

**MINUTES OF
HUNTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
ANNUAL ASSEMBLY
16th April 2018. 7pm at Huntington Village Hall.**

PRESENT

Chairman – Cllr Roy Shelton

Cllr. Mark Williams

Cllr. Nick Dodd

Cllr. Anthony Wilcox

Cllr. Andy Tassell

Cllr. Dave Whitehead

Cllr Mike Dutton

Cllr Jacky Creswick

Cllr. John Creswick

Cllr Carolyn Walker

Non-Councillors

Clerk – Louise Gibson

PCSO Paul Downey

Representatives from Welsh Water

Mr Dan Hampson from Kier Construction

Public – 48 (at a count taken at 7:36pm)

The Chairman began by welcoming everyone to the meeting and expressing his delight at seeing so many residents wanting to engage with local issues.

With Kier Construction needing to travel a considerable distance after the meeting, the Chairman agreed to begin with the Kier presentation. This was explained to residents.

1. KIER CONSTRUCTION

The presentation began with the Chairman thanking Mr Hampson and Kier for everything they have done in our community and the way in which they have engaged with the community at every opportunity, attending Parish Council meetings as well as holding open days.

The meeting was shown a range of photographs and 2D/3D images, taken at different angles. This included the actual building (interior and exterior), Muga area, pond and where the community pitches would be positioned.

Within the next 6 weeks, the programme would include tarmac being delivered, the implementation of the plant room and windows being installed.

Completion was still on target for mid-October so that the school would open after the autumn half term.

A resident asked how big the car park would be and whether this would be a sufficient size. Kier confirmed that the car park would be 25 to 30 spaces and that a traffic assessment had been carried out by CW&C before the planning application was submitted.

Another resident asked if any thought had been given to how children would safely get to school from the new estate, having to cross two main roads. It was confirmed by Kier that two pedestrian crossings would be installed over the two roads.

Another resident asked about the noise from the A55 and what impact this would have on the school environment. Kier explained an acoustic bund (barrier) had been installed which would reduce noise considerably.

A resident asked about the purpose of the pond and whether this was linked to the drainage. Kier confirmed that it was an attenuation pond and would be linked to the surface water drainage. The discharge would occur at Bakers Brook (at the end of the field) and then onto the River Dee. The foul drainage would use the same system as the system used on Saighton Camp but there were no perceived issues for flooding.

2. HUNTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL: CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The Chairman began by thanking the Parish Councillors for their hard work over the past 12 months and reminding residents that all of these Councillors were volunteers who gave up approximately 200 hours of their spare time to this role.

It was reported that the past twelve months have seen Huntington Parish Council making huge strides in trying to engage more with our local community and hear the voices of the residents who live here, with all of our councillors working hard to bring about positive change and continue to support local causes. This is reflected in residents' attendance at Parish Council meetings over the past year, with as many as 25 residents attending one meeting. Over the course of the year, the average number of residents per meeting has quadrupled compared to previous years. This, in the Chairman's opinion, was due to listening to residents' needs and then responding to them, by tackling the issues that the community faces. Attendance at our local Parish Council meetings, normally held on the 3rd Monday of every month, is always welcomed. Public Speaking is at the beginning of each meeting but the Chairman reminded residents that the Parish Council, have to adhere to Standing Orders, which means it is not a debate, and there will be a set time as this allows fairness to all.

The Chairman also reported that the Parish Council has seen many improvements in Huntington in the past year. The Parish Council have now extended the path around Jubilee Field so that it can encourage more Healthy Living, disabled access and residents can make the most of Green space. They have also just committed funding for lighting in Caldly Nature Park/Celandine Close. This is a route regularly used by schoolchildren and dog walkers and walking through an unlit part of the park was of concern. This work is due to be carried out by CW&C very shortly. The Parish Council also continue to think about long term projects, which may involve substantial funding. The Chairman felt very fortunate that Cllr Whitehead was on the Parish Council who is also a highly qualified accountant and who oversees our accounts. The Chairman thanked him for his hard work.

The Parish Council have also given grants to Saighton Primary School and St Luke's Youth Club. Saighton Primary School has 33% of pupils living in the Huntington Parish so the Council felt a need to support this school with the increased traffic around the school. Councillors also feel it is important to have a Youth Group in Huntington, open to all. This gives teenagers an opportunity to experience new opportunities and enhance wellbeing, which is so important to our community.

The Parish Council successfully held the Summer Fete, Remembrance Sunday and Christmas Lights events again in the past year. Planning for the events of 2018 is already well underway and the key dates for diaries are Saturday 8th September, which will be the Summer Fete on Jubilee Field. Sunday 11th November will be the Remembrance Sunday event and Saturday 1st December will see the switching on of the Christmas lights.

