

MINUTES OF HUNTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Parish Council Meeting

Monday 18th May 2009 7.30 p.m. at Huntington Village Hall

PRESENT

Chairman – Mr. M. Williams (Chairman)

Mr. C. Buckler Mr. N. Dodd

Mr. M. Kemp

Mr. D. McQuay

Mr. J. Scargill Mr. P. Sheen

Mrs. C. Walker

Public – 3

Clerk – Mrs. A. Wright

TO ELECT A CHAIRMAN FOR THE YEAR 2009/10

09/001 RESOLVED - that Cllr. Mark Williams be elected Chairman for 2009/10.

Cllr. Williams signed the acceptance of office declaration. (Page 5 of the minutes book)

Cllr. Williams thanked Cllr. Dodd for all his hard as chairman during the previous year.

TO ELECT A VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR THE YEAR 2009/10

09/002 RESOLVED - that Cllr. Nick Dodd be elected Chairman for 2009/10.

Cllr. Dodd signed the acceptance of office declaration. (Page 6 of the minutes book)

It was agreed that the election of a second Vice-Chairman be deferred until the June meeting due to the absence of Cllr. Wilcox.

APOLOGIES

Cllr. J. Moore – Away

Cllr. A. Wilcox – Business

Community Safety Warden – Rachel Bentham

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Cllr. Williams declared a personal interest in any matter relating to Cheshire West & Chester as a councillor on the authority.

OPEN FORUM

Sergeant Bryant reported the previous month had been relatively quiet, with three crimes reported in the area two of which were shed burglaries where mountain bikes had been stolen. The theft of Mountain bikes is an issue throughout the whole of Cheshire and the police are running an operation where people on mountain bikes will be stopped and asked to prove the bikes ownership. It is believed this will deter theft of these bikes as well as uncover some stolen bikes. The Cheshire constabulary is offering the marking of bikes with owners postcodes, this is being advertised on the Cheshire constabulary web-site.

There have also been instances of anti-social behaviour reported at the Scout Hut and near Saint Luke's church.

Cllr. Sheen informed Sergeant Bryant that a large number of mountain bikes are sold at car boot sales and these maybe providing an outlet for stolen bikes.

Finally Sergeant Bryant informed councillors that community projects could receive free labour through the community service programme.

Councillors thanked Sergeant Bryant for attending the meeting.

Jim Partington mentioned daisies and clover growing on the green and asked the council permission the treat these weeds.

Mr. Paul Wynne-Hughes of the Hoole Hornets asked the council to consider their request for exclusive league use of the Jubilee Field.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

June Agenda Item – to consider delegating power to the clerk allowing discretionary expenditure up to £100.

Flooding on Sandy Lane – Clerk to report.

MINUTES

Cllr. Sheen asked that it was noted that he had not been part of the decision by the Parish Council to adopt High Bank.

Resolved - That the Chairman signs the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 20th April 2009 as a true record.

AUDIT

09/003 RESOLVED– The council accepted the statement of accounts and annual governance statement pages 1 to 10 of the Cash Book.

ACCOUNTS

The clerk explained the statutory powers as shown on the accounts. The council agreed the accounts to date as circulated page 11 of the cash book.

PAYMENTS

09/004 RESOLVED– The council agreed the following payments

- Lengths man's duties for April 2009
- Clerk's pay and expenses
- Internal Audit Fee (Mr. K. Jones) £75.00
- No Mans Heath & District Parish Council training session attended by three councillors £39.48
- Annual Subscription to Cheshire Association of Local Councils £406.17
- Annual Subscription of Cheshire Playing Field Association £18.00
- Travel expenses for attending training at Bickley total £25.60

INSURANCE

The clerk circulated a list of assets owned by the council and estimated insurance values (replacement and installation) which were agreed by the council.

- Wooden Benches on Jubilee Field £500 each
- Cradle Swings (complete) £2200
- Large Swings (complete) £2900
- Freddie Fish £583
- Goal Posts £0
- Notice Board £1000
- Electric – Metal Box £1000
- Brick Bus Shelter £8000
- Bench (St. Lukes) £600
- Wooden Bus Shelter £5000

The clerk is to work with Cllrs. Williams and Dodd to confirm the values of the outstanding items and agreed insurance provision for the forth coming year.

DONATIONS AND GRANTS

It was agreed that the council must form a clear policy on grants and donations.

09/005 RESOLVED– that the council give a donation of £250 to the Huntington Seniors.

It was agreed that the clerk contact the Friends of Caldby Nature Park to say the council is unable to provide a grant for this financial year but that the group is welcome to contact the council again in the future. The letter should also included information regarding the availability of the free labour through the community service programme.

Cllr. Buckler declared a personal interest in the discussion regarding a grant to the scouts as a friend of the Scout leader.

Cllr. Dodd declared a personal interest as his son is a scout.

