

MINUTES OF HUNTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Monday 20th September 2010 7.30 p.m. at Huntington Village Hall

PRESENT

Chairman Cllr. M. Williams

Cllr. N. Dodd

Cllr. D. McQuay

Cllr. J. Moore

Cllr. J. Scargill (from 9.05pm)

Cllr. P. Sheen

Cllr. A. Wilcox

Cllr. C. Walker

None Councillors

Public – 3

Police – PC Sally Mallone

Clerk – Mrs. A. Wright

APOLOGIES

Cllr. C. Buckler – Work.

Cllr. M. Kemp – Holiday.

Cllr. J. Scargill – Work.

None Councillors – Community Safety Wardens.

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None declared.

OPEN FORUM

PC Mallone reported there had been 9 on occurrences between 26th August and 15th September, 2 of which related to anti-social behaviour. There had been 3 shed burglaries in the area where a number of expensive bicycles had been stolen. The public were reminded to be vigilant and to report any suspicious activities on **0845 458 0000**.

The Chairman thanked PC Mallone for her report.

Andy James and Justin Dyke introduced themselves as Cheshire West & Chester Green Space Rangers. Justin Dyke explained he had just taken over responsibility of the Caldley Valley Nature Park as well as other sites around Chester.

They reported that the footpath along the A55 was the responsibility of the Public Rights of Way Officer, Richard Ankers, although they had originally inspected the footpath, they reported this path was to be cleared imminently. The clerk reported she had received an e-mail confirming the path was to be cleared the week beginning the 27th September

Justin reported he planned to carryout tree work in the nature park during the winter. He would also be working with Friends of Caldley Valley Nature Park.

Cllr. Dodd raised concerns about the condition of the cycle path which runs from Post Office on Chester Road through the Park to Bramble Close which was overgrown and covered in moss. Mr. Dyke explained that much of this work would be carried out by Vale contractors who should keep a metre strip mown along the path, also the path should be mechanically swept once a year usually during the winter once the majority of leaves have fallen. Mr. Dyke expressed concerns about being unable to obtain dates when the contractors are to carry out their work.

Mrs. Cresswick raised concerns about the footpath steps which have worn and washed away and are starting to become a trip hazard, also a number of the footpaths in the Park are becoming very water logged after rain with a large number of puddles forming. Mr. James reported he had planned to carryout work on the steps during the winter. However work on the paths would require funding and this was being looked into. Cllr. Williams stated he would be happy to consider providing funding for a one off project as CW&C councillor through his members budget.

Cllr. McQuay asked what actions CW&C were taking to ensure the paths/steps in the nature park were safe. Mr. James replied that the area including the steps and paths were inspected monthly for hazards etc. The faults being discussed were within safety tolerances. He also stated that because this was a 'rural', rustic site the tolerances were greater than in an urban setting. He explained this is an expectation that footpaths etc will not be perfectly level.

Cllr. Dodd raised the question of the flooding which took place in the Park during the summer. Mr. James reported this had been inspected and cleaned, however it was not clear if this was a long term solution to the problem.

The chairman thanked Mr. James and Mr. Dyke for attending the meeting.

Mr. Bonner raised concerns about the lack of information following initial discussions with Welsh Water following the flooding in June 2010. The clerk reported she had had a discussion with Barry Mullholland from Welsh Water. He had confirmed that CCTV had been used to inspect the drains on Butterbache Road, Chester Road and Meadow Lane. Collapsed drains had been identified and fixed on Butterbache. Blockages had been identified on Chester Road which were still to be resolved. The Chester Road drains would also be added to Welsh Waters routine maintenance list so they would be inspected every three months. It was hoped the works on Chester Road and Butterbache Road will resolve the issues on Meadow Lane. Mr. Bonner stated he had been informed that over an inch of fat had been identified in the Chester Road Drains, and asked where this had come from. It was agreed the clerk should contact Welch Water again to get more information including when the Chester Road drains would be inspected, and that this information could be included on the Parish Council's website.

Cllr. Williams informed the council that as CW&C councillor he had helped organise a 'Skip Day' on Saturday 23rd October, when a skip would be based at the Primary School for the use of residents to dispose of large and bulky items free of charge. As far as possible items deposited at the skip will be recycled.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No items raised.

MINUTES

10/091 RESOLVED - That the Chairman signs the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 19th July 2010 as a true and proper record.

ACCOUNTS

The clerk highlighted that the council had received payment of £800 as a grant towards the refurbishment of St Luke's Bus Shelter from the CW&C Ward Councillors member's budgets.

10/092 RESOLVED – The council accepted the corrected accounts as circulated on page 36 of the cash book.

PAYMENTS

10/093 RESOLVED – The following payment was agreed by the council:-

- Lengths man's duties for July & August 2010

The chairman read a letter from Mrs. Cresswick, the Parish Council's tree officer requesting a donation to the Cheshire Landscape Trust who have supplied the council with a large number of free trees over recent years.

