

Helsby Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at 7pm on 13th January 2020 in the Upper Hall of Helsby Methodist Church

Present:

Cllr. Peter Duffy – Chairman

Cllr. Polly Barry – Vice Chairman

Cllr. Chris Ellams

Cllr. Alan Gardner

Cllr. Mags Porter

Cllr. Patricia Holder

Cllr. Terry O'Neill

Cllr. Sarah Temple

Cllr. M Massey

In attendance:

Mrs Marj Thoburn – Helsby News

Lodge Hollow resident

Chairman's announcements: PCSO Niall Dudley had commenced training as a Police Officer with Cheshire Constabulary. The Chairman congratulated Niall on his new role. PCSO Lauren Davies had already taken over the role of PCSO for Helsby. It was with regret that the Chairman reported the death of Frank Thomas who had recently passed away. He was a long-serving member of the Parish Council and was well known for his work for Local Councils. Three members of the Parish Council had recently resigned. Stuart Hulse, Sam Johnson and Andy MacPherson were thanked for the support and the work they'd done for the Parish Council, ChALC & NALC. All three had served as Chairman during their years of service to the Parish Council. This was to be the Parish Clerk's last full meeting of the Parish Council after nearly 18 years of service. A vote of thanks was given.

1. Public Air Time. Proposed by Cllr. Ellams, seconded by Cllr. O'Neill and **RESOLVED – that the meeting be suspended for public participation – HPC01/20.** Resident from Lodge Hollow, also acting on behalf of their neighbours, expressed concern about the behaviour of some patrons of Beer Heroes (licensed premises operating out of the Helsby Station buildings). Although the premises were licenced, drinkers were using the forecourt. There was a burger van that also regularly used the forecourt and users of Beer Heroes and burger van were creating a nuisance with increased noise and litter and including inappropriate remarks, made by users, to a 15-year-old girl leaving the train who had to walk past them. Councillors voiced deep concern over the latter comment. The Lodge Hollow resident was advised to ring 101 re anti-social behaviour matters and to keep a diary to log the date and time of the other issues. The Parish Council would contact Licensing and Planning to report the information. Cllr. Ellams stressed the importance of keeping residents and children safe.

Mrs Thoburn asked the council's approval to increase the Helsby News print run from 2500 – 2750. This would be discussed later in the meeting.

Proposed by Cllr. Holder, seconded by Cllr. Barry and **RESOLVED – that Public Air Time be closed and the meeting reconvened – HPC02/20.**

2. Apologies for absence – received and accepted from Cllrs. Kimpton and Randles.
3. Declarations of Interest. Cllr. O'Neill declared non-pecuniary interest in Item 20 as he was an Executive Member of Helsby Community Sports Club.
 - 3.1 CWaC had granted permission for the Parish Council to fill South (x3) & North (x1) Ward vacancies by co-option – duly noted.

4. Police Matters

4.1 It was noted that Niall commenced Police Constable training with Cheshire Constabulary on 31st December 2019 and that his replacement was PCSO Lauren Davies who was an experienced PCSO who's recent post included PCSO for Handbridge in Chester.

4.2 PCSO Davies report as follows: -

- Speeding

Trucam deployed on Operation Kick. This was an operation organised by a number of PCSO's with regard to speeding and drink driving over the festive period. Chester road – 16 motorists speeding, highest speed of 40mph. All breathalysed and all gave negative readings. 1 Driver arrested for drug driving. Primrose Lane – 10 activations – highest speed 48 mph. Other deployments of Helsby Trucam between 13th Dec to 12th Jan. 5 deployments in Frodsham capturing 56 motorists, Chester villages 0 and Kingsley 2.

- Bike marking event at Helsby High on 11th January was so successful another event was being arranged

- Upcoming Surgeries: 14th Jan Library 10:00 – 11:00, 24th Jan Helsby High 12:00 – 13:00. More surgeries would follow when PCSO settled in.

4.3 Golf Balls hit off Helsby Hill. Cllr. Ellams reported that Sandringham Avenue residents had noticed yellow golf balls in their rear gardens. All reported to 101.

