

MINUTES OF HUNTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting held on Monday 21st July 2008 at 7.30 p.m. in
Huntington Village Hall

Councillors present: In the Chair: Cllr. N. Dodd
Cllrs., R. Edwards, J. Moore, L. Turner, C. Walker, A. Wilcox, M.
Williams.

1. Apologies for Absence - Cllrs Buckler, D. McQuay,
D Moore

2. Public Speaking time

Anne Lancaster from Chester City Council who has taken over as Area Committee Manager attended to give a presentation on speed reducing measures. She brought an example of a Smiley Sid which also records speeds which can then be produced as graphs, pie charts etc. and they will send copies to police, CSO's etc for a record to be kept of speeding activity in each area. They can ask police to operate a speed gun if there is evidence of substantial speeding.

There is no cost for the Parish Council to lease it. If there are no local volunteers to operate it, the Council may be able to provide them but covert Sid has a waiting list to use.

Sgt Julia Bryant from Cheshire Police provided an update on police activity since the last meeting. There had been 11 occurrences, theft of lead from an temporarily unoccupied property, theft of garden furniture, theft of scrap. Operation nature has been launched with a PC & PCSO patrolling at night during summer holidays. It was raised that mini motorbikes, offroaders etc. are using footpaths and nature park paths. If anyone sees or hears them, they can be reported using the 0845 tel. No.

3. Declarations of interest

Cllr. Wilcox declared a personal interest on the Parish Website.
Cllr. Williams declared an interest on Item 8 Area &
Neighbourhood Working Consultation & the shadow Cheshire
West and Chester council.

4. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 16th June 2008 were agreed & signed.

5. Matters Arising

08/03/5/1 - The bollard erected by Highways on the verge adjacent to 140 Chester Road is not deterring vehicles from driving over the footpath to reach houses in 'Sergeant's Row'. Clerk has spoken to Highways who will come & inspect it.

Resolved: Clerk to contact Highways again to ask them to speak to Cllr. Buckler's wife (as a resident affected by the activity) when they come to inspect it, however nobody has complained about it recently - ongoing

08/03/05/3 - Photo required of 40mph illuminated warning to be taken as Cheshire Highways has advised that these signs are only available in 30mph zones. Clerk to write to Highways stating they do exist for 40mph zones and there is one in West Kirby.

Resolved: A portable speed sign to be requested from Highways, the criteria for using it and people willing to operate it. Clerk to come back with details at next meeting.

Illuminated warnings have been noted in other areas. Cllr Buckler will take a photo of one in Warrington & Cllr. Wilcox will take a photo of one at Walton Gardens. Anne Lancaster from the City Council will attend the July Parish Council to discuss Smiley Sids.

21/7/08 – Cllr. Wilcox produced a photo of the 40mph illuminated sign at Walton Gardens. Awaiting photo from Cllr. Buckler.

08/03/5/4 - Water leak – Caldley Valley Road/Gorse Way.

Clerk to contact Dee Valley Water letting them know the verge has not been reinstated properly.

Resolved: Clerk to contact Dee Valley Water Board to re-turf as the seeding has not taken.

21/7/08 - Reinstated satisfactorily - **Completed.**

08/03/14/01 - Application to Land Registry to take over High Bank, Chester Road.

Resolved: Clerk to write a formal letter to the Land Registry stating that we have been responsible for maintaining the land for over 10 years and now wish to register ownership.

16/06/08 - Clerk has received the form to register the land. Clerk to send off form.

21/07/08 – Incorrect form sent by Land Registry, new form received. Clerk to complete and send off.

08/04/16/1 Cllr. J. Moore asked whether United Utilities had ever replied to the Parish Council's request for the Parish Councillors to visit Huntington Waterworks.

Resolved: Clerk to write again to UU asking if they will arrange a visit for Parish Councillors.

16/06/08 - Clerk to write in response to UU's reply that general visitors are no longer allowed due to H&S regulations, saying that we're disappointed we can't visit but can someone attend the Parish Council to let us know what they do there.

21/07/08 – Clerk has written to UU - Awaiting reply.

08/04/16/4 e-mail received from residents of 81 Chester Road re pooling on drive since footpaths resurfaced.

Resolved: Clerk has contacted Highways – **completed**

08/06/05/1 - Clerk to write to planning dept asking why we haven't been informed permission has apparently been granted for the former Village News shop & can they do so in future -

21/7/08 – Planning Dept. contacted & permission received. Clerk has informed Planning there have been other instances of notifications not being sent. Planning Dept. informed the clerk they will inform the Parish Council in future – **completed**

08/06/07/2 - Dog bins – awaiting City Council to phone Cllr. Walker to let her know what the procedure is for acquiring them.

21/7/08 – The dog warden will supply & fit 2 bins. Cllr Walker recommended 4 possible sites and the Parish Council gave their order of preference which she will send to the dog warden - ongoing

08/05/15/3 - Manhole cover outside 168 Chester Road in the road damaged 01244 603 475.

Resolved: Raised as high priority.

