Helsby Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Helsby Parish Council held on 8th May 2017 at 7pm in Hillside Primary School

Present:

Cllr. George Randles – Chairman	Cllr. Chris Ellams – Vice-Chairman	Cllr. Terry O'Neill
Cllr. Andy MacPherson	Cllr. Stuart Hulse	Cllr. Sam Johnson
Cllr. Alan Gardner	Cllr. Tim Thorne	Cllr. John Kimpton
Cllr. Alan McKie	Cllr. Patricia Holder	Cllr. Sarah Temple

In attendance:

Cllr. Lynn Riley – Ward Member for Frodsham Janet Wright – Frodsham resident

- Election of Chairman. Proposed by Cllr. Ellams, seconded by Cllr. Johnson and RESOLVED that Cllr. George Randles be elected at Chairman of Helsby Parish Council for municipal year 2017/18 HPC82/17. Cllr. Randles signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office which the Clerk countersigned. He thanked Cllr. O'Neill for the past 12 months and he looked forward to co-operating with fellow members.
- Election of Vice-Chairman. Proposed by Cllr. Hulse, seconded by Cllr. O'Neill and RESOLVED

 that Cllr. Christopher (Chris) Ellams be elected as Vice-Chairman of Helsby Parish
 Council for municipal year 2017/18 HPC83/17.
- 3. Appointment of representatives. Proposed by Cllr. Hulse, seconded by Cllr. Ellams and RESOLVED that the appointment of representatives on outside bodies be approved as follows: HPC84/17.

Name of Organisation	No.	Appointee(s)
Air Quality Forum	1	Cllr. Temple (reserve O'Neill)
ChALC Area Meeting	3	Cllrs. Hulse, O'Neill and Duffy
Helsby Community Association	1	Cllr. Holder (reserve Temple)
Helsby Footpath Society	1	Cllr. Kimpton
Helsby Community Sports Club	2	Cllrs. McKie and Randles
Ho Ho Helsby Christmas Event Group	3	Cllrs. McKie, O'Neill (reserve Holder)
Greenwood Centre	1	Cllr. Holder
CF Fertilisers UK Ltd (formerly GroHow)	2	Cllrs. Randles and O'Neill
Protos (formerly IRRP Comm Forum)		1 Cllr. Temple (reserve O'Neill)
Liverpool John Lennon Airport Group	1	Cllr. Ellams
North Cheshire Rail Users' Group	1	Cllr. Ellams
Encirc (formerly Quinn Glass)		2 Cllrs. Johnson and Randles
Frodsham Wind Farm Local Liaison C.	2	Cllrs. Ellams and Johnson
Weaver & Sandstone Cycle Forum	1	Cllr. Duffy
Thornton Community Liaison Meeting*	1	Cllr. Ellams (reserve Cllr. Temple)

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4. Appointment of Standing Committees: -

It was agreed that councillors be appointed to serve on the following committees until the AGM in May 2018: -

Note that the Chairman & Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council are *ex-officio* members of all committees

a) Environment Committee

Cllrs. Randles, Ellams, Hulse, O'Neill, Gardner, Johnson & Crossley-Jones.

b) Health & Safety Committee

Cllrs. Randles, Ellams, Gardner, O'Neill, Thorne, McKie and Duffy

c) Parks, Cemetery & Allotments

Cllrs. Randles, Ellams, Gardner, Temple, Kimpton, Holder and Johnson.

d) Human Resources

Cllrs. Randles, Ellams, Crossley-Jones, O'Neill, Thorne, McKie and Duffy.

e) Standing Orders

Cllrs. Randles, Ellams, Temple and Duffy

<u>Selection process for membership of the Finance Committee.</u> Proposed by Cllr. Hulse, seconded by Cllr. O'Neill and RESOLVED – that, in accordance with Standing Order No. 9(g) and 38, the meeting be adjourned whilst the respective committees (with the exception of Standing Orders Committee) elect Chairman & Vice-Chairman to serve until the AGM in May 2018 – HPC85/17.

