

MINUTES OF HUNTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Monday 21st September 2009 7.30 p.m. at Huntington Village Hall

PRESENT

Chairman – Mr. M. Williams

Mr. C. Buckler

Mr. N. Dodd

Mr. M. Kemp

Mr. D. McQuay

Mr. J. Moore

Mr. J. Scargill

Mrs. C. Walker

Mr. A. Wilcox

None Councillors

PC Kieran Lavery, CSW Rachel Betham

Public – 1

Clerk – Mrs. A. Wright

APOLOGIES

Cllr. P. Sheen – illness

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

The following personal interests were declared

Cllr. McQuay – Item relating to DSA Driving Centre due to his business.

Cllr. Wilcox – Any items relating to the website as the provider of the website.

Cllr. Williams – Any items relating to CW&C Council as the ward councillor.

OPEN FORUM

PC Kieran Lavery reported that 64 incidents had been reported in the area since the 1st June 2009 the majority of which related to traffic on the A55. There had been 10 reports of suspicious people in the area some of which were accounted for as charities collecting door to door. There had also been 4 drug related incidents and people had been caught using motorbikes on the Jubilee Field.

CSW Rachel Bentham reported that there had been very low levels of anti-social behaviour in the area during the summer with alcohol being confiscated from only two underage groups congregating at Caldy Valley Church. It was believed this alcohol had not been obtained from Pennies or Sainsbury's and the matter was in the hands of the licensing department at CW&C. The Safety wardens are currently visiting the primary schools in the area to talk about the environment, where the children live and the impact of litter etc in a two hour workshop.

The chairman thanked PC Lavery and CSW Bentham for attending the meeting.

Mr. Cresswick explained that his wife was still listed as tree warden to the parish and as such had received notification from the Cheshire Landscape Trust of an offer of free trees and asked if the Parish Council would like to take up this offer. Previously such trees have been planted in the hedgerows around the Jubilee Field. It was agreed that Cllr. Buckler will work with Mrs. Cresswick to obtain and plant any available trees.

106 FUNDING & PRESENTATION BY SUSIE WOODWARD-MOORE (CW&C)

Susie Woodward-Moore introduced herself as the Landscape Architect for CW&C and project manager for the work being carried out at the Caldy Valley Nature Park. She explained that the work had been quoted for by 6 contractors and the cheapest one had been appointed, however the work to be carried out exceeded the funding available. For example there is a need to replace all the bridges on the site but this would not be possible without additional funding. As a result she asked the council to consider providing an additional £5000 from the Saughton Camp 106 money.

Work being carried out included, repair of two foot bridges, a new dipping pontoon for the pond which is to be dredged, repair of weirs and wetland area to prevent flooding, tree clearance, a new notice board, new knee rail around the car park to protect the surrounding grass, new path

to the art work to provide disabled access, general footpath improvements although this did not extend to the cycleway.

Additional funding has been sought from CW&C departments and councillors resulting in an additional £1000 for planting.

Concern was raised about the need to do such a large amount of maintenance at once rather than gradually over time. It was explained that the site has been largely maintained by volunteers with very little funding hence only the basics had been achieved.

A query was raised regarding the cost of the art work and why this money had not been spent on maintenance. It was explained the artwork had cost £12000 but this had been obtained through fundraising and a community effort over several years.

Councillors hoped a more professional approach would be adopted to the future management of the site.

09/023 RESOLVED (unanimous) – that the council donate £2,500 of the 106 money towards the work at the Caldley Valley nature Park.

106 CONSULTATION

The clerk circulated notes taken at the working group meeting held on the 14th September (pages 20 & 21) of the minutes book). It was reported that Spicy.Com had agreed to donate prizes for returned questionnaires.

Once the questionnaires have been completed and analysed the parish council can work with Susie Woodward-Moore to decide what schemes should be developed and what additional funding is required. Due to the amount of money to be spent it is likely to be a phased scheme over a period of time.

It was suggested that United Utilities should be contacted and informed of the consultation and invited to take part in the process. It was agreed the clerk should write to United Utilities.

The chairman thanked Susie Woodward-Moore and her colleague for attending the meeting.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

To discuss statement for the Strategic Planning Committee meeting the 24th September to decide the Saighton Camp Planning Application.

MINUTES

09/024 RESOLVED - That the Chairman signs the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 20th July 2009.

ACCOUNTS

The clerk highlighted the payment of £1614.60 from CW&C for the Street Orderly.

09/025 RESOLVED – The council accepted the accounts as circulated on page 14 of the cash book.

PAYMENTS

09/026 RESOLVED – The council agreed the following payments:-

Lengths man's duties for July & August 2009

Clerk's Salary

Travel expenses for attending training at Burley Dam (CHALC)

Printing of Newsletter/Annual Report

DONATIONS AND GRANTS

09/027 RESOLVED – that the council adopts the policy as circulated (pages 22 to 25 of the minutes book).

