

MINUTES OF HUNTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

20th February 2012 7.30 p.m. at Huntington Village Hall

PRESENT

Chairman Cllr. N. Dodd (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr. Jackie Creswick

Cllr. John Creswick

Cllr. D. Ferguson

Cllr. D. McQuay

Cllr. R. Shelton

Cllr. C. Walker

Cllr. A. Wilcox

None Councillors

Public – 12

Clerk – Mrs. A. Wright

APOLOGIES

Cllr. Mark Williams – CW&C meeting

Cllr. Martin Kemp – work

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Cllr. Carolyn Walker declared a prejudicial interest in Item 6, Pre-Application Consultation Telephone Mast & Base Station as the proposed site belongs to close family members.

MINUTES

12/174 RESOLVED – That the Chairman signs the minutes of the Parish Council Meetings held on 21st November 2011 and January 2012 as a true and proper record.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A resident of Meadow Lane raised the following concerns regarding improvements to the Jubilee Field having visited a number of playing fields as suggested by the CW&C landscape architect, John Seiler.

- That provision is made to ensure the playing field is kept clear of graffiti.
- That provision is made to keep the field clear of litter.

He raised concerns that the suggested sites were not comparable to the Jubilee Field as sites were not surrounded by owner occupied properties.

Mr. De Newton (Resident of Meadow Lane) raised three concerns relating to the Jubilee Field which had been included in an e-mail circulated to Councillors earlier in the day.

1. The improvements to the Jubilee Field is a significant legacy project and that decisions relating to the field should be carefully thought through and should take into account the future management of the field, the future upkeep and whether the equipment is what the children actually want and use.
2. The landscape architect has stated that drainage of the field is reasonably good, however the last 12 months according to the Met Office has been the driest year of the last decade and does not reflect the true picture. If the drainage issue is not adequately resolved it will be difficult to resolve it in the future once new equipment has been installed.
3. The choice of equipment for the field is very important including some large/expensive items, can the working group be sure the equipment chosen is the right equipment and will get used.

A resident stated that the Flashing 30mph sign on Caldly Valley Road (Chester Road end) is facing traffic travelling from Sainsbury's whereas previously it monitored the other direction. It was agreed the clerk would pursue this matter.

A resident stated he was pleased that the phone mast had been withdrawn and asked if anything could be done to protect the nature park from phone masts in the future. It was noted that the mast was not actually in the Nature Park and although the Park could refuse to site masts it could not prevent other land owners allowing masts on neighbouring land if planning permission is granted.

Cllr. Creswick thanked everyone for their support objecting to the mast on behalf of the Friends of Caldly Valley Nature Park.

The following matters were raised by residents in relation to highways matters:-

- The Huntington sign on Caldly Valley Road had not been reinstated.
- It was agreed the clerk should contact Highways to carry out another walk to look at unresolved issues relating to the Saughton Camp development.
- A resident stated a double tanker had travelled along Caldly Valley Road past Sedum Close on the wrong side of the road travelling at 40mph. It was agreed due to growing concerns about the speed of tankers travelling to and from the water works along Caldly Valley Road that United Utilities should be invited to attend the March meeting of the Council.
- A resident asked that the number of large vehicles travelling along Caldly Valley Road from the former Saughton Camp during buildings works be restricted. It was noted that the council had requested restrictions as part of its planning observations.
- Concerns were raised regarding learner drivers and instructors on the Sainsbury's junction. It was agreed the clerk should highlight this issue to the police and CW&C road safety team.

A resident asked if any further information had been received regarding the installation of the new post box on The Green. It was confirmed a new post box had now been installed although concerns were voiced regarding its size. Residents were asked if the post box was becoming too full to please report this so the Post Office could be asked to install a larger box.

A resident of Meadow Lane asked if a response would be given to the letter sent regarding the three concerns raised previously.

Concerns were voiced about poor drainage on the field. It was noted that drainage work had taken place on the field about 20 years ago when there had been little money available, it was stated that drainage on a sports field is usually quite close together however on the Jubilee Field it is quite spread out.

It was suggested the drains need jetting out.

Concerns were raised regarding increased usage of Meadow Lane and how it would be maintained.

Residents were asked to be vigilant as a driver of a white van had been seen trying to find scrap metal to take from hedgerows etc.

Residents asked that United Utilities be asked when they attend the Parish Council to explain their safety procedures including the use of the siren and that this information could be made available on the Council's website. It was agreed that United Utilities should be asked to discuss the following 3 areas:-

1. Tractors travelling to and from the site.
2. The plans for the site in the long term future.
3. What works are taking place.

PLANNING

The council noted the contents of pages 35 and 36 of the planning register noting that application 12/00110/TEL for an 18m Telecommunications Mast and cabinets had been withdrawn.

Cllr. Walker left the meeting at this point and took no part in the following discussion.

PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION TELEPHONE MAST & BASESTATION

The clerk informed the meeting that Vodafone and Telefonica had not contacted the Parish Council to ask if a mast could be sited on the Jubilee Field as stated in the information provided. It was noted that the diagram was not representative of the mast described in the information.

12/175 RESOLVED – That the clerk write stating that Council had concerns regarding the accuracy of information received as the Council had not been consulted as stated.

