

# Helsby Parish Council

---

## Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at 7pm on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2019 in the Upper Hall of Helsby Methodist Church

### Present:

Cllr. Chris Ellams – Chairman	Cllr. Terry O’Neill – Vice-Chairman	Cllr. Andy MacPherson
Cllr. Sam Johnson	Cllr. Peter Duffy	Cllr. Stuart Hulse
Cllr. Michelle Massey	Cllr. Polly Barry	Cllr. John Kimpton
Cllr. George Randles	Cllr. Alan Gardner	Cllr. Patricia Holder

### In attendance:

Sergeant Andy Collinson, PCSOs Neil Flannagan & Niall Dudley – Cheshire Constabulary  
Cllr. Judith Critchley and Mr Mallie Poulton  
Mrs Marj Thoburn – Helsby News

1. Public Air Time. Proposed by Cllr. Johnson, seconded by Cllr. Hulse and **RESOLVED – that the meeting be suspended for public participation – HPC34/19**. There being no matters brought to the member’s attention it was proposed by Cllr. Kimpton, seconded by Cllr. O’Neill and **RESOLVED – that Public Air Time be closed and the meeting reconvened – HPC35/19**.
2. Apologies for absence. Received and accepted from Cllrs. Temple and McKie.
3. Declarations of interest. Cllrs. O’Neill and Randles declared non-pecuniary interest in Item 17 as both were Executive Members of Helsby Community Sports Club.
4. Police Matters
  - 4.1 Report from PCSO Niall Dudley. Niall was the new PCSO for Helsby and would be working closely with PCSO Neil Flannagan (Frodsham PCSO) and would provide cover for each other when on leave. Briefly Niall’s report is as follows (full report can be obtained by contacting the Parish Clerk (01928) 726433 or [helsbyparishcouncil@btconnect.com](mailto:helsbyparishcouncil@btconnect.com)): -
    - Speeding – attending TruCam training this week;
    - Speed Watch Group – Niall was keen to resurrect this in Helsby. The Frodsham co-ordinator had very kindly offered his assistance for setting this up;
    - School Parking – this continues to be problematic. Niall had made arrangements to visit the heads of both primary schools;
    - Surgeries – holding surgeries at the High School for members of the public and also students and teaching staff;
    - Anti-Social Behaviour – Niall will be assisting local business to combat this problem;
    - Helsby Hill – Niall has assisted a local farmer with an ongoing problem with loose dogs attacking her livestock;
    - Helsby News – given background for spring edition;
    - Social Media – Helsby Police Twitter account @HelsbyPol. Niall also puts his activities on Facebook;
    - Police surgeries for March as follows: -
      - Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 12.00-13.00 Helsby High
      - Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March 12.00-13.00 Helsby High
      - Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March 12.00-13.00 Helsby High

New drop off and pick up for Hornsmill School. Cllr. Duffy reported that 51 families were now using the A56 Lay-By entrance. The Community Sports Club has allowed the use of its car park for school parking until the housing estate goes up. The School was endeavouring to progress some form of crossing control.

Car Parking issues village centre. The current problems will worsen when CWaCs restrictions and charging come into force. This may also be exacerbated when Halton Curve opens on 20<sup>th</sup> May. Crescent Drive is already congested with parked cars. Niall is keeping a close watch and will ticket drivers causing obstruction.

Cllr. O'Neill congratulated Niall who appeared to already have a strong grasp of the recurring problems that Helsby faces.

4.2 Trucam. Tele-Traffic will be collecting the device for re-calibration. Cost will be £249 net of VAT. *Expenditure in accordance with s.31 of the Local Government and Ratings Act 1997.* Cllr. Johnson asked again for the number of prosecutions that have come about from using the TruCam. Sergeant Collinson promised to obtain the information.

5. Minutes of the previous meeting. Proposed by Cllr. Hulse, seconded by Cllr. Duffy and **RESOLVED – that the minutes of the Helsby Parish Council meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2019 be accepted as an accurate record and duly signed by the Chairman – HPC36/19.**

6. Matters arising from the previous meeting

6.1 Local elections 2<sup>nd</sup> May. The Clerk has received training to assist in the application process – duly noted.

6.2 Section 106 money. Cllr. O'Neill has obtained an updated list, from CWaC, which will prove invaluable to the Parish Council. It details all the money CWaC are holding for spending in Helsby on projects (yet to be identified).