5. Minutes of the previous meetings. Proposed by Cllr. Gardner, seconded by Cllr. Ellams and **RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meetings held on 9th December 2019 and 6th January 2020 be accepted as accurate and duly signed by the Chairman – HPC03/20.**

6. Matters arising from the previous meeting

6.1 Closure of Old Chester Road for Bridge work. Cllr. O'Neill was disappointed to report that there wasn't any progress or information he could impart.

6.2 Parkfield Drive – erection of knee-high barrier scheme at cul-de-sac. CWaC had come back with a cost of £670 + VAT. Cllr. Bowers confirmed his willingness to fund the project through his discretionary fund (net of VAT). The Parish Council would place the fence on order and reclaim the amount from CWaC.

6.3 Moving and planting oak tree from Clerk's home to Parish Field – completed.

6.4 Rabbitdigital - Website Design. Cllr. Ellams confirmed that the Test Site was up and running. It looked clear and modern.

6.5 Public Art in Helsby. Progress would start up again when art expert became available.

6.6 It was noted that Cllrs Hulse, Johnson and MacPherson had resigned with immediate effect. Each would receive a letter of thanks from the Parish Council.

6.7 It was noted that Jeanette Hughes (Parish Clerk) had handed in her resignation to the Chairman on Tuesday 10th December giving 31st January 2020 as her last day of employment for Helsby Parish Council.

7. Minutes of the Health & Safety Committee meeting held on 16th December 2019. Cllr. Gardner presented the minutes the contents of which were duly noted.

8. Minutes of the Human Resources Committee meeting held on 16th December 2019. Cllr. Porter presented the minutes the contents of which were duly noted

9. Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 16th December 2019. Cllr. O'Neill

presented the minutes the contents of which were duly noted.

Page 1725

Chairman's initial.....

10. Minutes of the Parks, Cemetery & Allotments Committee meeting held on 16th December 2019. Cllr. Temple presented the minutes.
 - 10.1 Signs. Proposed by Cllr. Temple, seconded by Cllr. Barry and **RESOLVED – that the Parish Council, in accordance with s.8(l)(i) ss.A of LGA1894, employ Kestrel Image Makers to manufacture 4 x A4 signs and that said signs be erected at QD Allotment Gardens and Cemetery Gates showing postcodes for 999 emergency call – HPC04/20**

11. Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 6th January 2020. Cllr. O'Neill presented the minutes
 - 11.1 Precept Request. Proposed by Cllr. O'Neill, seconded by Cllr. Gardner and **RESOLVED – that the Parish Council issue a Parish Precept request to Cheshire West and Chester Council for £100,218 based on budget calculations for the ensuing fiscal year 2020-21 as now attached to the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 6th January 2020 along with justification of the precept request – HPC05/20.**
 - 11.2 Mobile Phone use. Proposed by Cllr. O'Neill, seconded by Cllr. Gardner and **RESOLVED – that the Parish Council, in accordance with expenditure under s.111 of LGA1972 pay the Parish Clerk (Jeanette Hughes) £97.50 (£7.50 per month from 1st Jan 19 to 31st Jan 20) for the use of her personal mobile phone for business purposes – HPC06/20.**

12. Burial Grant. Proposed by Cllr. Barry, seconded by Cllr. O'Neill and **RESOLVED – that the Parish Council, in accordance with s.214 of the Local Authorities Cemeteries Order of 1977, grant Exclusive Rights of Burial for a term of 75 years for Plot No. C.5 Central Area in Helsby Public Cemetery, Old Chester Road received from S Wilkinson, A Wilkinson, J Wilkinson and H Wilkinson of Helsby – HPC07/20.**

13. Councillor's Surgery. Cllrs. Duffy and Temple attended the recently held surgery on 4th Jan. One resident attended seeking information on Mr Thomas's funeral arrangements.

