

MINUTES OF HUNTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

18th June 2012 7.00 p.m. at Huntington Village Hall.

PRESENT

Chairman Cllr. M. Williams

Cllr. Jackie Creswick

Cllr. John Creswick

Cllr. N. Dodd

Cllr. D. Ferguson

Cllr. M. Kemp

Cllr. C. Walker

Cllr. A. Wilcox

None Councillors

Public – 10

Clerk – Mrs. A. Wright

APOLOGIES

Cllr. McQuay – Work.

Cllr. Shelton – Personal Commitment

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Cllr. Walker declared a personal interest in item, 16 Planning relating to informal consultation relating to a public footpath which crosses a relatives land.

MINUTES

12/211 RESOLVED – That the Chairman signs the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 21st May as a true and proper record.

PRESENTATION ON DOG CONTROL ORDERS

Andrew Challinor, CW&C Regulatory Services Manager introduced himself, he explained that he covers a wide range of areas including some licensing and health and safety areas. The new Borough wide Dog Control Order was introduced to end the confusion of different parts of the Borough being covered by different regulations. There is now a single dog control order in place which has a number of aspects to it including making it an offence not to pick up dog fouling, some areas will include the requirement for dogs to be kept on leads or as in the case of the Jubilee Field in Huntington total dog bans.

Mr. Challinor explained that breaching the control order is an offence and is a form of anti-social behaviour and that part of the Council's enforcement attempts to re-educate people.

It is important that the public inform CW&C officers when people are breaching the control orders so that the limited resources can be targeted at these times.

It was suggested that the number should be advertised at the Jubilee Field for members of the public to report those walking dogs on the playing field.

It was reported that there are large amounts of dog fouling in the Caldly Valley Nature Park.

A more visible presence by the dog warden in the area was requested.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Challinor for attending the meeting.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Clerk reported she has received a letter from the Village Hall Committee requesting a representative of the Parish Council attend the Village Hall Committee's meeting on the 25th June, it was confirmed Jacky Creswick will be attending the meeting as the Council's representative.

Mr. Bonner (Meadow Lane Resident) raised the following matters relating to the Jubilee Field:-

- During the 3rd week of the works people were accessing the field and walking dogs when it was closed this was reported at the time.
- The gap in the Meadow Lane hedge has become larger and there are continued breaches of the contractors fencing both at the main entrance and the Scout Hut entrance.
- It was stated that the contractors are not adhering to the appropriate health and safety measures on the field.
- 19th February it was reported that drainage was adequate on the field, it was reported that this is not the view of the neighbouring residents.

- 9th March contractors removed a number of healthy and thriving trees around the boundary of the former play area.
- It was reported that the trees had been donated by the Cheshire Landscape Trust and that a promise had been made that their futures would be secured. It was requested that the Parish Council should compensate the Trust for the loss of these trees.
- It was noted that it had been stated that increased planting of trees would improve drainage having already removed a number of trees.
- 3rd June photographs were taken of the field showing it is waterlogged.
- Concerns were raised about the removal of the metal fencing around the play area in the close proximity of the swales.
- It was stated small consideration had been given to the safety needs of the field's users.

Mr. Allwood raised concerns about the hole in the hedge on Meadow Lane and the fear that a child would exit the field through this gap in the path of tractor. He noted that a lot of resident's views had been ignored and that if there is a problem with the drains in the future it will be very expensive to resolve.

It was confirmed that the gap in the hedge will be planted up and filled, and that concerns about vehicles parking in the closed gateway will be dealt with if they become a problem.

It was reported that a number of test digs have taken place to look at the drains and that the drains running across the field do contain some silt but are working as well as can be expected taking into account their depth, the larger drain which these run into did not contain silt and was running well. It was stated that all surface which have been installed except for the multiuse games area have porous surfaces.

The following concerns were raised relating to CEG and the Saighton Camp development.

- An article was included in last weeks Chester Standard stating the increased bus service promised by CEG is now not to take place.
- General concerns were raised regarding the buses in the area and the lack of a clear timetable or route information which will impact on the number of people using the buses, although it was noted that some buses are well used.
- It was stated in the inspector's decision that no work was to take place on Sundays yet work is being carried out and that all road works be completed before construction took place on site, there is still outstanding works on the roads including 3 unfinished crossings.
- Serious concerns were raised that works are taking places on the former Saighton Camp outside permitted hours, work should be carried out between 8.00 and 6.00 Monday to Friday, 8.00 to 1.00 on a Saturday and not at all on Sundays and bank holidays.
- Serious concerns were raised about the number of movements on and off the site. It was reported that when these concerns were raised to CW&C that the restrictions on apply to vehicles accessing and exiting the site and no limits can be put on highways in general, this is missing the point that the contractors are ignoring restrictions put in place to protect residents. Residents were asked to report and where possible photograph breaches to these restrictions, it was agreed the clerk should contact the CW&C enforcement officer, Nial Casselden and request more robust enforcement action be taken including the use of straps on the highway to record vehicles accessing the site or that the movement log be requested from the contractors.

A resident asked when dead Hawthorns on Chester Road will be replaced. It was confirmed this is to be done in the Autumn when the trees are being planted on Caldys Valley Road.