i) <u>Environment Committee</u>

Proposed by Cllr. Johnson, seconded by Cllr. Hulse and RESOLVED – that Cllr. Hulse be elected as Chairman of the Environment Committee – HPC86/17. Proposed by Cllr. Hulse, seconded by Cllr. Johnson and RESOLVED – that Cllr. O'Neill be elected as Vice-Chairman of the Environment Committee – HPC87/17.

ii) <u>Health & Safety Committee</u>

Proposed by Cllr. O'Neill, seconded by Cllr. Ellams and RESOLVED – that Cllr. Gardner be elected as Chairman of the Health & Safety Committee – HPC88/17. Proposed by Cllr. Gardner, seconded by Cllr. Hulse and RESOLVED – that Cllr. O'Neill be elected as Vice-Chairman of the Health & Safety Committee – HPC89/17.

iii) Parks, Cemetery & Allotments Committee

Proposed by Clir. Holder, seconded by Clir. Ellams and RESOLVED – that Clir. Temple be elected at Chairman of the Parks, Cemetery & Allotments Committee – HPC90/17. Proposed by Clir. Johnson, seconded by Clir. Holder and RESOLVED – that Clir. Kimpton be elected as Vice-Chairman of the Parks, Cemetery & Allotments Committee – HPC91/17.

(iv) <u>Human Resources Committee</u>

Proposed by Cllr. Ellams, seconded by Cllr. Hulse and RESOLVED – that Cllr. O'Neill be elected as Chairman of the Human Resources Committee – HPC92/17. Proposed by Cllr. Ellams, seconded by Cllr. O'Neill and RESOLVED – that Cllr. Thorne be elected as Vice-Chairman of the Human Resources Committee – HPC93/17.

In accordance with the above selection process and SO No. 37(b) members of the Finance Committee are Cllrs. Randles, Ellams, Gardner, Hulse, O'Neill and Temple. As the aforementioned were an even spread across the three wards, it was agreed to leave the membership at that.

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- 5. Inspection of Deeds. Proposed by Cllr. O'Neill, seconded by Cllr. Hulse and **RESOLVED that** selected members of the Parish Council inspect the deeds held at NatWest Frodsham branch prior to its closure on 10th October 2017 HPC94/17. The counterpart lease for the 'Eccies' was held at Slater & Gordon (formerly Walker Smith Way) in their Chester offices.
- 6. Public Air Time proposed by Cllr. O'Neill, seconded by Cllr. Hulse and RESOLVED that the meeting be suspended for public participation - HPC95/17. Cllr. Lynn Riley thanked the members for allowing her to address them. Cllr. Riley spoke briefly about the reasons behind CWaC inviting the Boundary Commission to undertake an electoral review of warding arrangements with the purpose of reducing the number of ward councillors from 75 to 69. Parishes would not be split or isolated but could come together in geographical groupings that met the number required. The Cheshire West & Chester (CWaC) projected ratio for 2023 was 1 member per 4085 electors. Helsby was near the target already with 1 member representing 4078 electors. Cllr. Riley was mindful that Frodsham and Helsby had previously clustered together with 3 ward members and gave examples on the many things that united the two parishes. Frodsham could just about sustain the current 2-member ward but Helsby could struggle. Together the two communities would match the criteria which would potentially have a larger team to put forward the views of the electors. It would be impolite not to inform Helsby Parish Council that it was the view of the Conservative representatives to ask the Boundary Commission to consider joining Helsby & Frodsham wards. Cllr. Randles thanked Cllr. Riley for her comments which would be taken into consideration during discussion. Proposed by Cllr. Ellams, seconded by Cllr. Johnson and RESOLVED – that Public Air Time be closed and the meeting reconvened – HPC95/17.
- 7. Apologies for absence. Received and accepted from Cllrs. Crossley-Jones and Duffy.
- 8. Declarations of interest. Cllrs. O'Neill, McKie & Randles declared non-pecuniary interest in Item 19 as executive members of the Helsby Community Sports Club. Cllrs. Hulse and O'Neill declared non-pecuniary interest in Item 24.2 as members of the Cheshire Playing Fields Association. Cllr. Hulse declared family interest in Item 16 as his daughter was employed by Cheshire West and Chester Council.
- 9. Police Matters
 - 9.1 Report from PCSO Kopczyk
- Anti-Social Behaviour issues have been robustly dealt with and the reports have died down.
- Panna Cage Football. Following the recently held event at the High School which proved extremely popular, the PCSOs have arranged an event on Wednesday 31st May 1-3pm on the Basketball Court Parish Field. The sponsors have been asked to provide proof of PLI.
- Community Speed Watch. The Helsby Community Speed Watch Group had undertaken its
 first session on Primrose Lane with the non-enforceable speed gun. This was an efficient
 method of recording and monitoring speed. More volunteers were sought. Contact
 john.kopczyk@cheshire.pnn.police.uk for more information.
- One-Stop Shop two males caught on CCTV shoplifting alcohol. The two High School pupils
 were readily identified by the quality of the CCTV. Both are being dealt with accordingly by
 a Police Constable.
- Eccies: damage to picnic table thought due to empty beer barrels being throw at it. The Clerk had send email to Mr Walker.
- Local Beat Meetings for May. 16th May at 3pm JTO Tea Rooms and 22nd May at 3pm in the Library.