7. Minutes of the Health & Safety Committee. Proposed by Cllr. Gardner, seconded by Cllr. Hulse and **RESOLVED – that the minutes of the Health & Safety Committee meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2019 be received and noted – HPC37/19.**

8. Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2019. Cllr. Hulse presented the minutes that included the following recommendations: -

8.1 Tesco. Proposed by Cllr. Hulse, seconded by Cllr. O'Neill and **RESOLVED – that the Parish Council write to the Chairman of Tesco with request for installation of Belisha Beacons on either side of the carriageway entering into the Tesco site and also to ask if the laurel hedge could be cut-back to boundary – HPC38/19.**

8.2 Christmas Illuminations. Proposed by Cllr. Hulse, seconded by Cllr. O'Neill and **RESOLVED – that the Parish Council, in accordance with s.144 of the Local Government Act 1972, 1) purchase 400 replacement bulbs for the band lights from Festive Lights costing £1,113.60 incl VAT; 2) purchase a fully lit and suitable for outdoor use, 3mtr high standalone reindeer (with red nose retrofit) from LITE costing £2,394 incl VAT; 1) & 2) be purchased before 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 to manage the underspend in Budget Heading No. 228 in this financial year – HPC39/19.**

- 8.3 K6 Ex Telephone Box. Proposed by Cllr. Hulse, seconded by Cllr. O'Neill and **RESOLVED – that the Parish Council, in accordance with expenditure under s.133 of the Local Government Act 1972, employ the services of Whittle Programmed Maintenance to paint K6 phone box in a green colour costing £495 net of VAT – HPC40/19.**
- 8.4 Request by Cllr. Randles. Proposed by Cllr. Randles, seconded by Cllr. O'Neill and **RESOLVED that the Environment Committee be tasked to consider replacing the daffodils that had been swept away by the recent trenchwork on the main road mainly between Plovers Lane and Helsby High School – HPC41/19.**
9. Burial Grant. Proposed by Cllr. Johnson, seconded by Cllr. Hulse and **RESOLVED – that the Parish Council, in accordance with s.214 of the LGA1972 and the Local Authorities Cemeteries Order of 1977, approve application for Exclusive Rights of Burial for a term of 75 year for Plot No. 6d North Pink in Helsby Public Cemetery, Old Chester Road received from Mr L D Sharkey of Warrington – HPC42/19.**
10. Councillor's surgery. Cllrs. Barry, Massey and MacPherson attended the recently held surgery on 2<sup>nd</sup> March and reported the following items discussed (full report can be obtained by contacting the Parish Clerk): -
- Resident from Latham Avenue – damage to grass verge caused by coaches using Hornsmill School. *Although the members advised the resident to contact the Headteacher, Cllr. Duffy reported that all coach companies had now been asked to use the Lay-By on the A56 for school use. Cllr. Duffy also reported that the resident had visited him and asked for grasscrete to be placed on verges to prevent vehicle damage. The verges belonged to CWaC and it was assumed, based on current knowledge, that they would not be in a position to pay for grasscrete. Residents could pay but Cllr. O'Neill reported that this had been investigated before and CWaC were not willing to encourage vehicles to park due to the weight on the underground services;*
  - Resident querying 'assisted purchase' bungalows. Resident advised to contact local Housing Association. *The housing opposite Helsby High had all been allocated by CWaC to persons on the Housing List and the scheme was being managed by Equity Housing.*

Lincoln Court Residents Association: -

- Concerns that bins weren't being emptied at the rear of Helsby Community Centre;
- Manhole covers loose at entrance to Community Centre Car Park – this had already been reported to CWaC;
- Helsby Cemetery looking shabby – time of year;
- Loxley Hall plans and Springfield development – some residents did not have internet access to view plans online. The Clerk will inform residents that they may view plans in the Parish Office if they so wish;
- News on PCSO imparted;
- Residents pleased with the new estate opposite Helsby High;  
Members asked attendees if they would prefer a change of venue for the monthly surgeries. All expressed contentment with the Committee Room because it was private and the parking was good – duly noted.

11. Cheshire West and Chester Council

11.1 Cllr. McKie was absent – no report.

11.2 Section 102 money for public art in Helsby - £49,243.60. Cllrs Ellams, Hulse and O'Neill will attend an information gathering session with the art people on 2<sup>nd</sup> April to discuss ideas and the next step – duly noted.

11.3 Town and Parish Council Conference attended by Cllrs. Hulse and O'Neill. Cllr. O'Neill had circulated the notes prior to the meeting (contact the Parish Clerk for copy). Briefly, more pressure would be coming from CWaC to Town/Parish Councils as CWaC had to make further cuts to its budget. Councils may be encouraged to amalgamate in order to provide local services. Helsby had already produced a Business Plan and was fully transparent. This could be an opportunity for ambitious councils to take on more.

11.4 Cheshire County Playing Fields Association. Cllrs. Hulse and O'Neill attended the final meeting as the association was being wound down and disbanded. The 'Les George' Award (the Parish Council had been the recipient of this award) would continue as part of the Community Pride Awards scheme – duly noted.

12. The Marshes Community Benefit Fund. Cllr. Ellams reported that the last round of funding applications had just closed. No further news – noted.

