

MINUTES OF HUNTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

18th July 2011 7.30 p.m. at Huntington Village Hall

PRESENT

Chairman Cllr. N. Dodd (Vice –Chairman)

Cllr. D Ferguson

Cllr. C. Walker

Cllr. A. Wilcox

None Councillors

Public – 11

Clerk – Mrs. A. Wright

The Clerk reported that Cllr. James Scargill had resigned from the Parish Council with immediate effect for health reasons and that the notice for election had been posted in the Notice Board.

The Clerk reported that Huntington Parish Council had been awarded Quality Status.

APOLOGIES

Cllr. Jackie Creswick – Personal Commitment

Cllr. John Creswick – Personal Commitment

Cllr. M. Kemp – Appointment

Cllr. M. Williams – Work

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None declared.

PRESENTATION (Q&A)

Heath Land Medical Centre Practice Manager, Linda Bennett, gave a presentation on the services provided by the medical centre and future plans which included the following points:-

- The medical centre had not been aware of the size of the new development until contacted by the Parish Council and had contacted CEG (Saighton Camp Developer) for more information.
- The practice has no immediate concerns about increased numbers of patients as the practice building is large enough to accommodate more staff if and when required.
- The Practice currently includes five Doctors, some of whom are part-time, 3 practice nurses, district nurses as well as other staff.
- A concern was raised that it is currently very difficult to get an appointment to see a Doctor even without the increased number of houses in the area.
- Mrs Bennett explained that 40% of daily appointment slots are for urgent appointments, 60% are for non-urgent routine appointments booked up to two weeks in advance. This system is for appointments to see the Doctor only. Mrs Bennett went on to state anyone with an acute illness or an ill child would be seen on the day of contacting the practice.
- There are guidelines which determine the ratio of doctors to patients and that the practice is within these limits.
- The Practice also employs an Advanced Nurse Practitioner who can diagnose patients and refer them to the Doctor.
- Mrs. Bennett confirmed she would look into the issue of people being unable to get appointments and reported the daily appointment slots are often not filled
- It was confirmed the practice is currently looking at an on-line booking system.
- The question was asked if the practice has a projected figure for patients over the next ten years – a maximum they expect.
- Mrs Bennett stated that the practice was established sixteen years ago and that the number of patients had remained largely static over that period despite changes in the area at approximately seven thousand patients. Even with the new development it would be unlikely the figures would change drastically as not all would change their doctors despite moving house and not all would

register with Heath Lane. It was felt the practice could easily accommodate an additional thousand patients.

- A concern was raised about the impact of the new medical centre being developed in Chester on the former Delamere Bus Station which will accommodate four existing medical practices particularly as patients visiting the new centre will have to pay for parking. Mrs Bennett confirmed this was unlikely to have a large impact on the Heath Lane Practice.
- A concern was expressed regarding the decision to move the Health Visitors who carry out the baby clinics away from the Practice to the Cherry Grove Children's Centre, Mrs Bennett confirmed the Practice had not wanted to lose this service but that it had been a PCT (Primary Care Trust) decision.
- Mrs. Bennett confirmed the practice offers a wide range of services including minor surgery, family planning, holiday clinics, and would be introducing a Yellow Fever Centre very soon.
- It was confirmed that one and a half to two thousand patients were needed to fund a new Doctor.
- Mrs. Bennett confirmed that two of the Practices popular doctors are sessional doctors and would be happy to increase the number of sessions they work if required.
- The Practice is about to re-launch its Patient Forum and will be carrying out a patients survey from the 1st September. Mrs Bennett confirmed the Parish Council could have a representative on this Forum.
- It was agreed the Parish Council would update the link to the Practice's website.
- It was confirmed the Practice is only obliged to accept patients within a three mile boundary.
- It was suggested that patients could be asked if they were likely to move the new medical centre in Chester as part of the practice survey to be carried out.
- Another resident confirmed she had also had problems obtaining Doctors appointments within a reasonable number of days.
- It was confirmed that it is difficult getting appointments at most Doctors surgeries not just Heath Lane.
- It was noted that many patients see a Doctor when this is not necessary and that there is a need to educate patients about what services are available and who can provide these services including nurses. There is also an issue with patients not turning up for appointments.
- Mrs. Bennett stated a new TV screen was being installed in the surgery which will show information relating to services and who can provide which treatments.
- It was also noted that due to funding regimes it is difficult to forward plan for example a new doctor can not be funded until actual patient numbers have increased.
- Residents commented it would be helpful to know if there is a delay seeing the doctor or whether appointments are running to time.
- Mrs Bennett confirmed she would take comments made back to the practice and was thanked by the Chairman for attending the meeting.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Concerns were raised by residents and councillors about the increased litter in Huntington including along the road into Saughton. It was also noted there is a large amount of weeds now growing in the gutters. It was agreed the clerk should arrange a meeting with Street scene to discuss this matter and highlight problem areas.

