

MINUTES OF HUNTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

16th September 2013 7.30 p.m. at Huntington Village Hall.

PRESENT

Chairman Cllr. Mark Williams

Cllr. Jackie Creswick Cllr. John Creswick Cllr. Nick Dodd Cllr. David Ferguson

Cllr. Martin Kemp Cllr. Carolyn Walker Cllr. Antony Wilcox

None Councillors

Public –4

Clerk – Mrs. A. Wright

APOLOGIES

Cllr. Roy Shelton – work commitment.

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Cllr. Walker declared a pecuniary interest in item 7, Jubilee Playing Field and discussions relating to the reuse of the fence.

MINUTES

It was agreed that in the future agendas will included an item relating to Saighton Camp.

13/290 RESOLVED – That the Council agreed the minutes of the meeting held on the 15th July 2013 as a true and proper record.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A resident of Highlander Road reiterated concerns regarding the swales on the Saighton Camp development which had been shown as ponds on the plans when he had purchased the house, however they appear to be deep open ditches or storm drains. He was aware that meetings had taken place on site between Redrow and Bovis to look at the swales and had spoken to a representative of Redrow who had confirmed the swales were unacceptable and needed to be redesigned. He confirmed he intended to speak to the Redrow representative the next day to obtain more details. It was noted that a number of weeks ago after heavy rain the sides of one of the swales collapsed with the Cheshire Railings surrounding it falling into the swale itself. It was noted that the swales are contaminated with sewerage which can be smelt.

Cllr. Williams agreed to pursue this matter at CW& C Councillor.

A resident of Chester Road confirmed that the swales would not operate effectively and were a cheap alternative to covered pipes and attenuation ponds. He stated there will be five of these swales when the site is complete including one near the proposed shop and that they can be up to two metres deep.

A resident of Huntington raised concerns regarding the school consultation leaflet which has been circulated by CW&C, she stated that a number of properties have not received the leaflet which was biased towards the creating of a two form entry school. She had confirmed she had contacted CW&C regarding these concerns but had received no response. She requested that the consultation be pulled until a proper consultation including all the facts could be done. She asked that her concerns regarding residents views were minuted.

A resident of Highlander way, opposite the proposed school site stated he would like the school on that site and asked if it was not built there what would be.

HIGHWAYS & STREETSCENE UPDATE

The chairman read an e-mail from CW&C highways which state the council was continuing to pursue the outstanding highways matters of the delineation of the footpath at the Rake and Pikel, the missing bus stop sign and the missing Gorse Way and Caldly Valley Road signs. The e-mail confirmed that CW&C continue to hold a £600,000 bond and will not sign the S278 until remedial works have been undertaken to an acceptable level.

A response was read to concerns which had been raised regarding changes to the bus service in Huntington. It was noted that Stagecoach have invested in the No 5 service to Huntington and now operate an all day half hourly service as well as supplementing late evening journeys, they have also invested in new buses which are providing the Huntington service. As a commercial service stage coach have no obligation to consult with local residents on changes to the service and have backed up the changes with publicity. Also the Helm's 41B service is available by Hartwell's Garage just off Gorse Way. The e-mail also stated that CW&C in partnership with Stagecoach have won funding from the 'Clean Bus Technology Fund' to fund buses with reduced emissions which will serve the Huntington area. It was stated that Huntington is not only benefitting from an improved service but also improved buses.

It was agreed that Cllr. Williams as CW&C councillor and the clerk should contact CW&C transport and planning departments to request funding be sought from the Camp development to introduce real time electronic displays at bus stops in Huntington.

It was agreed that a walk should be held with representatives from CW&C streetscene department to inspect works undertaken to clear paths and pavements and also to address issues in Caldry Valley Nature Park including street lights being obscured by trees and bushes.

It was agreed that Cllr.s Creswick and Kemp would meet with Martin Walker to confirm plants for the former Post Office footpath, these can then be ordered by CW&C. Volunteers will be needed to carryout the planting.

It had been confirmed by a CW&C tree officer that the large horse chestnut tree by the Rake and Pikel had died, concerns were raised about the condition of other trees along the lane to Saughton, it was agreed these will be reported to CW&C for monitoring. Cllr. Williams confirmed he is happy to fund some replacement trees from his CW&C grant funding.

