

MINUTES OF HUNTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

17th February 2014 7.30 p.m. at Huntington Village Hall.

PRESENT

Chairman Cllr. R. Shelton (Vice Chairman in absence of Chairman)

Cllr. Jackie Creswick Cllr. John Creswick Cllr. David Ferguson Cllr. Martin Kemp

Cllr. Carolyn Walker

None Councillors

Public – 3

Clerk – Mrs. A. Wright

APOLOGIES

Cllr. Nick Dodd

Cllr. David McQuay

Cllr. A Wilcox

Cllr. Mark Williams

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None declared.

MINUTES

14/309 RESOLVED – That the Council agreed the minutes of the meeting held on the 20th January 2014 as a true and proper record noting the following matters:-

The newspaper article referred to on page 31 of the minutes, Bus Service, was actually a letter to the newspaper rather than an article.

It had been agreed at the January meeting that the Community Right to Bid would be considered at the Council's February meeting.

It was noted little detail had been given regarding the New Homes Bonus which is funding given by CW&C and is 20% of the New Homes Bonus the authority receives from central government for every new dwelling built, this amount is received annually for 6 years and is based on Council tax payments. This money had been earmarked for 'Parish Development' (resolution 14/308 page 311) and would be ring fenced in a high interest account.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Police report provided by PC Sally Malone who was unable to attend the meeting was read and covered the period 21st January until 17th February during which period there had been eleven occurrences, one of which was a crime. Other occurrences included domestic issues, concerns regarding safety; police generate matters and suspicious persons. A property had been entered and the Audi stolen. Cllr. Shelton commended the police for their actions in relation to this theft.

The Police in partnership with the Community Safety Wardens, CW&C Road Safety and the Parish Council had delivered an assembly to pupils at Huntington Primary School about inappropriate parking and general highways safety which it is hoped will be passed onto parents, letters had also been sent home. During that week the police had patrolled outside the school resulting in five drivers being advised in relation to inappropriate parking and one ticket being issued for parking on the keep clear zig zag lines, spot checks will continue in the future.

A resident asked when the dead trees on the Jubilee Field were due to be replaced and whether the Council could use the free trees discussed at a previous meeting. The Clerk will pursue when the replacement trees are to be planted. It was noted the free trees provided by Cheshire Landscape Trust are offered in October/November and that the Council will consider the offer again later this year if they are still available.

It was noted the Royal Oak is still alive and when large enough will be transferred to the Jubilee Field.

A resident asked following recent national news what emergency measures are in place in Huntington. It was agreed the Council should consider establishing a resilience plan for Huntington at its next meeting. It was also agreed that United Utilities be contacted to provide safety information and an update for the next newsletter. It was further agreed the clerk should contact the Village Hall committee to establish their understanding of existing emergency plans.

Concerns were raised regarding the new red lights on the Brewers Fayre (Twirl of Hay) which are visible from the Sainsbury's Junction and are causing confusion at the traffic lights; the clerk will report this matter.

Mr. Stuart Scheuber spoke in relation to Waverton under 7's being allowed to play football on the Jubilee Playing Field, the team are currently using a field in Christleton which is often flooded which they are paying £600 a year for. There are currently three team members from Huntington, to help address parking issues Mr. Scheuber had contacted United Utilities and the Cubs to arrange parking in that area. The team plays 5-a-side matches and would provide their own cones to mark the pitch and goals. The pitch would be used from 9 to 11 on Saturday mornings.

SAIGHTON CAMP DEVELOPMENT

It was reported that planning and enforcement will be visiting the development site in the next two weeks to review a number of issues including the swales, designated cycle tracks on the site and the connections between the first, second and third phases of the development.

It was noted that confusion over road names had been addressed. It was agreed the clerk should contact CW&C seeking clarification on the name of the road running past the Camp whether it is Sandy Lane or Chester Lane.

It was confirmed Cllr Williams had not yet met with Mr Green but that this would be done soon.

Concerns were raised regarding the lack of wheel washing taking place on the site in addition to contractors using the main entrance to the site rather than the contractor's entrance. It was also noted that Redrow are no longer keeping the area free from litter particularly around the sales office.

SAIGHTON CAMP SPORTS PITCH

The Chairman read the response from Charles Johnson of CEG regarding the new pitch which suggested the Parish Council should submit their own proposal on how the pitch should be managed taking into account it is to be run for community use rather than at a profit. Concerns were raised about the long-term ownership of the pitch. It was agreed the clerk should contact CW&C for advice on this matter as other factors also needed to be taken into account including the possible provision of a new school.

