

MINUTES OF HUNTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

18th November 2013 7.30 p.m. at Huntington Village Hall.

PRESENT

Chairman Cllr. Roy Shelton (Vice Chairman in the absence of the Chairman)

Cllr. Jackie Creswick Cllr. John Creswick Cllr. David Ferguson Cllr. Carolyn Walker

None Councillors

Public –7

Clerk – Mrs. A. Wright

APOLOGIES

Cllr. Nick Dodd – Work Commitment

Cllr. Martin Kemp – Abroad

Cllr. David McQuay – Work Commitment

Cllr. Anthony Wilcox – Work Commitment

Cllr. Mark Williams – Work Commitment

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None declared.

MINUTES

13/300 RESOLVED – That the Council agreed the minutes of the meeting held on the 21st October 2013 as a true and proper record.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chairman read the police report from PC Malone for the period 21st October to 13th November during which time there had been 14 occurrences of which 3 were crimes and 3 were highways related. There have been a number of burglaries in the area recently taking place in late afternoons early evenings, residents were asked to consider putting lights on timer switches so that they come on when it goes dark so that homes do not look empty, residents were also reminded to keep doors and windows locked and not to keep valuables and their packaging on display.

Residents can register free of charge at www.cheshirepolicealert.co.uk to be sent regular police alerts for the area.

It was noted that a car had been stolen from a drive in the area, residents were reminded not to leave cars running and unattended.

A resident raised concerns regarding the new no parking on verge signs at the end of roads leading to Chester Road as on they in effect show parking is permitted on verges when exiting Chester Road in addition it was noted that some of the signs have been put up the wrong way round. The clerk will raise these issues with CW&C Highways.

It was noted CW&C have been undertaking enforcement action along Chester Road.

It was agreed that the clerk should write to the following: BT Openreach to ask that their vans do not park on the verges on Chester Road or Caldley Valley Road, CW&C to request Streetscene wagons do not drive on verges to empty bins and to the Rake and Pikel and Hartwell's to ask that they put in place measures to protect verges outside their businesses.

Concerns were raised about parking on Butterbache Road during school dropping off and collection times; vehicles were reported driving along pavements at these times. It was reported that the council had previously contributed £4000 to the school to create a parking and dropping off area, this was now being used as a staff car park. It was agreed the clerk should write to the school and offer support to address this on going issue.

A resident of Sorrell Close reported she had not received the last copy of the Parish Council's newsletter.

It was reported that the Frost Fair which will follow the Christmas Light switch on on the 7th December from 6pm is organised there will be hot food available, a bar and stalls, the reindeers and Santa will also be attending.

It was reported that there was large amount of litter on Saughton/Chester Lane leading towards Saughton from Huntington it was asked if a bin could be located on the lane, litter was also reported on the path from Chester Road to Caldly Valley Road. It was reported that the hedge on the path from the Chester Road shops to Butterbache Road is overgrown and is narrowing the path; the clerk will report these matters.

It was suggested the Parish Council could use banners on The Green to advertise events so people know what is going on. It was noted that the parish Council's facebook page is growing in popularity.

A question was raised regarding revenue from the new newsletter, it was confirmed that revenue from adverts goes towards the newsletter costs.

The question was asked what enforcement actions are being taken by CW&C regarding the Saughton Camp development. It was reported over the last month there had be an extraordinary number of wagons entering and exiting the site, it was suggested that the developers are clearly breaching planning permission conditions and that the community should undertake vehicle counts. It was noted that there can be six or eight wagons parked up outside the site at 8.45am.

It was stated that there were a number of things granted in the planning permission on the Camp which have not been delivered. It was agreed information should be forwarded to the clerk as evidence that conditions are not being met.

It was reported that the manhole cover opposite 168 Chester Road is rocking and making a noise as vehicles drive over it, this will be reported by the clerk.

It was reported that the pavement leading from High Bank towards the Red House is covered in branches, the clerk will report this.

