

**MINUTES OF
HUNTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
19th November 2018, 7.30 pm at Huntington Village Hall.**

PRESENT

Chairman – Cllr Roy Shelton

Cllr. David Whitehead

Cllr. Nick Dodd

Cllr Carolyn Walker

Cllr. Anthony Wilcox

Cllr. Mark Williams

Cllr Mike Dutton

Cllr Jacky Creswick

Cllr. John Creswick

Non-Councillors

Clerk – Louise Gibson

Public – 8

1. APOLOGIES

Cllr Andy Tassell – Work Commitments

PCSO Rachael McKevitt and PC Tony Carmon

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Cllr Carolyn Walker declared an interest in Item 9, regarding the Christmas event as her family owns Walkers Nurseries, who are supplying the Christmas tree

3. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATION

The Chairman wished to thank Cllr Nick Dodd for taking the lead in organising the Remembrance event. It was felt that the event was a great success and 'very fitting' to mark 100 years since the end of World War 1, with a great representation from school and community groups as well as the unveiling of the Remembrance bench.

4. MINUTES

18/099 RESOLVED – That the Council agreed the minutes of the meeting held on the 15th October 2018 as a true and proper record.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Antisocial Behaviour on Jubilee Field – A resident had read recent social media posts regarding antisocial behaviour on Jubilee field. She had noticed an increased amount of mess being left on the field and asked Cllrs to consider how this behaviour could be deterred, including whether the answer might be CCTV or increased lighting.

Dogs on Jubilee Field - Another resident wished to comment on Item 7 regarding dogs on Jubilee Field. Despite negative comments on social media criticising the Public Protection order to allow dogs on the field, the resident wished to offer the alternative view that this should be welcomed. Dog walkers, in her opinion, can now enjoy the open space, which is very limited in other parts of Huntington. She also believed that if everyone was responsible enough, this is a shared space that can be enjoyed by everyone.

The Chairman then read the Police report (Please see Appendix 1). It was noted that a Councillor had asked for crime statistics for the past 12 months for Huntington, due to a perceived notion that Saighton Camp was being targeted for increased crime and whether the statistics proved or disproved this.

6. REDUCING SPEED LIMIT ON CHESTER LANE/ALDFORD ROAD

A progress report was presented to Councillors prior to the meeting (See Appendix 2), giving the context to the proposals as well as details of the discussions between CW&C and Saughton and Aldford Parish Council.

Councillors discussed the safety of children travelling to and from the new primary school and this must be the priority when considering these projects.

Some Councillors expressed frustration that CW&C were not meeting the full costs of these projects. Cllr Williams, as Ward member for Cheshire West and Chester Council, suggested that £150.00 of his Ward budget could be applied for, in order to meet the costs of reducing the speed limit along Aldford Road. This, in Cllr Williams' opinion, would prevent Huntington residents from double taxation.

18/100 RESOLVED – That the Council approve (With 8 Cllrs for and one Cllr against) the £50 costs towards Sandy Lane speed reduction scheme and that CW&C are formally asked to carry out the assessment for Aldford Road, in a bid to reduce that speed limit also. The Clerk was instructed to apply for a Members grant of £150 towards this.

7. DOGS ON JUBILEE FIELD

Notes had previously been distributed to Councillors, giving context to the Public Green Space Protection order, including why dogs are now allowed on Jubilee Field. Please see Appendix 3.

The Chairman explained that social media had demonstrated a clear level of upset that dogs will be allowed on the field although many residents also welcomed this public order expressing the opinion that there was limited space to let your dog off a lead in Huntington.

Councillors expressed concern that dog fouling would become a significant issue on the field although it was also noted that enforcement by CW&C could be requested and carried out. Some Councillors felt that monitoring the field over the next 3 months would be the best course of action, to see if predicted issues did arise.

A Councillor highlighted that the legislation did intend that specific areas of a public green space could exclude dogs but this must not be in the context of a 'wider recreation area' which, in the case of Jubilee Field, would include the zip wire and 'snake'. However, 'an area free from dogs' for children to play should be considered.

18/101 RESOLVED – That the Council obtain three quotes for providing fence around the children's play area. These quotes are to be presented at the January Parish Council meeting.

18/102 RESOLVED - A review of any issues arising from dogs on Jubilee Field will be carried out in February.

8. JUBILEE FIELD MAINTENANCE

(a) It was noted that Section 7 of the Jubilee Field Usage policy, stating that no dogs were allowed on Jubilee field, had now been removed. The Lengthsman has also removed the 'no dogs' signs from Jubilee Field. Councillors also asked that 'No Dogs allowed' was removed from the Guidelines for functions on Jubilee Field.

