

MINUTES OF HUNTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Monday 21st June 2010 7.30 p.m. at Huntington Village Hall

PRESENT

Chairman – Mr. M. Williams

Mr. C. Buckler

Mr. N. Dodd

Mr. J. Moore

Mr. P. Sheen

Mrs. C. Walker

None Councillors

Public – 13

Police – Sgt Bryant

Clerk – Mrs. A. Wright

APOLOGIES

Cllr. M. Kemp – Business/Travelling

Cllr. D. McQuay – Business

Cllr. J. Scargill – Business

Cllr. A. Wilcox – Personal

None Councillors – Community Safety Wardens

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None declared.

OPEN FORUM

Sgt Bryant reported the crime figures for the last month were slightly above those predicted with three crimes being reported (predicted 2), however it was recognised that crime levels in the area are extremely low. There has been three incidents of anti-social behaviour (2 noise related, 1 motorcycle), there had been 2 thefts and 2 commercial burglary. The Police would welcome any information residents have on any of these crimes.

There has also been a number of road related incidents largely on the A55 by-pass.

A resident raised the issue of vehicles parking on the Meadow Lane/Chester Road junction limiting visibility – Sgt Bryant is to pass this information onto PCSO Browell to monitor the situation.

It was also reported that following the first England World Cup game there was a number of youths shouting and screaming around Huntington including in the area of Primrose and Foxglove Closes.

Sgt Bryant urged the public to report anti-social behaviour while it is happening so that the police can take action. She also stated the importance of reporting such behaviour as anti-social behaviour can lead to more serious crimes.

Anti-social behaviour should be reported to the Cheshire Constabulary Winsford Control Room on:-

0845 458 00 00

Residents reported flooding throughout the area during the heavy rain shower on May 9th including on Chester Road and by the Brook behind Celandine Close.

It was reported that the primary school's hawthorn hedge on Butterbache Road was overgrown and obstructing the pavement. Cllr. Buckler agreed to resolve this matter as Chair of Governors at the school.

Concerns were raised regarding the amount of fireworks being let off at the Red House after 10:30pm, more than once a month.

The problem of litter was highlighted by residents along Butterbache Road (near the primary school) and around Huntington in general. Cllr. Buckler agreed to raise this matter with the school. It was also suggested the issue of litter should be included in the next parish newsletter, this was agreed by the council.

Residents questioned the state of Chester Road verges – the chairman reported this matter was being monitored and would be reported in the main meeting. It was also confirmed that replacement bulbs were to be planted along Chester Road during the planting season (autumn). A question was raised regarding new road signs appearing around Huntington. It was reported these signs had been requested by the Parish Council to replace ones in poor condition above twelve months ago and that the CW&C Highways department were now installing the new signs.

Complaints were made about branches overhanging the pavements along Caldly Valley Road – this is to be reported by the clerk to CW&C Highways dept in addition to the condition of the trees at the Gorse Way Caldly Valley junction.

It was agreed due to the absence of Andy James CW&C Green Space Ranger the council would consider agenda item 15 next.

CHESTER ROAD & HIGHWAYS ISSUES

It was reported that a number of councillors and the clerk had met with representatives from CW&C highways department and Balfour Beatty who had carried out the gas pipeline works and that it had been agreed to verges would be reinstated and that the Parish Council will continue to monitor the situation.

The clerk reported the proposals to restrict parking on Chester Road and letters had been distributed to residents of Chester Road explaining this by the Parish Council. A query was raised as to why the parking restrictions did go all the way to the shops as it was felt parking would just move along the road beyond the restrictions. It was agreed the clerk would forward this concern to CW&C Highways department. Residents were also urged to make their own observations to the highways department, who would also be attending the council's next meeting on Monday 19th July 2010.

The clerk reported that during the site visit on Chester Road with representatives of CW&C Highways department the issue of cars obstructing the pavement on Chester Road from Soldiers/Sergeants Way it had been suggested that the pavement should be swept by a mechanical sweeper to make the pavement more clearly defined, this has now been done. It had also been agreed by CW&C that they would carry out a search to establish who owns this land. A number of residents on Soldiers Row expressed an interest in obtaining the land and establishing direct access onto Chester Road. It was agreed this topic would be included on the July agenda when highways representatives would be able to answer queries raised.

The clerk reported CW&C highways had raised road safety concerns about putting planters on the road verges. It was agreed the clerk should continue to pursue this matter.

The clerk also reported she had received an e-mail regarding the number of Ducks being killed on the road near the Sandy Lane Play area this issue had been forwarded to the police and highways department.

She had also received an e-mail regarding the lack of visibility when exiting Sedum Close and turning right towards Chester Road, these concerns have been forwarded to the Highways Department who are to inspect the junction.

The clerk reported that following a site visit on Chester Road and being approached by residents whose gardens had been flooded she had written to Welsh Water asking that the matter be investigated. It was agreed the clerk should arrange a meeting with Welsh Water to look at this matter in more detail and also identify which drains they are responsible for.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A request had been received about who owns the land between St Luke's Church and Chester Road, where the bus shelter is located. It was agreed the clerk would look into this matter.

MINUTES

10/080 RESOLVED - That the Chairman signs the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 17th May 2010 as a true and proper record.