The Parish Council have a wealth of ideas for the upcoming year. A list of Key Priorities has been drawn up, which will be investigated further. However, there is also the relocation of Huntington Primary School, which has presented the Parish Council with some challenging yet exciting propositions. Land management at both the current school and the old Butterbache Road site is something that now needs to be considered by CW&C, which, in turn, might mean new opportunities for our residents. Listening to residents' views about this subject, via Social media and our website need to be considered carefully.

Within the past year, the Parish Council have had a number of ongoing issues, which residents have raised or Councillors have had concerns about. This has included continuing to work with Housing Developers on Saighton Camp. Standards of work have not always been high enough; especially potholes, drainage and uneven pavements, and the Council have worked extensively to ensure that housing developers are held to account.

Dog Fouling continues to be an on-going issue for many areas of Cheshire and this includes Huntington. The Parish Council launched a 'Pink Poo' Campaign earlier this year and saw a big reduction in the amount of dog fouling on Butterbache Rd. However, the council cannot get complacent as it is realised that this will continue to be a problem, which will require the community to work together.

Proposed Traffic lights on the junction of Gorse Way and Chester Rd concerned many residents to which the Parish Council wrote to CW&C Highways and asked them to reassess this strategy.

Huntington also continues to see new development. Since May 2017, the Council has been notified of 29 planning applications, which is an increase on the last year.

The Chairman finished his presentation by presenting a certificate to a young resident who had undertaken Litter picking in the local area for the past 3 months.

3. LAND AT CURRENT SCHOOL/NEW SCHOOL AND NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING

The residents were given an update on the land at the current school where they were told that a meeting had been arranged for the following week with Cllr Williams and Cllr Whitehead. These Councillors would take all of the responses, which had been received from the residents and community, and feed this back to CW&C Officers. These responses included housing needs for older people as well as a community centre. CW&C had informed the Clerk that they wished for residents to be aware that the land is on an asset register to potentially sell on the open market. However, that did not mean that CW&C were not willing to listen to the needs of our community and explore ways that these can be met.

The new school land has also seen much discussion take place between the Parish Council and CW&C over the past couple of months. The residents were informed that CW&C has offered the Parish Council to take on responsibility of the land but costings for undertaking this had been extremely high (exceeding £18,000) which is two thirds of our precept. By taking on this land, it would mean that residents might have to see an increase in their Council Tax precept. However, the Parish Council reported that they were exploring options to see if costs could be reduced, by assessing demand to rent out the pitches (that would be on the land). This was an on-going process and would be discussed in future Parish Council meetings, which all members of the public were welcome to attend.

4. WELSH WATER

The Chairman began by thanking Welsh Water for coming.

A resident asked why Welsh Water had originally objected to the Saighton Camp development, with has seen 100 homes built, but then withdrew this objection at the last minute. This was also the case with the new school. With the Care Home currently under construction as well, did Welsh Water think that the pre-war 9 inch pipe, reduced to 8 inch diameter over the bridge, that serviced the sewage system in Huntington, would be adequate to serve the needs for Huntington? The resident then followed this question by saying that he could not see how Welsh Water could stop, in his opinion, inevitable flooding further down in the older part of Huntington (bottom of Butterbache Rd). Welsh Water responded by stating that they did object in the first instance but then Cheshire West Council worked with Developers, consulted with Welsh Water and, by working together, found a solution, which would allay Welsh Water objections.

In the case of Saighton Camp, all wastewater was originally pumped into one system. There are now two separate systems, one for foul sewerage and another for surface water, which is diverted to the brook.

A resident asked if there was an on-going monitoring system in place, by Welsh Water, to show amounts of water going through the pipes or for measuring current flow. It was confirmed that there was not any type of system in place to monitor this. Original measurements had been taken by CW&C and Welsh Water had not felt the need to double check these.

A resident remarked that there was significantly more water going down the brook now so the system for taking surface water away appeared to be working. However, a query was raised about the attenuation ponds and whether this was monitored in case of overflow. Welsh Water replied that this would inspected by the Environmental Agency.

A resident queried the amount of surface water that Saighton Camp was producing, now that much of it was hard surface and whether anybody had accounted for this. Welsh Water replied that the pipe dealing with this, which runs down Chester Rd on the right hand side, was more than capable to deal with the amount.

A Councillor wished to ask Welsh Water about the incident, which saw the pumping station, situated near to the Rake and Pikel Pub, leak raw sewerage into the brook, and what measures had been taken to ensure this would not happen again. Welsh Water confirmed that the original

two pumps, which were present when the leak occurred, were shaft-driven. One had been removed as it was not working and the other then failed due to an air lock. It was confirmed that two submersible pumps, capable of 100% flow (so will deal with all activity of the station if one fails), had now been installed to replace the other pumps. These had telemetries within the pumping station to alert Welsh Water of any future failure. If the rainfall has been significant, it may take longer to trigger an alarm but reasonable weather would not take long to alert of a problem.

