

Helsby Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at 7pm on 13th August 2018 in Upper Hall Helsby Methodist Church

Present:

Cllr. Chris Ellams – Chairman

Cllr. Terry O’Neill Vice-Chairman

Cllr. Stuart Hulse

Cllr. George Randles

Cllr. Michelle Massey

Cllr. Alan Gardner

Cllr. Polly Barry

Cllr. John Kimpton

Cllr. Peter Duffy

Cllr. Sarah Temple

In attendance:

Mrs Marj Thoburn – Helsby News

Chairman’s announcements. The Chairman thanked Cllr. O’Neill for organising and opening up the previous meeting venue for the past couple of years. From now on, the Parish Council meetings would be taking place in Helsby Methodist Church.

1. Public Air Time. Proposed by Cllr. Hulse, seconded by Cllr. Massey and **RESOLVED – that the meeting be suspended for public participation – HPC157/18.** Mrs Thoburn sought the Parish Council’s assistance by asking if they could forward any names for the ‘unsung heroes’ column in Helsby News. Editorial staff had asked residents for suitable candidates, who they thought deserved a mention, but unfortunately no responses. Proposed by Cllr. Randles, seconded by Cllr. Hulse and **RESOLVED – that ‘Public Air Time’ be closed and the meeting reconvened – HPC158/18.**
2. Apologies for absence – received and accepted from Cllrs. Johnson, Holder, McKie and MacPherson.
3. Declarations of interest. Cllrs. O’Neill and Randles declared non-pecuniary interest in Item 13 as both were Executive Members of Helsby Community Sports Club. Cllr. O’Neill also declared non-pecuniary interest in Item 19 as Executive Member of ChALC. Cllr. Temple declared family interest in Items 7.1 & 7.2 as spouse to an allotment tenant and also Item 21.2. The Parish Clerk declared family interest in Item 20.1 as her daughter was immediate neighbour to the applicant (18/02800/S73)

3.1 Co-optation of North Ward Councillor. Mrs Thoburn would re-vamp the ad for the next edition of Helsby News.

4. Police Matters

4.1 PCSO’s report. The PCSO was taking annual leave.

4.2 Reporting low-level crime on 101. The Parish Council had received a full response for its concern that reporting on 101 was a waste of time. Since then, the Cheshire Constabulary had sent a stakeholder update (with generic contact details) and a poster that gave guidance about contacting and informing the police by assessing when to phone 999 and 101. Some ASB could be reported to 999 if it was an immediate threat. The poster had been placed on Notice Boards and would be circulated by PCSO Kopczyk to local shops and businesses. Cllr. Duffy reported that the Police did not have enough resources and that staff from crime reporting desk were being put on 101.

Cllr. Hulse raised members awareness that resident's feelings were running high about ASB from youngsters living on Towers Lane Traveller Site.

- 4.3 Parish Office as an 'out-of-hours' base for PCSO Kopczyk. The Parish Clerk had had keys cut to enable PCSO to gain access when he's on lates – duly noted.
- 4.4 Trucam – now operational and being used by PCSO. Quite a few speeding motorists caught on Primrose Lane. The Trucam logged speed and VRN on oncoming traffic and traffic moving away from the operator. Residents informed via Helsby Facebook page – duly noted.
5. Minutes of the previous meeting. Agreed with the following amendment on Page 1533, Item 19, 3rd Point, remove 'Cllrs. Hulse and O'Neill attended a LEP meeting' from the text. The Chairman initialled the amendment. Proposed by Cllr. Kimpton, seconded by Cllr. Barry and **RESOLVED – that the minutes of the Helsby Parish Council meeting held on 9th July 2018 be accepted as an accurate copy and duly signed by the Chairman – HPC159/18.**
6. Matters arising from the previous meeting
 - 6.1 Towers Lane Traveller Site. Rob Charnley sent update on 30th July saying that the case had been lodged with the High Court in Manchester and CWaC were just waiting for a date for the injunction to be heard – duly noted.
 - 6.2 Cheshire Energy Research Field Site – Community Engagement Event at Elton Community Centre on 24th July. Cllr. O'Neill attended and circulated a thorough report which was duly noted. For copies please contact the Parish Clerk helsbyparishcouncil@btconnect.com
 - 6.3 Horse & Jockey building. A buyer had been found and the building was being demolished. Cllr. Ellams would make enquiries, with the contractor, to see if they would be willing to donate the sign to the Parish Council for display in the village. It had local historic value and could be stored in the shipping container until a suitable place was found for display.
7. Minutes of the Parks, Cemetery and Allotments Committee meeting held on 30th July 18. Cllr. Temple presented the minutes which included the following recommendations: -
 - 7.1 Allotment rent review. Proposed by Cllr. Temple, seconded by Cllr. Kimpton and **RESOLVED – that allotment charges remain unchanged and to keep the *status-quo* pertaining to all allotment gardens owned by Helsby Parish Council – HPC160/18.**
 - 7.2 Review of allotment insurance. Proposed by Cllr. Temple, seconded by Cllr. Kimpton and **RESOLVED - to increase the insurance charge recovery from individual allotment tenants from £2.50 to £3.50 to cover the costs to Helsby Parish Council – HPC161/18.**
 - 7.3 Cemetery / Allotment Gates and Railings. Proposed by Cllr. Temple, seconded by Cllr. Kimpton and **RESOLVED – that the Parish Council, in accordance with expenditure under the power of Sections 9 and 10 of the Open Spaces Act 1906, employ Whittle Programmed Maintenance to undertake the following work costing £2,585 (net of VAT) – HPC162/18**
 - Re-paint Old Chester Road cemetery gates and buttresses;**
 - Re-paint Chester Road cemetery gates;**
 - Re-paint Allotment gates nearest to cemetery;**
 - Re-paint handrails in cemetery;**
 - Re-paint railings in cemetery on boundary with Old Chester Road / Chester Road.**