10/094 RESOLVED – The following donation was agreed by the council:-

- Cheshire Landscape Trust £100

10/095 RESOLVED – The following payment was agreed by the council:-

- MJB's for clearing pavements and alleyways as agreed at the March 2010 meeting.

PLANNING

The clerk reported no further planning applications had been received since the distribution of the agenda although notice had been received that application 10/11967/FUL, Huntington Community Primary School, New Boundary Treatment, had received permission. The council noted the contents of page 18 of the planning register.

106 CONSULTATION

The clerk reported that the working group had agreed to holding the public consultation event on Monday 18th October. The event would consist of a short presentation by the Chairman of the results from the questionnaire. Then small groups would consider three areas:-

1. Development of the existing play area on the Jubilee Field.
2. Development of sport facilities on the Jubilee Field
3. Development of a separate play area in Huntington, possibly Gorse Way.

These groups could work on priorities and also what types of equipment should be installed. Susie Woodward-Moor (CW&C) and her colleague have already agreed to attend the meeting as has a representative from the Saughton Camp Liaison Group. It was agreed the clerk should ask CW&C officers to facilitate the groups.

OPEN SPACES

The clerk reported she had received a complaint through the lengthsman that cans and bottles are getting mown in the grass on the playing field football pitch. It was agreed the clerk should contact the lengthsman and Rich Brothers to establish if the field can be inspected before it is mown.

The lengthsman had also asked if the barriers could be moved to allow mowing on The Green of the newly seeded grass. The council agreed at this time it did not want the grass mowing so that it will become better established. Concerns were raised about the general state of The Green which is very uneven with a number of bald patches. Concerns were also raised about the dangers of young people playing football on this area due to its proximity to the road. It was agreed that improvements to The Green should be a priority for the next financial year.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

10/096 RESOLVED – that the council adopt the Community Engagement pages 87 to 89 of the minutes book and that this should be made available on the council's website.

The council agreed to hold surgeries for residents to come and speak to Parish Councillors, the first will be held on Saturday 2nd October between 10:00 and 11:00am outside the Shops. It was agreed these would be held every other month for a year with two councillors attending each surgery.

COUNCIL MAINTENANCE

The clerk reported the following matters:-

- Work was to start imminently on the refurbishment of the St' Luke's Bus shelter, the clerk had circulated the risk assessment provided for this work to all councillors and received no objections, as noted earlier a grant for £800 had been received towards this work.
- The work had now been carried out to clear Caldly Valley Road Pavement, a number of alleyways and also part of Butterbache pavement leading to Meadow Lane. CW&C had also cleared the footpath from the Post Office on Chester Road to the Nature Park.
- The clerk asked if the council wanted the Christmas lights to be PAT tested, it was agreed this was not necessary due to their low voltage.

GAS WORKS MAINTENANCE

The clerk had received an e-mail stating that the remedial work required on Chester and Caldly Valley Roads would be carried out as soon as possible. Councillors reported some road side verges had been re-seeded within the last week. The clerk is to monitor progress, including whether the dead tree had been replaced.

CHESTER ROAD PLANTERS

It was reported that CW&C Street Scene would provide two road side planters for the council free of charge, the Parish Council would be responsible for planting and maintaining them. It was agreed a meeting should be arranged with Mike Solari from CW&C Street scene to agree possible locations for the planters, and that the Parish Council would consider purchasing more if they prove successful.

NOTICE BOARD

It was agreed the clerk should contact the Saughton Camp Liaison Group and request a notice board for the Saughton Camp, Cheshires Way area.

REMEMBERANCE DAY

The Council agreed to take part in the Remembrance Day service to be held at St. Mary's, Bruera on Sunday 14th November from 10:30.

10/097 RESOLVED – that the council purchases a poppy wreath for the sum of £100 to be laid at the Remembrance service on behalf of the parish.

ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

None raised under item 4.

10/098 RESOLVED – That the meeting go into private session to consider the following agenda items.

TREE PLANTING

10/099 RESOLVED – That Treefellers be asked to carryout the tree planting project on Caldly Valley Road and to also replace the dead trees on Chester Road (x2).

10/100 RESOLVED – That the above work should be carried out using Parish Council funds if no alternative funding/grants can be obtained.

10/101 RESOLVED – The council delegated authority to the clerk to appoint a company to carryout maintenance on the Chester Road Trees including adjusting straps, pruning and removing weeds within an agreed budget.

MAINTENANCE MATTERS

10/102 RESOLVED – The council delegated authority to the clerk to appoint a company to strim and tidy High Bank within an agreed budget.

The meeting closed ay 9.20pm

**The NEXT meeting of the Parish Council is on
Monday 19th October 2010 from 7:30pm**

Signed

Dated

Ann Wright 22nd September 2010.