

MINUTES OF HUNTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Monday 18th January 2010 7.30 p.m. at Huntington Village Hall

PRESENT

Chairman – Mr. M. Williams

Mr. C. Buckler

Mr. N. Dodd

Mr. M. Kemp

Mr. J. Scargill

Mr. P Sheen

Mrs. C. Walker

Mr. A. Wilcox

None Councillors

PC Kieran Lavery, PCSO Matthew Browell

Public – 3

Clerk – Mrs. A. Wright

APOLOGIES

Mr. D. McQuay – Business

Mr. J. Moore - Unwell

None Councillors – CSW Rachel Bentham

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None declared.

PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION ON PARKING ENFORCEMENT METHODS

Helen Bailey, head of regulatory services at Cheshire West & Chester Council led a discussion on parking enforcement, during which the following points were raised:-

- She explained that all parking enforcement is done in conjunction with the police and highways department.
- It is the Highways department who put white and yellow lines on the highway resulting from traffic regulation orders. It is now up to CW&C to enforce these regulations – since their decriminalisation.
- It is the role of the police and PCSOs to take action against those who park dangerously or cause an obstruction; they are not responsible for ticketing on double yellow lines etc.
- The Police rarely take action over decriminalised matters.
- Vehicles parked on grass verges by double yellow lines can be prosecuted.
- Ms Bailey was questioned about the local byelaw which has been introduced on Queens Road, Vicars Cross to prevent parking on verges. She explained that byelaws are not part of the Traffic Management Act and therefore not covered by fixed penalties.
- The issue of parking taking place opposite the Hartwell's Nissan garage was raised – the amount of legal parking is now causing problems. One suggestion is the introduction of a marked bus stop where cars would not be permitted to park.
- Cllr. Williams stated he had arranged a meeting with Sarah Armstrong and representatives from the CW&C Planning and Highways departments on Chester Road to see what options are available to solve these problems.
- Ms. Bailey was asked how often civil enforcement officers' patrol the Huntington Area. Ms Bailey replied at present there are 7 civil enforcement officers covering the CW&C area however there is a large training programme now taking place so that Community Safety Wardens and other CW&C officers' can also issue parking tickets.

Cllr. Williams thanked Ms Bailey on behalf of the parish council for attending the meeting.

OPEN FORUM

PCSO Matthew Browell introduced himself and explained he would now be covering the Huntington area in addition to Upton. He explained that his main area of work is to reduce anti-social behaviour, to take action before this behaviour escalates. He is also happy to carry out visits to provide security advice and bike marking. He confirmed he will be carrying out a regular beat in the area including early evenings and visits to the Jubilee Field.

PC Lavery reported that there had been 20 incidents reported in the Huntington area since the 1st December. Two arrests had taken place following garage burglaries.

Concerns were raised regarding the number of accidents at Gorse Way at the junction of Caldly Valley Road.

PC Lavery also reported from the 1st February he will be replaced by PC Sally Malone.

Cllr. Williams thanked PC Lavery, on behalf of the Parish Council for all his help and hard work as Huntington's Police Constable.

Mr. P Hammond (resident) asked that the parish council request flashing speed limit signs on Aldford Road, like those that have been erected by Sainsbury's. He also requested a reduction in the 40mph speed limit to 30mph due to the number of accesses and egresses on the road.

Mr. Hammond asked that the minutes of the parish council be published on the council's website before the council's meetings and that the dates and times of the meetings also be advertised on the website.

Mr. Wynne Hughes (Hoole Hornets Football Team) asked the council to consider establishing a committee to manage the jubilee field.

Mr. J. Ackerley (resident) stated he had objected to the Saighton Camp development. He highlighted that Welsh Water had also strongly objected to the planning application on the grounds that it would overload the public sewerage system. He highlighted that there is already flooding near St. Lukes church.

It was confirmed that the appeal inquiry will take place on the 23rd March 2010 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Chester.

MINUTES

10/043 RESOLVED - That the Chairman signs the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16th November 2009.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Draft Boundary Committee recommendations.

Parking.

106 CONSULTATION

The clerk reported she had been awaiting details from Cheshire West & Chester graphics and printing department on possible layouts which had not be received therefore she would contact the company who print the parish council's newsletters to obtain layouts for consideration at the next meeting.

ACCOUNTS

10/044 RESOLVED – The council accepted the accounts as circulated on page 17 of the cash book.

PAYMENTS

10/045 RESOLVED – The council agreed the following payments:-

- Lengths man's duties for December 2009
- Clerk's Salary – paid by four weekly standing orders & reimbursements.

PRECEPT

10/046 RESOLVED – That the parish council precept remains unchanged at £13,400.00 and that the parish council earmark funding for the following projects:-

- Bus Shelter repair/replacement
- Benches
- Bollards for Village Green
- Tree planting
- Donations
- Planting (Bulbs & Flowers)

- Christmas lights
- Training

The clerk reported she was pursuing grants for the tree plantings and bus shelter repairs.