18/103 RESOLVED – That the Council approve the removal of Section 7.

- (b) The annual inspection report for Jubilee Field was noted. The Clerk explained that it was now 6 years since Jubilee field had been landscaped and this meant that some of the wooden play equipment was reaching the end of its shelf life. Advice given to the Clerk had suggested that this was to be expected. Quotes are to be received in Part 2 of this meeting.
- (c) Huntington Under 5's had asked the council whether a banner, advertising the childcare facility, could be placed at Jubilee Field. Councillors expressed different opinions on this, questioning whether allowing one banner would encourage others to place banners at Jubilee field without permission. It was noted that Huntington Under 5's was a non-profit, registered charity and that the Council should not allow commercial businesses to display banners.

18/104 RESOLVED – That the council allow Huntington Under 5's to display a banner at Jubilee Field

18/105 RESOLVED – That the council add the following statement to the Jubilee Field Usage Policy:

'No publicity is to be displayed on Jubilee Field without the written consent of Huntington Parish Council. Commercial businesses will not be permitted to advertise''.

9. CHRISTMAS LIGHT SWITCH-ON

The event plan and risk assessment has been circulated to Councillors and this was noted.

Councillors discussed whether there was a need for Amberon traffic management this year, taking into consideration that Butterbache Rd parade was not taking place this year and the Reindeer would only be using the pavement. It was suggested that the service road closure could be managed by ourselves, with the use of cones from Cheshire Police (Clerk to contact Cheshire Police to seek permission).

18/106 RESOLVED: That the Council do not need to hire Amberon Traffic management this year and the service road closure can be managed by Councillors, with the use of cones from Cheshire Police.

10. REVIEW OF BANK ACCOUNTS

The Parish Council has reviewed their bank account provider, specifically looking at Unity bank, which specialises in Parish Council accounts. A Councillor reminded the meeting that this is part of the due diligence, which we, as a Parish Council, should be striving for and a fellow Councillor was thanked for adding this to the Agenda. Consideration of the positive and negative aspects of moving to Unity Bank was discussed, with the use of a report written by the Clerk and previously circulated to Councillors.

18/107 RESOLVED: That the Council remain with Barclays as their bank provider.

11. ACCOUNTS AND PAYMENTS

(a) The Clerk Reimbursements were reviewed.

18/108 RESOLVED: That the Council approve the following reimbursements for October – November 2018

Date of Receipt	Payment to whom	Items	Amount
1/11/18	Royal British Legion	3 x Remembrance Wreaths <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 x Parish Council • Veterans 	Total: £52.50
20/10/18	Screwfix	Cable Ties x 200 (To tie Remembrance Poppies to	£5.85 + £1.17 VAT Total: £7.02 TOTAL

		lamp posts)	
02/11/18	B and M Bargains	Card, Scissors and Pencil Crayons (For Remembrance Art display at St Luke's Church)	Total: £4.68
06/11/18	Sainsbury's	4 x Large Stamps to send invoices to various Community Groups for Wreaths (ordered by Parish Council but funded by individual groups)	Total: £4.04
10/11/18	Sainsbury's	Thank you Gifts for Remembrance Event volunteers	Total: £12.25
TOTAL			£80.49

(b) Invoice Approvals were reviewed.

18/109 RESOLVED – That the Council approve the following Invoice payments for October - November

Date of Payment	Payment to whom	Services/Products provided	Amount
10/10/18	BSB Sound Ltd	Commentary box and PA services for Fete 2018	£355.00 + £71.00 VAT Total: £426.00
11/10/18	HMRC	Employer NIC contributions (Quarterly)	Total: £373.96
11/10/18	David Oglivie Engineering Ltd	Memorial Bench	£849.00 + £169.80 VAT Total: £1018.80
31/10/18	Morrel Play Services	Annual Maintenance Inspection for Jubilee Field	£45.00 + £9.00 VAT Total: £54.00

(c) The cashbook (pg131) was noted. Following two questions raised, it was confirmed that the £50 donation from Huntington WI was to be used for plants for the Old Post Office path. A Councillor also asked for a final Fete income/outgoings spreadsheet. A fellow Councillor suggested that this could be presented to the Finance working group with the annual budget-setting meeting, which would be taking place in late December or early January. (CW&C are due to release the precept figures on the 17th December so the meeting would need to be later that week or the first week in January)

18/110 RESOLVED – That the Council approve the Cashbook.