ACCOUNTS

10/081 RESOLVED – The council accepted the accounts as circulated on page 34 of the cash book.

PAYMENTS

10/082 RESOLVED – The following payments were agreed by the council:-

- Lengths man's duties for May 2010
- Cllr. Wilcox web filter
- RR Book-Keeping Services for Payroll administration for 2009-2010

10/083 RESOLVED – That the council joins Cheshire County Playing Field Association.

GRANT APPLICATION

10/084 RESOLVED – That the council donates £400 to Huntington Village Hall.

PLANNING

The council accepted the observations of the planning register page 16.

The chairman highlighted the Saughton Camp Liaison group meeting which is being held on Thursday 8th July at Huntington Primary School from 6:30pm.

106 CONSULTATION

The clerk reported she had received 80 completed questionnaires and that more detailed results would be produced soon, as questionnaires were still coming in. Most indicated a preference to develop the Jubilee Field although there was support for some form of play area on Gorse Way. The Bishops Blue Coat School had made some suggestions to alter the questionnaire which they would be happy to circulate, and had invited a representative of the council to come and speak to pupils who live in Huntington. Huntington Primary school had also made some suggestions to alter the questionnaire and had invited a representative to attend the school to discuss this topic with the school council. It was agreed Cllr. Williams will visit the schools.

JUBILEE FIELD

It was reported a site meeting had taken place before this meeting at the Jubilee Field. A complaint had been received regarding chicken wire in the South East corner of the field, it had been established this was to prevent rabbits entering a neighbours garden from the field.

Issues were also raised regarding the drainage of the field and clearing of the ditches.

It was also reported that people are still walking dogs on the field despite notices warning against this, particularly in the mornings around 7:30am. It was agreed the clerk would contact the Community Safety Wardens and CW&C Dog wardens about this matter and ask that they monitor the situation.

It was also reported the Community Safety Wardens had reversed their vehicle into the gate post at the entrance off the lane.

An issue had been raised by the company who cut the playing field grass that on one occasion they had had difficulty accessing the field due to cars parked in the car park and that youths at the field had refused to move. The clerk had asked if this problem reoccurred to let her know and when the grass is due to be cut the car park gate will not be unlocked in the morning.

OPEN SPACES

Cllr. Kemp made a request for a notice board near Cheshires Way, it was agreed this would be put onto the September agenda for consideration.

The clerk reported it had been requested that a skip be obtained for a day to fill with cleared vegetation from High Bank. It was agreed that the clerk could spend up to £200 in booking a skip however she should also investigate other methods of getting the rubbish removed and circulate the outcome to all councillors.

PATHS BY CALDY VALLEY NATURE PARK

It was reported that the Parish Council had received a letter complaining about the state of the paths near Caldý Valley Nature Park. The clerk had forwarded this complaint to Ken Hill, Friends of Caldý

Valley Nature Park and Andy James, CW&C Green Space Ranger who had identified the area was not part of the Nature Park. It was understood the areas were to be cleared, however it was reported at the meeting that this had not happened. The clerk is to pursue this issue.

GRANT AGREEMENT

10/085 RESOLVED – That the chairman and vice chairman should sign the agreement if the parish council's insurance company agreed to the amendments made by CW&C who the agreement is with for street orderly funding.

CHRISTMAS EVENT

The clerk circulated notes of the first Christmas working group meeting (page 79 of the minutes book) which had been held on Friday 18th June. It had been agreed that the clerk should contact groups and organisations to see if they would like to be involved in the event to be held on The Green when the Christmas lights would be switched on and also businesses to see if they would like to be involved and possibly help fund the event. It had also been agreed that a hymn/carol sheet would be provided, but that music was not necessary and that a Father Christmas should attend and hand out sweets/fruit to children. The Chairman reported the Rake and Pikel had agreed to provide mince pies at their premises and that a Father Christmas had agreed to attend the event.

STREET CLEANSING

The clerk reported that the Street Cleansing Company had been asked to clean a number of zones, including all the small alley ways between Gorse Way and Chester Road and through to Butterbache, the small area of pavement from Chester Road to Meadow Lane and along Caldly Valley Road. CW&C NEAT team are to clear the footpath by the Post Office to the Nature Park and that clearing of Chester Road had been delayed until the verges had been reinstated and CW&C had done the pavement clearing they had promised. The clerk will confirm this work is to go ahead once the contractors insurance and risk assessment have been received and approved.

TREE PLANTING

Cllr. Dodd reported he had produced a schedule of works for the Tree planting and including a map. It was agreed the clerk should try to obtain three quotes for the work.

DSA CENTRE

No further information to report, but will be included on the July agenda.

ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

None to discuss.

10/086 RESOLVED – That the meeting go into private session to consider the next agenda item.

REFURBISHMENT OF BUS SHELTER (St. Lukes)

A proposal was made to refurbish the shelter including the installation of a glazed window by Cllr. Sheen the proposal was not seconded.

10/087 RESOLVED – That the bus shelter be refurbished as is, by Well Farm Estate Joinery Ltd

The meeting closed ay 8.55pm

**The NEXT meeting of the Parish Council is on
Monday 19th July from 7:30pm**

Signed

Dated

Ann Wright 23rd June 2010.