It was reported that the public bench by St Luke's Church is in a poor condition and is also in the wrong place. It was agreed the clerk should seek quotes for a replacement bench similar to the one on The Green and also for the repair of the bench. It was also agreed a quote should be obtained for installing a bench at the bus stop by the Rake and Pikel.

Concerns was raised about the condition and position of the Chester Road sign when entering Huntington from Chester, it was asked whether a sign would be better placed opposite the junction with Caldly Valley Road, although it was noted the sign had been erected before the Caldly Valley Development had taken place. The clerk will look into the matter.

Residents raised concerns about the lack of publicity which took place for the Annual Parish Meeting which took place in May. The clerk confirmed the meeting was advertised in the usual way including notice boards and posters displayed in Huntington and that flyers were also distributed by the primary school, however it had been difficult to advertise all those attending on the flyers as a number had not confirmed their attendance until quite late. More general comments were made regarding how the Parish Council could communicate more effectively with residents. A suggestion was made to look at introducing more notice boards around the Parish including in bus stops as well as using other organisations boards including those in Caldy Valley Nature Park. There was also a discussion about residents not receiving the Parish Council's newsletters which are produced quarterly and whether information should be included in local publications including the Huntington Handbook. It was agreed that this matter should be discussed in more detail at the next Parish Council meeting as an agenda item and that residents should forward any ideas to councillors or the clerk.

The clerk reported that the area on Gorse Way which had been fenced off was for the storage of materials for the creation of the new cycle paths and had been granted permission by CW&C Street scene department who own and maintain the area of land and that it would be returned to its former condition once work had been completed. It was agreed the clerk should ask that this area be turfed rather than reseeded.

MINUTES

11/152 RESOLVED - That the Chairman signs the minutes of the Parish Council Meetings held on 20th June 2011 as a true and proper record.

JUBILEE FIELD IMPROVEMENTS

The clerk reported she had been continuing to work on the bid from WREN for funding. CW&C officers working on the project has stated Huntington Parish Council had £110,000 to put towards the project and that this was significantly more than the Parish Council had believed they had which was around £70,000 as a result the clerk had asked officers to double check this amount as the difference in the two amounts of money would have a significant impact on the project.

The Parish Council will still need to find £10,500 to cover the costs of the landscape Architect and the administration costs for the WREN bid.

The council was asked to make a decision on whether or not dogs would be permitted onto the field. Currently dogs are banned from the field but this ban is frequently ignored. The inclusion of dogs onto the field would add to the natural surveillance on the field but would also increase the risks from dog fouling where irresponsible owners fail to pick up the mess. The Council agreed to defer this decision until the next meeting of the Council due to the number of councillors absent and to allow more public debate on the matter.

SURGERIES

The clerk circulated a list of dates of future surgeries and asked for councillors to volunteer for these dates. Cllrs. Dodd and Ferguson volunteered for the August surgery. It was agreed the clerk should also ask the Police and Community Safety Wardens to also attend the surgery.

11/153 RESOLVED – That the council purchase an 'A' Board for use at the surgeries to a maximum cost of £50.

CALDY VALLEY ROAD SPEEDING

The clerk reported since the last meeting she had contacted CW&C Road Safety team to ask advice on the speeding issue on Caldy Valley Road. As a result information had been received showing that 85% of vehicles are travelling at 40mph when travelling north at the Brook, 85% of those travelling South are at a speed of 37mph. The Road Safety team are therefore recommending two forms of action, the formation of a Community Speed Watch Group which will be supported by the Community Safety Wardens and the PCSO and would carryout speed checks on Caldy Valley Road using a speed gun and also a local campaign to ask residents to sign up the pledge to drive within the speed limit.

It was agreed the Parish Council needed to ask people to volunteer to join the speed watch group and then organise the necessary training.

ACCOUNTS

11/154 RESOLVED – That the council note the accounts as circulated on page 45 of the Cash Book.

The clerk reported that the council is making an increasing number of payments by Bacs for example for the grass cutting and lengths mans duties, although this means the clerk does not have to organise getting cheques signed it does raise issues about payments being checked. As a result it was agreed that the clerk will e-mail copies of invoices to cheque signatories two of who need to e-mail back confirming they have checked the invoice and that the payment can be made and that these confirmations will be kept with the invoice.

PAYMENTS

There were no outstanding payments to be made.

PLANNING

The council noted the contents of page 26 of the planning register.

11/155 RESOLVED – That a comment of Judge on Merits be made on application 11/02692/FUL, 31 Butterbache Road, single storey rear extension.

The meeting closed at 9.00

The NEXT meeting of the Parish Council is on Monday 19th September 2011

Signed

Dated

Ann Wright 23rd July 2011