

MINUTES OF HUNTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

20th June 2011 7.30 p.m. at Huntington Village Hall

PRESENT

Chairman Cllr. M. Williams

Cllr. J. Creswick

Cllr J. Creswick

Cllr. N. Dodd

Cllr. M. Kemp

Cllr. D. McQuay

Cllr. A. Wilcox

None Councillors

Public – 40

Clerk – Mrs. A. Wright

APOLOGIES

Cllr. J. Scargill – Illness.

Cllr. C. Walker – Work.

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None declared.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

PC Malone reported there had been 13 incidents since May 16th of which only one was a crime. She reported that today there had been a burglary of a dwelling where cars keys had been taken and the car stolen. Although these crimes are very rare residents should take precautions not to leave keys on show. During the period there had also been a number of complaints regarding parking on Butterbache Road at school dropping off and collection times, PCSO Browell had attended the school and spoken to parents. It was hoped a 'Park and Stride' scheme could be introduced where children are dropped off at an appropriate location and are supervised walking to school however a suitable location had not yet been identified.

It was reported a number of fixed penalty notices had also been issued on Chester Road for parking offences.

Cllr. Creswick reported youths taking drugs and a tent in the Caldly Valley Area. PC Malone confirmed that the police had been aware of the tent which they believe is being used by a rough sleeper but had been unable to find it.

A resident reported seeing a young lady in a distressed state in Caldly Valley, it was confirmed the Police were aware of this incident.

PC Malone was thanked for the report and attending the meeting.

It was agreed that item 9 – Proposed Chester Road Cycle Way, should be considered in Public Participation to allow members of the public to ask questions.

Mr. Paul Parry, CW&C Team Leader Highways Development Control explained plans for the proposed cycleway along Chester Road, Gorse Way and Caldly Valley Road and answered questions relating to highways and the development of the former Saughton Camp during which the following issues were raised:-

- The cycleway is part of the overall highways improvements being carried out by the developer and is to encourage more sustainable transport methods.
- Original plans had included a 3m wide cycle and footway which would have had a significant impact on verge widths however this plan had been revised and the paths were now 2.5m wide although this did vary in some locations.
- New Toucan crossing is to be installed between the water works and Butterbache Road to provide an improved crossing point particularly to the primary school. The location had been identified as the most likely place for people to cross, 'Desire Line'. The crossing will allow two to cross at the same time, cyclists and pedestrians and will have a censor to identify when the crossing was clear before the lights change.

- It was confirmed that no other crossings were to be implemented as there were no other clearly identifiable crossing points.
- Alterations to the Sainsbury's roundabout were to help ease congestion and are costing the developer approximately £3.5m.
- It was calculated at peak times 450 vehicles would access and exit the Saughton Camp site, those vehicles leaving the site would then filter down going in different directions.
- Caldley Valley Road has a vehicle capacity of 2400 vehicles an hour it is currently at around 1600.
- It was confirmed once the road works had been completed and signed off and the houses had been completed there will be no come back on the developer if the roads require further alterations.
- Traffic flows and road usage are calculated on a nationally recognised programme.
- There are no further applications for the former Saughton Camp at present and new application would be subjected to the normal planning application process which would require highways approval.
- CW&C do not have the authority to insist on a new access onto the A55 although the authority and local MP had taken part in hard negotiations with the Highways Agency to bring about this access. However the highways agency would not permit the access, due to the size of the development it is not regarded as being of regional importance. The cost of creating such a junction would be in excess of £100m which could have made the whole project unviable.
- Mr. Fowler (resident) highlighted concerns regarding the junction with Sedum Close and asked what the Council's threshold was for road deaths before actions are taken. It was confirmed that there is no such threshold within CW&C. It was also highlighted that there is no accidents recorded at his junction which meets required visibility standards.
- Concerns were raised regarding the likely impact of the new development on the Sandy Lane junction, it was confirmed CW&C had sought alterations to this junction but that had been refused by the planning inspector as the increase in traffic was not seen as significant enough.
- It was stated that an increase in traffic does not always result in a decrease in road safety.
- Concerns were raised regarding the width of pavements around the roundabout which appear to be very narrow and the fact that the traffic lights will speed up the traffic. In response it was confirmed all the pavements will be standard widths 1.8 to 2m and the design of the round about will force traffic to travel at appropriate speeds, it would be unlikely that the traffic lights would all be on green at once.
- The roundabout has always been one of the top two worst accidents spots in Cheshire, with around 19 or 20 serious accidents in a 3 year period compared to 5 or 6 which would be expected at a major junction over that period. The new design will greatly reduce the severity of accidents on the round about which currently tend to be side swipes which can cause severe injuries. Accidents on the new roundabout are likely to be rear end shunts.
- A question was asked regarding the capacity of the Rake and Pikel junction, it was confirmed this junction is suitable for the increased traffic.
- At present there is only 1 access road onto the development however detailed plans have indicated there will be 2 access roads.
- It was emphasised at this point the development has only got outline permission, full permission will be needed before construction of the houses can take place. This full application will included the detailed design and layout of the houses but will not change the number of houses to be built.
- Concerns were raised that the traffic surveys used were out of date particularly due to the permission granted to increase the size of Sainsbury's. It was confirmed this had all been taken into account.
- Queries were raised that the new round about design would increase its usage.
- Questions were raised regarding weight restrictions in the area.
- Residents asked how in the future they could object effectively to large scale planning applications. It was confirmed the only way is to object is on valid planning grounds.