Another Councillor wished to remind Welsh Water that the pollution incident described had possibly caused dogs to be ill and that the sewerage had come out directly next to a children's play area, in Caldy Nature Park. It was asked whether any fine had been issued. Welsh Water confirmed that the case was still considered 'open' but no fine had been issued up to now. If a fine were to be issued, it would also result in the form of a restriction in the charge that can be issued to residents, as Welsh Water would have breached targets. The Councillor expressed a query as to why old equipment, such as the pumps described earlier, had not been replaced before all of the homes were built on Saughton Camp. She also took issue with Welsh Water citing wet wipes disposed in toilets as a potential reason for the pollution incident. With many young families on Saughton Camp, it was questioned why systems were not in place to deal with this. Welsh Water responded to say that the price to introduce a system to deal with wet wipes would be completely unworkable so Welsh Water, instead, wished to educate people on what not to dispose of in a toilet and this was an on-going challenge.

A resident commented that drainage issues in Huntington were often caused by silt and roots building up and causing blockages. Welsh Water confirmed that a regular maintenance programme was in place to ensure that should not happen. However, residents should notify them if they feel there has been a blockage for a prolonged period.

The Chairman thanked Welsh Water for coming and answering the questions as honestly as they did.

5. Cheshire Police

Huntington Parish Council began by explaining their position on the parking issues on Chester Rd. The Parish Council had asked CW&C to consider introducing parking restrictions on Chester Rd, in the form of a single or double yellow line down one side, hence preventing a 'chicane effect' that was currently witnessed, which was causing frustration amongst drivers. CW&C agreed to carry out an investigation and monitored Chester Rd, visiting at different times of the day and evening. CW&C, in conclusion, agreed that there was an issue with parking at times, especially between the shops and Gorse Way. However, they believed that introducing parking restrictions would cause more speeding as cars would have a 'clearer run'. Therefore, on balance, CW&C believed that Chester Rd should remain as it currently stands.

PCSO Downey introduced himself and then explained that Cheshire Police would be of a very similar view to that of CW&C in regards to the parking situation on Chester Rd. In a recent survey that took place with nearly 300 Huntington residents, both face to face, as well as on social

media, the results showed that 58% of residents were more concerned about speeding whilst 42% were concerned about parking issues.

Because of this, more speed checks would be done in the area. Previous speed checks had shown that speeding was an issue with 23 motorists caught in half an hour on one occasion. These statistics were being given to central office. It was asked whether a permanent speed camera could be considered, either on Chester Rd or on Caldley Valley Rd, if it was found to be a significant problem with many motorists caught speeding. PCSO Downey agreed that a permanent camera could be explored further if the statistics remained high.

It was asked whether there were any plans to reduce speeds along Saighton and Aldford Lane. The police were aware that this might be another area for speeding and one that would be monitored. Another resident asked if signs could be installed before the entrance to the new school, in order to warn motorists of the speed limit as well as the roundabout. The Clerk also reported that, with the introduction of the new school near this site, future restrictions, more signage and a review of speed limits might take place.

A resident asked whether any more action had been taken to train community members in using a SID device that could be used to monitor speed. The Clerk confirmed that this was considered 18 months ago and the Parish Council had asked residents, via the website and Facebook, if they would be interested in volunteering for this. Unfortunately, only one resident, as well as several Councillors, agreed to do this. The Clerk said that this could be reconsidered again, in response to public interest.

PCSO Downey confirmed that parking outside Huntington Primary was still an issue and one that he was monitoring. He confirmed that tickets had been issued because of poor parking outside the school. He was currently working in partnership with the school and CW&C to introduce a 'new parking charter' but that this would be launched once the school relocated to their new building.

The matter was also raised regarding the very poor road markings on the filter lane when turning into Butterbache Rd from Chester Rd. This had caused much confusion for motorists with road rage and near accidents being reported. PCSO Downey confirmed that he had raised this issue himself after witnessing an incident and was awaiting a reply from CW&C. The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council had also raised it but was told that, due to the new installation of permanent lights due to be implemented in this area shortly, it would be premature to repaint the markings. However, a time period was unable to be given on when these lights would be installed (as this was dependent on Redrow, NOT CW&C). PCSO Downey felt that the lines were required immediately and therefore, would pursue this with CW&C. The Clerk confirmed that she would do the same.

