



Helsby Parish Council

Minutes of the Environment Committee held at Helsby Community Centre at 7.45pm on Monday 5th July 2021

Present:

Cllr. Paul Standing - Chair
Cllr. Terry O'Neill
Cllr. Chris Ellams
Cllr. George Randles
Cllr. Peter Duffy

Also present:

Claire Jones, Parish Clerk

1. Public Air Time. **RESOLVED that the meeting be suspended for public participation – E6/21.** There being no matters brought to the members' attention, it was **RESOLVED that Public Air Time be closed and the meeting reconvened – E7/21.**
2. No apologies were received or accepted. Cllrs. Branigan and Gardner were absent from the meeting.
3. There were no declarations of interest.
4. Minutes of the previous meeting. **RESOLVED that the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 22nd February 2021 be accepted as accurate and duly signed by the Chairman – E8/21.**
5. Matters arising – Cllr. O'Neill asked if there had been any update in relation to finding a litter picking co-ordinator. The Clerk agreed to continue to seek a volunteer.
6. The Environment Committee budget for the year 2021/22 was discussed as follows:

Budget Heading Code	Description	Budget 2021/22 £	Budget Spend to Date £	Predicted To 31/03/22 £
218	Planters/Bedding Plants	400	45.39	400
219	Village clock	0	0	0
220	Maltby Triangle/A56 Land	500	433.50	500
223	Litter/dog/grit bins	400	0	400
224	Village Awards	200	0	0
225	Ho Ho Helsby Traffic M'ment	1050	0	1050

227	Bridge Lantern Lights	1000	129.22	1000
228	Christmas Illuminations	15500	0	15500
228a	Christmas Tree	3000	0	3000
229	Sherwood Court Land	1500	300	1500
230	Street Furniture/BT boxes	250	0	250
231	War Memorial	0	0	0

The following was also noted:

- Code 218 - invoice still outstanding for last year's bedding plants at around £400.
- Code 220 - invoices paid for tree work and soil conditioner.
- Code 223 - vandalised bin in play area to be replaced.
- Code 224 - decision not to hold again due to Covid.
- Code 228 - Meeting to be held with Ho Ho Helsby to discuss plans.
- Code 230 - potential project to install defib in newly purchased BT kiosk.

A short discussion was held about the plans for Christmas 2021. The Clerk agreed to send a plan of the Christmas light locations to the Chairman along with a breakdown of the budget from last year. It was also suggested that additional lights could be provided at the south end of the village and it was agreed to explore potential funding opportunities with Lane End.

7. Miscellaneous matters

7.1 'Helsby the Art of Here' public art project – Cllr. Ellams outlined that a number of meetings had been held with the creative producer, a local artist and a number of schools and community groups. It was noted that the first project was likely to involve the decoration of Lane End's hoarding with Horn's Mill Primary School.

7.2 Helsby Hill Conservation Area – It was reported that during the limited consultation that had been held, it was clear that the majority of residents in the area were not in favour of the proposal. In addition to the letter that had been circulated to residents over the 2020 Christmas period, residents had also been asked for their views via the HPC website and Helsby News. Cllr. Standing reported that 30 emails had been received in total, the vast majority from within the proposed area. He outlined that only 3 people had expressed support, of which two lived outside the proposed area. Committee members noted some of the negative comments that had been made and believed that any further consultation was likely to replicate what had already been received via email. It was noted that CW&C had intimated that the Council could stop the process at its current stage and shelve the work that had been completed, but it could be reconsidered again at a future date. It was therefore **RESOLVED to recommend to Full Council that the proposed Conservation Area project be stopped – E9/21** (Votes as follows: 3 councillors in favour, 2 against).

7.3 Cllr. Duffy agreed to seek more information from Cycle North Cheshire in relation to the Council making a potential funding contribution towards a feasibility study for a proposed cycleway between Helsby and Helsby High School.

