



Helsby Parish Council

Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held at 7.00pm in the Parish Office at Helsby Community Sports Club on Monday 3rd July 2023

Present:

Cllr. Terry O'Neill (Chairman)

Cllr. Chris Ellams

Cllr. Rob Nicklin (from 7.15pm onwards)

Cllr. Graham Stothard (substitute member for Cllr. Peter Duffy)

Also present:

Claire Jones Parish Clerk

1. Public Participation – No matters were brought to the Committee's attention.
2. Apologies were noted from Cllrs. Branigan and Duffy.
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 20th February 2023 be accepted as accurate and duly signed by the Chairman – **E05/23**.
5. Clerk's Report. The following was noted:
 - Item 5 – the phone kiosk defibrillator was now operational and weekly checks were being carried out. Clerk to contact the Community Heartbeat Trust in relation to training;
 - Item 7.2 – the Christmas light tree wrap work had been completed and some quotes for new lighting displays would be brought to the next meeting for consideration;
 - Item 7.3 - the bunting needed to be reclaimed following the King's Coronation events;
 - Item 7.4 - Countrywide had now completed the tree work and the expenditure had been allocated under Cost Code 517 (CW&C Neighbourhood Pride grant);
 - Item 7.8 - the Clerk agreed to investigate the legalities with the car park at Sherwood Court although there had been little interest so far from residents; and
 - Item 9 - the outdoor gym had been serviced by Caloo. The Clerk presented some ideas for a viewpoint panel on Helsby Hill and agreed to contact the National Trust in the first instance to see if this would be permissible. It was suggested that Section 106 public arts monies could be eligible for the project.

6. The final budget spend for 2022/23 was noted. The Environment Committee budget for the year 2023/24 and the spend to date was noted as follows (all figures are exclusive of VAT and rounded to the nearest £1):

Budget Code	Description	Budget 2022/23 £	Budget spent 2022/23 £	Budget 2023/24 £	Budget spent to date £	Predicted To 31/03/24 £
218	Bedding Plants	400	505	500	114	1000
219	Village clock	300	0	0	0	0
220	Maltby Triangle	1000	0	200	0	200
222	Christmas tree	3000	2500	2700	0	2700
223	Litter/dog/grit bins	400	204	400	0	400
224	Village awards	200	0	200	0	0
225	Ho Ho Traffic M'ment	1050	1050	1100	0	1100
226	Average speed cameras	5000	0	5000	0	5000
227	Bridge lantern lights	1000	641	1000	128	700
228	Christmas Illuminations	15500	12069	15500	1825	15500
229	Sherwood Court land	1000	1303	500	538	538
230	Street furniture/BT boxes	10000	6076	6000	15	3000
231	War memorial	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL		38,850	24,348	33,100	2,620	30,138

The following was also noted:

- i) Budget Code 218 - to include monies owed from last year (£340) plus plants supplied this year as well as some additional plants due to new planters.
- ii) Budget Code 219 – monies allocated in case of any repairs needed.
- iii) Budget Code 220 – Cost for hedge work £30.
- iv) Budget Code 226 – allocated to average speed camera pilot project plus an additional £5,000 in earmarked reserves.
- v) Budget Code 228 – funds spent on tree wrap work. Some expenditure on new items expected this year.
- vi) Budget Code 229 – monies spent on RoSPA and Caloo safety inspections. £10,000 allocated in earmarked reserves for landscaping improvements. Could also vire money from Code 230.
- vii) Budget Code 230 – possible expenditure on new South Ward noticeboard (£840 plus installation), benches and planters.