13. Frodsham Wind Farm. Cllr. Ellams attended the recent meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> March and reported the following: -

- Peel Environmental were carrying out work to Cell 6 (the only active deposit cell). They are investigating a process to extract sand from the canal and river deposits;
- Fly-tipping continues to be a problem. Looking at methods to prevent access;
- The Bat dogs are back on 19<sup>th</sup> March;
- Wind Farm continues to operate to its planning requirements. The only problems they have had are Down time due to excessive high wind and ice detection warning;
- Natural England have now agreed that efforts to remove New Zealand Pigmy Weed can be put in place after 18 months of discussion;
- Educational visits have taken place but Peel Wind Farms are happy to include local schools in educational visits to the Wind Farm;
- In total 7500 hrs have been lost due to wildlife restrictions 7390 were associated with Bat curtailment programme.

14. Helsby Community Association

14.1 The Accessibility Toilet refurbishment work was now nearing completion.

14.2 Pub signs. The misunderstanding had now been resolved thanks to a letter from the Association. The Parish Council would continue to investigate placing the pub signs in the foyer area of Helsby Community Centre.

14.3 The Agreement between Helsby Community Association and Helsby Parish Council expired on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2019. It was agreed to wait until after the local council elections to arrange a meeting to discuss the way forward.

14.4 Next meeting 27<sup>th</sup> March. Cllr. Holder was arranging substitute.

14.5 Parking. Cllr. Randles reported that the Parish Council would receive a letter from WI about non-users taking up car parking space.

15. Cycle North Cheshire. Cllr. Duffy had already circulated the minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> March that were duly noted. He also added that CNC would be bidding for the £25,000 'Bags of Help' Tesco fund. Sustrans obtain around £5m in government grants per annum and had shown interest in the opening up of Helsby to Mouldsworth Line as a project. Cllr. Hulse had received information that the cost of maintaining the bridges could prove prohibitive to the local authority becoming involved – duly noted.

16. Protos – Cllr. Temple's report as follows: -

- The Protos Community Benefit Fund meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> Feb approved applications from Elton Parish Council, Elton First Scouts and Ince Village Hall. Application from Cheshire Wildlife Trust to run weekly sessions of 'Nature Tots' was deferred. Taking into account existing commitments there was approx. £13-£15k remaining in the Protos CBF for 2019; Protos Community Forum meeting held 6<sup>th</sup> March – Cllr. Temple circulated a report, in her absence, re the following information: -
- The biomass plant completed 21 days of final testing before an issue occurred. That has now been fixed and if the facility passes a further 10 days testing, it will go into full operation around mid-March. Much of the stockpiled timber has been used but the biomass delay means ground preparation and building the timber recycling unit is also delayed. Peel have asked the operators of the timber and soil facilities to do more regular road-sweeping to deal with woodchip and dust issues. Soil continues to be exported and poorer-quality soil and construction materials imported in readiness for Phase 2 infrastructure work.
- The planning application by Progressive Energy from Biosubstitute Natural Gas is under review by CWaC. There were 2 community events in Elton at end January and there have also been articles in Cheshire Live, Wirral Globe etc.
- The British Geological Survey application is expected to go to CWaC Planning Committee in early Spring and the next Community Liaison Forum meeting will likely take place after the decision. Protos Community Forum members confirmed they wished to be invited.
- The Planning Inspectorate hearing is due 20<sup>th</sup> March to consider CWaCs refusal to remove the requirement for a railway line before the Energy from Waste facility is operational. Covanta have now received an Environment Agency permit for the plant.
- There is a potential use for Plot 10b to convert 25 tons per day of un-recyclable plastic into electricity and hydrogen. Details are currently confidential but Peel and the company involved are about to hold pre-application discussions with CWaC before submitting an application in April/May.
- Cheshire Wildlife Trust have been working informally on the ecological areas within the Protos site but a formal agreement will be set up in April.
- Next meeting of the Protos Community Benefit Fund is 19<sup>th</sup> June, with the Community Forum (and AGM which is open to the public) a week later on 26<sup>th</sup> June.

16.1 Encirc – Cllr. Johnson reported that Encirc (formerly Quinn Glass) are to increase vehicle movement by 50% as they are to start direct delivery to shops. This should be starting in April 2019 – duly noted.

17. Helsby Community Sports Club. Cllr. Randles reported that all the tenders for the new development of sports facilities had been received by Brookhouse on the 4<sup>th</sup> March – no further information as yet – duly noted.

