

MINUTES OF HUNTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

21st November 2011 7.30 p.m. at Huntington Village Hall

PRESENT

Chairman Cllr. M. Williams

Cllr. Jackie Creswick

Cllr. N. Dodd

Cllr. D. Ferguson

Cllr. M. Kemp

Cllr, D. McQuay

Cllr. R. Shelton

Cllr. C. Walker

Cllr. A. Wilcox

None Councillors

Public – 13

Clerk – Mrs. A. Wright

Before the meeting opened the chairman thanked Cllrs. Kemp and Walker for laying the wreath on behalf of the Parish at the Remembrance Service at Bruera.

NEWCOUNCILLOR

Roy Shelton having been co opted at the October meeting signed the acceptance of office. (page 159 of the minutes book).

APOLOGIES

Cllr. John Creswick – Personal Commitment

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None declared.

MINUTES

11/181 RESOLVED - That the Chairman signs the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 17th October 2011 as a true and proper record.

HUNTINGTON SPEEDING

PC Malone (Beat Manager) reported that between 27th September 2011 and the 18th November 12 occurrences had been reported to the police of which only 1 was a crime. Reports had been received of a silver BMW acting suspiciously in the area and residents were reminded to make sure doors and windows are secure to prevent the theft of car keys and cars from homes.

There had been no reports of anti-social behaviour and both she and PCSO Browell had visited local schools to talk about behaviour and respecting people's property during Halloween and Bonfire night, they had also carried out stranger danger sessions.

The police and Community Safety Wardens had been actively monitoring parking on Butterbache Road, the school has again issued letters to parents regarding parking and this will be followed up by further enforcement action if necessary.

The bike engraving had been very successful residents were also informed they can register their bicycle serial numbers on www.immobilise.com which helps police return stolen bikes when found.

Concerns were raised by members of the public regarding parking on Sandy Lane near the Red House which PC Malone will pass on to the police for that area and also the number of cyclists ignoring red traffic lights.

Clarification was again sought regarding priority of pedestrians and cyclists on the new cycle paths. It was reported the clerk had supplied highways with a photograph of a sign used on a North Wales cycle path giving pedestrians priority but had heard nothing further. Both the clerk and PC Malone will seek clarification on this matter.

PC Malone reported that two driver engagement days had been held in Huntington one on Caldly Valley Road where 30 drivers had been stopped for breaking the speed limit, using a mobile phones while

driving or not wearing a seatbelt, 25 had taken part in the road safety training. The second day was held on Chester Road where 19 drivers had been stopped for either using a mobile phone while driving or not wearing seatbelts.

The driver engagement days will continue in the future.

The SID (Speed indicator device) has been used by parish councillors and volunteers. PCSO Browell had attended a SID session as a result three drivers will have received letters advising they were breaking the speed limit.

It was noted that SID results were particularly interesting during the morning rush hour as between 8.00 and 10.00 am when 1 in 3 drivers was breaking the speed limit on two occasions drivers were driving so fast the SID flashed a none reading. During the Friday (18th November) 2.00 to 3.00pm session 300 cars were monitored of which 100 were speeding with a large percentage travelling over 40mph. There were also a large number of tractors with trailers breaking the speed limit. It was noted that vehicles parked at the Chester Road end of Gorse Way were forcing vehicles to slow down.

It was highlighted that a large number of cars can be seen and heard speeding along Chester Road between 6.30 and 7.30am.

It was asked if there could be more 30mph flashing signs introduced or if the existing sign could be relocated. Clerk will investigate.

It was confirmed both SID and driver engagement days will continue in addition to traffic officers carrying out speed checks in the area.

The chairman thanked everyone for their involvement particularly the volunteers who have been manning the SID.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The following matters were raised during public participation:-

- A large numbers of large tractors are now coming in and out of the water works can clarification be sought on how long this work will continue. The clerk will look into the matter also advising united utilities of the speeding issue and the lack of visible number plates.
- Had any progress been made on the memorial on Saughton Camp. Nothing has been formally agreed but this matter is still on the Council's agenda.
- Any news on when the new post box will be installed on Chester Road. As yet no planning application has been received the clerk will pursue this matter.