Several residents raised concerns regarding poor parking in Huntington. This included vans and cars parking on the pavements at the top of Butterbache Rd (and then walking through the alley to get to the shops) whilst other residents expressed concern over parking at the junction of Celandine Close and Caldley Valley Rd which was causing restricted views when coming out of that junction. A letter of complaint, signed by many residents of Celandine Close, was presented

to the Chairman. The junction of Woodlands Rd onto Chester Rd caused similar concerns. The police advice was to phone 101 immediately so that an officer could attend the scene whilst the motorist was still poorly parked and this could then be dealt with appropriately. Photographs would be less useful. The Clerk confirmed that this could be added as a future Agenda item for Councillors to consider taking action.

The Chairman thanked Cheshire Police and in particular, PCSO Paul Downey, for all of his support in our area. Residents were also thanked for their attendance at the meeting and it was hoped that they had found it helpful.

The meeting closed at 8:36pm.

Huntington Parish Assembly 2018

Monday 16th April



Response from Residents taken at the Assembly

What Residents would like to see in Huntington	What Residents would NOT like to see in Huntington
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint events and activities • Investment in the current Village Hall • Clean up days more often (Join 'Tidy Up Britain Campaign for schedule) • Support for a Community Fireworks event in November • Updated Content on the website • More information about current uses of the Village Hall • Start a 'Repair Clinic' for reduction of waste • An even better relationship between PTA and Parish Council • Toilets at Jubilee Field • Supported Housing Accomodation and Residential care (New Care Home will be for nursing and dementia care) • More promotion of good news stories (eg: Photograph the young person receiving his certificate) • Celebrate 60 years of the original school being built by offering a wider community event and link it to the school fair • Any new street names should be linked to the former Headteachers' of the school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toilets at Jubilee Field

We also posed the question:

What would you like to see happen to the Land surrounding the old/new school sites:

(Please note, some residents stated that they would not like their email/comments publicised so not all emails are visible)

At the Assembly

- Sheltered Bungalows on current school site
- The current school be made into a new village Hall to replace the current one
- If any part of the current school site can be retained, consider young people's provision such as After-School Clubs, Youth Groups and Provision for small business opportunities
- Housing for Supported Living to give residents of Huntington the option of staying in the area for longer
- New housing on the site should be affordable homes only for existing Huntington residents (in the first instance).
- Tree Preservation Orders should go on existing trees at the current Huntington Primary school site. One of the trees was planted in the 1970's to remember a teacher who sadly passed away.

Via e-mail:

We would like to comment about suggestions for the old school site on Butterbache road. We feel that retaining the existing school hall and using as a new village hall / community centre would be a great benefit to the local Huntington community. We have recently been looking for a venue for a reception for a christening which we are having at St Lukes, we really wanted to choose somewhere local, but the existing village hall would not have had the capacity we require. Therefore we have been forced to look elsewhere and have now booked the doubletree hotel at a cost of approx. £1000 including catering. We would have gladly paid for room hire of a local venue and feel that a local village hall /community centre would be an ideal option for local residents to hire. If something could be done to retain a benefit of the old school and have a new venue, we are confident that it would be hired by a number of local residents, clubs and charities for many different types of events

Facebook Response.

Some more community shops/ maybe a bigger village hall on the site would be great to service the growing community that is here.

[3 likes](#)

In response to Huntington PC's request for residents to suggest ideas for use of the site that is soon to be vacated by the Huntington Primary School.

I would like to suggest that housing for the older generation be considered, and by housing I mean bungalows. People who have lived in Huntington and want to remain here but now want to downsize for whatever reason and by doing so freeing up their properties for new residents to move in. One or two bed-roomed bungalows, possibly some with wheelchair access. All to be sited in the middle of the old Huntington village on a soon to be quiet residential road, and perhaps if there is enough space, the possibility of a bowling green added alongside. There have been suggestions for the area to be turned over for recreational/fitness use aimed at youngsters but we already have the Jubilee Playing Field, play areas on the new development, Caldly Valley and two football pitches

allocated to the new school. My suggestion would cater for the needs of others in the community. Neighbouring locations such as Vicars Cross, Boughton, and Christleton all have areas where the older generation of the areas are taken into consideration with accommodation

A bigger village hall and community centre for the children in the area to go to and 'keep off the streets' there's not a lot for them to do in holidays, weekends and evenings...

[3 likes](#)

A community centre would be great - could be used by all the community for a variety of events.

[2 likes](#)

Community Centre and allotments seem like a good idea x

Community centre like The County Offices

A new village hall would be my vote. I believe houses would increase house price value in the area.

A decent shop to pull in work within the area x

Shops should be built on the old Saughton camp site. Butterbache road is not the best site for shops in my opinion.

The area needs a proper community centre and regular events to unite the residents. A venue for clubs classes scouts guides etc will still be needed as well as social events- the old school could offer this without much adjustment. We also desperately need a medical centre with all the additional houses that have been built leaving existing services over stretched

[3 likes](#)