, agree Heads of Terms for 25 Year Lease of Helsby Community Centre and also agree to pay 50/50% of £700 estimated legal fees to Property Services at Cheshire West and Chester Council – HPC151/18.**

10.4 Proposed Waiting Restrictions – Chester Road and Britannia Road. Proposed by Cllr. O'Neill, seconded by Cllr. Randles and **RESOLVED – to write to CWaC Principal Engineer saying that: -**

- 1) **Helsby Parish Council does not agree with making the Warrington to Chester bound carriageway time restricted (same side as RSK);**
- 2) **With the proposed move of Helsby Post Office to a new location in the old Bike Logic / District Garage premises, will CWaC be moving the current accessibility parking bay to outside the new Post Office location?**
- 3) **How will the restrictions be enforced, Helsby has had time-limited parking on the Chester to Warrington bound carriageway (same side as the Post Office) and have seen no real enforcement, of the time restricted parking, in the years it has been in force?;**
- 4) **Helsby has an ongoing problem in Lodge Hollow (opposite Helsby Station) where residents have endured inconsiderate parking by 'park and rail' users. How does CWaC intend to resolve these issues especially with the proposed increased in the amount of journeys to Liverpool South Parkway and Leeds? – HPC152/18.**

10.5 Frodsham Railway Station – Goods Shed Consultation. CWaC were proposing to demolish the building to create 60 car parking spaces. The Parish Council was included in the consultation however the members agreed that, as this was outside the Helsby boundary, it should be left to Frodsham Town Council to comment – duly noted.

11. The Marshes Community Benefit Fund. Cllr. Ellams reported that applications could now be submitted for Round 4. There was £60,000 available and applications had to be in before

12. Frodsham Wind Farm. Cllr. Ellams commented that no reports of any complaints had been received. The next meeting was planned at 6pm on 19th October in Castle Park Frodsham – duly noted.
13. Helsby Community Sports Club. The Club had agreed 'Heads of Terms' and had passed it to CWaC Legal Team for signing – duly noted.
14. Helsby Community Association awaited the Parish Council's decision on whether it entered into a 25-year lease with CWaC. The promise of £2,100 to upgrade the accessibility toilet depended on funding from MCBF – duly noted.
15. Cycle North Cheshire – Cllr. Duffy had circulated the minutes which were duly noted.
16. Protos – Cllr. Temple circulated a very comprehensive report briefly as follows: -
 - Community Benefit Fund meeting held on 14th June. An application by Hornsmill Primary School to renovate the playground to provide different zones for quiet space / shelters, table tennis etc was approved, along with a project in Ince. An update on the progress of previous grants was given and the next round of funding for £6K total pot was 4th October. Applications must be in two weeks before that date.AGM followed by Community Forum held on 20th June: -
 - Cllr. Temple was elected as Chairman of the Protos Community Forum for 2018-19. The minutes would be circulated when available;
 - Peel contractors were delivering a new grid connection and cabling to unused Protos plots;
 - Covanta were progressing activities for the EfW incinerator and were down to the final two contractors to deliver the facility, both of whom would be accessing the area to prepare tenders. Covanta expect to complete the financial deals by end 2018 and start work early 2019. Construction is expected to take 3 years;
 - CWaC were awaiting input from 3 consultees before deciding the S73 planning application not to implement the rail link for Protos at this stage. A decision was expected in Sept. Peel have to monitor traffic movements to ensure they stay within the originally consented limits for the site;
 - The biomass facility was operational but resolving problems with the feeder;
 - The timber plant had laid the concrete slab and got an EA permit but would take at least 3 months to get running;
 - IGas were continuing to engage stakeholders, especially the CWaC Conservative Councillors, who want a referendum, and expect to submit their planning application for the Ince site in August;
 - British Geological Survey hope to complete discussions with local landowners regarding borehole locations by end June. They would then share plans with local communities before submitting a planning application in Sept. Protos were considering 6 possible boreholes on their site;
 - Peel were continuing to strip topsoil from the site (which was being used for landscaping in projects such as the Mersey Gateway) and replace with poorer quality material more suitable for construction/environmental areas. Import/export lorry movements would

continue at current rate for the rest of 2018;

- 2 additional gates and bunds around spare land/parking area, together with daily security patrols had been introduced to deter Traveller incursion and misuse. CCTV may also be installed on the new roundabout.