PRIMARY SCHOOL CONSULTATION

Cllr. Williams reported that the CW&C consultation was a 'pre-consultation'. He noted his concern that not all properties had received copies which he would pursue with CW&C. He confirmed that the leaflet includes no details on sites etc as this work had not yet been undertaken and that this is the first step in a long process of consultation. The results of the current consultation will be considered by the Director of Education who will decide if the process should move forward to a feasibility study and formal consultation which will include details regarding siting, drawings or plans of the proposed school, details of how the school transfer would be managed. The outcome of this will be considered by the Executive member for education. There are two alternatives, no change and the existing school continuing as a one form entry and the creation of a Free school on Saughton Camp school which would be run by a business funded through local government education funding. The alternative being suggested is the creation of a new two form entry school on a new site which would allow for greater community use of the school. If the new school proposal is taken forward the existing school would be involved in every stage of the design of the new school. There would be a possibility of the existing school site being redevelopment to meet the needs of the community possibly as older people's housing or for another community use which could be consulted on. It was noted that the school governors have issued a letter stating their preference to take the consultation to the next stage and carryout the feasibility study.

13/291 RESOLVED – That the Council submit the following comment to the consultation, that the council supports the consultation process moving to the next stage, the feasibility study and full consultation.

JUBILEE PLAYING FIELD

The clerk reported she had requested prices to fill the gaps around the wetpour safety surface under the original multi-use wooden climber as these gaps had been highlighted in the annual safety inspection, prices had also been requested to replace the surface under the gyrosipiral, funding for these repairs would need to come from the field's maintenance money.

It was agreed that the inspection training should be booked with Rospa for a Saturday morning in October. Although this was expensive this would allow up to twenty five people to attend. It was agreed the clerk should contact Great Boughton Parish Council to see if they wished to attend the training and possibly split the cost, other neighbouring Parish Councils would also be asked to attend.

It was agreed volunteers should meet in November to remove some of the bull rushes from the swales.

13/292 RESOLVED – That the Council purchase an addition matching wooden bin to be placed by the MUGA where a large amount of litter is dropped.

Cllr. Walker left the meeting and took no part in the following discussion.

13/293 RESOLVED – That the Council give the railings from the Jubilee Field to Martin Walker for free in recognition for the hard work done to plant and maintain the planters.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The clerk reported that only one response had been received to the article in the last newsletter about Neighbourhood Plans and that had been against producing one.

It was agreed the Council would consider its priorities for the future and the creation of an appraisal at its February Meeting which will be held as a workshop.

ALLOTMENTS

Article included in the newsletter to be distributed after the meeting, responses to be considered at the Council's October meeting.

THE GREEN

It was agreed that Cllr. Williams and the clerk would look at possible improvements to The Green with particular regard to the condition of the bollards and damage being done to the grass by vehicles and report back to the Council's November meeting allowing costs to be considered when setting the precept in January. The clerk will chase up a request for an additional bin by the shops.

SEWERAGE & FLOODING

It was reported that sewerage drains had once again overflowed in Caldy Valle Nature Park contaminating the area, this had been cleaned and the clerk and Amanda Pritchard, CW&C green space ranger responsible for the Park had contacted Welsh Water who advised they would replace the manhole cover with a sealed unit to prevent this flooding happening in the future.

It was confirmed CW&C Councillors Williams, Board and Hall had funded works in the park to prevent future flooding from the Brook and Ponds, it is expected that this work will be carried out in November to avoid disturbing the wildlife.

It has been suggested that a separate control system should be installed to manage to sluice gates and the flow of water which would prevent future flooding however CW&C would need to undertake a hydraulic study before this could be installed.

ACCOUNTS & PAYMENTS

The Council agreed the accounts as circulated page 75 of the Cash Register and noted that the external audit had been approved with no outstanding issues.

The Chairman reported that the Council would receive a percentage of the New Home Bonus received by CW&C for new homes built in the Parish although it was not clear how much this payment would be.

It was agreed the clerk should work with the chairman to review the Council's bank accounts and make recommendations to the Council's October meeting.

PLANNING

The planning register page 68 was noted as circulated including the permission granted for application 13/02247/OUT, development of Former Saughton Camp as a result the appeal against the previous refused application had been withdrawn.

WORK PROGRAMME

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

Cllrs. Williams and Kemp agreed to attend the Community Governance Review meeting in behalf of the Council.

Grass cutting on Caldy Valley Nature Park had improved particularly on Long Meadow however the small triangles of grass had only been cut once.

The road closure for the Christmas lights switch on had been applied for, it was noted it maybe necessary to hire a sound system for that evening.
Cllr. Ferguson had attended the Police & Crime Commissioner meeting and another event which discussed community land trusts.
Future agenda items to include in October a Newsletter update and accounts and in November website update.

The meeting closed at 9.34pm.

The NEXT meeting of the Parish Council is on Monday 21st October 2013.

Signed

Dated

Ann Wright 19th September 2013