

Helsby Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at 7pm on Monday, 8th July 2019 in the Upper Hall of Helsby Methodist Church

Present: -

Cllr. Stuart Hulse – Chairman	Cllr. Sam Johnson Vice-Chairman	Cllr. Polly Barry
Cllr. Mallie Poulton	Cllr. Terry O’Neill	Cllr. Michelle Massey
Cllr. George Randles	Cllr. Alan Gardner	Cllr. Sarah Temple

In attendance: -

Mr R Eagle – Helsby resident

Chairman’s announcements: he and Cllr. Gardner attended the funeral of ex-councillor Miss Sylvia Crossley-Jones. Donations were taken for the RSPB. Ex-councillor Mr Frank Thomas was now out of hospital and the chairman will visit him at his home.

1. Public Air Time. Proposed by Cllr. Gardner, seconded by Cllr. Johnson and **RESOLVED – that the meeting be suspended for public participation – HPC109/19.** No matters were brought to the attention of the members. Proposed by Cllr. O’Neill, seconded by Cllr. Barry and **RESOLVED – that Public Air Time be closed and the meeting reconvened – HPC110/19.**
2. Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllrs. Duffy, Ellams, Holder, Kimpton, MacPherson and Porter.
3. Declarations of interest. Cllrs. Randles & O’Neill declared non-pecuniary interest in Item 16 as both were Executive Members of Helsby Community Sports Club.
4. Police Matters
4.1 PCSO Niall Dudley’s report as follows: -
 - **Speeding:** since the last meeting the TruCam had been used seven times within Helsby on Primrose Lane and Chester Road. There was a total of 59 drivers caught exceeding the limit. In Kingsley & Gowry it’s been used five times with a total of 55 drivers caught. Chester Villages once with 4 drivers caught and finally it’s been used three times in Frodsham with 71 drivers caught. Hopefully, over the months with continued use of the TruCam, PCSOs will see a decrease in drivers speeding within these stats.
 - **Youth Engagement:** attended Hornsmill Primary to advise older children about a variety of issues including anti-social behaviour, how to behave when out playing on their own, what to be wary of and respect. PCSOs have planned football engagement event on 18th August on the Parish Field. A great opportunity for the children to interact with the Police in a positive manner.
 - **Parking/grass verge Chester Road:** PCSO has been in contact with CWaC in regards to parking on the Chester Road/Queens Drive grass verge which the Parish Council brought to his attention. CWaC are in the process producing a letter that the PCSO will send to the residents who live opposite about not parking there. In the long-term CWaC are also looking at measures to prevent any parking on the grass verge at all with some form of barrier.

- **Nitrous Oxide:** It has been alleged by some residents that a minority of young people within the village have been using Nitrous Oxide, a gas inhaled usually through a balloon which can give somebody a positive, euphoric feeling. This gas can have major medical implications and has led to deaths. It is currently illegal to give away or sell but there is no current penalty for possession. PCSO will be looking for any evidence of this drug usage and speaking to young people about the consequences of taking the gas. *Cllr. Temple reported that Nitrous Oxide canisters had been found on the Methodist Church Car Park.*
- **Social Media:** PCSO can be followed on Facebook and Twitter. The Facebook account is Helsby Police and Twitter account is @HelsbyPol
- **Police surgery:** Helsby High School 16/07 12.00-13.00, 23/07 19.00-20.00, 02/08 18.00-19.00 and 09/08 10.00-11.00. Helsby Library 19/07 11.00-12.00, 06/08 11.00-12.00

4.2 TruCam. Confirmation received that, should Helsby's TruCam be irreparable or lost, Cheshire Constabulary can replace it with no cost to the Parish Council – duly noted.

4.3 PCC meeting with Parish & Town Council reps. Cllrs. O'Neill and Poulton kindly agreed to attend the next meeting arranged 6.30pm 6th August at Police HQ. Cllr. Hulse will be attending as Chairman of the Cheshire Association of Local Councils.