Page 1532

Chairman's initial.....

17. Miscellaneous Matters

17.1 IGas Energy Plc site tour of existing IGas site on Grinsome Road in Ince (date to be advised but probably July). The tour was also open to the public. Cllrs. Holder and McKie would be attending on behalf of the Parish Council. IGas would soon be submitting a planning application for an exploration well on land off Grinsome Road. IGas had clarified that the current application would be submitted in the next few months was for exploration only and any production would be subject to a separated planning application – duly noted.

17.2 The Future of Helsby Neighbourhood Watch. The Homewatch Co-ordinator of many years was resigning. Proposed by Cllr. Randles, seconded by Cllr. O'Neill and **RESOLVED – to write to Dr Ray Symes to express the Parish Councils thanks for his dedication over the year to the Homewatch Service and in making Helsby a safer place to live and work – HPC153/18.**

17.3 North Cheshire Rail Users Group – request for funding to purchase merchandise for the opening of the Halton Curve. The members considered the request. Proposed by Cllr. Temple, seconded by Cllr. O'Neill and **RESOLVED – to write to North Cheshire Rail Users' Group with alternative proposals to apply to for funding to purchase advertising merchandise – HPC154/18.**

18. Transport Matters – Cllr. Ellams reported the following: -

- Helsby Station. Footbridge work progressing. Vandalism to floral displays and signage. Royal visitor travelled from Hooton via Helsby to officially open the Mersey Gateway crossing. Steam hauled trains were due through Helsby on 22nd July North Wales Coast Express and on 24th July Welsh Mountaineer;

Liverpool Airport Update

- Wideroe (Scandinavia's largest regional airline) to commence twice weekly service to Bergen;
- Final phase of latest terminal improvements completed;
- 'Operation Kiev' moving 6,000 fans to Kiev was a great success.

19. Cheshire Association of Local Councils

- Executive meeting held in Helsby – the village looked in really good shape;
- GDPR now in force;
- Cllrs. Hulse and O'Neill attended a LEP meeting. The government was still going ahead with creating a new junction on M56 J12a at Murdishaw. Other road improvements included a link from Walton to Warrington;
- European funding would be available for dairy farmers wishing to diversify.

20. Planning

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

App No.	Address	Proposal	Comments
18/02303/FUL	3 Windsor Drive	Demolition of existing conservatory and erection of single storey rear extension and dormer windows to rear	No objections

18/01005/FUL	Land adjacent to The Spinney Alvanley Road	Conversion of existing reservoir into new residential dwelling with single storey extension	Objections
--------------	--	---	------------

Page 1533

Chairman's initial.....

21. Accounts

21.1 Bank Reconciliation. The Chairman checked the figures on his mobile banking app against the NatWest accounts and confirmed that they were correct. Proposed by Cllr. Hulse, seconded by Cllr. Gardner and **RESOLVED – that the Bank Reconciliation Sheet detailing £253,400.70 held in balances as at 9th July 2018 be accepted as accurate – HPC155/18.**

21.2 Payments. Proposed by Cllr. Duffy, seconded by Cllr. Hulse and **RESOLVED – that the following payments totalling £3,890.19 paid by direct debit or under delegated authority be approved and duly noted – HPC156/18.**

Method	To whom paid	Particulars of payment	Amount
DD	Water Plus	Wastewater – Helsby Comm Centre	29.58
DD	Scottish Power	Electricity – same	148.00
DD	NEST	Employer/employee pension contr	141.66
DD	BT	Package/Line Rental	128.42
Bacs	Employees 3 x part-time	Salaries for June 2018	1,872.75
Bacs	HM Revenue & Customs	PAYE & NI on above salaries	505.98
Bacs	Society of Local Council Clerks	ICCM training Clerk 21 08 18	75.00
Bacs	Ches County Playing Fields Ass	Annual Subs	22.00
Bacs	Northwich Town Council	Grounds maintenance May 2018	646.80
Bacs	Arndale Transport Limited	Office rent July 2018	320.00

22. Date of the next meetings: -

Parks Cemetery & Allotments Committee – 7pm 30th July in the Committee Room
Helsby Parish Council – 7pm 13th August in Hillside Primary School

The meeting closed at 8.30pm

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

Page 1534

Minutes of the Helsby Parish Council meeting held on 9th July 2018.