

**MINUTES OF
HUNTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Monday 16th November 2009 7.30 p.m. at Huntington Village Hall**

PRESENT

Chairman – Mr. M. Williams

Mr. N. Dodd

Mr. M. Kemp

Mr. D. McQuay

Mr. J. Moore

Mr. J. Scargill

Mrs. C. Walker

Mr. A. Wilcox

None Councillors

Insp. Steven Beddows, PC Kieran Lavery, Community Safety Wardens (CSW) Rachel Bentham & Neil Denby

Public – 2

Clerk – Mrs. A. Wright

APOLOGIES

Mr. C. Buckler – Business

None Councillors – PCSO Emmonds, Mr. Wynne-Hughes (Hoole Hornets Football Team)

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None declared.

OPEN FORUM

Mr. J. Cresswick reported graffiti in the brick bus shelter at the Green – CSW Bentham is to report this and ask that it is removed.

Mr. P. Hammond reported cars parking on the verges causing damage to the verges and asked the parish council to publicise that drivers should not park on the verges. It was agreed the parish council would consider this issue in more detail at the January meeting of the Parish Council. He also reported that notices can not always be read due to condensation in the notice board. Mr. Hammond also raised concerns about bulbs on the Chester Road verges which have been dug up while the gas works have been going on. The clerk reported she had informed the highways department at CW&C of these concerns and was awaiting an update on this matter. Insp. S. Bellows introduced himself as the new Chester Outer Area Inspector. He reported that PCSO Emmonds due to an injury was no longer able to perform front line duties and that PCSO Karen Dennis would now cover the Huntington Area and due to her longer working hours this should provide Huntington with better cover.

PC K. Lavery reported since he last attended a meeting in September there had been 37 incidents reported the majority of which were related to the A55.

CSW Bentham reported it had been quiet since the last meeting although there were issues with young people in the Caldly Valley Nature Park and also with Sainsbury's shopping trolleys being left around the area.

The chairman thanked all for attending.

106 CONSULTATION

Councillors agreed the questionnaire as circulated (pages 34 and 35 of the minutes book). It was agreed the clerk should contact Beverley Wilson at Cheshire West & Chester Council (CW&C) and seek advice on the importance of ethnicity questions particularly for obtaining additional grants and funding. The clerk was also to seek advice about interpreting the results.

It was agreed Cllrs. Dodd, Wilcox and Williams and the clerk will work on producing a colour version including photographs and return details.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Draft Boundary Committee recommendations.

MINUTES

09/035 RESOLVED - That the Chairman signs the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 19th October 2009.

ACCOUNTS

09/036 RESOLVED – The council accepted the accounts as circulated on page 16 of the cash book. The council noted changes to the Business Deposit Account which will become a Business Saver Account with effect from the 7th December 2009.

PAY ROLL

The clerk reported difficulties in administering the pay roll responsibilities of the council and asked that the council consider employing a pay roll administrator at a cost of £60 per financial year.

09/037 RESOLVED – that the council appoint Mrs. R. Jacks as pay roll administrator at a cost of £60 for the financial year 2009-2010 and £60 for the financial year 2010-2011.

PAYMENTS

09/038 RESOLVED – The council agreed the following payments:-

Lengths man's duties for October and November 2009

Clerk's Salary – paid by four weekly standing orders.

Replacement Cheque for Cllr. N. Dodd (100957 dated 18/05/09)

The clerk reported she had received an invoice for the work carried out on the Jubilee Field by Lawson's Playzones & Groundworks Ltd. The council had agreed payment of £700+vat for this work at the May 2009 meeting however the invoice is £810+vat. It was agreed that the Clerk and chairman should look into this matter in more detail and only pay the additional cost if there was no proof of an agreement of £700.

HIGH BANK

Councillors raised concerns about the rate at which High Bank is being cleared. It was agreed Cllrs. Williams and Kemp would arrange a meeting with the contractor to discuss progress and ask for a report of what had been achieved and plans for the next year for the January Meeting of the Parish Council.

STREET ORDERLY DUTIES

The clerk reported that the parish council was not using all the hours allocated by CW&C for the street orderly or Lengthsman's duties each week as a result the council should increase these duties or claim a smaller grant. It was agreed that the hours could be easily filled increasing the work of the Lengthsman. It was agreed that Cllr. Williams would speak to the Lengthsman to see if he is willing to increase his hours or look for an additional Lengthsman to carry out these increased duties.