The following items were raised related to the Saughton Camp Development and CEG (Commercial Estates Group):-

- On the 10th November both Gorse Way and sections of the Sainsbury's roundabout had been closed causing considerable congestion on the local roads, with not only delays but some residents on Chester Road being unable to exit their properties. This matter had been reported to CW&C highways engineers who had said they would phone back but had not done so.
- Complaints were made about heavy construction vehicles being parked on verges blocking pavements also a large roller had been parked on Butterbache Road for a considerable length of time leaking oil.
- Parish Council was asked to formally note the congestion and disruption which has been caused by the roads works including the installation of the cycle paths as evidence when the next phase of eth development is considered.
- It was noted that the road works had not gone well in terms of health and safety issues, traffic/congestion management.
- Concerns were raised regarding signage which has been used particularly on the Sainsbury's roundabout where a number of vehicles had been sent the wrong way onto the A55.
- Diversion signage had not been removed once diversions had ended, on one occasion a sign had been left in situ; it was then taken down but left on the verge which resulted in children putting the sign up again.

- Road Works by Walker's nursery had resulted in it being very dangerous to access and exit the nursery.
- Concerns were raised about the quality of the finish of work carried out, it was highlighted that the road joints between Sedum Close and Gorse Way had not been properly sealed and that there were lots of other examples of this around the area.
- A resident requested that a further week long survey be carried out of traffic on Caldley Valley Road.

CEG COMMUNICATIONS

The clerk reported that she had been contacted by a representative of Bovis Homes who was happy to come and speak at the next Parish Council meeting on their plans for the 375 houses which have received outline permission. However he did stress that he could only comment on that part of the development not future phases. It was agreed that Bovis Homes should be asked to come and speak and that due to the amount of business to be conducted at the January meeting the meeting should start at 6.30pm.

Concerns were raised about communications sent out by CEG which stated that the Parish Council was responsible for the Saughton Camp Liaison Group and that this was not true and that the group had been created by CEG as part of their wider community consultation responsibilities.

It was agreed the clerk should write to CEG to confirm this matter.

11/182 RESOLVED (unanimously) – That a letter should be sent to Steve Robinson, Chief Executive of CW&C, Steve Kent Director for the Environment CW&C, CW&C Highways Dept, CEG, Beattie Communications, Stephen Moseley MP and local press stating the following serious concerns relating to works which have been carried out as a result of the outline planning permission for 375 houses on the former Saughton Camp:-

- Failure to adequately plan for the roads work and the disruption caused including closure of Sainsbury's roundabout and Gorse way at the same time as well as closure of footways and crossing points for pedestrians. This has resulted in unacceptable disruption for residents.
- Failure to address health and safety concerns during road works.
- Quality of work.
- Inadequate signage particularly on the Sainsbury's roundabout resulting in vehicles travelling the wrong way down A55 slip roads.

JUBILEE FIELD

The clerk reported that there was still no word from Wren regarding the outcome of the grant application.

Comments had been circulated from residents neighbouring the playing field, the clerk was now awaiting a second version including a plan which will be forwarded to John Seiler landscape architect for comment, it will then be decided if a second meeting is required with the residents concerned or whether issues raised would be resolved.

Mr. Bonner provided the council with a letter relating to the history of the Jubilee Field and what its use was intended to be (page 161 of the minutes book). It was noted that the original plans for the playing field had included a pavilion and cricket pitch.

STREET SCENE

The clerk provided an update on street scene matters which had been raised on the walk in August 2011. The majority of paths had now been cleared including the path along the side of the former post office although there were still some issues relating to residents overhanging branches which CW&C were addressing. All paths had been mechanically swept following the walk. The new bin for the Caldley Valley play area and new dog waste bin for the blue bridge in the nature park had not yet been installed. The clerk is awaiting an update on the grass cutting in the nature park.

NOTICE BOARD

Concerns were raised regarding the legs on the notice board which were rotten. It was agreed the clerk should seek a prices for both a wooden and metal notice boards if the board can not be restored.

11/183 RESOLVED – That the clerk should seek restoration of the board up to the value of £150.00.

CHESTER ROAD VERGES

The clerk reported she had seen a sign on the A41 at Rowton prohibiting parking on the verges as result she had contacted CW&C highways to ask how to obtain these restrictions along Chester Road. It was confirmed these are introduced as traffic regulation order which would cost £1000 plus the signage which would be repeated along the length of the road. It was agreed the clerk should find out more information including the total cost of the project and whether this would be funded by CW&C highways, CEG or through a CW&C members grant. It was noted that the verges have been recently levelled as a result of the Saughton camp works but within days 80% had tyre marks on them. The clerk will ask for an update on numbers ticketed on Chester road for the January meeting.