5. Minutes of the previous meeting. Proposed by Cllr. Temple, seconded by Cllr. Poulton and **RESOLVED – that the minutes of the Helsby Parish Council meeting held on 10th June 2019 be accepted as an accurate record and duly signed by the Chairman – HPC111/19.**

6. Matters arising from the previous meeting.

6.1 Proposal to place old Pub signs on brick bus shelters. The owner of the Horse & Jockey sign has expressed concern about vandalism and possible theft of signs being displayed at ground level. Cllr. Ellams (who procured the Robin Hood sign for the village) is willing to allow the sign to be exhibited outdoors. Cllr. Randles reported that a new bus shelter will be part of the development scheme meaning the brick shelter is destined for demolition. The sign can be unscrewed when that happens. Proposed by Cllr. Temple, seconded by Cllr. Barry and **RESOLVED – that the Parish Council, arrange to attach the Robin Hood Pub signs (subject to any permissions being obtained beforehand) to the brick-built bus shelter nearest to Helsby Community Sports Club – HPC112/19.** If the sign remains in tack and vandal free, we can then go back to the owner of the Horse & Jockey sign to ask if he would be prepared to reconsider.

6.2 Traveller Site – Towers Lane. The trial is taking place 8th-11th July 2019. CWaC officers have agreed to send us an update on the 12th when the trial has finished.

6.3 Defibrillators. KDE had sent the installation certificates. The Clerk and Mr Robotham now await training on the weekly testing of the equipment before the North West Ambulance Service will agree to their usage. Whittles (employed by the Parish Council to paint the red telephone box) will be in touch with the Clerk to arrange colour and start date.

7. Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 1st July 2019. Cllr. O'Neill presented the minutes that included the following information and recommendations: -

7.1 Cllr. O'Neill elected as Chairman.

7.2 Cllr. Temple elected as Vice-Chairman.

7.3 Grants and earmarked reserves table – updated and included with the Finance minutes.

- 7.4 Investment programme. Proposed by Cllr. O'Neill, seconded by Cllr. Temple and **RESOLVED – to remove Mr P Connor and to add Cllrs. Hulse and Temple to the Monmouthshire Bank mandate – HPC113/19.**
- 7.5 External audit 31/03/19 – sent to PKF.
- 7.6 Budget Analysis dated 1st July – included with the Finance Committee minutes.
- 7.7 Financial Statement. Proposed by Cllr. O'Neill, seconded by Cllr. Temple and **RESOLVED – to accept the Financial Statement dated 1st July showing £275,336.71 held in balances – HPC114/19.**
- 7.8 Facebook page – sub-group to arrange inaugural meeting.
- 7.9 Helsby Community Sports Club – update received from Cllr. Randles.
8. Burial Grant. Proposed by Cllr. Temple, seconded by Cllr. O'Neill and **RESOLVED – that the Parish Council grant, in accordance with s.214 of the Local Authorities Cemeteries Order of 1977, an application for the Exclusive Rights of Burial for a term of 75 years for Plot No. C8 Central in Helsby Public Cemetery, Old Chester Road received from Mrs H Mack of Hunters Court Helsby – HPC115/19.**
9. Councillor's surgery. Cllr. O'Neill reported the following from the recent surgery held on 6th July that he attended along with Cllrs. Randles and Barry: -
- Latham Avenue resident:**
- Traveller Site Towers Lane court case. Members would inform resident when the outcome was known.
- Lincoln Court Residents' Association:**
- Springfields – no progress reported;
 - Old Chester Road Bridge and ongoing road closure. Members advised the resident to contact CWaC Cllr. Bowers. Parish Council to write to Cholmondeley Estates and Highways regarding the road closure which has been two years this month;
 - Raised issue of cars from the garage, near Thrifty's, being parked on the Highway. Members explained that the Parish Council had tried to address this matter but had little success via the PCSO and CWaC Licencing Dept.
- Kings Drive resident:**
- Concerned about the continuing closure of Old Chester Road due to bridge work;
 - Troubled about RSK parking diesel vans and using access from their existing car park into Mountain View;
 - Anxious about all the new homes being built in Helsby and the Doctor's surgery being overrun.
- Proposed by Cllr. O'Neill, seconded by Cllr. Temple and **RESOLVED – to write to Cllr. Bowers, Cholmondeley Estates and Highway for update on Old Chester Road closure and progress with the replacement bridge – HPC116/19.** The Clerk will write separately but copy each in.
10. Cheshire West and Chester Council
- 10.1 Cllr. Bowers was not present nor had he sent in a report. Although the members appreciated that Cllr. Bowers was a new councillor in training, they expressed disappointment not to have received word from him and so it was proposed by Cllr. Temple, seconded by Cllr. Poulton and **RESOLVED – to write to CWaC Bowers saying that the members were disappointed that he had not attended the Parish Council meeting or sent in a report but hoped that this would improve in the future -**