14. Cheshire West and Chester Council
 - 14.1 Cllr. Bowers was not able to attend.
 - 14.2 Parking in the village and around the station. Cllrs. Ellams, Porter and O'Neill would attend meeting with Highways staff to discuss the problem parking areas. The meeting would take place in Helsby date to be arranged.
 - 14.3 Maltby Triangle. Senior Localities Officer had confirmed that the Lease Agreement was ready for viewing by the CWaC Legal Team to grant permission (30-year term) to the Parish Council to take on responsibility for grounds maintenance.
 - 14.4 Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan Consultation – comment to be in before 13th February 2020. The Government's Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy 2017 had the ambition to make walking and cycling the natural choice for shorter journeys. CWaC has declared a climate emergency and wished to improve the cycling and walking routes across the borough to encourage residents to make more day to day short trips on cycle or on foot. Cllr. Duffy asked everyone to respond and offered to complete the consultation on behalf of the Parish Council. He asked Cllrs for comments by end January. Cllr. O'Neill was pleased to announce that there was a new cycling section at Helsby Community Sports Club which already had over 60 members.

- 14.5 Helsby Payphone on main road near junction with Plovers Lane (Chester to Warrington bound). BT had gone through consultation period as they wished to remove the BT phone box due to lack of use. Proposed by Cllr. Temple, seconded by Cllr. Barry and **RESOLVED – that the Parish Council adopt the BT Payphone near junction with Plovers Lane (with electrical supply still connected) for the purpose of installing a defibrillator subject to there being less than 12 calls made from said payphone in the last 12 months – HPC08/20.** If more than 12 calls had been made, the Parish Council believed that it would still be useful to the community and therefore should be retained by BT.
- 14.6 Helsby BT Payphone on main road near junction with Britannia Road used 82 times in the past 12 months. Proposed by Cllr. Temple, seconded by Cllr. Porter and **RESOLVED – that the Parish Council inform CWaC that it does not wish to adopt the BT Payphone near junction with Britannia as it was the considered opinion of the members that the phone was still a useful amenity to its residents – HPC09/20.**
- 14.7 Proposed conservation area – the Parish Council had already agreed funding. Mrs Lorimer was informing the residents that could be affected by the proposed conservation area – duly noted.
15. The Marshes Community Benefit Fund. Cllr. Ellams sent in an up-to-date list of all the recipients of the last round of grants which were duly noted. Cllr. Ellams was a volunteer guide on the ‘Danny’ Steamship Daniel Adamson. The volunteers were hoping to apply to the fund to create car park, picnic tables and facilities next to where the ship docks on the River Weaver. They would also apply to WREN funding (managers of Landfill Tax) – duly noted.
16. Frodsham Wind Farm. Cllr. Ellams was still awaiting to be informed of the next meeting date. Fly tipping was still a problem.
17. Helsby Community Association
- 17.1 Membership fees. Proposed by Cllr. Ellams, seconded by Cllr. Barry and **RESOLVED – that the Parish Council, in accordance with expenditure under s.143 of LGA1972, approved £12 annual membership fees for Helsby Community Association – HPC10/20.**
18. Cycle North Cheshire. Cllr. Duffy reported that the next meeting would take place on 14th January 2020 – duly noted.
19. Protos – no matters reported.
20. Helsby Community Sports Club
- 20.1 £100,000 grant to Helsby Community Sports Club. Cllr. O’Neill reported progress of constitution, action plans and membership fees. He did not have any information about the progress of the Agreement between the Club and Parish Council.
- 20.2 New cycle section had already attracted 68 members
21. VE Day Celebrations. Cllr. O’Neill gave a comprehensive list of planned attractions and progress which was duly noted. Some of the attractions would be held on the parish field.

22. Miscellaneous Matters

22.1 Renewal Parish Online mapping service. Cllr. Temple said that this was an invaluable tool when setting up the Neighbourhood Plan. Proposed by Cllr. Temple, seconded by Cllr. Ellams and **RESOLVED – that the Parish Council, in accordance with expenditure under s.111 of LGA 1972, renew its membership of Parish Online Mapping Service costing £96 incl VAT – HPC11/20.**

22.2 Helsby News. Proposed by Cllr. Duffy, seconded by Cllr. Porter and **RESOLVED – that the Parish Council, in accordance with expenditure under s.142 of LGA1972, increase the print run of the Helsby News by 250 to 2750 total – HPC12/20.**

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

- January saw the annual fare increase of up to 2.7% for train travellers.
- The familiar red logo and livery of Virgin Trains was no more as the Rail Regulator excluded Virgin Group from the bidding process. Italian firm Trenitalia and the First Group had taken over the West Coast franchise;
- Troubling times for Northern Trains and Trans Pennine Express cancelling services blaming staffing levels and rolling stock;
- Money saving tip. Save 50% on the price of a rail ticket to Preston by purchasing from Frodsham

24. Review of Helsby Neighbourhood Plan – work in progress.

25. Cheshire Association of Local Councils. Cllr. O'Neill reported that Philip Jackson was the Chairman and that he was Vice-Chairman. SILCA was revamping the Clerk's qualification and AGM motions update – duly noted.