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- 9.2 Cheshire Association of Local Councils had organised a meeting on 29th June with the PCC on Road Safety matters.
- 9.3 The Parish Council was awaiting a response from PCC re the rationale behind his move to Warrington.
- 10. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 10th April. Proposed by Cllr. Hulse, seconded by Cllr. O'Neill and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Helsby Parish Council meeting held on 10th April 2017 be accepted as an accurate record and duly signed by the Chairman HPC96/17.
- 11. Matters arising from the previous meeting.
 - The Parish Council knew who the owner of said footpath was in the 1960s but he had subsequently passed away. There was no way of finding out who the inheritors were without obtaining legal advice. Cllr. Holder had spoken to the church who would support (not financially) the creation of a proper link to the footpath. Cllr. McKie suggested placing a notice asking the current landowner to make themselves known. Cllr. MacPherson reported that a grant of 'legal right of passage' could be obtained if you could prove 12 years' continual use. With that knowledge, it was agreed that the church should take the lead on this matter. Cllr. O'Neill commented that there was plenty of grant funders around and the church had enough evidence to lay claim to the footpath.
 - 11.2 Local Living Wage. This item would be considered and discussed at the next Finance Committee meeting.
- 12. Minutes of the APM of the PE. Proposed by Cllr. Ellams, seconded by Cllr. Hulse and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of the Parish Electorate held on 20th April 2017 be accepted as an accurate record and duly signed by the Chairman HPC97/17.
- 13. Minutes of the Parks, Cemetery & Allotments Committee meeting held on 24th April 2017. Cllr. Kimpton presented the minutes that included the following recommendation:
 - 13.1 Scouts. Proposed by Cllr. Kimpton, seconded by Cllr. Hulse and RESOLVED to allow Helsby Scouts the use of the Parish Field on the evening of 27th June between 7.30pm 9pm for Bubble Football subject to the usual conditions of insurance and risk assessment being in place HPC98/17.
- 14. Burial Grant. Proposed by Cllr. Kimpton, seconded by Cllr. Ellams and RESOLVED that Helsby Parish Council, in accordance with s.214 of the LGA1972 and the Local Authorities Cemeteries Order of 1977, approve the application for Grant of Exclusive Rights of Burial for a term of 75 years for Plot 6a East Pink in Helsby Public Cemetery, Old Chester Road received from Mrs Yeo of Chester Road Helsby HPC99/17.
- 15. Councillor's Surgery held on 6th May. Cllr. Temple reported the following from the recently held surgery that she attended along with Cllrs. Holder and Randles:

<u>Latham Avenue resident</u>

- Councillors confirmed the date of 19th May when the travellers had to vacate site and the procedures that CWaC had in place if there was a delay.
- Field on border of Alvanley / Manley (Towers Lane) had recently been sold.
- Accidental damage of Latham Avenue road sign had been reported.

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Lower Robin Hood Lane resident

• Sherwood Court area had quietened down thanks to PCSOs efforts. Requested a fence to be erected to prevent balls coming over. Noted that elderly couple regularly used the bench to rest whilst out on their daily walk.

Robin Hood Lane resident

• Requested that vegetation along the A56 footpath (from main road leading to Health Centre) be cut back.