- 7.4 It was noted that a wish list of infrastructure/services for any potential future developer contributions had been circulated.
- 7.5 It was noted that the new parish noticeboard project had been completed along with the repairs to the noticeboard at Sherwood Court. The Clerk agreed to source quotes for replacing the community noticeboard at the ginnel on Mountain View and for another similar noticeboard at a different location, such as the new sports club.
- 7.6 Committee members expressed their gratitude to Cllr. Bowers for his work in repainting the outdoor gym at Sherwood Court. It was noted that the two Welcome to Helsby signs would be re-painted by the general maintenance contractor shortly.
- 7.7 The results of the latest ROSPA report for Sherwood Court were noted. It was **RESOLVED to recommend to Full Council that the Clerk ordered the suggested replacement parts (2 caps and 3 handgrips) from suppliers, Caloo – E10/21**. The Clerk also agreed to source quotes to replace the surface of the table tennis table.
- 7.8 It was noted that Lane End Developments had requested to relocate 2 planters during the construction period of the new homes on Chester Road. Cllr. Standing reported that he had met with the site manager and the planters would only need to be moved by a few meters. It was noted that Lane End had agreed to replace them if they were damaged during transit. It was **RESOLVED to recommend to Full Council that the Clerk would contact Lane End to confirm agreement to move two planters – E11/21**. It was also noted that the location of all the planters had been mapped using Parish Online and agreed that the map would be put on the HPC website for information.
- 7.9 The Clerk presented a progress report on the proposed installation of a defibrillator in the BT kiosk opposite Bates Lane. It was agreed that further investigation should be made to install a unit from BT's recommended supplier, the Community Heartbeat Trust. It was also suggested that the opportunity for grants could be explored with the Council offering to match fund the project. The Clerk agreed to present a report to full Council in due course. It was agreed that the locations of the other defibs would be mapped on Parish Online and also included on the HPC website.
- 7.10 Cllrs. O'Neill, Standing and Duffy agreed to participate in a working group to explore ways to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. The Clerk agreed to compile a list of organisations that may have an interest in joining the group and to prepare an article for Helsby News to seek volunteers. It was suggested that an initial meeting could be held in September.
- 7.11 The Clerk and Cllr. Standing agreed to set up a meeting with Ho Ho Helsby representatives as soon as possible to discuss plans for Christmas 2021.

- 7.12 It was noted that correspondence had been received from the National Trust in relation to the upkeep of fences and gates at Helsby Hill. It was reported that some additional maintenance would be carried out over the summer and that a number of 'no cycling' notices would also be displayed.
 - 7.13 It was noted that Cllr. Standing had been in discussion with the Chairman of the Sandstone Ridge Trust in relation to the proposed Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) designation. It was noted that should Helsby be included within the proposed area, planning restrictions could be similar to those of a conservation area. Cllr. Standing reported that he had asked the Trust to keep the Clerk informed and the Committee agreed to keep a watching brief on the proposals.
 - 7.14 It was agreed that the Clerk would work with Cllr. Standing to continue to map the Council's assets on Parish Online and put these on the website in due course.
 - 7.15 It was agreed to keep a watching brief on the Local Energy Bill. Cllr. Standing outlined that the energy spend by residents in Helsby was £2.5 million per year and there could be opportunities through the proposed Bill to save some of these resources for local energy saving projects. Cllr. O'Neill reported that Helsby High School had received funding through CW&C to install an air source heat pump.
 - 7.16 It was agreed that CW&C's latest consultation on their Local Plan, 'Local Plan Conversation 2021', would be considered at the next meeting.
 - 7.17 It was agreed that the Council's dog and grit bins in the village would be mapped on Parish Online and that any maintenance requirements should be raised with the Clerk.
 - 7.18 It was agreed that the Clerk would set up a meeting with CW&C Highways to discuss the potential for a new pedestrian crossing in the vicinity of Loxley Hall Nursing and Residential Home.
- 8. Liaison committee and/or emission monitoring reports – no reports were received.
 - 9. Urgent matters – the poor level of maintenance being carried out in Helsby by CW&C was noted (e.g. grass cutting, strimming, drain clearance). Committee members were requested to send photos to the Clerk. Cllr. O'Neill suggested that he could then liaise with Cllr. Bowers and contact CW&C's Chief Executive in this respect.
 - 10. Date of next meeting – 23rd August 2021.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm

Chairman's signature Dated.....