



Helsby Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Helsby Parish Council held in the Upper Hall at Helsby Methodist Church at 7.00pm on Monday 10th January 2022

Present:

Cllr. Terry O'Neill – Chair

Cllr. Peter Duffy

Cllr. Mike Branigan

Cllr. Alan Gardner

Cllr. Chris Ellams

Cllr. Paul Standing

Cllr. Patricia Holder

Claire Jones, Parish Clerk

In attendance:

Cllr. Paul Bowers, Cheshire West and Chester Council

PCSO's Lauren Davies and Neil Flanagan (for Items 1-4)

Marj Thoburn representing Helsby News

3 members of the public

Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman asked members for feedback to be forwarded to himself or Cllr. Temple in advance of the Clerk's appraisal on 17 January.

1. Public Participation. It was **RESOLVED that the meeting be suspended for public participation – HPC01/22**. Two members of the public spoke to express their objections to planning application 21/04379/FUL (2 Rockfield Drive), particularly in relation to loss of privacy. It was noted that the Council had raised no objections to the application on the basis that it did not appear to contravene any policies in the Helsby Neighbourhood Plan. The residents were advised to contact the relevant planning officers at CW&C and Cllr. Bowers also agreed to liaise with the Planning Department. Questions were also raised about whether a meeting had taken place as yet with Onward Housing (the registered provider of the 20/00324/FUL Land at Cable Drive site) and whether monies had been allocated towards the provision of a Christmas tree in next year's budget. There being no other matters brought to the Council's attention, it was **RESOLVED that Public Air Time be closed and the meeting reconvened – HPC02/22**.
2. Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. Temple and Marsh.
3. Cllr. O'Neill declared a non-pecuniary interest in any matters relating to Helsby Community Sports Club (Item 20).
4. Policing Update – PCSO Davies was pleased to report that it had been a quiet Christmas and New Year period with no community related incidents to raise. It was noted that the community security events at Tesco had been successful and might be repeated again in the near future. It was outlined that a neighbourhood policing 'Week of Action' would take place

from 17 January following concerns raised through the Resident's Voice consultation mainly about speeding and parking issues. PCSO Davies was requested to provide any feedback to the Council on what questions might be relevant to ask in the HPC community survey planned in 2022/23. It was agreed that she would also circulate some more dates for ward walks.

5. It was **RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 13th December 2021 be accepted as accurate and duly signed by the Chairman – HPC03/22.**
6. Matters arising – It was noted under Item 7 that a supporting letter had now been received from Mike Amesbury MP in relation to the average speed camera pilot scheme and this had been forwarded to the relevant members at ChALC/PCC.
7. Cheshire West and Chester Council matters – Cllr. Bowers outlined that a decision on the hydrogen village had been postponed until the Spring. It was noted that 2,300 trees would be planted on non-productive private land in Helsby as part of an initiative with Mersey Forest. He reported that he would shortly be attending a meeting on 'Fulcrum NorthPoint', a proposed Sustainable Aviation Fuel facility at Stanlow. In relation to actions previously agreed at earlier meetings, Cllr. Bowers agreed to progress the Council's application to his Member's Budget Awards scheme for a replacement table tennis table and to start renovation work on the road sign at Britannia Gardens/Robin Hood Lane by early Spring.
8. Councillor Surgery report – it was noted that one member of the public had attended the latest surgery on 8 January with a query in relation to the traveller site on Towers Lane. Cllr. Bowers agreed to forward the information requested. To note: the next surgery to be held on 5 February at Helsby Community Sports Club between 10am and 11am (Cllrs. Marsh and Gardner).
9. Members noted the minutes of the Health & Safety Committee meeting held on 15th December 2021.
10. Members noted the minutes of the Human Resources Committee meeting held on 15th December 2021.
11. Cllr. Standing presented the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 15th December 2021. The following was agreed:
 - 11.1 It was **RESOLVED to accept a quote from AMR Technical of £424 plus VAT to replace the lantern lighting on the bridge adjacent to Tesco with LED lamps – HPC04/22;** and
 - 11.2 A report was presented on the potential to purchase a number of new community notice boards (quotes included) and to relocate the existing Council noticeboard. With the exception of the colour of the noticeboards being black (with gold lettering) rather than blue, the Committee's recommendations as set out in the report were approved. It was **RESOLVED to the relocate the existing HPC noticeboard to Helsby Community Sports Club, to remove and dispose of the existing community noticeboard in the ginnel off Chester Road and to purchase and install 3 new aluminium noticeboards in each parish ward at a cost of £2,760 plus installation/disposal costs from Northwich Town Council – HPC05/22.**

12. Members noted the minutes of the Parks, Cemetery and Allotments Committee meeting held on 15th December 2021.
13. Cllr. Duffy presented the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 4th January 2022. The following was agreed:
- 13.1 It was **RESOLVED to approve the review of grants and earmarked reserves for identified projects and general reserves as set out in Appendix 1 of the minutes – HPC06/22;**
- 13.2 It was **RESOLVED to approve the proposed Health and Safety, Human Resources, Environment and Parks, Cemetery and Allotments Committee budgets totalling £79,583 for the forthcoming fiscal year 2022/23 – HPC07/22;**
- 13.3 It was **RESOLVED to approve the Finance Committee budget totalling £54,290 for the forthcoming fiscal year 2022/23 as set out in Appendix 2 of the minutes – HPC08/22;**
- 13.4 It was **RESOLVED to issue a precept request to Cheshire West and Chester Council for £102,615 based on budget calculations for the forthcoming fiscal year 2022-23 – HPC09/22;** and
- 13.5 It was **RESOLVED to amend Section 3.3 of the Financial Regulations to increase the Clerk’s urgent expenditure limit from £150 to £500 – HPC10/22.**

