

# MINUTES OF HUNTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

March 21<sup>st</sup> 2011 7.30 p.m.  
at Huntington Village Hall

## PRESENT

Chairman Cllr. M. Williams

Cllr. C. Buckler            Cllr. N. Dodd (from 7.50pm)            Cllr. D. McQuay

Cllr. J. Moore            Cllr. J. Scargill            Cllr. C. Walker

None Councillors

Public – 6

Clerk – Mrs. A. Wright

## APOLOGIES

Cllr. N. Dodd – late joining the meeting.

Cllr. A Wilcox - away

## DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None declared.

### **The chairman asked PC Sally Malone to update the council at this point of the meeting.**

PC Malone reported that between 8<sup>th</sup> February and the 16<sup>th</sup> March there had been 26 incidents reported, there had been 2 reports of nuisance motorcycle on Butterbache Road at school collection time. There had also been 2 domestic incidents leading to arrests, a burglary other than a dwelling where a mountain bike had been stolen. There had also been a double buggy stolen from the front of a property. PC Malone requested anyone with information contact her regarding any of these matters.

## **PRESENTATION BY AMANDA DOYLE ON SECURING EXTERNAL FUNDING FOR THE JUBILEE FIELD.**

Amanda Doyle, external funding officer for CW&C made the following points during the presentation:-

- Role is to find funding within and outside CW&C
- Had visited the Jubilee Field with John Seiler (CW&C Landscape Architect), Mary Lavery & Susie Woodward-Moore (CW&C Play Team), the findings from their visit were
  1. Field had a large amount of potential
  2. There were issues of drainage
  3. Play area is outdated
  4. Would be nice to overcome the separation with the schools playing field
- 106 money is a substantial amount of funding but need to maximise its potential through match funding etc.
- Could consider more mounded areas on the field and nature areas which could also attract funding.
- Could consider change of access – resolve the issue of parking.
- Good source of funding would be WREN who provide funding through levies on landfill sites the closest being Gowy. They offer small grants of between £2,000 and £15,000 and also larger grants of £15,001 and £50,000 (total project not more than £250,000) – they do charge an 11% administration fee, which could possibly be funded by the 106 money. Next deadline is May for August payments, then 17<sup>th</sup> August for November payments.
- Jubilee Peoples Millions, lottery funding up to £80,000. This source of funding is very competitive and will be decided by viewers votes following a TV programme about the shortlisted applicants.

- Reaching the Community Funding, lottery funding of up to £50,000.
  - Awards for All, lottery funding of up to £10,00, applications are processed within 6 weeks
  - Need to establish costs before proceeding on grant applications.
  - CW&C will provide support with grant applications including proof reading application forms.
  - Consultation information will provide a good basis for grant applications, need to illustrate the improvements are needed and wanted and that the playing field will have increased usage in the future.
  - The project, Jubilee Field, also needs to be sustainable, will need to show how the field will be maintained and looked after.
  - Need to show wide range of usage through differing age groups, over facilities and access for disabled people.
  - Worth visiting other playing fields in the area, including Tilston, Edgar's Field in Handbridge.
- The chairman thanked Amanda Doyle for her presentation.

### **PRESENTATION BY ALED ROBERTS ON BROADBAND SERVICES I N HUNTINGTON.**

Aled Roberts, CW&C ICT strategy and Architecture, made the following points during his presentation:-

- Broadband service in Huntington is provided on copper based BT circuits which reduces performance.
- BT is currently the only provider in the area where as in other areas there is more competition to provide the infrastructure for broadband e.g. Ellesmere Port Virgin Media also provide the service.
- The Huntington service is based at the Chester Central Exchange (opposite the amphitheatre) which is 2/3km from Huntington as the crow flies, however BT cables can be travel 4/5 km before reaching the area and the green local supply boxes.
- Different parts of Huntington will receive different strengths of broadband.
- Influencing factors on strength/speed of broadband:-
  1. Quality of installation
  2. Number of extensions used
  3. Microfilters
  4. Positioning of router
  5. Number of Wi-Fi channels in use in an area (only a limited number)
  6. Quality of equipment being used
- BT offer a service where they will guarantee to improve your broadband service by at least 1meg or they will not charge you, this service includes checking all points between your computer back to the exchange.
- CW&C are also struggling with same issues trying to provide fast broadband information points throughout the area including into schools.
- BT have announced that the Chester Central exchange will be enabled for Fibre and Super Fast Broadband in September 2011. This will provide alternative faster options to existing copper broadband solutions. However the fibre will need to be extended and rolled out from the Exchange to the local BT cabinets (local green boxes) but as yet no date has been given for this work.
- Need to apply public pressure/demand to get this work done.
- In a recent nationwide 'competition' by BT to encourage communities to sign up for fibre optics to be installed in their area (areas with the highest demand were converted first) Cheshire only register a 2% interest.
- CW&C are now working with Cheshire East to create a petition for residents/businesses to sign up to get BT to carry out the necessary work.
- It was agreed the Parish Council would also form a petition on its website and facebook to encourage residents and businesses to call BT to improve the service in Huntington.

