

MINUTES OF HUNTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Monday 15th March 2010 7.30 p.m. at Huntington Village Hall

PRESENT

Chairman – Mr. M. Williams

Mr. C. Buckler

Mr. N. Dodd

Mr. M. Kemp (late)

Mr. J. Scargill

Mr. P. Sheen

Mrs. C. Walker

Mr. A. Wilcox

None Councillors

Public – 5

Community Safety Wardens (CSW) Rachel Bentham & Hannah William

Clerk – Mrs. A. Wright

APOLOGIES

Cllr. D. McQuay – Business

Cllr. M. Kemp – Business – running late

None Councillors – PC Sally Malone & PCSO Matthew Browell

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Cllr. Buckler declared a personal interest on Item 6 – Parking Enforcement - as a resident of effected stretch of Chester Road.

Cllr.s Buckler & Walker declared a personal interests on Item 7 – Chester Road Speed Limit – as residents of Chester Road.

Cllr. Wilcox declared a personal interest on Item 14 – Planning – Application 10/10323/FUL, 29 Primrose Close – as he lives opposite the property in question.

OPEN FORUM

CSW Bentham reported that it had been quiet since Christmas, there had been occasional complaints about parking on Chester Road and football being played on The Green. Concerns were raised about the likely increase in anti-social behaviour as the weather improves and the nights get lighter and how this would be tackled by the police & wardens. The wardens stressed the need for the public to keep them informed where and when anti-social behaviour is taking place e.g. Jubilee Field and Caldly Valley.

A resident raised the issue of cars parking on the pavement on Chester Road forming and obstruction – the clerk will inform the police of this matter.

Mr. Partington reported that work was progressing on High Bank, Chester Road with a large amount of planting taking place. Weeding large areas was not possible as this was likely to lead to soil erosion.

The chairman read the report sent by PC Malone which stated there had been no anti-social behaviour in the area. There had been two minor road accidents on Aldford Road due to severe weather conditions. There had also been a white van driving around collecting plain and unmarked charity bags which have been put out for collection. This was a legitimate company which has not committed any offences. However, PC Malone suggested that if you put charity bags out on your door step and want them to be collected by a particular charity, ie Air Ambulance then you clearly mark these bags with the name of the charity so that these are collected by that charity only.

The clerk reminded councillors about the Grand Opening of the improvements to the Caldly Valley Nature Park on the 23rd April 2010 from 2:00pm, which will include St. George's day sketches by both Brought Heath and Huntington Primary Schools.

It was reported that Mrs. Cresswick and Cllr. Buckler had now collected and planted 25 free trees on the Jubilee Field ,it was hoped they would thrive and fill out the hedges where they have been planted. The Parish Council thanked Mrs Cresswick for her hard work and agreed to send a letter of thanks.

MINUTES

10/055 RESOLVED - That the Chairman signs the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 15th February 2010 as a true and proper record.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Arrangements for the Saighton Camp appeal to be discussed under Item 22.

PARKING ENFORCEMENT

Since the site meeting reported at the February meeting CW&C Highways officers have produced a proposal (page 62 of the Minutes Book) to restrict parking on Chester Road during business hours in the vicinity of Hartwell's Garage.

10/056 RESOLVED (unanimous) – That Huntington Parish Council supports this proposal and welcomes actions which will help reduce parking issues on Chester Road.

CHESTER ROAD SPEED LIMIT

The council considered proposals to reduce the speed limit to 30mph on Chester Road from the Rake and Pikel extending to the existing 30 mph limit as recommended in the A & B Road Speed Limit review. The clerk emphasized that at present these were recommendations only and that it would not be simply a matter of formality that all these measure would be put in place

10/057 RESOLVED – That the parish council should write to the CW&C highways department supporting this proposal and asking that it be moved forward.

106 CONSULTATION

The Clerk circulated the minutes of the working group meeting held 1st March 2010 plus the latest copy of the questionnaire (pages 63-65 of the minutes book). The chairman announced that three prizes have been donated by local businesses, a meal for two from Spicy.Com, a meal for two at the Rake & Pikel and a free MOT from Sandy Lane Garage. Winners will be drawn from all those who have completed the questionnaire and have agreed to be included in the prize draw.

10/058 RESOLVED – That 1200 colour copies of the questionnaire are ordered.

10/059 RESOLVED – That the clerk pays the first invoice from the Royal Mail Group for the mail response service.

ACCOUNTS

10/060 RESOLVED – The council accepted the accounts as circulated on pages 21-23 of the cash book.

PAYMENTS

10/061 RESOLVED – The council agreed the following payments:-

- Lengths man's duties for February 2010
- Clerk's Salary – paid by four weekly standing orders & reimbursements.
- Mrs Cresswick – travel expenses incurred for collecting the free trees which have been planted on the Jubilee Field.

HIGH BANK & OPEN SPACES

Complaints were made regarding the condition of the footpath by the Post Office where work has taken place on the sub-station damaging the verge and covering the dog waste bin in mud; also the barriers which have been removed to allow vehicle access have not replaced. The clerk is to report this matter to Manweb/Scottish Power.

It was agreed that Cllrs. Walker, Dodd & Williams and the clerk would meet at High Bank with Mr. Partington to discuss progress being made.

10/062 RESOLVED - that the clerk should purchase a new wheel barrow for the lengths man.

JUBILEE FIELD

It was reported that the Jubilee Field working group had met earlier that evening (page 66 of the Minutes book) and had agreed that it would consider issues relating to the whole of the field including the play area. The group asked the that Parish Council to provide funding up to £200 for the purchase of 1 tonne of sand to aid drainage around the goal areas, plus some top soil and grass seeds.