- 7.4 Bin emptying – cemetery. Proposed by Cllr. Temple, seconded by Cllr. Kimpton and **RESOLVED – that the Parish Council, using the power under Sections 9 & 10 of the 1906 Open Spaces Act, order a sign asking visitors to the cemetery to use the spoil heap for biodegradable waste and save the bin for landfill materials – HPC163/18.**
- 7.5 Review of cemetery fees. Proposed by Cllr. Temple, seconded by Cllr. Kimpton and **RESOLVED – that the burial fess and charges relating to Helsby Public Cemetery remain the same – HPC164/18.**
- 7.6 Circumference Pathway around the Parish Field. Proposed by Cllr. Temple, seconded by Cllr. Kimpton and **RESOLVED – that the Parish Council, using the power under Section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, employ Horticon (subject to Section 106 monies being assigned) to undertake the installation of a circumference pathway around the Parish Field (plus all other associated work) – HPC165/18.**
- 7.7 Children’s Play Area. Proposed by Cllr. Temple, seconded by Cllr. Kimpton and **RESOLVED – that the Parish Council obtain at least 3 competitive quotes to replace the soft safety surface in the teen and swing areas of the children’s park – HPC166/18**
8. Burial grants – no applications received.
9. Councillor’s Surgery 4th August - Cllrs. Hulse, Temple and PCSO Kopczyk attended: -
Latham Avenue resident:
- Attended meeting organised by Cllr. McKie re Anti-Social Behaviour. Cllr. McKie to follow-up in a couple of months;
 - Asked why the police had not visited Towers Lane site to deal with dogs. PCSO responded that the traveller dogs did not match the photographic evidence of the ‘out-of-control’ dogs;
 - Resident was informed about the consultation on Traveller Development Plan Document – comments due in to CWaC by 5th Oct;
- Parkfield Drive resident:
- The resident’s wife owned the hairdressers on Britannia Road that had recently been the victim of an ASB attack with stones that narrowly missed an elderly client. He complained about lack of police action. PCSO explained that the police needed evidence and were not sufficiently resourced to deal with every incident. Resident was advised against any personal action and that CCTV images would be helpful to identify the children. PCSO would report the incident to both Police and CWaC Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officers.
- Lincoln Court Resident’s Association:
- Demolition of Horse & Jockey, Highways work outside Helsby High for the new development, water leak on LRH Lane had been fixed by UU, parking relating to the new Robin Hood development, ongoing and future housing on Mere’s Edge site and Post Office move to new premises.
10. Cheshire West and Chester Council
- 10.1 Cllr. McKie’s report – no matters reported.
- 10.2 Proposed Waiting Restrictions – Chester Road and Britannia Road. CWaC response to our comments had been sent by Graham Lowe (Principal Engineer) via email dated 16th July and circulated to members. CWaC intend to go out to public consultation towards the middle of September when there will be an opportunity for formal objections – duly noted.

