



# Helsby Parish Council

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## Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held at 7.15pm in the Parish Office at Helsby Community Sports Club on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2022

### Present:

Cllr. Terry O'Neill (Chairman)

Cllr. Margaret Marsh

Cllr. Peter Duffy

Cllr. Mike Branigan

### Also present:

Claire Jones Parish Clerk

1. Public Participation – It was **RESOLVED that the meeting be suspended for public participation – E19/22**. There being no matters brought to the Committee's attention, it was **RESOLVED that Public Air Time be closed and the meeting reconvened – E20/22**.
2. Apologies were noted from Cllr. Ellams.
3. Declarations of Members' Interests. None were reported.
4. Confirmation of Previous Minutes. It was **RESOLVED that the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2022 be accepted as accurate and duly signed by the Chairman – E21/22**.
5. Clerk's Report. Under Item 7.5, it was noted that the Clerk had applied for a grant for a community defibrillator from the CW&C Members Budget's Awards Scheme and the telephone kiosk had now been cleaned by Cllr. Duffy. Cllr. Duffy reported that one of the Perspex panels could be re-used and would therefore not need to be replaced. Under Item 7.6, it was noted that M and Y Construction had yet to complete the work in and around the car park at Sherwood Court. Under Item 7.13, it was outlined that Cycle North Cheshire were seeking volunteers to help with the feasibility study for a cycle route through Helsby. It was noted that the Council was still receiving complaints about the volume of weeds and overgrown grass/vegetation around the village, most recently in relation to the area around Morton Avenue (Item 7.15).
6. The committee's budget for the year 2022/23 was discussed as follows:

| Budget Code | Description                 | Budget 2022/23<br>£ | Budget spent to date<br>£ | Predicted To<br>31/03/23<br>£ |
|-------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 218         | Planters/Bedding Plants     | 400                 | 190.40                    | 600                           |
| 219         | Village clock               | 300                 | 0                         | 0                             |
| 220         | Maltby Triangle/A56 Land    | 1000                | 0                         | 0                             |
| 223         | Litter/dog/grit bins        | 400                 | 204                       | 204                           |
| 224         | Village Awards              | 200                 | 0                         | 0                             |
| 225         | Ho Ho Helsby Traffic M'ment | 1050                | 0                         | 1050                          |
| 227         | Bridge Lantern Lights       | 1000                | 386.70                    | 1000                          |
| 228         | Christmas Illuminations     | 15500               | 681.12                    | 15500                         |
| 228a        | Christmas Tree              | 3000                | 0                         | 3000                          |
| 229         | Sherwood Court Land         | 1000                | 1563                      | 1563                          |
| 230         | Street Furniture/BT boxes   | 10000               | 3608.60                   | 6000                          |
| 231         | War Memorial                | 0                   | 0                         | 0                             |

The following was also noted:

- i) Code 218 - invoice outstanding for last year's bedding plants at around £400.
- ii) Code 225 – quotes to be sought this year.
- iii) Code 227 – bridge lights due to be replaced with LED bulbs in December. May be over budget by year end due to substantial rising energy costs.
- iv) Codes 228 and 228a – meeting arranged with Ho Ho Helsby to discuss plans for 2022. Quotes for work to be considered under confidential items. Some replacement/new lights and motifs to be purchased this year.
- v) Code 229 – An additional £10,000 set aside under earmarked reserves for any landscaping work.
- vi) Code 230 – predicted cost includes cost of defib in phone kiosk.

## 7. Miscellaneous Matters

- 7.1. Members considered a request to resume work on a proposed conservation area in Helsby. It was agreed that this request would be reconsidered at a later date once the Council had received responses from the community consultation exercise which included a question on support for a conservation area. Members also discussed correspondence from a local resident in relation to the designation of Tree Preservation Orders. It was agreed that the Clerk would draft a response.
- 7.2. Members considered a request to participate in Cheshire West and Chester Council's 'Cheshire Local List Project'. It was agreed to put this request to the next Full Council to see if there were any members who would like to participate.
- 7.3. Recent correspondence on 'Helsby the Art of Here' public art project was considered. Various options and outline timescales for a second phase of the project were noted. It was **RESOLVED to recommend to Full Council that Cllr. O'Neill and the Clerk meets with CW&C's Carmel Clapson to discuss the potential involvement of the artist, Martin Heron, in any future work (Prescot BICC sculptures) – E22/22**. The Clerk agreed to put the leaflet and sound composition on the Council's website.

- 7.4. Cllr Duffy outlined that he had been in contact with CW&C in relation to a potential knee rail fence on Denbigh Close. As there had been no support from CW&C Highways to take this forward, members agreed not to pursue the idea any further.
  - 7.5. Members noted that new community noticeboards had now been installed in the north and central wards and the Council's main noticeboard had been relocated to outside the sports club. It was outlined that there had been no response as yet from Tesco in relation to the Council's request for an electronic display board in the store.
  - 7.6. Village planters – the Clerk agreed to liaise with Marj Thoburn in relation to installing the four new planters outside the shops in the Autumn.
  - 7.7. Cllr. O'Neill agreed to work with the Clerk to take forward the Sherwood Court landscaping project. Following advice from Winsford Town Council about the application of a wood preserver to the pavilion, it was agreed to include any necessary restoration work to the structure as part of the specification.
  - 7.8. It was **RESOLVED to recommend to Full Council to purchase replacement bats and balls for the newly-refurbished table tennis table at Sherwood Court at a cost of £32.98 – E23/22**. It was agreed that the Clerk would liaise with Helsby Library staff in relation to taking a £5 deposit for the equipment.
  - 7.9. Christmas 2022 – it was noted that Cllr. O'Neill and the Clerk were due to meet Barry Townhill from CW&C to discuss the potential for new motifs and associated apparatus on 2 additional lamp posts on Chester Road. It was also outlined that they would be meeting with Ho Ho Helsby representatives in September. It was **RESOLVED to recommend to Full Council to apply to CW&C for a Section 50 licence to install this year's lights on the public highway at a cost of £153 – E24/22**.
  - 7.10. It was noted that Cllr. O'Neill had circulated a template for a Helsby Community Centre plant improvement life extension plan. Cllrs. Branigan and O'Neill agreed to work on a draft report to be presented at a future meeting.
  - 7.11. No member reports were received.
8. No liaison committee and/or emission monitoring reports were received.
  9. Urgent matters – As the bird nesting season had now passed, it was agreed to contact Hilldale Grounds Maintenance to commence work on the tree survey and hedge cutting. Members considered giving a donation to Sutton Weaver Parish Council for a wheelchair accessible swing in their parish. It was noted that if supported, a decision would need to be made formally but members agreed that they were not in favour of such a proposal.
  10. The date of next meeting was noted as Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022.
  11. Confidential Items – Exclusion of the Press and Public. It was **RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item 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 – E25/22**.

**CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS – Exclusion of the Press and Public**

12. Confidential item – Quotes were considered for the Christmas light installation and associated works contract. It was **RESOLVED to recommend to Full Council to appoint AMR Technical to carry out the Council’s Christmas light installation and associated works contract to 2025 subject to a review at the end of the first year – E26/22.**

13. Confidential item – Quotes were considered for the Christmas tree installation contract. It was **RESOLVED to recommend to Full Council to appoint Mega Electrical to carry out the Council’s Christmas tree installation contract to 2025 subject to a review at the end of the first year – E27/22.**

The meeting closed at 7.58pm

Chairman’s signature ..... Dated.....