14. Financial Matters

- 14.1 It was **RESOLVED that the bank reconciliation sheet detailing £246,200.13 held in balances as at 31 December be accepted as accurate – HPC11/22.**
- 14.2 It was **RESOLVED that the following payments totalling £10,420.13 paid by either standing order, direct debit, bank transfer, cheque or under delegated authority for December be approved and duly noted – HPC12/22.** The following receipts totalling £827.81 were also noted:

Payments

BT	Line rental	£76.74
NMC Printing	Helsby News printing	£586.00
Blue Arrow	Ho Ho Traffic Management	£1,020.00
Liverpool Doc Systems	Photocopier charges	£117.11
DTM Legal	HCSC office move legal work	£2,545.00
Angharad Williams	Helsby the Art of Here work	£469.50
Mark Storor	Helsby the Art of Here work	£719.46
Helsby Garden Serv	General Maintenance	£880.00
Northwich TC	Bin disposal	£147.00
Liverpool Doc Systems	Photocopier charges	£47.68
Earth Anchors	Play area - new bin	£643.20
Water Plus	Water - community centre	£29.46
Scottish Power	Electricity - community centre	£166.00
Eon	Bridge lighting	£100.66
NMC Printing	Helsby News printing	£586.00
HPC Staff	Salaries Dec 21	£1,544.79
HMRC	Tax and NI contributions Dec 21	£495.39
NEST	Pension contribution Dec 21	£246.14

Receipts

Blackwell's Stonecraft	Memorial stone fees	£100.00
Helsby Com. Assoc.	Electricity bill payment	£727.60
Natwest	Interest Dec 21	£0.21

15. Miscellaneous Matters

- 15.1 Cllr. Duffy outlined that he had drafted an update of Helsby's Community Resilience Plan. It was agreed that any proposed additional amendments should be forwarded to the Clerk as soon as possible and the revised document would then be put on the Council's website.
- 15.2 It was outlined that three more reply slips had been received in response to the correspondence sent out on the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. It was noted that the Council had yet to receive any offers from local organisations in relation to leading an organised community celebration. As no particular Councillor wished to lead a working group and given the current shortage of members on the Council and the high levels of time commitment involved, it was agreed that no further action would be taken apart from organising the beacon. Following correspondence received about the NACO (National Association of Civic Officers) initiative for civic leaders to plant a tree to mark the Jubilee on 11 March, it was **RESOLVED to contact NACO to express an interest in this initiative and to work with Cllr. Bowers to source a tree – HPC13/22.**
- 15.3 A report was discussed from Cllr. Marsh in relation to the inadequate postal service on the Copperbrook estate. It was **RESOLVED to write a letter to the Royal Mail to encourage further resources to be put into providing a daily postal service to this area as well as to all the other new housing estates being developed – HPC14/22.**
- 15.4 It was **RESOLVED to renew the Council's annual subscription to Parish Online at a cost of £108 – HPC15/22.**

16. Protos – no report was given.

17. Helsby the Art of Here – no report was given.

18. Helsby Community Association – it was noted that the next meeting would be held in 2 weeks' time. Cllr. Branigan agreed to forward electric meter readings to the Clerk.

19. Cycle North Cheshire – Cllr. Duffy agreed to circulate the minutes from the meeting held on 14th December shortly.

20. Helsby Community Sports Club – it was noted that several meetings would be held in January and a report would be given at the next meeting.

21. Cheshire Association of Local Councils – It was noted that Cllr. O'Neill had been re-elected as Chairman.

22. Transport and Wind Farm Matters – it was noted that applications to the windfarm fund would close on 23rd February and that a new Chairman had been appointed. It was also noted that a number of rail services had been cut or cancelled as a result of staff shortages

from Covid infections, including the Halton Curve service which had been reduced to a two-hourly bus service. Cllr. Standing presented information from 2 reports he had prepared on a recent meeting with Encirc and in regards to the Frodsham and Helsby health and wellbeing project. It was noted CW&C would be carrying out a survey on the aspirations of the local community in relation to the development of leisure, health and wellbeing and library services in the Frodsham and Helsby/A56 corridor.

23. Planning

23.1 The following planning applications were duly noted:

21/04610/FUL 23 Sandringham Avenue Helsby
2 storey rear extension with associated alterations
Awaiting comments

21/04656/FUL Osterley Robin Hood Lane Helsby
First floor extension and single storey rear extension to replace conservatory. Replacement front porch extension
Awaiting comments

23.2 No planning notifications were presented.

23.3 Application 20/00324/FUL Land at Cable Drive, Helsby – it was noted that a meeting with Onward Housing would be held once dates had been agreed.

23.4 Member reports – members noted correspondence from a local resident in relation to concerns about the high levels of expected disruption from the construction of a new dwelling on land adjoining Three Stumps on Old Chester Road (application 18/00103/FUL). It was agreed that the Clerk would liaise with Cllr. Temple to prepare a response.

24. The dates of the next Council meetings were noted as follows:

24 th January	Parks, Cemetery and Allotments Committee meeting
24 th January	Human Resources Committee meeting (moved from 25 th January)
7 th February	Full Council meeting (note <u>first</u> Monday of the month)

The Clerk agreed to check availability at the Community Centre for future Council meetings.

25. Part B – Exclusion of the Press and Public. It was **RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items 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 – HPC16/22.**

PART B – Exclusion of the Press and Public

26. Confidential item – the Part B minutes of the last meeting were approved.

The meeting closed at 8.03pm

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