It was agreed that the clerk should contact the 40th Chester Scout Group to identify how many of the scouts are from the parish of Huntington and also how much funding is required in addition to how much has already been raised. It was agreed this item would be discussed at the June meeting of the council.

PLANNING

The council noted the observations as listed on page 2 of the planning register.

SPECIAL DUTIES

The following councillor special responsibilities were identified and agreed

- Communications – deferred until June
- Planning – Cllr. Buckler
- Special Projects – Cllr. Dodd
- Village Hall Committee – Cllr. Kemp
- Open Spaces – deferred until June

TRAINING

Councillors completed training needs assessment forms which will form the basis for the future training programme for the council.

JUBILEE FIELD

The council agreed that the Hoole Hornet should be allowed exclusive league usage of the football pitch on the Jubilee Field in return for their maintenance of the football pitch. The Hornets use the pitch Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings out of season and Sundays for matches during the season. It was agreed that team fixtures and training sessions should be displayed on the council's website and notice board.

It was agreed the clerk should contact the Vicars Cross Dynamos to explain the situation.

The clerk reported she had met with Iain Lawson of Lawson's Play Zones and Ground Works who confirmed the springy fish was too close to the edge of the safety surface. He also inspected the gap which has formed between the safety surface and border under the swings. He has provided a price of £700 (verbal) for repairing under the swings and moving the springy fish to the centre of the safety surface and making good the surface including moving the metal plate from a previous springy fish.

09/006 RESOLVED– The council agreed to go ahead with the repairs at a cost of £700.

The clerk reported she is still waiting for confirmation of what telephone number should be displayed on the new playing field sign. It was agreed that the parish council's website should be included on the sign plus the clerk's e-mail address. The new sign is being kindly donated by Cllr. Kemp.

CHESTER ROAD TREES

The clerk reported that she had spoken to Treefellers who had confirmed they would supply six waterings as and when required depending on the weather at the quoted cost of £400 (+vat). It was noted that Treefellers require around a week's notice to carry out the watering. The clerk is to ask the lengths man to notify her when the trees require watering.

OPEN SPACES

The clerk reported she had received a request for a 'No Ball Games' sign on The Green to discourage youths from playing ball games in the area which has resulted in shop fronts being hit by footballs. It was agreed the clerk should go ahead with some signage to encourage the use of the Jubilee Field for football.

The clerk reported she had received a price of £100 from a stone mason to inset the millennium plaque on the sandstone on The Green. It was noted that the plaque must also be screwed to the sandstone. It was agreed that the clerk should go ahead with this work.

STANDING ORDERS

The clerk reported the need to formalize the 'Open Forum' as part of the form the parish council so as to take advantage of the changes to the code of conduct allowing councillors to declare a prejudicial interest and speak on the matter in the open forum. It was noted that the councillor must speak first on the matter then leave the room to allow members of the public to speak on

the issue. This is achieved by replacing items 58 & 69 of the standing orders by the below. This amendment will be confirmed at the June meeting of the council.

STANDING ORDER 69A

At all meetings of the council, the chairman may at his/her discretion, and at a convenient time in the transaction of business, allow any members of the public to address the meeting in relation to the business to be transacted. Such sessions form part of the council meeting in law and shall be duly minuted. The code of conduct which was adopted by the council on 17th September 2007 shall apply to members of the council in respect of the entire meeting. Where, however, members of the council exercise their rights pursuant to SO69B, below members of the public shall be allowed to attend the meeting to (a) make representations, (b) answer questions or (c) give evidence relating to business to be transacted.

STANDING ORDER 69B

At all meetings of the council, the chairman may permit members of the council (including co-opted members as defined by S.49 (7) LGA 2000) who have a prejudicial interest in relation to any items of business to be transacted at the meeting to (a) make representations, (b) answer questions or (c) give evidence relating to business to be transacted. Such sessions form part of the council meeting in law and shall be duly minuted. The code of conduct which was adopted by the council on 17th September 2007 shall apply to members of the council in respect of the entire meeting.

WEBSITE

09/007 RESOLVED - The council pay £20 to provide an advanced spam filter to the e-mail account supplied for the clerk to reduce the growing problem of spam mails.

NOTICE BOARD CONTACT DETAILS

It was agreed that the clerk should contact Cllr. Wilcox to create council e-mail addresses for councillors to be displayed on the notice board and also in the annual report.

ANNUAL REPORT

The council agreed the contents of the annual report as circulated. It was agreed that the report could form the basis of the newsletter. The clerk is to contact Cllr. Wilcox to agree the format.

NEWSLETTER

The council agreed the Annual Report would form the basis of the next Newsletter.

MINUTES BOOKS

The clerk reported that since archiving the minutes books following the April meeting she has received a letter from the archivists stating that the minutes books from 1925 to 1937 and from 1979 to 1987 are missing. It was agreed that the clerk should contact Mr. Crawford to see if he knows the whereabouts of the books or has any suggestions where they might be found.

The meeting closed at 9.05

Signed

Dated

Ann Wright 24th May 2009