7. Miscellaneous matters

7.1. Village Planters – a report was considered, and the following was **RESOLVED**:

- **To purchase an additional 4 black planters from Amberol in addition to the 6 planters approved at the last meeting (3 for use at Sherwood Court) at a total cost of £4,250.34 – E06/23.** It was agreed that £2,534 would be taken from Code Code 517 (Neighbourhood Pride Grant) and £1,716 would

be taken from Code Code 230 (Street Furniture/BT Phone Boxes). It was noted that quotes had already been sought from three companies in 2022 for the original six black planters and Amberol were chosen as the preferred bidder;

- **To replace 7 planters in various locations as set out in Appendix 1 of the report – E07/23;**
- **Any associated groundworks (including new flags, where necessary) and labour costs to be supplied by Helsby Garden Services under their existing general maintenance contract – E08/23;**
- **To remove 7 green planters from the council’s asset register and the Clerk to arrange for their disposal – E09/23; and**
- **To relocate planter 11 or 14 to the corner of Lower Robin Hood Lane and Chester Road – E10/23.** The Clerk agreed to check that CW&C would allow a planter in this location.

- 7.2. It was noted that the council had received several complaints in relation to weeds and overgrown grass/vegetation/hedges around the village. The Clerk outlined that the parish council did not have any legal powers to tackle this issue and it was only CW&C, as the local highway authority, who had the power to cut or fell vegetation that presented a danger to roads or footpaths (Highways Act 1980, s.154). The Clerk agreed to continue to report any problem areas via CW&C’s website.
- 7.3. Members noted NALC’s case study document on climate change. Cllr. O’Neill outlined that he would be attending a ChALC climate change conference on 4th July. It was agreed that members would liaise with Cllr. Copeman to develop potential ideas for bringing forward in Helsby.
- 7.4. It was **RESOLVED to purchase a new community noticeboard for South Ward at a cost of £840 plus VAT from the Parish Noticeboard Company plus installation costs – E11/23** (no other quotes were sought as the Parish Noticeboard Company supplied the other 2 community noticeboards in 2021/22 when quotes were sought). It was agreed that the board would be erected on the layby on Chester Road by Hornsmill School (subject to permission by CW&C). Cllr. Stothard also agreed to approach Tesco in relation to the council having a small area for notices on their in-store noticeboard. It was suggested that the next edition of Helsby News could include an article on the locations of each board.
- 7.5. It was noted that the Clerk and Cllr. O’Neill had prepared a specification for the Sherwood Court landscaping project. It was agreed that advice would be sought from specialist companies about the specific elements of the project before issuing the tender documents for quotation.
- 7.6. The contents of the latest RoSPA safety inspection held on 27th April 2023 for Sherwood Court were noted. The Clerk agreed to clarify the definition of ‘medium risk’ given that all the outdoor gym equipment had been identified as such.
- 7.7. Cllr. Nicklin agreed to meet with Ho Ho Helsby along with the Clerk to discuss plans for Christmas 2023. The Clerk agreed to arrange the meeting.
- 7.8. It was **RESOLVED to purchase an additional 25 lamppost poppies for Remembrance Day at a cost of £75 – E12/23.** The Clerk agreed to ask Helsby Garden Services to source a replacement stake for the wicker soldier.

- 7.9. It was **RESOLVED in principle to participate in the D-Day 80 commemorations by lighting the beacon on Helsby Hill on 6th June 2024 – E13/23**. The Clerk agreed to seek quotes from contractors to erect the beacon and to arrange for various repairs.
 - 7.10. It was agreed that Cllr. Ellams would continue to participate in CW&C's Local Listing project.
 - 7.11. Cllr. Ellams raised the possibility of securing remote access to the CCTV systems in Helsby Community Centre and the scout hut. It was outlined that this would require a wi-fi connection which could have significant costs. As an alternative, Cllr. Nicklin agreed to periodically check that the system was in operation in the scout hut and to check the operating procedures for the CCTV system at the community centre.
- 8. No relevant liaison committee and/or emission monitoring reports were noted.
 - 9. Urgent matters – no matters were raised.
 - 10. Date of next meeting – 26th September 2023 (changed from 18th September due to holidays).

The meeting closed at 8.30pm

Chairman's signature Dated.....