

# MINUTES OF HUNTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

21<sup>st</sup> October 2013 7.30 p.m. at Huntington Village Hall.

## PRESENT

Chairman Cllr. David Ferguson

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

None Councillors

Public –6

Clerk – Mrs. A. Wright

**13/294 RESOLVED** – That in the absence of the Chairman and Vice Chairman Cllr. David Ferguson chair the meeting.

## APOLOGIES

Cllr. Nick Dodd – Work Commitment

Cllr. Martin Kemp – Work Commitment

Cllr. David McQuay – Work Commitment

Cllr. Roy Shelton – Family Commitment

Cllr. Anthony Wilcox – Work Commitment

Cllr. Mark Williams – Work Commitment

## DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None declared.

## MINUTES

**13/295 RESOLVED** – That the Council agreed the minutes of the meeting held on the 16<sup>th</sup> September 2013 as a true and proper record.

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Cllr. Ferguson read the police report from PC Sally Malone covering the four month period up until the 20<sup>th</sup> October during which period there had been 26 occurrences, 8 of which were crimes. There had been 4 instances of anti-social behaviour however these were not related to nuisance youths. Dedicated officers will be visiting anti-social behaviour hotspots in the area over the next few weeks. It was reported that a highly varnished wooden three man canoe had been stolen from the Dee Banks area.

A resident of Highlander Way reiterated his concerns regarding the ‘Swales’ in that area. He reported that last week a couple of workmen had been working on the swales moving soil and then spreading grass seed, as a result in had E-mailed Barry Herrod (Bovis North West Development Manager) and queried why this work was being done before the landscaping which includes large feature boulders, tree planting and reed beds, he has not received a response to date although Mr, Herrod had previously confirmed the drainage and swales were as approved by CW&C. The resident suggested that works in these areas may not be completed until a decision has been made on the school and questioned if the school does not go ahead on this site would their properties find themselves facing the backs of more houses.

He confirmed he had requested a meeting with the developer’s landscape officer but this had been declined. It was stated the landscaping and swales were not what residents had been lead to expect when purchasing the properties and that people with young families would not have purchased houses near these swales which are better described as open storm drains.

It was noted that the drains were already at capacity during heavy rain even though the development is not yet complete.

The clerk reported that she and Cllr. Williams had contacted the planning officer regarding this matter who had confirmed that there were changes to be made to the landscaping of the swales but he had not yet received any plans.

It was suggested a site meeting should be held to discuss these issues.

A resident of Chester Road raised concerns regarding mud being left on Chester Road from the Camp to the Gorse Way junction which can regularly be 2 inches deep. He had reported this to CW&C including to the highways department who had inspected the road and confirmed it was bad. It was understood the road sweeper had broken down and was therefore not being used, it was reported by a resident that the 'hippo' lorry washer has also been removed from site in the last week. It was agreed this matter should be brought up at the site meeting. The clerk asked the resident to let her know when there is mud on the road by telephone or e-mail so she can report it straight away.

It was noted United Utilities tractors are also depositing mud on the roads.

A resident of Meadow Lane raised concerns about vehicles parking in Meadow Lane at school dropping off and collection times blocking the lane for residents and also the bin wagon, it was agreed the clerk would raise this with the school.

A resident suggested all businesses using the Jubilee Field including child minders should be charged to help cover costs of maintenance.

A resident highlighted the energy auction which had been advertised on the CW&C website; the clerk will look into this idea and see if it can be included in the next newsletter.

### **HIGHWAYS & STREETSCENE UPDATE**

The notes of the street scene walk on the 11<sup>th</sup> October were noted as circulated pages 302 and 303 of the Minutes Book. Information was received that Long Meadow in the Caldry Valley Nature Park was not to be mown during the next season but to revert back to a swamp meadow for conservation reasons. It was reported this area which has been mown weekly over the summer is very popular with residents for walking dogs having picnics and for general play. It was suggested the Parish Council should contact the Ms Pritchard the Green Space Ranger in charge of the Nature Park to express concern about this arrangements. The clerk raised concerns regarding undermining the authority of the Friends of Caldry Valley by getting involved in this issue without them requesting the Council's involvement.