Cllr. Walker rejoined the meeting.

JUBILEE FIELD

12/176 RESOLVED – That Cllr. Mark Williams as Chairman and Cllr. Nick Dodd as Vice Chairman would act as the Council's signatories on the WREN contract.

12/177 RESOLVED – That that Cheshire West and Chester Council manage the finances and payments for the

Jubilee Field improvements including the WREN grant and 106 monies.

12/178 RESOLVED – That the clerk in consultation with the Jubilee Field Working Group accept the recommendations of John Seiler (CW&C landscape architect) relating to the appointment of the contractor to carryout the Jubilee Field improvements.

12/179 RESOLVED – That the clerk in consultation with the Jubilee Field Working Group agree the final design of the Jubilee Field with regard to the tender agreed.

CW&C SAIGHTON CAMP RESPONSE

Councillors voiced their disappointment at the response received which showed little sympathy or understanding of the problems which have occurred during the extensive roads works as a result of the Saighton Camp development. The letter while noting delays from the Whitchurch direction it did not mention delays when travelling between Huntington and Vicars Cross. The highways update which has been posted on the Council's website and facebook pages shows the Sainsbury's junction is not yet fit for purpose and it was felt that a lot of drivers are still avoiding the junction.

It was agreed the Council would not respond to the letter but continue to work with Highways to monitor faults.

SAIGHTON LIAISON GROUP

The Council noted the correspondence sent to Victoria Walker of Beattie Communications seeking clarification that the Liaison Group was not created by the Parish Council and that the Parish Council is not responsible for the running of these meetings.

The Council agreed the following statement:-

The Saighton Camp Liaison Group was formed following a public meeting requested by Huntington Parish Council in 2005, since that time the Liaison Group has been facilitated by CEG and Beattie Communications.

It was agreed an article should be included in the next newsletter explaining the matter and that CEG should be asked what their communication strategy is.

12/180 RESOLVED – That the council invited CEG to attend the April meeting of the Parish Council to explain the proposed next phase of the development and take part in a face to face question and answer session with residents.

WEBSITE

Cllr. Wilcox declared a prejudicial interest in this matter as he receives payment for maintaining the Website, he provided the following information then left the meeting and took no further part in the discussion.

In the first full year of operation the website received just under 1957 hits, during 2011 it had 18,500 visits. The Parish Council has now established a Facebook page, it was important that the Parish Council establish what the role is of the website and facebook pages so that they do not simply duplicate each other. It was also noted that Facebook should not be the method used to contact the council if a response or action is required.

Cllr. Wilcox left the meeting.

Concerns were raised that some sections of the website are out of date. It was agreed that the site needed simplifying and refreshing to improve its look, feel and usability.

12/181 RESOLVED – that a small working group including Cllrs. Creswick, Shelton and Wilcox would be established to make recommendations regarding the scope and purpose of the website and facebook page and the review and refresh the website. The Council noted the hard work of Cllr. Wilcox in creating and maintaining the website.

12/182 RESOLVED – That the Cllr. Wilcox be paid for the updating of the website in November and January.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Councillors noted that the informal meeting with members of Great Boughton Parish Council to

consider the terms of reference for the Neighbourhood Plan had been very useful. It was noted that Parish Councillors should make up a minority of the steering group and that the plan should be driven by the wider community.

12/183 RESOLVED – the Council adopts the Terms of Reference for the Neighbourhood plan as on page 177 of the minutes book.

It was agreed the next step will be to organise public meetings to explain the process and encourage members of the public to get involved. It was noted that it would be a good idea to hold two meetings on two different days at different times days to attract a range of people. It was agreed that neighbouring parishes should be invited to the launch event.

The clerk reported she had written to the neighbouring parishes regarding whether or not they are intending to develop neighbourhood plans, the only response received was from Christleton Parish Council stating the matter would be raised at their March meeting.

ACCOUNTS

12/184 RESOLVED – That the accounts and payments were accepted as on page 50 of the cash book including the payment made to Wren for £5500, this included the £500 approved at the January meeting of the Council plus the grant from CW&C.

PAYMENTS

No outstanding payments.

DONATION

12/185 RESOLVED - That the council make a donation of £300 to the Huntington Seniors towards their meal to celebrate the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee.

WORK PROGRAMME

The council noted the work programme and raised the following items:-

- Concerns were raised about the response received from street scene regarding the clearing of pathways, the path between Celandine, Butterbur and Harebell are almost blocked by hedges and shrubs. It was reported that there was a large amount of litter between Speedwell and Bluebell.
- It was noted the daffodils have not come up again following their replacement following the gas pipeline works. It was agreed this would be monitored until the March meeting.
- Cllr. Ferguson provided photographs of damage done to the verges by BT Openreach vans on Chester Road by High Bank and at the Caldly Valley Road Gorse Way junction by the green boxes. It was agreed the clerk should write to BT to ask them contribute towards or reinstate these verges and copy this request to CW&C highways department.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm

**The NEXT meeting of the Parish Council is on Monday 19th March 2012
at Huntington Village Hall from 7.30pm.**

Signed

Dated

Ann Wright
24th February 2012