- A large amount of concern was raised regarding the speed of traffic along Caldly Valley Road (30mph) and what traffic calming or crossings were to be introduced. It was confirmed no such measures were to be introduced.
- Cllr. McQuay asked why money was being spent on a cycleway along Gorse Way while there is already a cycleway running from Chester Road past the Post Office into the Caldly Valley. This new cycleway is to improve access from the new development.
- A concern was raised regarding an outstanding permission for houses on Hartwell's Garage, it was not known if this permission had now lapsed however it was felt that traffic resulting from this development would probably be of less impact than that resulting from the existing business.
- Concerns were raised regarding the noise of the road surfaces, this was something that residents would need to complain to the CW&C highways about if it is a concern, however it was noted there are little funds available for such work.
- A request was made that work on the cycle ways take place during the school holidays to minimise disruption, although it was noted it would only impact one side of the road.
- It was confirmed that the majority of the Parish Council's trees were not affected by the works those which were would be replanted by the developer and which do not survive will be replaced.
- A concern was raised regarding whether the new cycle ways would be marked out to separate cyclists and pedestrians.

Mr. Parry was thanked for his honesty and for answering questions.

The following actions were agreed resulting from the discussions:-

- The clerk would contact the CW&C Road Safety Team and start the process of looking at the speed of vehicles on Caldly Valley Road including speed gun training for members of the public.
- The clerk would contact Great Boughton Parish Council to ask for their support on this issue.
- A flyer would be distributed to homes in the Huntington Parish advertising a future CW&C Community Forum to look at these issues in more detail.

MINUTES

11/145 RESOLVED - That the Chairman signs the minutes of the Parish Council Meetings held on 16th May 2011 as a true and proper record.

SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

The following special responsibilities were agreed:-

- Communications including Facebook – Cllr Wilcox & Cllr Walker
- Planning – Cllr. Kemp
- Special Projects – Cllr. Dodd and Cllr. Williams
- Village Hall Committee – Cllr. Jacky Creswick
- Friends of Caldly Valley – Cllr. Jacky Creswick

HUNTINGTON POST OFFICE

The Chairman reported that Post Office was to be located within Walkers Nursery.

NOMINATION TO STANDARDS COMMITTEE

11/146 RESOLVED – That the council make the following nominations:-

- 1 – Pat Lott
- 2 – Peter Guildford
- 3 - Edward Lush

JUBILEE FIELD IMPROVEMENTS

The clerk reported she had arranged visits to Bishops Blue Coat School and the Scouts on Tuesday 28th June to discuss the draft plan for the Field.

The Council agreed it was generally happy with the plan and was happy for the clerk to continue to submit a bid for funding to WREN.

DISTRIBUTION

The following distribution routes for news letters and information were agreed:-

Blackthorn Close, Coltsfoot Close, Speedwell Close,	Cllr. Williams
Trefoil Close, Lucerne Close	Cllr. McQuay
Chester Road 1-51/ 2-98, Caldys Valley 2 houses	Cllr. Ferguson
Chester Road 53-91/, 100-174	Mr. J. Ackerley
Bluebell Close, Lupin Close, Sorrell Close, Willowherb Close, Orchid Close	Cllr. Scargill
Harebell Close, Butterbur Close, Celandine Close	Cllr. Dodd & Cllr. Jacky Creswick
Foxglove Close, Primrose Close, Columbine Close	Cllr. Wilcox
Campion Close, Mallow Close, Sedum Close	
Butterbache Road 103-185, 98-156, Riversmead, Meadow Lane	Cllr. John Creswick
Butterbache Road 1-101, 2-96, Woodlands Road, Bachfield Avenue	Cllr. Dodd & Cllr. Jacky Creswick
The Hills, Aldford Road/Sandy Lane, Cheshire's Way	Cllr. Kemp

CODE OF CONDUCT 12.2

The clerk explained that the Council had accepted item 12.2 of the model code of conduct on September 17th 2007 however the wording of the minutes had been judged too vague by ChALC in the Council's Quality Portfolio. The clerk read 12.2 of the model code of conduct which gives councillors with a prejudicial interest the same rights as a member of public allowing them to speak in public participation. However they would not be permitted to take part in the agenda item itself.

11/147 RESOLVED – That the council accept 12.2 of the model code of conduct.

ACCOUNTS

11/148 RESOLVED – That the council note the accounts as circulated including the payment to Digley Associates for the playing field annual inspection.

PAYMENTS

Cllr. Wilcox declared a prejudicial interest in the next item and left the room taking no part in the following discussion.

11/149 RESOLVED – That the council pay Cllr. Wilcox £50 for web updates as invoiced.

11/150 RESOLVED – That the council pay Elgra for printing of the annual report (amount to be confirmed approx £170).

11/151 RESOLVED – That the council pay J Parkes £120 to cut and clear High Bank and obtain prices to scarify and reseed High Bank with wild flower seeds.

PLANNING

The council noted the contents of page 25 of the planning register.

The meeting closed at 9.55

The NEXT meeting of the Parish Council is on Monday 18th July 2011

Signed

Dated

Ann Wright 17th May 2011