21/7/08 - Cllr Williams spoke to highways & Welsh Water & it has now been fixed – **completed.**

08/07/5/1 – The new entrance gate to the children's play area on the Jubilee Field has been fitted – **completed**

6. Confirmation of Audit Papers

The statutory notice had been given for interested parties to request to see the Parish accounts. The Audit Form was therefore signed by the Chairman and the Clerk - **completed**

7. Risk Assessment

Cllr Wilcox produced a risk assessment for comments. The document was agreed as a working document and is to be submitted with the Interim Audit - **completed**

8. Area & Neighbourhood Working Consultation

Cllr Williams requested that personal views be submitted to the Council.

9. Request to use Jubilee Field

08/07/9/1 – As another team has requested permission to use the field, the clerk has contacted the Playing Fields Association for advice on usage, fees etc. - Awaiting Playing Fields Assoc to revert with advice.

10. Vice Chair Roles

08/06/7/6 – Communications – Cllr. Wilcox said there had been A new village history received from a former resident which is now on the website.

08/07/10/1 - Special Projects – Chalky White from ChALC will attend the September Meeting to deliver a presentation on Quality Status.

08/06/7/4 - Benches – Cllr. Turner has obtained pictures of benches from Chester City Council. Eastgate Street style bench was proposed & seconded. At the next meeting, Cllr Turner to provide quotes to supply & fit 2 Eastgate Street style benches on the village green - ongoing

08/06/07/3 - Village Green Christmas Lighting – Cllr. Buckler, although not present, had provided website addresses of suppliers together with suggestions. Next meeting Cllr Buckler to come back with firm plan & recommendations.

ACTION: Chairman to phone Cllr Buckler to discuss - ongoing

08/06/07/5 - Trees in verges – Cllr. Dodd has received advice & agreement from Highways on the proposed sites to plant trees also on species & maintenance. Quotes for supply & planting will now be obtained - ongoing

08/06/11/1 Cllr. Wilcox asked to see the correspondence from the Footpath Society which raised blockages on footpaths within the parish. Cllr. Dodd asked for a volunteer to check this out. Cllr. D. Moore said she would do this and the letter was passed to her.

21/07/08 – Cllr D Moore to check where electric fences cross footpaths & if it's related to the site of the new Huntington Hall farmhouse - ongoing

08/06/07/9 - Living mag – Cllr. Wilcox had spoken to the publishers who had offered 2 pages 4 times per year for £150 which could include the newsletter. Cllr. Dodd asked the meeting if they felt this was a good forum for the village news.

A vote was taken and it was unanimously decided not to use Living mag but to publish the newsletter as a village newsletter to be delivered by the councillors as previously.

Resolved: Cllr. Wilcox to write to them & say it was felt it was too wide a distribution area for parish mag but we would consider using it for other things we may want communicating.

Cllr. Buckler asked about using the Chronicle.

Resolved: Cllr. Wilcox to establish the contact for the Chronicle to publish items on the village news pages.

21/7/08 – Cllr Wilcox has contacted the Chronicle & will put items of village interest under the Huntington section -**completed**

11. City Council Minutes – none received.

12. Planning Matters

Applications:

App08/00534/ful – Signage Old Hall Country Club, Aldford Road - Appeal

APP08/01217/ful – New housing for sludge bed – United Utilities Huntington Works Parish comments to be made as follows: “As no site plan is provided & we are unable to gain access to the site, we are unable to comment on this application.”

Permissions Granted:

102 Chester Road – Hot food takeaway – The Parish Council has only just notified of permission granted in April

Refusals: None

13. Parish Award Scheme

08/06/12/1 - A Parish Award Scheme idea was put forward for parishioners who have tirelessly worked for the community over the years. Some councillors thought this was a good idea. The Chairman asked for thoughts and ideas for the next meeting i.e. what it is and how we do it, what sort of award may be given etc.

Resolved: Clerk to put on next agenda.

21/07/08 - It was decided that there should not be an annual award but maybe an end of year appreciation in exceptional circumstances on an ad hoc basis - **completed**

14. Accounts for Payment

- Fixing of new gate for children's play area in the Jubilee field
- Rich Bros - Cutting of Jubilee field

15. Highways & Lighting Issues

08/07/15/1 No. 9 Chester Road is derelict and there have been some complaints about the state of it. Planning Dept have been involved Cllr Williams is following up - ongoing

08/05/15/1 - Grass verge 79-81 Chester Road has been driven on and is in a bad condition.

Resolved: Clerk to send letter to Highways to reinstate the verge as we are concerned it could be a tripping hazard and to be done as a matter of urgency. Clerk has contacted Highways - ongoing

16. Correspondence

A Skills audit has been received from ChALC asking for any volunteers with the requisite skills. There were none from the councillors. The Clerk will inform ChALC.

17. Other Business

The Chair proposed that AOB be taken off the agenda in future. Some councillors disagreed with this idea. It was decided that any items should be mentioned at the beginning of the meeting so they can be put on as agenda items.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.55p.m.

The next meeting will take place on Monday 15th September 2008 at 7.30p.m.