

MINUTES OF HUNTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting held on Monday 20th April 2009 at 7.30 p.m. at
Huntington Village Hall

PRESENT

Chairman – Mr. N. Dodd (Chairman)

Mr. C. Buckler Mr. D. McQuay Mr. J. Moore Mr. P. Sheen

Mrs. C. Walker Mr. A. Wilcox

Public – 4

Clerk – Mrs. A. Wright

1) APOLOGIES

Mr. J. Scargill – Business

Mr. M. Williams – Business

Mr. P. Sheen – Leave early at 8.00pm

Mr. M. Kemp - Delayed

2) ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Spring Newsletter

Village Hall Committee

3) DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Cllr. Wilcox declared a personal interest in any matters relating to the website as the provider of this service for the council.

4) OPEN FORUM

PC Lavery reported since 2008 there had been 182 reported incidents in Huntington which is consistent with the previous year. These crimes included burglary, domestic abuse and traffic offences. However Chester was in the top 6 safest places to live with Huntington as one of the safest areas. Since the last meeting there had been ten reported incidents including minor parking issues.

CSW Bentham reported despite visiting the Jubilee Field twice daily no one had been caught with dogs on the field. There was still an issue of motor bikes on the field escaping through gaps in the bottom fence.

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

5) MINUTES

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

6) RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER (RFO)

The council agreed Mrs. A. Wright as the parish council's RFO.

7) ARCHIVING THE MINUTES

The council agreed that the old minutes books of the council be archived in the Cheshire West & Chester archives and that future minutes be kept in a file.

8) MATTERS ARISING

1. HIGH BANK

The council confirmed it wished to register High Bank as the council's property.

2. Benches

The clerk is to obtain quotes for installing two benches on the Green and to reinstall the plaque on the sandstone to mark the millennium capsule.

3. Village Green

Proposals for alterations to the electrics on the green are to be brought to a future meeting.

4. Play Area Information Boards

The clerk showed photographs taken of a number of local play area information boards. The council agreed on a similar design to that used by Tattenhall, size A2. The clerk is awaiting confirmation from Cheshire West & Chester of the call centre number to be displayed on the board.

5. Bus Shelter Notices

The council agreed to consider this item again in the future.

6. Faded Road Signs

A listed has been supplied to the Highways department.

7. DSA Traffic Monitoring

The clerk is to contact the Chester planning office to discuss monitoring of traffic to the DSA test centre as traffic is far higher than was predicted in the planning application.

8. Jubilee Field

The council considered whether the Hoole Hornets should be allowed sole use of the field and also how much they should be charged for this. It was considered whether the Hornets could be offered sole use of the field on fixture days and for training sessions. The council agreed that field maintenance and match fees must be kept as two separate issues so as to safeguard maintenance of the field in the future.

The clerk is to contact the playing field association for advice and also the Hoole Hornets for information on fixtures and proposals and also the Scouts to see how they use the field.

9) OPEN SPACES

It was reported that there was a large amount of dog fouling in areas of Huntington including the Green the clerk has contacted the Dog Warden for warning signs to be displayed around the area including on the bollards at the green. Dog fouling bags are available free of charge at Walkers Nursery.

The clerk reported that the grass had become worn on the Green behind the bus shelter where young people are playing football against the shelter. It was agreed that the lengths man should reseed this area.

RESOLVED – The lengths man should purchase a Mountain Ash to plant on the green.

The council noted the report safety inspection report on the Jubilee Field which included concerns of missing bolts covers on the cradle swings. The clerk reported these covers had been ordered and were being supplied by Sutcliffe Play free of charge. The clerk is also to look into the issue of the fall area around the springy fish.

Concerns were raised about the state of the wooden bus shelter and also the bench which is well used. This is to be considered at a future meeting with the view of seeking funding.

10) ACCOUNTS

The clerk reported that the circulated accounts were not to be approved as they had not been checked against the yearend bank statement. The accounts will be circulated at the May meeting. The council agreed the clerk could pay all outstanding petty cash into the bank.

RESOLVED – That the council should use Mr. K. Jones to complete the internal audit for the 2008-2009 financial year rather than Shaw Austen chartered accountants.

11) PAYMENTS

RESOLVED – That the council pay the lengths man duties and grass cutting for March 2009 and that all future lengths man invoices be paid as soon as the invoice is received by the clerk.

12) BANK ACCOUNT

RESOLVED – The clerk be given authority to use telephone banking facilities to manage the council's accounts.

13) COUNCIL PROFILE

RESOLVED – The council adopted the National agreement on Salaries and conditions of service of local council clerks in England and Wales 2004 produced by the NALC¹ and the SLCC² profile 2.

14) PLANNING

RESOLVED – The council makes a comment of NO OBJECTION to application 09/10289/ADV, Old Hall Farm, 2 post mounted signs

Decisions received – 09/10223/FUL 17 Meadow Lane, Two storey side extension – permission.

15) STANDING ORDERS

The council noted the standing orders as circulated and agreed the amendment that four councillors should constitute a quorum.

16) COUNCIL EQUIPMENT

It was agreed that the clerk should continue to use the laptop.

RESOLVED – The printer should be donated to a deserving local organisation.

17) PUBLICATION OF MINUTES & PRESS RELEASES

It was agreed that the minutes omitting financial information would be given to Mr. D. Norbury for publication in the Chester Chronicle once they have been signed by the chairman as a correct record.

18) AGENDAS

It was agreed that matters arising would be removed from future agendas to be replaced as necessary be specific agenda items. Any other business would be replaced by items of urgency at the chairman's discretion. It was agreed that this would be reviewed in six months.

19) TRAINING

It was agreed that Cllrs Dodd and Kemp would attend the training session at the Bickley Coronation Hall run by No Mans Heath and District Parish Council.

20) ANY OTHER BUSINESS

SPRING NEWSLETTER – It was agreed this item should be discussed at the May when the Annual Report could be included in the newsletter and future dates for publication could be set.

VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE – Cllr. Kemp was agreed as the new parish council representative on the committee.

¹ National Association of Local Councils

² Society of Local Council Clerks

Part 2 in the absence of Press & Public

The clerk left the meeting for the next agenda item.

1) To agree clerk's contract, rate of pay and hours to be implemented from 1st April 2009.

RESOLVED – The council confirmed the contract as circulated with details of the pension or gratuity to be confirmed at a later date when more information has been received.

RESOLVED - The council clerks pay was set at SCP25 to rise to SCP26 on the 1st April 2010

2) To consider tenders received for the grass cutting of the Playing Field & High Bank.

RESOLVED – The clerk and Cllr. Buckler should meet with Rich Brothers to agree details of playing field cuts based on the quote received.

The council agreed to ask for new quotes for the maintenance of High Bank based on the bank becoming a wildlife area. The clerk should seek the advice of the lengths man on this matter.

The meeting closed at 10.07pm.

Signed

Dated

Ann Wright 26nd April 2009