- 10.2 Parking on Queens Drive Grass Verge. CWaC maintenance crew had asked the Parish Council for support to prevent people from parking as they could not cut the grass. There could be up to 8 vehicles parked owned by residents and shop staff. CWaC were concerned that the problem would be exacerbated when 'pay & display' parking commenced. PCSO and CWaC would write to residents asking them not to park and could, eventually, implement a barrier scheme. Cllrs. Hulse & O'Neill recently attended a forum where the Parking Manager for CWaC attended. He confirmed that PCSO and Parking Enforcement Officers did not have the powers to enforce obstruction. Cllr. Massey reported her experience in persuading residents not to park during Ho Ho Helsby Christmas event eventually having to enlist police help.
- 10.3 Media Release briefly, a report on station parking identifying that demand for commuter parking would increase by 245% Helsby and 205% Frodsham as a direct result of the re-opening of the Halton Curve (Chester to Liverpool Lime Street). CWaC had drawn up plans for a new decked car park at Frodsham Station that would provide about 56 additional spaces. Work would continue to identify additional capacity at other sites in Frodsham and Helsby to meet future demand. Cllr. Poulton reported that Frodsham CWaC councillors had arranged drop-in session for inform the public on how the changes will affect them and so it was proposed by Cllr. O'Neill, seconded by Cllr. Randles and **RESOLVED – to write to CWaC Cllr. Bowers with request that he organises 'drop-in' session(s) in Helsby to inform the public about the implementation of the new parking system and how it will affect them – HPC118/19.**
- 10.4 Local Plan (Part Two) Land Allocations and Detailed Policies – Inspector's Report. The Inspector had now sent her final report and schedule of main modifications to the Council. You can read these documents on their website: http://consult.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/portan/cwc_ldf.cw_lp_part_two/sub/ It was intended that a report would be taken to Council on 18th July in relation to adoption of the Local Plan (Part Two) Land Allocations and Detailed Policies.
- 10.5 CWaC has started a 6-week public consultation (open until 11th August) on proposals relating to changes to the Dog Warden Service across the Borough. The Council is proposing to operate a shift system including extending the service to include weekends, introduce free training courses on responsible dog ownership, legal requirements and dog welfare and more consistent approach to charging. The online survey can be found on their website: http://inside.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/get_involved/consultations/dog_warden_and_kennelling_service The Parish Council agreed to respond positively to the consultation.
- 10.6 Grass verges – the inner road verges were being left to grow and looked unsightly.
11. The Marshes Community Benefit Fund – no matters reported.
12. Frodsham Wind Farm – same.
13. Helsby Community Association – Cllr. Holder sent in a report as follows: -
- Membership. Proposed by Cllr. O'Neill, seconded by Cllr. Barry and **RESOLVED – that the Parish Council, in accordance with s.111 of the Local Government Act 1972, renew its annual membership with Helsby Community Association costing £12 – HPC119/19.**
 - New parking sign needed to stop non-user parking. The Clerk had written to Scouts who agreed to ask parents not to use the car park when dropping off and picking up;