PLANNING

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

09/039 RESOLVED – The council accepted the observations as listed on page 8 of the planning Register.

The clerk reported notice had been received of an appeal by GMV Eight Ltd c/o Commercial Estate Group relating to the refusal to grant permission on the former Saighton Camp. It was agreed the clerk should contact CW&C to seek clarification of the date and location of the inquiry and whether Huntington Parish Council could speak at the inquiry.

JUBILEE FIELD IMPROVEMENTS

The council noted the list of improvements raised at the October 2009 meeting and agreed it was not in a position to consider these improvements until the 106 consultation had been carried out providing a better understanding of how or if the Jubilee Field should be developed.

PLANTER

The clerk reported she had met with Helena Crawford (CW&C Highways Department) regarding putting a planter on the small road island at the junction of Sandy Lane and Aldford Road, however this had been refused due to the nature of the junction and the speed of the roads. It was agreed that bulbs could be planted on the larger grassed island although it was requested if Bluebells were planted they were English ones. It was also agreed by Mrs Crawford that the island would be included in next years weed spraying list by CW&C.

NOTICE BOARD

It was agreed that the clerk should contact the supplier of the Tilston and No Mans Heath notice boards and seek two prices, one to refurbish the existing notice board at the Green the other to replace it.

PLAYING FIELD INSPECTION 2009

The clerk reported she had been unable to confirm whether CW&C would be carrying out the annual play inspection.

09/040 RESOLVED – that the council appoint Digley Associates to carryout an Annual Inspection at a cost of £45 plus vat if CW&C are not to carryout the inspection.

THE GREEN CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

It was reported that only one company had agreed to re-quote for the work to install power supplies to each tree as agreed at the last meeting and that the clerk was to give the go ahead for the work following this meeting. The clerk had received a recommendation for a lights supplier from the person who organises the Christmas lights in Tilston. Cllr. Dodd explained how these garlands are sold in bundles.

09/041 RESOLVED – to purchase 3 ‘bundles’ of ice white fairy lights from Lights4Fun.

CHESTER ROAD VERGES

The clerk reported she was awaiting the name of a contact for queries regarding the gas works taking place on Chester Road but had not followed up items raised at the last meeting as now more of the verge had been dug up. The condition of the verges will be reviewed at the January 2010 meeting.

CALDY VALLEY ROAD TREES

Cllr. Dodd reported he was still awaiting an answer from James Orm (CW&C Highways) stating whether trees could be planted along Caldby Valley Road. This item will be considered at the January 2010 meeting.

DSA LETTER

The clerk reported she had received no response to the letter centre to the DSA centre on the former Saighton camp. The council agreed the letter should be sent to the DSA head quarters highlighting the Saighton Offices failure to replied to the council's letter.

GRIT BINS

The council felt that the severe cold weather at the beginning of 2009 was highly unusual and that no further action should be taken on this matter.

EARMARKING 2010-2011

The council identified the following projects for the next financial year

- Tree Planting
- New Benches (St. Lukes & Sandy Lane Junction)
- Replace concrete bollards around the Green
- Bulbs & Planting of Flowers (various areas & around village signs)
- Refurbish/Replace wooden bus shelter
- Purchase land at Cheshire Way for play area

ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

It was reported that the draft recommendations of the Boundary Committee had been published and recommended Huntington becomes part of a single member ward with Dodleston (Dodleston & Huntington Ward) Poulton, Eaton, Lower Kinnerton. Great Boughton is proposed to be a two member ward.

09/042 RESOLVED – It was agreed that council should make the following observations to the Boundary Committee, that it did not support the proposed ward and recommend the continuation of a three member ward including Greta Boughton which is part of the same community as Huntington. It was felt that Huntington had no communality with the villages in the proposed ward emphasized by the fact there are not direct road links to these villages.

Cllr. Williams took this opportunity to remark on the fantastic remembrance service which had been held at Saint Mary’s Church in Burera where the Parish Council had laid a wreath on behalf of the residents of the Huntington Parish. It had been a really nice service and it was hoped more would be available to attend next year and that the Parish Council might advertise the event next year in Huntington.

The meeting closed ay 9.40pm

NEXT MEETING MONDAY 18th January 2010

Signed

Dated

Ann Wright 18th November 2009