Lincoln Court resident

- Thanked CWaC for re-instating road sign for Lower Robin Hood Lane.
- Ivy growing on footpath between Lincoln Court and the Community Centre. The Clerk had sent in numerous requests to Streetscene which were being followed up by Cllr. McKie. Cllr. Hulse believed that the area actually belonged to Manweb as it was adjacent to the substation. Cllr. O'Neill had spoken with new Tesco manager who was keen for his community volunteers to do tasks around the village. This could fit in nicely with that.
- Recognised that cutting back hedges by the bus stop opposite Tesco's was difficult due to unwilling owners
- Noted that problems regarding biking around the Scout HQ had simmered down after a 101 call and the police attention to the area
- Noted that activity at the Horse & Jockey had just been security company employees
- Noted that the Eccies had closed. Rumours of a planning application were quashed.
- Asked for any news of the bike shop. Councillors confirmed that there was no news but that the adjacent garage was up for sale.

Cllr. Hulse brought up the overgrown hedge adjacent to Tesco site. There was a standoff whilst Tesco and Brookhouse debated whose responsibility it was.

16. Cheshire West and Chester Council

- 16.1 Cllr. McKie Boundary Commission. Cllr. McKie recommended that Helsby put forward its comments for a 3-member ward arrangement with Frodsham due to the strong established links. In his opinion, Elton would request a 2-member ward and link with Helsby. The numbers may not stack up with Helsby joining Gowy. The Frodsham Ward members would have no objections to his proposal. Much discussion ensued mainly focused on Helsby as a stand-alone community that deserved to be represented by its own ward member. Cllr. Temple referred to the figures. The variance for Helsby meant that even with the housing yet to be built and accommodated, it was still within the considerations and therefore possible to retain a single member ward. Benefits of single member representation was that Helsby had its own nurseries, nursing homes, schools, transport links, Health Centre, a made Neighbourhood Plan, shops, businesses etc. In the interests of the electors it was proposed by Cllr. Hulse, seconded by Cllr. Ellams and RESOLVED that the Parish Council write to the Boundary Commission requesting that Helsby remain as a single member ward HPC100/17.
- 16.2 The Rock Helsby. Road closure notice for re-surfacing from 31st May for approx. 2 days duly noted.
- 16.3 Lids missing off recycling boxes. Cllr. Hulse would write an information article for the Helsby News informing residents that items could be replaced by ordering on CWaC website or by phone.
- 16.4 Air Quality Forum Cllr. O'Neill attended the meeting and circulated notes by email.
- 17. The Marshes Community Benefit Fund no matters reported.

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18. Frodsham Wind Farm LLP. Cllr. Ellams would attend the next meeting on 16th June. He had asked that the TV inference reported to him by a Helsby resident be placed on the agenda along with fly-tipping on the marshes.

- 19. Helsby Community Sports Club. Cllr. O'Neill reported that he would attend a meeting with the Football Foundation to secure funding for a 3G pitch. Tenders had been sent out by Brookhouse to the big national housebuilders for the 120 dwellings and the 69 dwellings. The 18th June was the deadline that tenders had to be received by.
- 20. Helsby Community Association the next meeting was Wednesday 17th May.
- 21. Weaver & Sandstone Cycle Forum Cllr. Ellams would be attending the meeting on 9th May.
- 22. Protos Cllr. Temple reported that the AGM on 14th June starting at 7pm in Elton Community Centre was open to the public. She would obtain posters for placement on our notice boards.
- 23. Ho Ho Helsby event group. Cllr. O'Neill reported that the Band Night fundraiser was well attended. The group's next meeting was 6.30pm at Helsby Golf Club on 9th May.

