



# Helsby Parish Council

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## Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held virtually at 6.15pm on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2020 via Zoom

### Present:

Cllr. Terry O'Neill – Chairman

Cllr. Chris Ellams – Vice Chairman

Cllr. Mike Branigan (joined the meeting at 6.26pm during item 5)

Cllr. Peter Duffy

### Also present:

Claire Jones Parish Clerk

1. Public Air Time – Proposed by Cllr. Ellams, seconded by Cllr. Duffy and **RESOLVED that the meeting be suspended for public participation – E10/20**. There being no matters brought to the Committee's attention, it was proposed by Cllr. Duffy, seconded by Cllr. Ellams and **RESOLVED that Public Air Time be closed and the meeting reconvened – E11/20**.
2. Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. Massey.
3. Declarations of disclosable interests. None were reported.
4. Minutes of the previous meeting. Proposed by Cllr. Duffy, seconded by Cllr. Ellams and **RESOLVED that the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> August 2020 be accepted as accurate. They would be signed by the Chairman at the earliest opportunity – E12/20**.
5. Matters arising from the previous minutes of 19<sup>th</sup> August 2020. Members reports were received as follows:
  - Public Art project – meeting to be held on 11 December to discuss next steps. It was noted that the grant application to the Arts Council had been successful.
  - Conservation area – it was outlined that a new officer from CW&C was involved in the project and a walk round of the area had been arranged on 16<sup>th</sup> December. Some information about the consultation was expected to go in the latest edition of Helsby News. It was reported that the maps of the area would also be updated before Christmas following the walk round.
  - Daffodils – it was noted that the planting had been completed.
  - Bus shelter cleaning – Cllr O'Neill suggested that they would still benefit from some attention.
  - Village clock – the Clerk outlined that she was trying to make contact with the Koraii Restaurant to arrange for a clock service during normal working hours. It

was confirmed that the Council had agreed not to continue with the annual servicing from 2021.

- It was noted that the Christmas tree was now on display and was of a good quality this year.
- Hedge trimming at Sherwood Court – disappointment was expressed that work had still not been undertaken. The Clerk outlined that the contractor, Ascent Arboriculture Ltd, had yet to sign the contract and submit a risk assessment for the work.
- Maltby Triangle lease – it was noted that a revised lease agreement had been signed with bin emptying now removed.
- Sherwood Court outdoor gym maintenance and Welcome to Helsby signage – it was outlined that this work would be undertaken once the weather had improved in the Spring.
- Litter picking – the clerk outlined that Colin Ashcroft had passed on details of the local Scout Leader. Clerk to contact in due course.
- Christmas lights – it was noted that the Council had not purchased any new lighting this year but Ho Ho Helsby had made a donation to the Council for various new lights. Cllr. Ellams reported that the tree lights at Station Avenue car park were not working. Clerk is liaising with AMR Technical and Northwich Town Council on a number of maintenance issues.
- New phone box – Clerk to explore opportunities for grant funding for a defibrillator.
- Noticeboards – the Clerk outlined that a report would be presented to Full Council on 14 December in relation to the purchase of new noticeboards.

6. Environment Committee budget 2021/22. Proposed by Cllr. Duffy, seconded by Cllr. Ellams and **RESOLVED that the Environment Committee recommend the following budgets for 2021/22 totalling £24,840 for the inspection and approval of the Finance Committee – E13/20.**

Budget Heading Code	Description	Budget 2020/21 £	Budget Spend to Date £	Predicted To 31/03/21 £	Budget recommended 2021/22 £
218	Planters/Bedding Plants	400	270	670	400
219	Village Clock	300	0	322	0
220	Maltby Triangle/A56 Land	1020	382	382	1040
223	Litter/dog/grit bins	400	0	200	400
224	Village Awards	200	0	0	200
225	Ho Ho Helsby Traffic M'ment	1100	0	0	1050
227	Bridge Lantern Lights	1000	393	720	1000
228	Christmas Illuminations	15500	5880	13352	15500
228a	Christmas Tree	3000	3390	3390	3000
229	Sherwood Court Land	2000	915	2175	2000
230	Street Furniture/BT boxes	250	0	250	250
231	War Memorial	1000	0	0	0

Footnotes:

- i) Code 218 – overspend due to purchase of daffodil bulbs.
- ii) Code 224 - Council resolved not to hold Village ‘Best Kept’ awards competition this year due to Covid.
- iii) Code 225 – not required in 2020/21 due to Covid.
- iv) Code 228 – Cllr. Ellams suggested the possibility of some string lighting from Station Avenue to District Garage next year.
- v) Code 228a – Cllr. Duffy suggested we look into the possibility of planting a permanent Christmas tree (Budget Code 228a). Clerk/Cllr. Duffy to explore for next year.
- vi) Code 231 – Cllr. Ellams suggested the Commonwealth War Graves in the cemetery might benefit from a clean. Clerk to raise with PCA Committee.

7. Miscellaneous matters

- 7.1 Maltby Triangle lease discussed under item 5.
- 7.2 Public art project – as above.
- 7.3 Conservation area – as above.
- 7.4 Gritting query – it was outlined that Mike Amesbury MP had written to the Council on behalf of a local resident who was keen to implement a winter gritting scheme. Cllr. O’Neill outlined that he had been in contact with the local resident and had explained the current gritting arrangements in the village (i.e. CW&C grit outside schools, local shopkeepers grit outside their premises). Cllr. O’Neill felt that the resident was content with these arrangements and the clerk had written to Mike Amesbury to set out that discussions had been held. Members felt that it would be difficult to find volunteers for the scheme, there were plenty of grit bins already in the village and that the terrain in Helsby made it impractical for any large-scale initiatives. It was agreed that members would consider the matter again in future should any practical solutions come to the Council’s attention.
- 7.5 Enviroo meeting – it was noted that a meeting had been held to discuss a new plastic recycling plant at the Protos facility. Cllr. O’Neill outlined that he had been invited to a virtual meeting about Less Common Metals (LCM) at Hooton Industrial Park in Ellesmere Port in February through ChALC.

8. No urgent matters were raised.

9. Date of next meeting – 22nd February 2021.

The meeting closed at 6.46pm

Chairman’s signature ..... Dated.....