

MINUTES OF HUNTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

15th October 2012 7.30 p.m. at Huntington Village Hall.

PRESENT

Chairman Cllr. M. Williams

Cllr. Jackie Creswick

Cllr. John Creswick

Cllr. N. Dodd

Cllr. D. Ferguson

None Councillors

Speakers – Jeff Clayton & Nigel Lukowski (First Bus)

Public –10

Clerk – Mrs. A. Wright

APOLOGIES

Cllr. Kemp – Work commitment.

Cllr. McQuay – Work commitment.

Cllr. Shelton – Work commitment.

Cllr. Walker – Work commitment.

Cllr. Wilcox – Work commitment

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None declared.

FIRST BUS

Mr. Jeff Clayton, Area Operations Manager for Chester and the Wirral gave a brief presentation explaining that changes were made to the number 5 service in Huntington earlier this year to reflect demand and resources. It was confirmed buses travelling along Caldly Valley Road between Gorse Way and Chester Road can be hailed where it is safe to do so as there are no bus stops.

It was stated that there is confusion over bus timings and routes and that electronic displays on the bus shelters would help. Mr Clayton explained that this would be the responsibility of the local authority, as bus companies provide the buses while CW&C are responsible for the infrastructure. In some areas the authorities have joined with bus companies to form ‘Quality Partnerships’ where the bus companies will agree a set standard of service possibly including the age of buses while the authority will agree a set level of infrastructure, there is no such partnership in place in Huntington but Mr. Clayton agreed to mention the suggestion to CW&C.

It was noted bus companies have to give CW&C eight weeks notice of any changes to bus services.

It was confirmed that the Parish Council wants to promote bus use in the area, and it was agreed that residents are not making full use of the bus service possible due the complexity of the routes and timings.

Mr. Clayton confirmed that the competition regulations prevent bus companies working together.

It was agreed that the council should request of CW&C a full timetable showing all services which could be circulated with the next newsletter.

It was noted that lack of bus stops on Caldly Valley Road means there is no bus information available in that area.

Questions were raised regarding the section 106 money for improvements to the bus service, neither Mr. Clayton nor Mr. Lukowski were able to comment on this funding.

Changes introduced simplified the former Chester City and Crosville routes which did reduce the service on the Boughton Corridor to reflect usage. It is hoped this simplification will increase usage.

It was suggested that the Parish Council be consulted on any future changes to the service.

It was explained that fares are set in zones and Huntington is in the furthest zone from Chester.

Members of the public raised the following concerns and suggestions:-

- Would it be possible for all bus times tables to be combined to form one book as is produced by Wrexham every September?
- Could destination display and numbers on the buses be made brighter and clearer as it is not possible to tell between the 5, 7, 9 services from a distance?

- It was suggested First Bus might sponsor the Council's next newsletter and that information regarding the bus service could be included as an insert.
- It is not possible to buy one bus ticket in Huntington to get to places including Cheshire Oaks. (where a change in bus is required)
- It is not possible to use return tickets with other bus companies which can be inconvenient, could some reciprocal arrangement be made to allow this?
- Should be a late night service on Friday and Saturday nights into Chester.

Mr. Clayton explained there is a range of day, weekly and monthly tickets available allowing passengers to travel through the area, it was agreed this information would be e-mailed to the clerk for circulation. He also explained that the new bus service does include earlier bus and one later in the evening (7.03pm).

- A concern was raised about the access on some bus services and it was reported one lady with a buggy had been unable to access a bus due to the rail in the middle on the entrance.

Mr. Clayton confirmed there are two buses used on the route as replacements which have limited access, and that First are ahead of discrimination legislation in replacing these buses, however the type and age of buses used on a route is determined by the usage on the route.

It was confirmed that half price fares stop at the age of 16 although First on considering a student fare.

- It was asked if people with welsh bus passes could get discounts on English buses services as happens in Wales.

It was confirmed this was not available at present but was being considered.

- It was asked what criteria had to be met for the CW&C to enter into a 'Quality Partnership' for the Huntington Area.

It was confirmed that the route would have to be more profitable.

Mr. Lukowski agreed to send the clerk information regarding temporary changes to services due to road works etc to be put on the Council's facebook page.

The Chair man thanked Mr. Clayton and Mr. Lukowski for attending the meeting.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The following matters were raised by members of the public:-

- A large amount of waste and paper had been left following the first collection of the new waste system and that the lids to the boxes were left lying about which in windy weather will blow away. It was agreed the clerk should highlight these concerns to CW&C.
- It was noted the verges in Huntington are a disgrace and that hedges are over growing footpaths.
- Mr. Bonner voiced concerns regarding the Public Participation at the Council's September meeting, stating that members of the public had been confused about when they were permitted to speak and had then not been allowed to speak and that this was not befitting a Quality Council.
- Concerns were raised regarding the new waste collection system and confusion about what can and can not be recycled and what is meant by kerbside sorting. It was agreed the clerk would pursue a list of items which can not be recycled and that this information should be included in the next newsletter.