12. WORKS PROGRAMME

The Works Programme was noted.

Huntington Under 5's Grant application – In the October meeting, it had been agreed that the grant application, submitted by Huntington Under 5's, would be postponed until Cllr Whitehead, in his capacity as their independent auditor, had reviewed their annual accounts for the past year and discussed potential

future plans for the preschool. Cllr Whitehead was still waiting for the accounts to be presented to him. A Councillor asked that this was noted on the Works Programme.

Woodland Path around Saughton Camp estate – A Councillor asked for an update on this. The Clerk reported that Steve Lewis, Senior CW&C officer had been presented with photographs showing where the intended woodland path had been obstructed by either developers or homeowners. Mr Lewis had confirmed that the woodland path would be in place before developers left site and that CW&C would have to monitor this to ensure that the planning condition was met. A Councillor asked that this was added to the Works Programme. The Chairman felt that a Parish Council walk along the path of the intended route would be beneficial to see the issues arising. He instructed the Clerk to send an email to all Parish Councillors seeking dates for when this would be possible.

Caldy Nature Park Lighting – A Councillor asked for a progress report on this. Lights have now been installed. It was noted that a 4th light had been installed by CW&C but this was NOT at the request of the Parish Council. The Clerk was reminded that the older light (next to the new 4th light installed) must be completed before the invoice was paid (The Clerk confirmed that the invoice has not been received yet)

Bovis Construction on Saughton Camp – The Chairman remarked that there was a growing level of frustration with the lack of progress made by Bovis on Saughton Camp. However, it should also be noted that the Parish Council only had limited powers in which they could intervene, although reporting Bovis to HSE in recent months had been something that the Council had undertaken on residents' behalf. The Clerk was asked to publicise the 'Roles and Responsibilities of Huntington Parish Council' (approved at the October meeting) on Facebook.

Residents Tree Pruning/Cutting – A Councillor asked whether the Parish Council should be asking Cheshire West and Chester Council to have a policy for a tree officer to visit residents before it is agreed that any work can be carried out to trees bordering their property (but not actually owned by the resident). This is following an incident where a resident has been cutting trees which border Caldly Nature Park. The Clerk read from the minutes (pg487) which related to this issue, which was first raised in February 2017. CW&C, at the time, stated that they would give permission for residents to cut back the trees, bordering Caldly Nature Park. When photographs were presented to Mr Murray, CW&C tree officer, following the work, it was agreed that the work was 'unsympathetic' but that CW&C would not be taking any action.

Councillors discussed the issue and recognised that CW&C do not have the resources to cut back the aforementioned trees themselves so allowed residents to do it. As a Parish Council, it was felt that the council do not have the powers to write to residents regarding this issue or for asking CW&C to introduce new policy.

Another Councillor stated that the 'Friends of Caldly Nature Park' are keen to work with both Gt Boughton and Huntington Parish Council as well as CW&C to find resolution.

18/111 RESOLVED – That the Council write a letter of support to 'Friends of Caldly Nature Park', stating that they support the group in approaching CW&C to ask for a monitoring process in cutting back trees.

13. PLANNING

The Planning Register was noted.

The Clerk reported that she had asked CW&C for the outcome of the Appeal hearing, held on 5th October, in regards to the Old Hall Country Club, who has previously been instructed to take down a 'Marquee-like structure' currently used for weddings. CW&C had confirmed that this was no longer being dealt with by

the local authority and had been passed to the Government's planning inspectorate who would be publicising the decision in due course. The Parish Council would be notified once CW&C had received written confirmation of the decision.

**Cllr Anthony Wilcox left the meeting due to a family bereavement. Cllr Wilcox had previously sent apologies that he would need to leave the meeting at 9pm.*

14. COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

The Clerk read a statement from Andrea Thwaite, Senior CW&C Democracy Officer. It read:

This is a consultation exercise and not a vote. Any decision will not just be made on the number of votes received, the strength of the views and comments will also be taken into consideration by the Committee. The opinions of residents and stakeholders is as important as to the quantity of responses received.

Please can I also remind that the purpose of warding is not to split the parish or village. The main purpose of warding is for the purpose of electing councillors. This is to enable parish councillors to be elected to represent an area within the parish. It is not intending to divide or split the village or parish. Again, as Lyn has already mentioned, the Committee will consider the quality of concerns and comments and not just the number. This is not a vote; it is a consultation to determine people's opinions.

It was proposed that the Parish Council submit a response to the CW&C consultation, formally supporting the increase of Councillors to 12 but objecting to split wards. The Chairman called a named vote.