24. Miscellaneous Matters

- 24.1 Chairman's Allowance. Proposed by Cllr. O'Neill, seconded by Cllr. Ellams and RESOLVED that the Parish Council, in accordance with ss.15(5) & 34(5) of the Local Government Act 1972, approve payment of £150 Chairman's allowance to Mr George Randles to meet the expenses of office HPC101/17. Note that the Chairman did not have to supply any receipts for payments.
- 24.2 CCPFA. Proposed by Cllr. Hulse, seconded by Cllr. Temple and RESOLVED that the Parish Council, in accordance with s.143 of LGA1972, renew its membership for 2017/18 with the Cheshire County Playing Fields Association costing £22 HPC102/17.
- 24.3 CCA. Proposed by Cllr. Hulse, seconded by Cllr. O'Neill and **RESOLVED that the** Parish Council, in accordance with s.143 of LGA1972, renew its membership for 2017/18 with Cheshire Community Action costing £50 HPC103/17.
- 24.4 Allotments. Proposed by Cllr. Temple, seconded by Cllr. Hulse and RESOLVED that the Parish Council enter into Allotment Tenancy Lease agreements with the following HPC104/17: Michelle & Ste Cross of Rose Farm Court Plot 13L OCR

 Mal Cross of Moore Lane Moore Plot 13R OCR
- 25. Transport Matters Cllr. Ellams reported the following: -
- ARRIVA franchise expiring Oct 2018. There were 4 in the running and the favourite appeared to be Abellio who were the owners of Southern trains;
- Chester to Leeds/Bradford. Due to the shortage of platform space at Chester, the trains may have to start at Ellesmere Port;
- Current service to Ellesmere Port may be abandoned. The North Cheshire Rail Users' Group goal was to expand the rail service and was lobbying local MPs on this matter. Thornton Research was desperate to increase the current service;
- Leasing the Ticket Office due to the many pitfalls with Network Rail and BT the Parish Council has had to abort its proposal;
- Cllr. McKie reported on the numerous residents' complaints about the timings of the local buses. He and the two Frodsham ward members would be attending an open meeting with

residents and the bus companies;

There was no news about new parking provision for Helsby Station.

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- 26. Cheshire Association of Local Councils
- The next Executive Meeting would take place in June;
- ChALC was liaising with CWaC about organising a meeting for local councils on accessing paperless plans. Cllr. Ellams commented that CWaC Website was not user friendly. He was still working on the document for our members to write comments.

27. Planning

27.1 To note the council's responses to the following new planning applications:

App Number	Address	Proposal	Comments
17/01284/FUL	94 Old Chester Road	2-storey rear extension	No objections
17/01575/FUL	42 Chester Road	Single storey rear extension	No objections

Proffits Lane field. A public consultation took place on 18th April where 79 members 27.2 of the public attended. The developer confirmed that the majority of these were opposed to the development, however they did receive further support and registrations of interest in an affordable home. They would be scanning and collating all comments received and intended to address all concerns should the process proceed to an application. They aim to provide a response to the main concerns on their website over the coming weeks. Cllr. O'Neill confirmed that, as of today's date, there was nothing on MCIs website. Cheshire Community Action had sent the unabridged (56 which would Housing Needs Survey pages) be displayed www.helsbyparish.org.uk Cllr. Kimpton commented that Cholmondeley Estates were looking at the potential of other sites in Helsby.

28. Accounts

- 28.1 Aon UK Ltd. Proposed by Cllr. O'Neill, seconded by Cllr. Hulse and **RESOLVED that** the Parish Council, in accordance with s.112-119 of the LGA1972, approve the payment of £1,901.74 for the annual insurance premium HPC105/17.
- 28.2 JDH Business Services Ltd. Internal audit of the Parish Council's accounts for Financial Year ending 31st March 2017.
 - a) Fees. Proposed by Cllr. O'Neill, seconded by Cllr. Hulse and RESOLVED that the Parish Council, in accordance with Section 2 of Part ii of the Audit Commission Act 1998, approve payment of £295.20 incl VAT to JDH Business Services Ltd for internal audit fees 31st March 2017 HPC106/17.
 - b) Internal auditor's report. The Audit Report had 2 recommendations as follows:
 - (i) ISSUE The Council use internet banking and while the financial regulations allow this, they have not been update to include controls to prevent online banking fraud including supplier fraud. RECOMMENDATION The Council should update the financial regulations for online banking to include checks of current supplier bank data, new supplier bank data and procedures to be followed where a current supplier changes bank account. Details can be found in the NALC model financial regulations Council to action.
 - (ii) ISSUE The bank reconciliation includes an adjustment described as 'unpresented cheques' when it I actually a receipt that hasn't cleared the

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Proposed by Cllr. Hulse, seconded by Cllr. MacPherson and **RESOLVED** – that the aforementioned recommendations received from the Internal Audit 31st March 2017 be duly noted and actioned – HPC107/17.