- It was pointed out Huntington will have an additional 500 houses and that this will also have an impact on the service in the area.
- It was stated that broadband is being increasingly seen as a standard utility all should have equal access to.
- Information on broadband strengths can be found at [www.samknows.com](http://www.samknows.com)
- Broadband services from free providers can often dip at peak times e.g. early evening.

The chairman thanked Mr. Roberts for his interesting presentation.

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

A number of issues were raised regarding broad band strengths.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Chairman asked that the future of the post office be discussed.

## **MINUTES**

**11/124 RESOLVED** - That the Chairman signs the minutes of the Parish Council Meetings held on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2011 as a true and proper record.

## **ACCOUNTS**

**11/125 RESOLVED** – The council accept the accounts as circulated on page 39 of the cash book.

## **PAYMENTS**

**11/126 RESOLVED** – The council agreed the following payments:-

- Lengthsman for duties during February, March and April.
- Clerk's reimbursements – postage.
- Rake & Pikel – refreshments at Christmas.
- A Wilcox – website updates.

## **PLANNING**

The council noted the contents of page 23 of the planning register.

**11/127 RESOLVED** – that the following planning applications receive an observation of 'Judge on Merits':-

- 11/00348/FUL, United Utilities, Huntington Water Treatment Works, Erection of a new security gate house, security gate & security fence.
- 11/0891/FUL, 5 Cheshires Way, Huntington, conversion of garage into habitable room and installation of first floor window.
- 11/00264/FUL, Rake & Pikel Inn, Chester Road, Huntington, smoking shelter to existing beer garden.

## **JUBILEE FIELD**

**11/128 RESOLVED** – that the Hoole Hornets football team be notified that the Jubilee Field will not be available for use from the end of the current football season, due to concerns over the field's availability while improvements are taking place.

## **PROPOSED CHESTER RD CYCLE WAY**

It was noted the Parish Council had not received the detailed plans to consider this item properly, although it was briefly explained that the width of the joint use path had been reduced meaning it would not have a large impact on the verges and would not impact the Parish Council's trees on Chester Road. However this could not be confirmed due to the absence of the plans.

**11/129 RESOLVED** – that the council make the following observations regarding the proposal:-

- That the council is unable to make formal observations without seeing the detailed plans.

- That the council still has concerns regarding the loss of or reduction in the already narrow verges on Caldly Valley Road, which will change the character of the area, particularly in light of the fact a cycle path already exists from Chester Road by the side of the Post Office through Caldly Valley.

**CALDY VALLEY TREE PROJECT**

**11/130 RESOLVED** – that the Parish Council now goes ahead with the project and that the chairman signs the license, following approval of the license by the Parish Council’s insurance company.

**PARISH ASSEMBLY**

It was agreed due to purdah the Parish assembly would be held in May on the 16<sup>th</sup> April following a short Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council. It was agreed local groups and organisations would be invited to set up stalls in the Hall as was done last year.

**ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

The chairman reported that the post office would close unless a new location was found for it in Huntington. The current owner has been unable to sell the Post Office as a business and property; He was now willing to move the business to someone who would continue it in a nearby location, several interested parties have been contact by the chairman.

**11/131 RESOLVED** – that the council go into a private session for the consideration of tenders.

**TO CONSIDER TENDERS RECIEVED FOR THE GRASS CUTTING OF THE JUBILEE PLAYING FIELD.**

**11/132 RESOLVED** – That the council accept the quote provided by Countrywide Grounds Maintenance to cut the grass fortnightly in April and October and weekly during May, June, July, August and September depending on growth.

**The meeting closed ay 9.20pm**

**The NEXT meeting is the Annual (First) Meeting of the Council and the Annual Parish Assembly on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May**

Signed .....

Dated .....

Ann Wright 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011