- 10.3 Street names of new development (69 dwellings on INEOS Site). CWaC sent in ideas and the Parish Council (thanks to our Chairman Cllr. Ellams) came up with Faraday Close, Telegraph Way and Ormiston Mews which CWaC were considering. The three were appropriate and had strong links to the BICC factories. Riverside Home Ownership (site owners) were marketing the site under a different name – duly noted.
- 10.4 On 12th March, CWaC submitted the Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan (Part Two) Land Allocations and Detailed Policies to the Secretary of State for examination. The Clerk had circulated details of where public hearing session was being held which could also be viewed on their website – duly noted.
- 10.5 Council Tax ‘empty homes premium’ consultation. CWaC launched a consultation seeking views on proposed changes to the Council Tax premium charged to the owners of empty properties that have been vacant for over two years. The consultation can be found at the following link and is open until 24 October. [Council Tax empty homes premium consultation](#)
- 10.6 CWaC is preparing a Traveller Development Plan Document (DPD) which will identify sites to meet the need for Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpersons accommodation in the area. The first stage in preparing the DPD is the ‘issues’ consultation, which asks for the views of stakeholders and interested parties about the approach to site selection. As part of the consultation there is also a call for sites, which invites respondents to provide details of any sites that might be suitable for Traveller accommodation. Responses required by 5 October. Documents can be viewed online at https://consult.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/portal/cwc_ldf/traveller/traveller_issues. There were lots of sites located around this area. The Towers Lane Alvanley and The Paddocks Dunham Hill sites were both listed as unauthorised sites – duly noted.
- 10.7 Notice in the reduction of footpath width on the bridge going over Old Chester Road. This was the bridge that was being replaced with concrete sections. Cholmondeley Estate rep was awaiting sign-off document from CWaC. There were issues with the strength of the walls adjacent to the bridge at road level – duly noted.
11. The Marshes Community Benefit Fund. Next round of funding closes on 31st August 2018.
12. Frodsham Wind Farm. Cllr. Ellams reported the following which was duly noted: -
- ASB and vandalism of fences caused by dirt-bikes riders getting around the barriers. The wind farm was an ecologically sensitive area with many rare birds present plus high voltage generating equipment. Peel would keep working to keep the site secure;
 - Arnold the Bat Dog was being used on the project to see what effect wind turbines had on the bat population on the marsh. He had now been joined by Sasha and Rockstar to give him a hand in the process;
 - Manchester University students studying PhD in Electrical Engineering recently visited the Wind Farm to get some hands-on experience on how the Wind Farm operated – duly noted.
13. Helsby Community Sports Club. All parties involved with the future development of the club have to be signed up by 24th August. Cllr. Randles was chasing CWaC as they were the only party that hadn't signed the document yet – duly noted.

14. Helsby Community Association. Cllr. Kimpton attended the last meeting and reported the following: -
- Booking Secretary (for nearly 40 years) would like to retire but no volunteers had come forward. Cllr. Kimpton advised succession planning;
 - Councillors agreed that the running of the Community Centre was ultimately the Parish Council's responsibility seeing that they were the leaseholders;
 - Much discussion ensued about taking on staff (with tech knowledge) to cover the Booking Secretary role. The same could apply to the Treasurer's job;
 - Cllr. Kimpton and Temple would attend the next meeting to discuss timescales and options.
15. Cycle North Cheshire. The next meeting would be on 12th Sept – duly noted.
16. Protos – no meetings.
- Cllr. Temple spoke at the Planning Committee to put the Parish Council's objection to the Removal of Condition 13 (railway line into the site) of planning permission 16/03074/FUL (Energy for Waste Facility) Plot 8 IRRP Grinsome Road Ellesmere Port. The Case Officer had recommended approval. The Planning Committee voted for refusal and this was carried with one abstention;
 - IGas was not going to submit an application for fracking until the outcome of the planning appeal was known against the refusal of an application for fracking in Ellesmere Port;
 - Loud continuous noise (likened to jet engine) emanating from CF Fertilisers. The noise had now stopped but there were lots of messages about the Nitric Oxide site and the orange plump coming out of the stack.
17. Miscellaneous Matters
- 17.1 IGas Energy Plc site tour of existing IGas site on Grinsome Road Ince. To receive a report from Cllrs. Holder and McKie at the next meeting.
- 17.2 Allotment Tenancy Agreement. Proposed by Cllr. Temple, seconded by Cllr. Kimpton and **RESOLVED – that the Parish Council enter into an Allotment Tenancy Agreement with Mr & Mrs Stuart of Helsby for Plot 3f & 3b Queens Drive Allotment Gardens – HPC167/18.**
18. Transport Matters – Cllr Ellams reported the following: -
- On 15th September the world-famous steam loco 60106 Flying Scotsman is due to pass through Helsby;
 - The proposed new Northern service from Chester to Leeds may be further delayed;
 - Liverpool Lime Street Station has reopened as part of a £340m investment that included the Halton Curve project and a new station at Maghull;
 - Chester Station celebrated its 170th Birthday. The Station was designed by Thomas Brassey an engineer born just outside Chester. His other main construction project was the Runcorn to Widnes Rail Bridge opened in October 1868;
 - Liverpool Airport – noise strategy consultation. Cllr. Ellams emailed the comprehensive document out to the members. He did not think it would have too much an impact on Helsby.
 - Consultation on how the airspace can be more effectively managed. Satellite Navigation instead of the existing voice VHF radio and ground radar method. The system will ensure aircraft make efficient use of airspace so holding patterns are avoided.