A suggestion was made that the traffic signals on Chester Road be fitted with sensors to switch to red when vehicles are speeding towards them. It was agreed the clerk would ask the highways dept if this is possible.

Concerns were raised regarding the route to Walker's nursery and the post office, with people having to walk on a busy road in a number of places.

It was reported by a resident that the path at Top of High Bank has become over grown and needs cutting back as has the path from the end of Butterbache Road to Chester Road, the clerk will report these issues.

SAIGHTON CAMP/HIGHWAYS DEVELOPMENT

It was agreed that the clerk respond to the letter from Charles Johnson (CEG) and request that he or a colleague attend the Council's next meeting to explain the letters contents and findings which the council found surprising.

Further concerns were raised by the failure of the SCOOT traffic management system and how this was to be resolved.

The Chairman read an e-mail from Paul Parry responding to the Council's request for him, John Evans and Steve Lewis to attend a council meeting. The e-mail stated that officers would not attend a meeting at this time as it was felt they could provide no further information than had been previously supplied and that officers were still willing to respond to written questions.

It was agreed the clerk should write again requesting that John Evans and Paul Parry attend a meeting to provide updates and explanations of work which has been carried out and why CEG have not be forced to resolve issues of highway safety more quickly. It was suggested that for clarity and transparency the final signing off of the Sainsbury's junction should be carried out by an independent body.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

12/212 RESOLVED – That the amended Community Engagement Strategy be adopted as circulated.

The council agreed the Annual Report/Newsletter as circulated with the correction that it is the summer edition.

CHESHIRE LANDSCAPE TRUST

12/213 RESOLVED – That the council write to the Cheshire Landscape Trust with a donation of £25 as compensation for the trees lost during the Jubilee Field improvements.

HUNTINGTON VILLAGE HALL

12/214 RESOLVED – that the Council give a donation of £500 to Huntington Village Hall in lieu of rent.

CODE OF CONDUCT

12/215 RESOLVED – The Council resolves that with effect from the date of the coming into force of section 27 of the Localism Act 2011, to adopt the code of conduct adopted by Cheshire West and Chester Borough Council as an interim measure, on the basis that references in the code to Cheshire West and Chester Borough Council's register are to Tilston Parish Council's register.

PLANTERS

The clerk reported the planters had still not been installed however Walkers Nursery had agreed to supply the plants which Cllr. Wilcox will plant, the clerk will continue to pursue there installation.

TPO UPDATE

The Council noted the contents of the letter from CW&C Chief Executive, Steve Robinson which stated that it was not possible to place an effective TPO on highways, CW&C owned trees.

With regard to a request to TPO the Red Hawthorn on Chester Road it was agreed the clerk should continue to pursue this request as the tree was one of five planted by the Parish Council following the second World War to commemorate the war and should therefore be protected due its historic importance.

PARKING ON THE GREEN

It was reported that the owner of the newsagents on The Green on Chester Road had suggested marking diagonal parking spaces on the road due to a lack of customer parking in evenings due to vehicles going to other businesses on The Green which was having a negative impact on trade. It was agreed the clerk should put the suggestion to highways.

JUBILEE FIELD

It was noted that the chairman and vice chairman were attending an informal meeting to receive an update on the Jubilee field later. It was hoped the opening would be sometime at the beginning on July and include some classes from Huntington Primary School. Information will be circulated to councillors as soon as possible.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

It was agreed that the Neighbourhood Plan launch meeting would be held at the Parish Council's October council meeting and would include a short presentation from CW&C officers and some form of workshop activities to identify key features of the area. The autumn newsletter will focus on neighbourhood planning to help advertise the event.

PLANNING

The Council noted the contents of the planning register page 55 as circulated.

12/216 RESOLVED – that the council submit the following comment on application 12/02604/TEL, 15m high street furniture type telecommunications tower incorporating 6no. 3G antennas within GRP shroud, 1no. equipment cabinet 1no. meter pillar, all ancillary development (foundations, etc) at junction of Sandy Lane and Chester Road. That the mast be located away from the highway so as to be in a less visually prominent position at the entrance to Huntington.

12/217 RESOLVED – that the council submit the following comment with regard to the informal consultation on Huntington footpath no. 6, that the council would support the stopping up or extinguishment of this footpath or if that was not possible that a suitable diversion be implemented.

ACCOUNTS & PAYMENTS

12/218 RESOLVED – That the Council agreed the accounts as circulated on page 59 of the Cash Book.

12/219 RESOLVED – That the Council pay RR Book-Keeping for payroll services for 2011-2012.

WORK PROGRAMME

The Council noted the work programme as circulated with the addition on the following items:-

- Inclusion of actions relating to the TPO for the Red Hawthorn on Chester Road.
- That the clerk pursue verge and grass cutting inc. on the Nature Park.
- That Huntington sign by the Rake and Pikel be fixed properly and the replacement of the missing sign by the Nature Park.
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The meeting closed at 10.00pm

The NEXT scheduled Parish Council Meeting on Monday 16th July 2012 at Huntington Village Hall.

Signed

Dated

Ann Wright 20th June 2012