JUBILEE FIELD

The Council considered the request from Waverton Under 7's and the Hoole Hornets to use the Jubilee Playing Field. In relation to the Hoole Hornets it was agreed the Jubilee playing Field would not be suitable for use by an adults football team for a number of reasons including the pitch size, however it was also noted that the request was possibly to use the new pitch opposite the Rake and Pikel.

The Council agreed that it was willing for Waverton Under 7's to use the pitch in the Jubilee Field subject to suitable parking arrangements being put in place, the team leaving the pitch tidy and litter free and that the matches did not prevent other people using the field. The team also offered a payment of £600 to the Parish Council for use of the pitch. Payment and parking details will be circulated to all councillors by e-mail for final approval.

The team was also asked to provide an article for a future newsletter.

BUS SERVICE

Notes of the meeting which had taken place with Rob Jones (Stagecoach), John Ellis Jones (CW&C Transport), David Ferguson and the clerk were circulated (pages 317 & 318 of the minutes book). The clerk reported she was still waiting for a newsletter article and survey from Stagecoach.

Cllr. Jacky Creswick raised concerns that she had not been invited to the meeting, the clerk confirmed no date had been set at the January meeting of the Council although a number of councillors expressed an interest in attending the meeting and were therefore notified when a date was agreed. Cllr. Creswick had not

stated she wished attend and had therefore not been notified, the clerk requested in future if councillors wish to attend meetings they should clearly state this.

A number of issues had been raised at the meeting including the lack of a service to the Town Hall and onto the Hospital, it was noted if you change buses at the Bought Health Centre there is a service which will go to the Town Hall, it is also possible to get buses to the Hospital from outside Argos on Foregate Street.

It has also been suggest that stagecoach should offer family and teenager tickets.

It was noted that stagecoach had been asked to draft the survey as the Council did not want to issue a survey which would raised expectations that the existing service could be changed by the Parish Council.

It had been reported that the 106 money from the Saughton Camp development for transport had been paid into CW&C but had not yet reached the Transport section although the amount had not been asked; the clerk will pursue this question.

The question had been specifically asked at the meeting what influence could be had over the service in relation to the spending of the 106 money, Stagecoach had been very clear that they are a commercial service and therefore have control over how the service is run, the money would retrospectively fund the increase in frequency of the service and the route going to the railway station. They had been asked to run a more frequent service but had declined as it was not commercially viable.

Concerns had been raised about missing buses and lateness of some services however there had been changes to the timetables which had increased reliability to the service, CW&C confirmed they were receiving less complaint about the service and stagecoach provided graphs showing increased usage.

It was noted that there are a number of reasons why Stagecoach are not willing to go into the Town Hall, firstly lack of demand, cost of using the exchange, time limitations and the fact that frequency can be increased without an increase in the number of buses, also from 2015 the bus exchange will be at Gorse Stacks.

COMMUNITY RIGHT TO BID

The clerk had circulated information regarding the right to bid to Councillors but noted that there were exceptions to the right which included education. It was also noted that community asset transfer might also be an option. It was agreed that the Council should write to CW&C stating in principle the Parish Council supports the protection of the primary school land for use and/or development by the community should it become available in the future and what would be the best way of doing this.

It was also agreed the clerk should find out more information about community land trusts.

SUMMER FAIR

It was agreed the Council should pursue the idea of a summer fete to aid community cohesion to be held on the Jubilee Playing Field and that councillors should contact members of the community and different organisations to see if they would become involved and that an article should be included in the next newsletter. A number of possible ideas for the Fete were discussed including an ice cream van, bouncy castles, pony rides, mini beer festival, entertainment of older people including possible displays at the school, football tournament, police van and speed gun. It was agreed if possible a working group would be established to organise the event including a range of community members.

PAYMENTS

14/310 RESOLVED – That the Council reimburse Cllr. Ferguson for travel expenses for attending a training session in Sandbach.

The Council agreed the Clerk should contact Mr. Keith Jones and ask if he is willing to carryout the Council's internal audit at the same rate as last year.

PLANNING

The planning register page 75 was noted as circulated.

WORK PROGRAMME

The Council noted the work programme as circulated noting the following points:-

The Parish Assembly be moved to the 28th April and a normal Parish Council meeting be held on the 17th March to allow consideration quotes for grass cutting on the Jubilee Field etc.

That a list of those invited to the Parish Assembly be discussed at the next meeting.

That the Jubilee Field tidy be moved to 10am on Saturday 8th March.