10/063 RESOLVED – the council agreed this expenditure (max £200).

The group had also suggested the creation/marketing of an additional five-a-side pitch which could be used as an alternative to the existing pitch which was supported by the Parish Council.

Finally the Hoole Hornets requested permission to host a junior 6-a-side tournament on the field in June/July which it intended to call the Huntington Parish Cup. The parish council agreed to this request.

The matter of some of the old safety surface mats still being present on the field was raised and it was agreed that the clerk should try to arrange to move these mats with Cllr. Buckler.

STREET ORDERLY CLEANSING

The clerk reported that the Parish Council had funding remaining in the 2009/2010 grant provided by CW&C to carry out street cleansing. As a result it had been proposed that the clerk should obtain quotes to carryout a one of large-scale clean of the parish in addition to the regular lengths mans duties. A quote would be considered under Item 26 of the agenda in the Part 2.

PLANNING

- 10/064 RESOLVED** – that the council make the observations to the planning applications received:-
- Application 10/10323/FUL – 29 Primrose Close – Single Storey front extension with pitched roof over existing garage - Judge on Merits
 - Application 09/12094/ADV – London Hair & Beauty – Illuminated fascia sign - that the signage lighting should be switched off between the hours of 9 pm and 8am.
 - Application 10/10364/FUL – 11 Sorrell Close – First Floor extension to side & single storey extensions to front & rear - Judge on Merits

GAS PIPELINE MAINTENANCE

The clerk reported no date had been received for the 'walk-off' meeting.

It was reported that a large number of the verges had now been raked, levelled and reseeded. However vehicles had been parking and driving on these newly reseeded verges causing a large amount of damage. It was agreed that a letter be circulated to all residents of Chester Road asking they and visitors to their properties should not walk, park or drive on these verges. The clerk was also to request some form a signage or barriers top prevent this happening.

The council agreed that it would seek detailed commitment from those carrying out the work that all bulbs would be replaced and an assurance that any of the trees that die as a result of this work will be replaced.

CALDY VALLEY ROAD TREES

Following the discussions at the February meeting Cllr. Dodd reported that the tree officer at CW&C had agreed to the planting of red and white Hawthorns. Work will now progress on obtaining funding and quotes.

DSA LETTER

The clerk reported a letter had been sent to Huntington Primary school seeking their view on the impact learner drivers are having on the area. No response had been received to date.

NEWSLETTER

The clerk circulated a draft copy of a newsletter on which a number of amendments were suggested. It was agreed that the council will produce quarterly newsletters in line with Quality status criteria, the summer edition will include the Annual Report. It was also agreed that a future edition will include a response slip taking advantage of the mail response service allowing residents to make comments for the council to consider.

PARISH ASSEMBLY

The clerk reported that to date the following groups had agreed to attend the Parish Assembly and would be setting up tables/displays where they could meet residents informally and talk about what they do:-

- Hoole Hornets Football Team
- Huntington Seniors
- Huntington Village Hall Committee
- Friends of Caldly Valley (will be showing a DVD)

- Community Safety Wardens

The WI and Scouts had also been very positive and were due say if they would be attending later in the week. There would also be two presentations one from CW&C highways department on the proposed parking restrictions on Chester Road and also one by the Chairman, Cllr. Williams launching the questionnaire and consultation on spending the open spaces/106 money. The meeting on Monday 19th April will start at 7pm although the Hall is available from 6:30 for setting up. The clerk is working on posters to advertise the event to be displayed as soon as possible.

COUNCILLOR CONTACT DETAIL

The clerk circulated a draft poster to be displayed in the notice board including councillor's photographs and their e-mail address. Arrangements are to be made to obtain photographs of Cllr.s Kemp, Scargill and Sheen before the poster can be produced and displayed.

DATA PROTECTION ACT

The clerk reported she had received an e-mail from the CW&C legal services indicating that Huntington Parish Council did not need to register with the Information Commissioners Office as exemptions include advertising, marketing and public relations in connection with parish council business. It was agreed the clerk would forward this information by e-mail to all councillors to consider.

ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

The Chairman reported on matters relating to the Saughton Camp Inquiry which will be taking place at the Crowne Plaza in Chester from 23rd March 2010.

10/065 RESOLVED (unanimous) - It was agreed that the council should go into a private session for the following agenda items as they included commercially sensitive information.

PART 2 (in absence of Press and Public)

To consider tenders received for the grass cutting of the Playing Field & Green.

10/065 RESOLVED – That Rich Brothers be awarded the contract for cutting the grass on the Jubilee Field (not including play area) for the year 2010 – 2011.

10/066 RESOLVED – That Shelley Seeds be awarded the contract for cutting the grass in the Jubilee Field Play Area and The Green.

To consider tenders to refurbish/replace St Luke's Bus Shelter.

It was agreed that the clerk should investigate putting a window into the bus shelter side so buses could be seen more easily from inside and obtain an adjusted price accordingly.

To consider quotation to clear footpaths and gullies.

It was agreed that the clerk would contact the company quoting to provide a new quote based on a prioritised list of areas due to the costs involved.

To agree clerk's rate of pay from 1st April 2010.

10/067 RESOLVED – The clerk be paid according to SCP 26 dated 23rd September 2009.

The meeting closed ay 9.40pm

**NEXT MEETING is the ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY
on MONDAY 19th April 2010 from 7pm
NEXT Parish Council meeting will be the Annual (or First) Meeting
on Monday 17th May from 7:30pm**

Signed

Dated

Ann Wright 22nd March 2010.