It was agreed that the clerk contact Ms Pritchard requesting more information regarding the maintenance of the Long Meadow and also a copy of the Parks management plan.

An E-mail had been circulated stating works had been carried out in the park recently including the removal of some of the silt from the sluice and some strimming and tidying of paths. Further work has provisionally been booked to clear silt from the sluice area and first pond on the 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> November depending on weather, path improvements and the overflows will be installed after this work has been undertaken all of which has been funded by the 3 CW&C councillors in the area. Streetscene will cut back along all the paths by the first week in November. Confirmation is awaited from a contractor with regard to flailing of hedges and the scrub/verges around the perimeter of the site plus the "scrubby section" between the lower meadow and the brook. In the meantime, there should be some more cutting back around the streetlights across the site.

### **SAIGHTON CAMP DEVELOPMENT**

It was agreed that a site meeting should be arranged to discuss the swales issues and that representatives from Bovis, CW&C planning and environmental health departments, and representatives of residents of that area should be invited to attend along with Parish Council representatives and Cllr. Williams as CW&C ward member. The resident who had raised the concerns was asked to e-mail the clerk his concerns and questions so they could be taken into account. The issue of mud on the roads will also be addressed at the meeting.

### **BUS SERVICE**

The clerk read a response from CW&C transport department regarding the installation of real time electronic displays on bus stops. The e-mail stated that a number of areas including Lancashire and Flintshire are or have turned these systems off due to the high running costs however Stagecoach are now in the process of producing a mobile phone app which will provide information on bus times, this is expected to be launched early next year.

It was suggested a future newsletter should include a resident's survey on the bus service. It was agreed the clerk should contact CW&C transport to highlight discontent that the bus service no longer goes to Chester Town Hall where connections to other services can be made including to the Countess of Chester Hospital.

### **ALLOTMENTS**

Only 4 responses had been received asking for allotments following the last newsletter, one of which was from a resident of Great Boughton Parish. It was agreed no further action would be taken on this matter at present.

### **NEWSLETTER**

It was noted that the new style newsletter had been well received. The clerk circulated copies of invoices relating to the newsletter showing the costs of printing and the advertising revenue raised. It was noted that it was hard to distinguish between news articles and adverts and it was agreed that this distinction needs to be made clearer. It was agreed that the name of the newsletter should more clearly reflect that it is a Parish Council newsletter.

It was suggested that the next issue should also include a call for articles and information from the public possibly written from 'the clerk's desk' and that the Friends of Caldley Valley Nature Park could have a regular Column.

It was agreed that copies of the newsletter should be published on the Council's website.

It was noted that there were a lot of spare copies left and whether the number produced could be reduced.

**13/296 RESOLVED** – That the Council pay the invoice from Wodehouse Direct Ltd for the printing of the last newsletter.

**13/297 RESOLVED** – That the Council set a limit of £130 as a contribution to future newsletters.

### **JUBILEE PLAYING FIELD**

The Clerk reported she had E-mailed other Parish Council's with playing fields to ask if they had any usage policies, those who had responded to date did not have a specific policies but did allow the use of their fields by sports clubs at a cost to help with maintenance. It was agreed that no commercial use of the field would be permitted.

The on-going issue of the surface under the gyro-spiral will be discussed at the November meeting allowing the clerk to obtain more information particularly relating to the guarantee on the work as the surface failed less than 12 months since its installation.

It was agreed that the clerk should get the hedge cut.

### **PAYMENTS**

**13/298 RESOLVED** – That the council reimburse the clerk for fabric and materials for the Father Christmas outfit.

**13/299 RESOLVED** – That the council purchases a poppy wreath.

### **PLANNING**

The planning register page 69 was noted as circulated.

### **WORK PROGRAMME**

The work programme was noted as circulated and the following matters were raised:-

The Clerk reported that United Utilities have agreed to provide funding for the Christmas celebrations and that the road closure has been confirmed.

It was noted the parking restrictions to prevent people parking on the verges have now been installed. It was stated that BT vans are still parking on the verges, it was agreed that if these vans are spotted there number plates should be sent to the clerk to report.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

**The NEXT meeting of the Parish Council is on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2013.**

Signed .....