- A sign 'No waste to be left in the kitchen' was required;
 - Secretary to investigate household rubbish being left in bins.
14. Cycle North Cheshire. The members noted the contents of the minutes of the previous meeting held on 12th June that had been circulated by Cllr. Duffy.
15. Protos – Cllr. Temple's report as follows: -
- Community Benefit Fund 12th June.**
- The panel approved applications from Hornsmill Primary School (£4,000 for audio-visual equipment) plus Thornton-le-Moors Parish Council and Elton Church Hall. Ongoing projects were progressing well;
 - There was roughly £6,000 (from the original £30,000) in the fund for the remainder of 2019. The next CBF meeting had been arranged for 18th September.
- Community Forum / AGM 19th June.**
- Protos' commitment to the Govt's new zero-carbon target (response: committed through participation in various local initiatives such as Cheshire Energy Hub, Cadent carbon capture project, North West Hydrogen Alliance)
 - Vehicular movements and access to the marshes (response: Protos has restrictions on number of movements. CWaC needs to develop a strategy for all organisations using roads within the area, including Encirc and CF Fertilisers. Local businesses are now party to CWaC discussions so there may be progress on this)
 - Contact details for immediate issues (response: website will be updated)

At the Community Forum meeting, Jane Gaston (Protos project manager) gave an update on:

- The biomass plant was now fully operational. There will be an official opening later this summer
- The timber recycling operator is addressing problems over road cleaning (raised by Peel) and complaints about dust migration (raised through Environment Agency)
- Now that the appeal for the railway link had been allowed, Peel was working with Covanta to close the deal for EfW facility. Construction, including Phase 2 infrastructure work was likely to start this summer
- The planning application by British Geological Survey for the Geoenergy Observatory was approved by CWaC Planning on 2nd July. Since then they had written to Helsby Parish Council and Helsby High School with a provisional date of 24th September for inaugural meeting of a formal Community Liaison Group. Proposed by Cllr. Temple, seconded by Cllr. Randles and **RESOVLED – that Cllr. Polly Barry be the Parish Council's representative on the UK Geoenergy Observatories Community Liaison Group – HPC120/19.**
- The planning application by Progressive Energy for a facility processing waste wood or RDF into Bio Substitute Natural Gas has been submitted to CWaC and is expected to be decided in early August. Although there is a squeeze on supply of waste wood (also used by the biomass facility), Protos have a commitment not to use virgin wood as an alternative.
- Waste2Tricity will shortly be submitting an application for a facility to convert unrecyclable plastic into electricity or hydrogen. The two public consultations held early June at Elton Comm Centre were well attended.

- Cheshire Wildlife Trust (who manage the Protos eco-areas) are organising local schoolchildren to be involved in naming and signage of the area in time for the official ceremony planned for September.
- Peel are continuing to support the CWaC/Warrington Local Industrial Strategy and the North West Industrial Cluster Project

Other topics included CWaC Cllr. Reps on the Forum (current list does not included Cllr. Bowers), road maintenance & drainage, quad bikes on the site, ways to improve communication with the public, issue of next newsletter and provision of data from the Helsby air-quality monitor.

16. Helsby Community Sports Club. Cllr. Randles reported that the club's solicitors were drawing up a draft lease for 99-year term with Helsby Parish Council – noted.

17. Miscellaneous Matters

17.1 Society of Local Council Clerks. The Clerk will be attending the next branch meeting on the morning of Wednesday, 17th July in Northwich. Cllr. Hulse explained that the Clerk's Society had split its membership in two. Professional improvement /training and the Clerk's Union – duly noted.

17.2 Allotments. Proposed by Cllr. Temple, seconded by Cllr. Randles and **RESOLVED – that the Parish Council enter into an Allotment Tenancy Agreement for Plot 8f Queens Drive Allotment Gardens, valid from 1st July 2019, with Cox family from Kings Drive – HPC121/19.**

18. Transport Matters. Cllr Ellams circulated a full report, via email, briefly as follows: -

- Since the recent reopening the Halton Curve was proving to be a popular route in to the centre of Liverpool. Passengers comments were very positive;
- Due to major engineering work at Acton Grange on the West Coast Mainline there will be severe disruption between Saturday 20th July and Sunday 4th August. Cllr. Ellams advised passengers to check www.nationalrail.co.uk before travelling so they know exactly what to expect.