19. Cheshire Association of Local Councils

19.1 Code of Conduct training on 11th September at Christleton. Cllrs. Hulse will be attending on behalf of Chalc and Cllrs. Duffy, O'Neill and the Parish Clerk for the Parish Council costing £105.

20. Planning

20.1 The following comments were sent in to the Planning Department – duly noted: -

App No.	Address	Proposal	Comments
18/02340/FUL	62 Bates Lane	Erection of single storey cattery building in rear garden	Neither object or support. Concern raised about traffic movements
18/02508/FUL	17 Lodge Hollow	Single storey side and rear extension	No objections
18/02800/S73	Tor View, 2 Beech Tree Walk, Old Chester Road	Removal of condition 2 (obscured glazing) of planning application 18/00124/FUL	Objections on grounds of principal

20.2 The following decisions, received from the Planning authority, were duly noted: -
18/01260/OUT Land at Clifton Vicarage Lane (outline for new detached dwelling) Approved
18/01367/FUL Milton, Chester Road (two storey extension and alterations etc) Approved

20.3 The following appeal decision was duly noted: -

Appeal Ref: APP/A0665/W/18/3193636 Detached House at Birchwood, Hill Road South
Appeal dismissed.

20.4 Cllr. Temple attended and spoke at the Planning Committee meeting on 7th August to put the Parish Council's objection to the Removal of Condition 13 (railway line into the site) of planning permission 16/03074/FUL (Energy for Waste Facility) Plot 8 IRRP Grinsome Road Ellesmere Port – see Item 16.

20.5 Proffits Lane – 23 affordable dwellings. We still hadn't heard if CWaC had approved the site conditions. Clerk to chase.

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. O'Neill, seconded by Cllr. Hulse and **RESOLVED – that the Bank Reconciliation Sheet detailing £244,103.95 monies held in balances as at 13th August 2018 be accepted as accurate – HPC168/18.**

21.2 Payments. Proposed by Cllr. O'Neill, seconded by Cllr. Hulse and **RESOLVED – that the following payments totalling £11,336.45 paid by cheque, direct debit or under delegated authority be approved and duly noted – HPC169/18: - see Page 1543 overleaf**

Method	To whom paid	Particulars of payment	Amount
D/D	Water Plus	Wastewater – Helsby Community Cent	29.58
D/D	Scottish Power	Electricity – same	148.00
D/D	BT Business	Security charge	46.76
D/D	BT Business	Broadband service 01/07 – 30/09/18	82.44
D/D	Information Comm's Office	Annual Registration Fees	35.00
D/D	Siemens Financial Services	Photocopier Lease fees	147.81
C 5067	CWaC Helsby Hillside School	Hire of school hall April – July 2018	140.00
Bacs	Old Vicarage Tree Surgery	Urgent shrub work in children's park	180.00
Bacs	Northwich Town Council	8 th & 18 th June grass maintenance	470.40
Bacs	Whittle Programmed Maint.	External painting children's park	5,732.40
Bacs	e.on	railings	104.71
Bacs	Village Produce Association	Electricity usage lantern lights	48.40
Bacs	Jeanette Hughes	Compost for planters	56.46
Bacs	KDE	Postage £11.34 + 6xHandgrips £45.12	72.00
Bacs	Arndale Transport Ltd	Labour & equipment hire lantern x 8	320.00
Bacs	Neuromuscular Centre	August 2018 office rent	882.00
Bacs	John Robotham	Print costs Helsby News + Chair's AR	84.97
Bacs	Jeanette Hughes	PPE, glue, fuel & cable ties	89.99
D/D	NEST	McAfee annual subscription for HPC	141.66
Bacs	Mrs S Temple	Employer/employee contrib July 2018	12.00
Bacs	Part-time employees x 3	Travel expenses Winsford	1,952.31
Bacs	HM Revenue & Customs	July 2018 salaries	559.56
		PAYE & NI on above salaries	

22. Date of the next meetings: -

Health & Safety Committee	28 th August 2018
Environment Committee	same
Helsby Parish Council	10 th September 2018

23. Exclusion of the press and public. Proposed by Cllr. O'Neill, seconded by Cllr. Hulse 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 – HPC170/18.**

PART B

24. Discussion about potential usage for land and building owned by the Parish Council.

The meeting closed at 8.05pm

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

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