Cllr Nick Dodd – For	Cllr Mike Dutton – For	Cllr David Whitehead – For
Cllr Jacky Creswick – Against	Cllr Carolyn Walker – For	Cllr Roy Shelton – For
Cllr John Creswick – Against	Cllr Mark Williams - For	

18/112: RESOLVED – That the Council submit a statement formally approving the increase to 12 Cllrs but objecting to split wards within the parish. It was also agreed by all that, IF split wards were to occur, 7 Cllrs should be representing Saughton Camp and 5 Cllrs should be representing Huntington village.

18/113 RESOLVED – That the Council move to Part 2.

Members of the public left the meeting

15. ANNUAL MAINTENANCE REPAIRS ON JUBILEE FIELD

Quotes were presented to supply soil, wood bark and chippings and then a separate quote was presented to repair play equipment.

17/114 RESOLVED – That the Council ask Northwich Town Council to carry out the repairs to the play equipment and provide the soil, wood bark and chippings. It was agreed that the play equipment repairs should be taken out of S106 money, previously allocated to Jubilee Field maintenance.

The meeting closed at 9:17pm.

The NEXT meeting of the Parish Council is on Monday 21st January 2019

Signed

Dated

APPENDIX 1

CHESHIRE POLICE REPORT FOR HUNTINGTON FOR OCTOBER – NOVEMBER (PAST 30 DAYS)

We have increased our patrols of the **jubilee fields** playing area in particular in the evenings, I myself stopped some youths in a vehicle with a number of laughing gas canisters last week they were suitably advised and moved on. If there any reports of these being found in the locality please let me know.

We have also increased patrolling on the **Saighton Camp** with regards to suspicious activity and reported drug dealing, in particular foot patrol has been completed and we have spoken to a number of residents and the site manager for the estate. This is ongoing.

I have been in the **Huntington Preschool** and done an introduction to the police session, and I have also done an Internet safety/Personal safety talk at Huntington Cubs.

Huntington primary new school. I attended on the new opening day, which was relatively calm considering, but it was a pleasant site to see so many children and their parents walking on foot to school. I am aware it is not always going to be like this and I will endeavour to my best to get out to the school to do patrolling as often as I can.

Tru cam (speed gun) I have some dates booked in for the remainder of the month and I will post results at the next meeting.

Crime for November.

1 x violence (no other details to be given)

3 x domestic (no other details to be given)

2 x Burglary dwelling - car stolen and found burnt out in N Wales and nothing obvious taken on the 2nd crime. No lines of enquiries have been found after investigation.

Police Surgery and Police attendance this month

Attending at WI meeting 3rd Dec

St Luke's Church café 18th Dec 10-11am

APPENDIX 2

Progress Report on Reducing the Speed Limit on the following roads: Sandy Lane (Chester Lane) Aldford Rd

To be presented at November 2018 Parish Council Meeting

CONTEXT

The Parish Council have been investigating ways to introduce speed measures in Huntington, specifically Chester Road and the site surrounding the new school (Rake Roundabout) and also Aldford Rd. We invited Kay Parry to visit the sites and discuss ideas that had been put forward by Cllrs at the June 2018 Parish Council meeting

Following much discussion with CW&C, Cllrs resolved, at the PC meeting in October (please also see minutes of the October 2018 meeting), to formally ask CW&C for an assessment to be carried out on both Aldford Rd and Chester Lane (Sandy Lane).

WHERE ARE WE UP TO NOW?

Chester Lane (Sandy Lane) – At the same time that we were asking for an assessment, Saughton and Aldford PC had also asked for an assessment on Sandy Lane within their parish. CW&C have assessed the entire section of road and have said that the entire section of Chester Lane can be reduced to 50 mph (BUT NOT 40 mph as does not meet criteria). Saughton and Aldford PC will incur 50% costs to reduce the speed limit for their stretch of the road and we have agreed to pay approx. £50 to reduce our stretch of road. CW&C have agreed to pay 50% of all costs.

Aldford Rd – CW&C are willing to carry out assessment and think it will be exactly same scenario as Chester Lane (can be reduced to 50 mph but not 40 mph as does not meet criteria and has to be entire road) BUT say it is unlikely that it would get approved unless Saughton and Aldford PC agree to pay 50% costs for their stretch of Aldford Rd. Saughton and Aldford PC have said they will completely support us in our bid to get it reduced to 50 mph but don't think they can support funding the costs of their section.

COUNCILLOR CONSIDERATIONS?