The Chairman read a report from PC Malone who was unable to attend the meeting which included that there had been one theft from a vehicle and a stihl trimmer had been stolen, there had also been one report of criminal damage to a vehicle, there had been no reports of anti-social behaviour. PCSO Dennis and PC Malone are continuing to work with children through schools. PCSO Dennis will continue to offer bike marking and at surgeries. The latest driver engagement day had been cancelled due to bad weather but will be rescheduled as soon as possible.

MINUTES

12/233 RESOLVED – That the Council agreed the minutes of the meeting held on the 17th September as a true and proper record with the following amendments:-

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION The following items were raised under public participation:- A resident raised concerns about overgrown footpaths in the Huntington area. Concerns were raised that the three mounded grass verges after High Bank travelling away from Chester were still not getting cut. These issues will be raised with Streetscene. A query was raised regarding when the planters were to be planted. It was

confirmed this would be taking place later in the week by Walker's Nursery who had been waiting for the autumn plants. Councillor Jacky Creswick expressed concern regarding a number of issues:

1. The cancellation of the August extraordinary meeting by the chairman, what his authority was to do that and the lack of consultation with Parish Councillors regarding this step.
2. The fact that the Notice of Cancellation released to the press was put out on behalf of the Parish when Councillors had not seen it or been informed of the intention to release it beforehand and so had not agreed to it or the content of the same. In those circumstances it should have been put out in the name of the Chair.
3. The last Parish Bulletin which stated that the Saughton Camp Area B planning application would not be going to the Strategic Planning Meeting of CWaC in September and that it had been delayed, when the Agenda for that (Strategic Planning) meeting had been released on the Wednesday, the day after Councillor Creswick had been given a round of the Bulletins to deliver, and included the Planning Application so residents had been misinformed.
4. That the e-mails sent by residents regarding Welsh Water had not been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting.
5. That Councillors had not been informed that Paul Parry would not be speaking at the meeting until after the meeting had begun.

It was stated that this reflected a lack of consultation by the Chair with other Parish Councillors, a vote of "No Confidence" in the Chair was proposed and seconded but was defeated 7 votes to 2.

SAUGHTON CAMP/HIGHWAYS DEVELOPMENT

It was noted that the Saughton Camp application had been refused. It was confirmed that the football pitch which is being developed opposite the Rake and Pikel is a grass pitch and will not include lighting. The clerk reported she had not been notified of the date for the Great Boughton meeting.

JUBILEE FIELD FOOTBALL PITCH

The clerk reported that she had received a request for a football team to use the pitch on the Jubilee Field, it was agreed the clerk should ask the teams representative to attend the next meeting and provide more details about the team, including whether it is an adult or junior team.

The clerk had also received a request to use the field for exercise classes, it was agreed that the clerk should respond that the Council would agree to this for a trial period of six months.

REPLACEMENT TREES

12/234 RESOLVED – That the Council accept the quote provided by Treefellers to supply and plant four replacement trees on Chester Road.

It was noted that Cheshire Landscape Trust were offer 25 free whips, it was agreed that the Council would not apply for these trees unless a suitable location was found.

It was noted that Cheshire Landscape Trust is offering training for Landscape Wardens.

TPO UPDATE

To be considered at the November Parish Council meeting once the minutes have been reviewed at the archives.

GRASS CUTTING

Awaiting response from CW&C to be considered at the November Parish Council meeting.

POPPY WREATH

12/235 RESOLVED – That the Council purchase a poppy wreath to be laid at the Remembrance Day Service on the 11th November from 10.30am at St. Luke's Church on Chester Road.

STANDING ORDERS

12/236 RESOLVED – that the Council review and amend its standing orders to reflect changes in the code of conduct.

DIVERSION OF FOOTPATH

12/237 RESOLVED – That the Council submits a comment of ‘No Objection’ to the proposal to divert footpath no.6 in Huntington.

PLANNING

The Council agreed the contents of the planning register pages 60 and 61 as circulated.

ACCOUNTS & PAYMENTS

12/238 RESOLVED – That the Council agreed the accounts as circulated on page 63 of the Cash Book, confirming all payments which have been made to date.

12/239 RESOLVED – That the Council agree the following payments:-

- Anthony Wilcox – Website Updates £100
- David Ferguson – Travel expenses £36.90
- Classic Costume – Father Christmas Costume £35

WORK PROGRAMME

The work programme was noted as circulated.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm.

The NEXT meeting of the Parish Council Meeting is Monday 19th November 2012.

Signed

Dated

Ann Wright
21st October 2012