HIGH BANK

The clerk reported she has still not had confirmation from the CW&C Highways Department regarding ownership of High Bank. The clerk will update the council on this matter at the October meeting.

It was reported that maintenance of High Bank had been delayed by the dryness of the bank making weeding etc difficult. It was agreed that the Chairman and Clerk should meet with the Mr. Partington who is carrying out the work to get a full progress report.

DSA DRIVING CENTRE

The chairman read an e-mail from Paul Parry which stated although he appreciated the concern expressed by residents there was little that could be done to prevent driving instructors using the highway in a legitimate way. Mr. Parry confirmed that he did not consider the increase in learner drivers to be of detriment to the operation and safety of the highways. He concluded that at this time he did not believe there was a need to take further action but would continue to monitor the situation. The e-mail also confirmed that Mr. Parry had also contacted the local police who would discuss this matter with the test centre.

Concerns were raised regarding the practising of manoeuvres by learner drivers on Sandy Lane at Cheshires Way, Caldys Valley Road and Chester Road and also on Butterbache Road particularly at school drop off and collection times.

It was agreed the clerk should write to the test centre asking for instructors to be made aware of these complaints and concerns. The letter is to be copied to Mr. Parry and PC Lavery.

PLANNING

Cllr. Walker declared a prejudicial interest in application 09/11207/COU as her in-laws own the business and took no part in the discussions.

09/028 RESOLVED – The council accepted the observations as listed on page 5 of the planning register.

JUBILEE FIELD & OPEN SPACES

The clerk reported she had received the insurance details of Lawsons Playzones & Groundworks Ltd who are to carry out repairs to the safety surfaces on the Jubilee Field and expected confirmation of a date to start the work very soon.

Two cars had been reported on the Jubilee Field but were found to be there carrying equipment to mark the pitch.

The bin had gone missing on Chester Road by the wooden bus shelter this had been reported to CW&C and been replaced.

Concerns were raised regarding the following:-

- State of the triangle/Island at the junction of Sand Lane and Aldford Road
- State of the pavement on Sandy Lane by the letter box at the entrance to Cheshires way
- Condition of the telephone pole opposite the Huntington Sign by the Red House
- Condition of the stile to the footpath before the A55 bridge when travelling towards Saighton.

It was agreed the clerk should report these matters to the appropriate authorities.

NEW NOTICE BOARD

Concerns were raised regarding the true need for an additional notice board and possible locations. It was agreed the clerk should obtain prices for both a wooden and metal notice boards to be considered at the next meeting where the matter can be debated more fully.

REPLACEMENT TREES

The clerk reported three trees planted by Chester Road had died over the past twelve months. The parish council agreed to replace two of these trees once a decision had been made regarding planting on Caldys Valley Road area.

TREE PLANTING

Cllr. Dodd reported he had held a meeting with Peter Dornig (tree Officer, CW&C) and James Orme (Highways Dept., CW&C) where they had discussed tree planting on the Caldys Valley Road area. He had then drawn up a map of possible locations which had gone to Highways for approval.

DOG WASTE BINS

The clerk reported she had requested a dog waste bin at the top of Cheshire’s Way, she is still awaiting a response.

GRIT BINS

Councillors were asked to consider if additional grit bins were required in Huntington and at what locations for discussion at the October meeting of the parish Council.

IT EQUIPMENT GRANT

The clerk reported she had applied for funding from the National Lottery Fund however this application had been unsuccessful. She had also been advised to apply to BT however on investigation of this grant scheme it was found that BT only provided free laptops and broad band not other technical equipment.

ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

The parish council considered observations to be sent to the Strategic Planning Committee before Thursday 24th September regarding planning application 08/02000/OUT - Residential mixed use development comprising 375 dwellings, 5000sqm of employment development (B1) 500 sqm of ancillary uses (A1, A2, A3, A4, A5, D1) new primary school (D1) open space, parking and ancillary landscaping on the former Saughton Camp.

Cllr. Mark Williams declared a prejudicial interest in this matter as a member of the Strategic Planning Committee and left the room taking no further part in the discussion.

09/028 RESOLVED – The Parish Council **OBJECT** to this application on the following grounds

- The application is premature due to the lack of an agreed access onto the A55 by-pass.
- Modifications to the Sainsbury’s roundabout will not prevent or ease the impact this development will have on the existing road infrastructure which is already under considerable strain.
- Lack of medical facilities for the increased population.
- Lack of sport/recreation facilities in the proposal.
- Lack of need, only 1/3 of the new development built in this area have sold over the last three years, unsold properties therefore remain empty.
- The application will result in the urban sprawl going beyond the logical boundary of the A55 by-pass into the rural area.

The meeting closed at 9.50

NEXT MEETING MONDAY 19th OCTOBER 2009

Signed

Dated

Ann Wright 27th September 2009