Dated .....

Ann Wright 19<sup>th</sup> September 2013

# HUNTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Notes from Informal Caldley Valley Nature Park & Streetscene Walk – 11<sup>th</sup> October 2013

Present:

Huntington Parish Council – Jacky Creswick.

Cheshire West & Chester - Cllr. Keith Board, Streetscene Officer Paul Davies.

Clerk – Mrs. A. Wright.

The following issues were discussed during the walk:-

## Nature Park

- Dog fouling is still an issue.
- Noted that some works had been done to clear the silt build up at the first pool however these works had been very limited and it had been agreed these works were to be addressed in the future using some form of mechanical digger.
- Training is still awaited for volunteers on using the sluice boards.
- It was noted on the cycle track through the Park to Daniel Way a number of the street lights (Light numbers 4, 5, 6, 8) were reducing the light they provide at night. It was noted this overgrowth could be cut away without a cherry picker by cutting back at the bottom which will prevent them becoming overgrown again quickly.
- It was noted the path is being narrowed by overgrowth and natural detritus.
- The path is the responsibility of CW&C highways however the hedges and overgrowth is the responsibility of Open or Green Space team.
- Cover missing on street light 3 on cycle track (reported online 14/10/13 Ref: 4757944).
- Noted the sewer cover has been replaced by the wooden bridge.
- It was noted the path to the wooden bridge is falling away towards the Brook, it was noted Kerry Brice was looking into this matter. (E-mailed for update 14/10/13).
- It was noted Big Meadow had been cut throughout the summer however it was becoming muddy due to the level of cutting taking place and the size of the equipment used.  
**Action** – Paul Davies to provide contact for Friends of Weaver Park to gain understanding of how they work and what things they do to manage the Park.

## Roads & Walkways

- It was noted that the hedge had been cut back on the path from Butterbur, however it was noted the cycle path and street light 18 were overgrown however it was not clear who the trees and hedges belong to. It was noted that Streetscene had previously agreed to look into this matter.
- Caldley Valley Road – it was noted some trees and plants had overgrown the back fences of properties on Caldley Valley Road blocking the footpaths and cycle ways.
- It was noted the planter at the Gorse Way Caldley Valley Road junction had not been installed on flags as it should have been meaning it is likely to sink, it was suggested Streetscene should reinstall the planter.
- It was noted verge cutting had been better this season.
- The poor state of the roadside verge opposite Blackthorn Close was noted, it was stated that this area had been very poorly maintained with some shrubs being cut back possibly by a resident. It was suggested this area should be maintained properly while seeking to maintain the habitat it creates.
- A sharp piece of metal was noted in the verge outside Hartwell's, possible the remains of a cut off sign post. (Reported on line 14/10/13 Ref: 4757945 )  
**Action** – Street scene to investigate ownership of land around footpaths as previously discussed.  
**Action** – Streetscene to look review installation of 3 planters.  
**Action** – Maintenance of verge opposite Blackthorn Close (Caldley Valley Road) to be reviewed.

## The Green

- It was suggested that the bollards could be replaced by more bollards or possibly a knee rail around the edge. It was discussed whether widening the road around the green should be considered reducing the vehicles crossing the grass and damaging the bollards.
- It was noted that the trees on The Green need pruning away from the street lights and wires.
- The location for the new bin was agreed outside Pennies Store.
- The peastone bin by the bus stop to be replaced.
- Manhole cover on the pavement by The Green is sinking causing a trip hazard (Reported on line 14/10/13 Ref: 4757947)

**Action** – Installation of new and replacement bins.

**Action** – The Green to be considered at November meeting.

#### **Footpath between Chester Road and Caldby Valley Road**

- Scaffolding was noted sticking out into footpath, asked builders to remove.
- It was noted that the barriers at the Chester Road end of the path leave a large gap possibly allowing motor cycles use the path.

#### **Possible Newsletter Articles:-**

- Maintaining hedges particularly ones overhanging footways.
- New signs on Chester Road.

**Ann Wright**  
14<sup>th</sup> October 2013