PARLIAMENTARY BOUNDARY REVIEW

11/184 RESOLVED – That the Parish Council strongly objects to the proposal to include Huntington in the Winsford ward for the following reasons:-

- That Chester is a single, united city with very strong links with its constituent parts.
- Huntington has a strong sense of belonging and pride of being part of Chester, with the city centre only 1.5miles away. (Winsford is 14 miles away)
- Huntington residents have links with Chester for shopping, services, doctors, schools, etc
- There are no links between Huntington and Winsford including no public transport links.
- The boundary would split communities including Boughton and Huntington.
- Residents would not feel adequately represented by an MP covering such a rural area.

FORAGING SURVEY

Cllr. Creswick reported on the Plantlife foraging survey which is seeking to establish what foraging is still taking place including picking of wild fruit.

11/185 RESOLVED – That the Council agree that Cllr. Creswick undertake a survey of foraging in the parish to be included in the review.

It was reported that the 26th November to the 4th December is national tree week which has been running annually since 1975 and when people and businesses are encouraged to plant trees to improve well being.

The Parish Council had been offered free trees (whips) from Cheshire Landscape Trust previously these have been planted on the Jubilee Field, it was agreed due to proposed changes to the field the offer will be declined this year.

CHESTER MARATHON

It was reported that the council had received a letter from Active Leisure who had organised the Chester Marathon asking for feedback on the event which will happen again on the 7th October 2012. It was agreed that despite the disruption caused it was nice to see Huntington included in the event. However there had been issues for residents on Chester Road who had been promised they could exit their drives during gaps in the race who were told on the day they could not. It was also noted that the event should not fall on the same weekend every year. These comments will be forwarded to Active Leisure.

CHRISTMAS & VILLAGE HALL

The Lights switch on will start at 6pm on the 3rd December with Father Christmas arriving shortly after 6pm on a sleigh pulled by reindeer. After the switch on Father Christmas will travel by sleigh to Huntington Village Hall where the Frost Fayre is taking place. The cost of the reindeers and sleigh is

£600, this has been funded by United Utilities and GCA their contractor. Volunteers were asked to help the Hall committee of Friday 2nd December from 3.30pm and Saturday the 3rd from 3.30pm. Representatives from the Parish Council were asked to join the Village Hall committee to help organise events for the Jubilee Celebrations next year. Cllr.s Williams, Walker and Kemp agreed to be involved but would not be able to attend every meeting. Cllr. Jacky Creswick will also be involved as the council's representative on the Village Hall Committee.

ACCOUNTS

11/186 RESOLVED – That the accounts and payments were accepted as on page 48 of the cash book.

PAYMENTS

11/187 RESOLVED - That Parkes Garden Services be paid £200 for strimming of High Bank.

PLANNING

It was agreed that a comment of Judge on Merits be made on planning application 11/05197/FUL, clay lined slurry lagoon, Huntington Hall Farm.

11/188 RESOLVED – That the following comments be made on planning application 11/05003/FUL, creation of a senior sized football pitch, land opposite The Cottage at Oakfield Nurseries, Aldford Road, Huntington that the council objects to the application on the grounds of:-

- Lack of parking provision.
- Lack of pavilion/ changing facilities.
- Proximity to the A55.
- Inappropriate development within the green belt with no special circumstances.
- Poor access (Walkers Nursery prevented from having entrance of Aldford Road due to highway safety).
- Impact of nets on visual amenity.
- Pitch would be more appropriately placed where original pitch was located.

It was agreed further comments would be added relating to environmental issues.

WORK PROGRAMME

The council noted the plan as circulated; the clerk reported that Great Boughton Parish Council was going to provide some dates for an informal meeting to discuss how to take the neighbourhood plan forward.

11/189 RESOLVED – That the Council move into private session to discuss the next to items.

LENGTHS MANS DUTIES

11/190 RESOLVED – That the lengths man rate remain unchanged and that he continues to work two hours per week and that his duties would remain tidying and routine maintenance of the Jubilee Field, noting this will need to be monitored and review with changes to the Jubilee Field.

CLERK'S SALARY

11/19RESOLVED – that from 1st May 2012 the clerk be paid in accordance with SCP 27 as on the 2009-2010 pay scale.

The meeting closed at 10.00pm

**The NEXT meeting of the Parish Council is on Monday 16th January 2012
at Huntington Village Hall from 6.30pm.**

Signed

Dated

Ann Wright 24th November 2011