26. Planning

26.1 The council's response to the following new planning applications were duly noted:

App No.	Address	Proposal	Comments
19/04401/FUL	25 Primrose Lane	Demolition of existing conservatory and erection of single storey rear extension	No objections
19/04508/FUL	80 Old Chester Road	Antenna mast and antenna	Awaiting ward comments
19/04572/FUL	Springfields Springfields Avenue	Erection of 11 dwellings	Same

26.2 The following decisions, received from planning, were duly noted: -

18/04352/FUL88 Robin Hood Ln (sgle & first storey side and rear extensions)	Approved
19/00710/FIL 8 Old Chester Rd (new 3 bed detached-amends to 12/03879/FUL)	Refused
19/03867/FUL9 Rockfield Drive (single storey side and rear extension)	Approved
19/04217/FUL 19 Bates Lane (single storey rear extension)	Approved
19/02384/FUL Ideal Gardens (Change of use of units to light industrial)	Approved

26.3 Planning meeting to be held at Cheshire View on 19th February 2020 – duly noted.

27. Accounts

27.1 Bank Reconciliation. As this was the Parish Clerk's last meeting as Responsible Finance Officer Cllrs. Duffy and Barry were asked to check the Cop-Operative and Monmouthshire statements. Both were correct and Cllrs. Duffy and Barry initialled the bank rec. Cllr Ellams checked the NatWest accounts against the app on his mobile phone and confirmed the figures as correct. Proposed by Cllr. Ellams, seconded by Cllr. Duffy and **RESOLVED – that the Bank Reconciliation Sheet detailing £248,349.11 held in balances as at 13th January 2020 be accepted as accurate – HPC13/20.**

27.2 Payments. Proposed by Cllr. O'Neill, seconded by Cllr. Ellams and **RESOLVED – that the following payments totalling £4,161.57 paid by either standing order, direct debit or under delegated authority, be approved and noted – HPC14/20 -**

Method	To whom paid	Particulars of payment	Amount
D/D	Scottish Power	Electricity – Helsby Community Centre	166.00
D/D	Water Plus	Wastewater – same	30.53
Bacs	Helsby Methodist Church	Hall hire 9 th & 16 th Dec 2019	42.50
B Trans	Jeanette Hughes	Team KnowHow renewal & tub	60.00
Bacs	Blue Arrow	Traffic management Ho Ho event	840.00
Bacs	Employees 3x Part-time	December 2019 salaries	713.46
Bacs	HM Revenue & Customs	PAYE & NI on above salaries	509.43
D/D	NEST	Employee/er pension contribution Dec	1,398.08
SO	Arndale Transport Limited	January 2020 office rent	320.00
Bacs	BT	Cloud phone 1 st – 30st Dec 2019	81.57

28. Dates of the next meetings. It was agreed to cancel the Parks, Cemetery & Allotments Committee on 20th Jan and the Human Resources Committee on 27th Jan until further notice – agreed.

10th February 2020 Parish Council

29. Part B – Exclusion of the Press and Public. It was agreed that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paras 7, 8, 9 and 12 of Schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1972.

PART B – Exclusion of the Press and Public

30. Confidential Items

30.1 Clerk recruitment. Agreed the pay rate SCP 24-28 and advert for the Parish Clerk role

30.2 Outgoing Clerk. Approved ex-gratia payment of a sum of money for changed salary from 1st Nov 19 – 31st Jan 20. *Expenditure in accordance with s.112-119 of LGA1972.*

30.3 Approved long service award of £100 for outgoing clerk. *Expenditure in accordance with s.112-119 LGA 1972.*

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

Page 1729

Minutes of the Helsby Parish Council meeting held on 13th January 2020.