1. Due to limited deadline imposed by CW&C, Cllrs discussed via email whether we should support Saughton and Aldford PC and incur 50% costs for imposing 50 mph on Sandy Lane (Chester Lane). This needs formal consideration at the November meeting.
2. Cllrs need to consider whether they wish to pursue the assessment (and possible implementation) of introducing 50 mph to Aldford Rd, whilst also remembering that we may have to incur costs for the entire stretch of road from Huntington to Aldford if Saughton and Aldford PC feel unable to help us financially.

Brief Overview of CW&C Cabinet Conclusions regarding Public Dog Order and how it affects Jubilee Field

Cheshire West and Chester Public Spaces Protection Orders

Cheshire West and Chester Borough Council in exercise of the power under section 59 of the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 ("the Act") being satisfied that the conditions set out in section 59 of the Act have been met make the following Orders:

Subject to specific exemptions and defences, Persons within the area shown below shall:

1. Not allow dogs to enter the following areas:
 - A Fully Enclosed Children's Play Areas which contains Play Equipment
 - A Fully or Partially enclosed Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs)
 - A Tennis Court
2. If in charge of a dog, have with them the means to pick up dog faeces
3. At the request of an authorised officer place the dog on a lead with a maximum length of 2m and keep it on that lead as directed to do so by the authorised officer. The 2m length can be a fixed, clipped or locked length
4. Not walk more than 6 dogs at any one time, whether on behalf of a business or otherwise
5. Not smoke within a Fully Enclosed Children's Play Areas which contains Play Equipment



This Order will Commence on 20th October 2018 for a Period of 3 years. Any person who fails to comply with the requirements of the Order is guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £1000 or a fixed penalty notice of a maximum £100.

www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS TO CHESHIRE WEST AND CHESTER REGULATORY TEAM REGARDING SPECIFIC ISSUES WITH THIS PUBLIC DOG ORDER IN RELATION TO JUBILEE FIELD

Clerk: It is the understanding of Huntington Parish Council that dogs are now allowed on Jubilee field in Huntington. However, in a recent consultation by Cheshire West, several areas were noted as being considered to ban dogs and Jubilee Field featured on that list.

CW&C: The only dog exclusion zones on Jubilee Field will be on fully enclosed children's play areas with children's play equipment AND on fully or partially enclosed Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs). This would mean that, with its current layout, the only dog exclusion area on Jubilee would be the MUGA

Clerk: Am I correct in thinking that if we fenced off the children's play area (it is currently open access to the wider field), dogs would not be allowed on the specific area with children's equipment?

CW&C: Yes. I would advise against being too ambitious with any fencing as the inclusion of too much might be problematic as regards the intention of the legislation – it would become a wider recreation area not a children's play area. In my mind, fencing the area that includes the larger spider climbing frame and the snake swing would be questionable.

Clerk: Some Councillors are arguing that, because we own Jubilee field as a Parish Council, **a dog ban CAN be imposed by us if we wish**. However, I believe that this is not the case because it is still a public open space. Could you please confirm this?

CW&C: In the past, parish / town councils were able to pass byelaws and Dog Control Orders. This ability was removed by the legislation that allows the creation of Public Space Protection Orders and any Orders must come from ourselves. Although the land is owned by yourselves, you cannot introduce a dog ban. You can provide signage to stop a ban being imposed – e.g. you can put up signage at the MUGA saying "dogs allowed" and we would not be able to enforce the ban in the Order BUT any signage that imposed stricter conditions than the Order would be totally unenforceable – i.e. you can put up signage saying no dogs anywhere on the whole field area but it would be totally meaningless and never result in any action (except a level of confusion).

Regulatory Services

Cheshire West and Chester Borough Council

ADDITIONAL POINTS

(Taken from CW&C Report which accompanies the Public Spaces Protection Order):

Definition of Play area: *An area that includes Children's play equipment such as slide, swings or zip wire within a specific area*

Definition of 'enclosed' – *the area must be enclosed to ALL sides with fence, gate, wall or a structure that marks the boundary of that area.*

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR JUBILEE FIELD and the parish council?

- Dogs are allowed on ALL parts of Jubilee Field except the Muga.
 - If you want dogs excluded from the Children's play area, you **MUST** erect a fence to go around the whole of the area including the area at the far side of the play area (near the older children's swings)
- In respect of the land surrounding the new school, dogs will not be allowed on the football pitches as they are classed as maintained. (Although CW&C will not erect a fence so presumably, signs will need to be erected but I am unsure how that works with dogs off leads?)