18. Transport Matters – Cllr. Ellams gave a full report briefly as follows: -

- Liverpool John Lennon Airport. Air Space Transition. Cllr. Ellams had emailed the Options papers, detailing the proposed changes on the way aircraft are routed in our area. The deadline for comments is 22<sup>nd</sup> March. We may see more air traffic in the long term but it shouldn't affect Helsby;
- Route training continues on the Halton Curve expected opening 20<sup>th</sup> May 2019;
- It has been reported that penalty notices for non-payment of crossing tolls on the Mersey Gateway Bridge have reached £6m since it opened;
- Current Mersey Rail services on the Ellesmere Port line are subject to bus replacement services as the platforms are modified to accept the new class 777 fleet of trains due to start service 2020/21;
- Airbus has added their new Beluga XL to replace existing fleet;
- No update about creating more parking in the village. This is a major problem with no solutions.

19. Review of Helsby Neighbourhood Plan – the group are hoping to meet up again in April to discuss the next steps.

20. Cheshire Association of Local Councils – no matters reported.

21. Planning

21.1 The council's responses, to the following new planning applications, were duly noted

App No.	Address	Proposal	Comments
19/00439/FUL	Plot 1 Oakcliffe 134 Chester Road	Construction of a single dwelling with integral garage. Renewal of 14/05106/FUL	<b>No objections</b>
19/00532/FUL	5 Mountain View	Two storey side extension	<b>Concerns that the proposal will reduce car parking availability</b>
19/00558/FUL	3 Hawkstone Grove	Single storey side extn and garage conversion	<b>No objections</b>
19/00578/FUL	Rake Cottage Rake Lane	Demolition of existing porch and garage and erection of single storey and two storey extn including garden shed and replacement of existing cladding with new cement fibreboard lap boarding	<b>No objections</b>

21.2 The following decisions, received from the Planning authority, were duly noted: -

18/00375/FUL	14 Crescent Drive (replacement dwelling and double garage)	Approved
18/04567/FUL	39 Hillview Avenue (single storey rear extension)	Approved
18/04955/FUL	Loxley Hall Nursing Home (garden room & 4 x bedrooms)	Approved
19/00077/FUL	42 Parkfield Drive (demol of conserve & single storey rear extn)	Approved

Page 1619

Chairman's initial.....

21.3 Horse & Jockey site boundary treatment. Details for the boundary were submitted to CWaC and approved under 18/02830/DIS. Black railings to properties that front on and wooden waffle fencing to side on property to inhibit noise from the main road – duly noted.

## 22. Accounts

22.1 Bank Reconciliation. Cllr. Ellams inspected the NatWest figures against his mobile app and confirmed that they were correct. Proposed by Cllr. O'Neill, seconded by Cllr. Hulse and **RESOLVED – that the Bank Reconciliation Sheet detailing £178,237.15 held in balances as at 11<sup>th</sup> March 2019 be accepted as accurate and duly initialled by the Chairman HPC43/19.**

22.2 Payments. Proposed by Cllr. Duffy, seconded by Cllr. Hulse and **RESOLVED – that the following payments totalling £4,802.78, paid by either Direct Debit, Standing Order or under delegated authority, be approved and duly noted – HPC44/19:**

Method	To whom paid	Particulars of payment	Amount
DD	Scottish Power	Electricity – Helsby Community Centre	£97.00
DD	Water Plus	Wastewater – same	£29.58
Bacs	Ches Assoc of Local Councils	H & S Course fees – Cllr. Duffy & Clerk	£65.00
Bacs	Wirral Transport Users Asso	Membership renewal 2019	£8.00
Bacs	Defib Store Ltd	Signs for defibrillator phone boxes	£125.99
Bacs	KDE Limited	Installing defibrillators	£216.00
B Trans	Jeanette E Hughes	BT £139.30 Envelopes £4.80 Trav £9.90	£154.00
Bacs	Helsby Methodist Church	Hall hire 11 <sup>th</sup> Feb 19	£17.00
Bacs	BT Business billing	Broadband	£49.06
DD	NEST	Employer/employee contri Feb 2019	£541.66
Bacs	Employees 3x Part-time	February 2019 salaries	£1350.89
Bacs	HM Revenue & Customs	PAYE & NI on above salaries	£661.12
Bacs	Blue Arrow Traffic Manage	Helsby Christmas event	£1020.00
Bacs	Water Plus	Wastewater – Eccies 2019/20	£147.48
SO	Arndale Transport	March 2019 office rent	£320.00

## 23. Date of the next meetings: -

1<sup>st</sup> April – Finance Committee

8<sup>th</sup> April – Helsby Parish Council

18<sup>th</sup> April – Annual Parish Meeting of the Parish Electorate

29<sup>th</sup> April – Parks, Cemetery & Allotments Committee

24. Part B – exclusion of the press and public. Proposed by Cllr. MacPherson, 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 – HPC45/19.**

## PART B

25. Confidential Item. Lease of land in Helsby – changes to Lease Agreement. Duly noted.

The meeting closed at 7.59pm.

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

Page 1620

Minutes of the Helsby Parish Council meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2019