HIGH BANK

The clerk reported she had received no further information from the CW&C highways department on the ownership of High Bank.

The chairmen read a letter from Shelley Seeds who are carrying out the cultivation of High Bank describing work to be carried out over the next couple of months including planting of Lavatera-Barnsley, pruning of existing trees and shrubs during February. In March it is proposed to over-sow large areas of the bank with wild flowers to ensure a good display during the spring and summer. Further dot planting is to take place to cover any bald areas which emerge.

STREET ORDERLY DUTIES

The clerk reported that she had attended a meeting with the CW&C Health and safety manager regarding H&S issues relating to street orderlies. As a result the clerk had begun work on identifying the duties of the street orderly so as to assess the risks involved, as this was considered best practice even though the street orderly is not directly employed by the parish council (page 38 of the minutes book). This was still a work in progress as the councillors were invited to add any other duties which had been omitted. Also CW&C are also carrying out a review of street orderlies and their duties which will feed into this process. Cllr. Buckler is to assist the clerk in producing an adequate risk assessment which will also be discussed with the street orderly.

PLANNING

The clerk reported there had been no new planning applications received.

The council noted the observations as listed on page 10 of the Planning Register.

NOTICE BOARD

- 10/047 RESOLVED** – To accept the estimate to refurbish the existing notice board, including ventilation holes and means to display a ‘no ball games’ sign on the rear of the board. It was agreed if the cost of these repairs increased significantly beyond the estimate the parish council be informed.

PLAYING FIELD INSPECTION 2009

The clerk reported that the playing field inspection had been postponed due to the recent snow and had been rescheduled for Friday the 22nd January 2010.

THE GREEN CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Councillors reported that they had received positive feed back about the lights on The Green. It was hoped that there could be more community involvement with some sort of event being held when the lights are switched on as had happened in the past, including a competition to design a star to go in the Christmas tree.

- 10/048 RESOLVED** – to purchase additional ice white fairy lights strings to provide the maximum of 8 strings for each tree from Lights4Fun up to a value of £300. (To be purchased later in the year)

GAS PIPELINE MAINTENANCE

Cllr. Walker reported that she had agreed to meet with a representative of the maintenance team to look at where the replacement daffodil bulbs need to be planted, although these bulbs can not now be planted until Sept/Oct this year.

Complaints have been received about the continued state of the grass verges which now look like they have been ploughed. Also the replacement tarmac that has been laid is uneven. The council agreed as a matter of urgency a site meeting be arranged with the CW&C Highways department and the gas pipeline maintenance company to establish a written agreement listing what repairs are to be carried out as a result of this work.

CALDY VALLEY ROAD TREES

Cllr. Dodd had no additional information to report as he was awaiting a further meeting with the tree officer and highways officer.

DSA LETTER

The chairman read a letter received from the DSA head quarters in Newcastle Upon Tyne which stated they were not able to tell driving instructors not to use certain roads as they are public highways and they have no jurisdiction over this matter. It was agreed the clerk should devise a notice asking driving instructors to be more considerate in their choice of roads to practice manoeuvres which the council would ask the DSA on the former Saughton Camp to display.

DRAFT MINUTES

10/049 RESOLVED – That the parish council’s minutes be published on the parish council’s website once they have been checked by the chairman. These minutes will be published as being subject to approval with an explanation that they will be approved at the following meeting and are therefore subject to alteration.

HIGHWAYS MAINTENANCE QUESTIONNAIRE

10/050 RESOLVED – the parish council submit the completed questionnaire as circulated except for the amendment on question 4 stating cycleway maintenance should be a high priority. (minutes book pages 40 to 44)

QUOTATIONS

The parish council agreed that the clerk should seek quotations for the following work:-

- Cutting of grass on the Jubilee Field.
- Clearing of paths & cycleway gullies.
- Repair/replacement of the wooden bus shelter and public bench by St. Luke’s Church.

ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

It was reported that the majority of parish council’s included in the single member ward proposed by the electoral commission which included Huntington Parish Council had objected to the proposal supporting the continuation of a multi-member ward.

Cllr. Buckler asked for the Parish Council’s support in resolving the issue of parking on Chester Road near the Hartwell’s Nissan Garage. It was highlighted that this was not simply a highways or police matter but also a planning issue as Hartwell’s are in breach of their planning permission which included staff parking on site. The parking of Hartwell’s staff on Chester Road for long periods is having a huge impact on 8 or 9 houses restricting visibility when leaving their properties. At some times of the day Chester Road can be reduced to a single lane of traffic when large car transporters are delivering to the garage. This also raised questions about access for emergency vehicles using Chester Road. Possible solutions suggested was parking restrictions during set times or single yellow lines.

Cllr. Williams commented that he had arranged a meeting with Sarah Armstrong and representatives of the CW&C Highways and planning departments to find a solution to this issue.

The meeting closed ay 9.14pm

NEXT MEETING MONDAY 15th February 2010

Signed

Dated

Ann Wright 23rd January 2010.