That the clerk pursue the maintenance programme for Caldby Valley Nature Park.

That the clerk order 3 cans of pink chalk spray to spray dog fouling and check whether fouling is removed from grass verges and contact Great Boughton Parish Council regarding the spraying as part of the Nature Park is in their ward.

Request Cllr. Williams provide an update regarding damage to verges by BT.

Request repairs to grass verges at Gorse Way and Bus Circle by Walker's Nursery.

14/311 RESOLVED – that the Council move into Part 2 and exclude all public and press.

WEBSITE

Cllr. Kemp confirmed he would send over a template for the website which would match the newsletter free of charge.

It was agreed the website needs to include bright colourful photographs of Huntington.

14/312 RESOLVED – That the Council ask Nick Kennard to provide the website based on all rights to the site being owned by the Parish Council, it was agreed that a twitter feed should also feed onto the website. A timescale was also request for the development of the site once the order had been placed.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm.

The NEXT meeting of the Parish Council is on Monday 17th March 2014

Signed

Dated

Ann Wright
18th February 2014

HUNTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Notes from Informal Meeting with Stagecoach – 3rd February 2014

Present:

Huntington Parish Council – Cllr. David Ferguson

Cheshire West & Chester – John Ellis Jones

Stagecoach – Rob Jones

Clerk – Ann Wright.

The following issues were discussed:-

- Concerns were raised that the no.5 service no longer goes to the bus exchange at the Town Hall, this makes it difficult for the elderly to access the market and services to the hospital.
It was suggested passengers can get the DB1 or DB2 from outside Argos on Foregate Street where there is a twice hourly service which runs directly into the hospital.
It is also possible to change bus at the Boughton Heath Health Centre which goes to the bus exchange (82 & 84 Arriva service).
When the service stopped going to the bus exchange Helm's did still go to the Town Hall they have since changed their route.
Not going to the bus exchange has allowed stagecoach to increase the frequency of the service.
The number of complaints received regarding the service, its reliability and frequency have reduced since Stagecoach took over the service.
Since the new service was launched in August 2013 passenger numbers have increased, there was previously very few passengers travelling to the Town Hall exchange.
It was noted that the bus exchange will move as part of the Northgate Development, the new bus station will be at Gorse Stacks, work will begin on this in 2015. There will be some provision for buses to stop near the Northgate Development but this is likely to be used by buses travelling in that general direction.
- It was noted that the timetable is incorrect by St Luke's Church, Chester Road as it shows the 46 stopping there which it doesn't.
ACTION – Correct signage (JEJ)
- There is a lack of clear timetable showing the various bus services except displayed at bus stops.
- A discussion took place regarding electronic real time displays showing bus arrival times.
- It was noted that the lunchtime no.5 service had on a number of occasions in the past not arrived, it was though this had been due to road works at the time, stagecoach have revised the timetable to aid reliability.
- It was suggested that there needs to be better integration of bus services allowing tickets to be used across the different service providers and across different routes.
It was noted stagecoach do offer day tickets which can be used on different stagecoach routes in the area.
It was noted timetables have been distributed throughout the area and there was a discount voucher issued in the Standard.
There is a special £1 rate for evenings and Sundays.
It was suggested that family tickets and teenager tickets should be offered.
ACTION – details of day tickets and prices to be included in newsletter article plus possible survey questions (RJ)
- It was noted that the services through Huntington are commercial and therefore separate from the CW&C.
- It was noted that the smallest buses available are used on the no.5 route.
- Stagecoach has received funding to introduce more environmentally friendly buses on the route.
- It was noted the money from the Saughton Camp development has not yet been received by CW&C Transport, this was partly to fund an increase the service frequency and to provide a link to the railway station which has already been done by Stagecoach, they will receive funding for this retrospectively.
The investment of this money does not require stagecoach to run routes or services they do not believe to be viable as it is still a commercial service which is not controlled by CW&C.

It was thought some funding could be used to erect new bus stops, and it was suggested a formal bus stop should be considered on Caldby Valley Road (Chester Road end).

ACTION – New bus stops to be investigated and possibility of providing funding for improvements to the Parish Council bus stops (JEJ).

- The possibility of a ‘Quality Partnership’ was discussed, it was noted one exists in Blacon. Stagecoach would not consider a partnership for Huntington at this time as the route is not busy enough to justify it. A bus needs to make between £120,000 and £130,000 per year to break even.
- **ACTION** – details of Parish Assembly, 17th March, to be forwarded to RJ and JEJ (AW)

Ann Wright
3rd February 2014