- 28.3 Annual Return External Audit 31st March 2017. The document would be sent to BDO by the request date of 26th June 2017. In accordance with the exercise of Public Rights Accounts for the Year Ended 31st March 2017, notices had been placed on notice boards informing the public that the accounts would be available for inspection from 5th June to 14th July 2017 duly noted.
- 28.4 VAT reclaim for year ending 31st March 2017. The Clerk had sent in request to HM Revenue & Customs for £12,853.12 duly noted.
- 28.5 Clerk's Pension in accordance with statutory obligations, the Parish Council had arranged with NEST to be its pension provider and a Direct Debit had been set up. Proposed by Cllr. Hulse, seconded by Cllr. Ellams and RESOLVED that the Parish Council, in accordance with s.112-119 of LGA1972 transfer the accumulated sum of £5,500 into NEST pension scheme HPC108/17.
- 28.6 Bank Reconciliation. Cllrs. Ellams and Randles had checked the apps against the corresponding figures relating to the NatWest and confirmed that they were correct. Proposed by Cllr. Hulse, seconded by Cllr. O'Neill and RESOLVED that the Bank Reconciliation sheet detailing £241,684.29 held in balances as at 8th May 2017 be accepted as accurate HPC109/17.
- 28.7 Payments. Proposed by Cllr. Hulse, seconded by Cllr. O'Neill and **RESOLVED that** the following payments, made under delegated authority and totalling £8,592.52, be duly noted HPC110/17: -

Method	To whom paid	Particulars of payment	Amount
Bacs	Employees x 3	April 2017 salaries	1,867.91
Bacs	HMRC Cumbernauld	PAYE & NI on above salaries	484.65
Bacs	Kentra Training Limited	Strimmer training for GAs	420.00
Bacs	Playsafety Limited	Annual RoSPA inspection	158.10
Bacs	SUEZ Recycling & Recovery UK	Bin emptying – Helsby Public Cemetery	460.46
Bacs	Ches Assoc of Local Councils	Subs £1408.75 + LCR £17.00	1,425.75
Bacs	Ins of Cem & Crematorium Man	Annual subscription	90.00
Bacs	Wirral Transport Users' Group	Same	8.00
Bacs	E.ON UK Plc	Electricity for bridge lights	84.20
Bacs	Jeanette E Hughes	Paper £16.18 Stamps £63.80 Tra	116.38
Bacs	T J O'Neill	£36.40	12.80
		Travel expenses – Winsford	
SO	Strong Brickwork		300.00
DD	BT Direct Debit	Office rent – April 2017	122.47
DD	BT Group PLC	Calls and rental charges	505.64
DD	Scottish Power	Charge in error. Complaint lodged	106.00
DD	United Utilities Water	Community Centre – electricity	29.93
		Community Centre – water	
5051	CWaC		116.60
5052	Mid-Cheshire Footpath Society	Hall Hire Dec 16 – Mar 17 Hillside	8.00
5053	JDH Business Services Ltd	Annual subscription	295.20
5054	Aon UK Limited	Internal Audit 31.03.17	1,901.74

DD	NEST	Annual insurance premium Employer & employee pension cont	78.69
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- 29. Meeting dates for 2017/18 Municipal Year. Proposed by Cllr. Hulse, seconded by Cllr. Temple and RESOLVED to accept the meeting dates 2017/18 for Helsby Parish Council and its committees HPC111/17.
- 30. Date of the next meeting 12th June 2017.
- 31. Part B. Proposed by Cllr. Gardner, seconded by Cllr. Temple and RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paras 7, 8, 9 & 12 of Schedule 12a of the Local Government Action 1972 HPC112/17.

PART B - Confidential Item

32. The Eccies. Options from Slater & Gordon. Proposed by Cllr. MacPherson, seconded by Cllr. O'Neill and RESOLVED – that the Parish Council go for Option B on the stipulation that it first obtains a survey of the condition of the Eccies to highlight hazardous substances i.e. waste, asbestos – HPC113/17.

The meeting closed at 20.47pm

Chairman's signature	 Dated	

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