SAUGHTON CAMP DEVELOPMENT

It was reported that the meeting had not yet taken place on site to discuss the Swales as the clerk had been waiting for further information however amended plans of the swales had now been supplied and circulated. Residents confirmed they still had a number of questions which would be forwarded to the clerk including whether the swales would contain water, concerns were also raised about the concrete buttresses which are on view. Earlier plans had also shown a bridge into the school site would this still be built? A new rustic fence had been erected around the swales but it was suggested a hedge would be more appropriate and would help to prevent litter going into the Swales. It was noted the drawings supplied do not include contours so it is difficult to judge their depth.

Concerns were raised regarding whether the boardwalk included on the plans would be slippery and it was suggested a list of the trees to be planted should be supplied using their English names so they can be considered properly.

It was agreed a meeting should still take place with the developer to look at the swales and other issues.

The Council considered drawings of the proposed public art for the camp development. It was agreed that the drawings did not provide enough detail for it to be judged, the clerk will ask for larger plans with more detail to be circulated to councillors for their comment.

Concerns were raised regarding the street naming on the Camp particularly Highlanders Way and Cheshires Way which is causing confusion and had resulted in an ambulance being unable to find a property. The clerk will raise this matter with CW&C.

SAUGHTON CAMP SPORTS PITCH

Councillors had been circulated with the Football Pitch Management and Maintenance Plan for the pitches opposite Saughton Camp as supplied by Commercial Estates Group (CEG), it was agreed the plan lacks detail and does not provide sufficient information on funding etc, it was agreed the clerk should contact CEG again and request more detail.

Concerns were raised regarding the drainage of the pitch site due to flooding on Chester Road.

BUS SERVICE

The clerk read a letter from a resident raising concerns regarding the failure of the number 5 bus service to stop at Chester Town Hall, this had been forwarded to the CW&C officer who deals with the bus service. He had responded by saying this had been raised with Stage Coach but they were not willing to extend the service to the Town Hall based on past experience however they had increased the frequency of the service, the matter will be raised again with Stage Coach.

He suggested a meeting with stage coach to discuss the possibility survey of the bus service in a future newsletter, it was agreed the clerk should pursue this meeting.

It was asked what funding has been given to stagecoach from the Camp development and surely this should allow residents more say over how the service is run.

TREE PLANTING

It was noted that Cheshire Landscape Trust are offering free whips to be planted in public areas, it was agreed the council would not request trees as there isn't a suitable safe location to plant them. It was noted that the future of this scheme is unclear.

JUBILEE PLAYING FIELD

At the ROSPA training on the 16th November it had been confirmed a safer surface is required under the gyro-spiral and it was suggested larger grass mats would be suitable. The clerk is to check the correct specification had been given for the mat sizes.

It was agreed that maintenance of the Swales area and a general tidy of the field would take place in late January, early February 2014 depending on weather.

THE GREEN

The clerk reported she had requested rough estimates from CW&C for improvements to The Green on Chester Road including replacing the bollards, widening the road and replacing the bollards and providing some additional parking, these will be considered at the Council's January meeting.

PAYMENTS & DONATION REQUEST

13/301 RESOLVED – That the council make a donation of £450 as requested to Huntington Village Hall.

13/302 RESOLVED – That the council reimburse the clerk for purchases made including new Christmas lights, signage, warning tape, high visibility vests and printer toner by electronic payment.

PLANNING

The planning register page 70 was noted as circulated.

It was agreed that the plans for application 13/04630/REM be circulated to councillors and that comments be approved by E-mail before submission.

The clerk asked councillors to be more proactive when considering plans and that if they wish to see paper plans they should notify her straight away.

WORK PROGRAMME

The work programme was noted as circulated, details of the Christmas lights celebrations will be circulated to councillors before the event. It was noted the list of plants for the footpath is still outstanding the clerk will pursue this.

Thanks were noted to Cllr. Williams for providing funding for the works on the paths and drainage in Caldby Valley Nature Park, these have had a positive impact on the park. It was suggested the clerk should contact CW&C highways department and ask if road planings could be supplied for the paths.

Concerns were raised about the shoe collector at the Rake and Pikel which looks unsightly due to bags stacked around it.

An article was reported from the Chester Standard suggesting that Hartwell's garage was moving to Sealand Road, this had not been confirmed.

It was requested that the clerk circulate any information relating to the primary school consultation when it is received.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.

The NEXT meeting of the Parish Council is on Monday 20th January 2014

Signed

Dated

Ann Wright 26th November 2013