19. Helsby Neighbourhood Plan Review – work in progress.

20. Cheshire Association of Local Councils (ChALC)

20.1 Chester & Vale Royal Area Meeting held 2nd July. Attended by Cllrs. Hulse, O'Neill and Poulton. Ken Prior CWaC Parking Services Manager gave an interesting overview of parking and enforcement practices. Cllr. O'Neill took the opportunity of saying Helsby Parish Council was displeased that its concerns and advice was ignored throughout the consultation period. The residents now had to cope with the consequences of a parking system that was heavy handed and unlikely to improve the limited level of commuter parking. Mrs Jackie Weaver (Chief Officer of ChALC) and Cllr. Hulse will be meeting with the Leader of CWaC Louise Gittins – duly noted.

20.2 Cheshire & Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP). Cllrs. Hulse, O'Neill and Poulton attended the recently held meeting. Cllr. O'Neill reported the following snippets:

- LEP setting out what it's doing for business & employment. Most productive but lower paid area in the country.
- Enthusiastic about apprentice training, sandwich courses & day release as an alternative to university courses;
- Looking at land adjacent to Thelwall Viaduct to create sustainable energy park;
- Parish & Town Council's not well represented on the Board. Cllr. Poulton suggested that LEP should be pressed to have ChALC membership;
- LEP Local Integrated Strategy was in the making although trailblazers Manchester and Midlands were ahead;
- In Cllr. O'Neill's opinion, shutting down coal-fired power stations was not conducive to swapping over to electrical cars (not enough electric stations to charge them up).
- Cllr. Temple commented that LEP needed to interact with other forums.

21. Planning

21.1 New planning application 19/02011/FUL Westwood, Alvanley Road for garage conversion and extension to create annex. Comments had already been sent saying that the Parish Council neither objected to or supported the proposal but sought safeguards to ensure it could not, in the future, be severed from the main dwelling and sold separately – duly noted.

21.2 The following decisions had been received and noted: -

19/00104/FUL 202 Chester Road (rear dorm extn & sgle storey front porch extn)

Approved

18/04894/FUL Ince Marshes (UK Geoenergy Observatory) Approved

22. Accounts

22.1 External Audit of the Council's accounts 2018/19 31st March 2019. AGAR Part 3 had been submitted to PKF Littlejohn. The notice for the Exercise of the Public's Right to inspect the accounts and ask questions was being displayed on the website and notice boards – duly noted.

22.2 Bank Reconciliation. Proposed by Cllr. O'Neill, seconded by Cllr. Johnson and **RESOLVED – that the Bank Reconciliation Sheet detailing £275,228.27 held in balances as at 8th July 2019 be accepted as accurate and initialled by the Chairman – HPC122/19.**

- 22.3 Payments. Proposed by Cllr. Randles, seconded by Cllr. Barry and **RESOLVED – that the following payments totalling £8,629.20, paid by either cheque, standing order, direct debit or under delegated authority, be approved and duly noted HPC123/19: -**

Method	To whom paid	Particulars of payment	Amount £
Bacs	Mr J Robotham	Fuel for mowers/paint for benches	38.07
B Trans	Mrs J Hughes	Trav expns N'wich £12.15 Paper £13.18	25.33
Bacs	Duttons Mower World	Repairs to mower	35.24
Bacs	Northwich Town Council	Grass cutting May 2019	705.60
Bacs	CoWest Services Limited	DDA Accessibility Toilet upgrade	3,544.48
Bacs	Northwich Town Council	Burial training – Parish Clerk	156.00
D/D	Scottish Power	Electricity - Helsby Community Centre	177.00
D/D	Water Plus	Water – same	30.53
Bacs	Helsby Methodist Church	Hall Hire 10 th June meeting	25.50
Bacs	Northwich Town Council	Install replacement section – bench	679.20
D/D	BT Business Bill	Broadband	55.54
D/D	NEST	Employee/er pension contri June 2019	548.08
Bacs	Employees 3xPart-Time	June 2019 salaries	1,488.46
Bacs	HM Revenue & Customs	PAYE & NI on above salaries	584.23
5074	Mr D Weaver	Bedding plants	84.00
SO	Arndale Transport Ltd	July 2019 office rent	320.00
D/D	BT Business Billing	Call charges – 3 months	131.94

23. Date of the next meetings – duly noted:

29th July 2019 Parks, Cemetery & Allotments Committee
 12th August 2019 Parish Council

The meeting closed at 8.08pm

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

