



# Helsby Parish Council

## Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held virtually at 7.30pm on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2020 via Zoom

### Present:

Cllr. Terry O'Neill – Chairman  
Cllr. Chris Ellams – Vice Chairman  
Cllr. Mike Branigan  
Cllr. Michelle Massey  
Cllr. Peter Duffy

### Also present:

Claire Jones Parish Clerk

1. Public Air Time – Proposed by Cllr. Ellams, seconded by Cllr. Massey and **RESOLVED that the meeting be suspended for public participation – E01/20**. There being no matters brought to the Committee's attention, it was proposed by Cllr. Massey, seconded by Cllr. Ellams and **RESOLVED that Public Air Time be closed and the meeting reconvened – E02/20**.
2. No apologies were received.
3. Declarations of disclosable interests. None were reported.
4. Minutes of the previous meeting. Proposed by Cllr. Ellams, seconded by Cllr. Massey and **RESOLVED that the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2019 be accepted as accurate. They would be signed by the Chairman at the earliest opportunity – E03/20**.
5. Matters arising from the previous minutes of 16<sup>th</sup> December 2019. Members reports were received as follows:
  - Public art project – an invite to meet with Carmel Clapson and Sarah Fisher in September was noted. The clerk, Cllr. O'Neill and Cllr. Ellams to attend;
  - Conservation area – no recent progress was reported;
  - Daffodils – clerk to ask Cllr. Randles to request the Rotary Club to plant bulbs on Chester Road between Helsby Public Cemetery and Helsby High School; and
  - Bus shelters – CW&C have carried out some cleaning and weeding following correspondence from Cllr O'Neill.
6. To discuss the Environment Committee budget for the year 2020/21 as follows:

Budget Heading Code	Description	Budget 2020/21 £	Budget Spend to Date £	Predicted To 31/03/21 £
218	Planters/Bedding Plants	400	33	400
219	Village Clock	300	0	300
220	Maltby Triangle/A56 Land	1020	176.40	1020
223	Litter/dog/grit bins	400	0	400
224	Village Awards	200	0	200
225	Ho Ho Helsby Traffic M'ment	1100	0	1100
227	Bridge Lantern Lights	1000	261.30	1000
228	Christmas Illuminations	15500	0	15500
228a	Christmas Tree	3000	0	3000
229	Sherwood Court Land	2000	474.00	2000
230	Street Furniture/BT boxes	250	0	250
231	War Memorial	1000	0	1000

Footnotes:

- i) Village clock - (Budget Code 219). See item 9.
- ii) Village 'Best Kept' awards (Budget Code 224). Council resolved on 10/08/20 not to hold the competition this year.
- iii) Christmas tree (Budget Code 228a). Council seeking quote from Northwich Town Council via Ho Ho Helsby. It was agreed that the Council should seek alternative quotes although it was noted that companies offering an equivalent service might be difficult to source.
- iv) Sherwood Court Land (Budget Code 229) – Clerk putting together a specification for tree and hedge maintenance work. It was noted that work might come in over budget due to no maintenance being carried out since lockdown. It was agreed that the £10,000 COVID-19 grant from CW&C could be used to cover any shortfall.

7. Members noted the contents of the lease agreement for Maltby Triangle.
8. Members noted the contents of the latest ROSPA inspection held on 9 April for the outdoor gym at Sherwood Court. It was agreed that the clerk would order any necessary spare parts/materials and a working party of councillors would be formed to carry out the various repairs recommended in the report.
9. Following a short discussion in relation to the high annual costs associated with servicing the village clock on Chester Road, it was proposed by Cllr. Duffy, seconded by Cllr. Ellams and **RESOLVED that the Council does not continue with the annual servicing arrangements for the village clock from 2021 and instead resolves to pay for any repairs as and when required – E04/20.**
10. Following a complaint from a local business owner about the poor state of the 'Welcome to Helsby' sign opposite Helsby High School, it was proposed by Cllr. O'Neill, seconded by Cllr. Duffy and **RESOLVED to request the general assistant to renovate the paint work on the sign once the flowers had been removed from the display – E05/20.**

11. Cllr O'Neill outlined that the current litter pick co-ordinator, Betty Grieve, was no longer able to continue with the role. It was proposed by Cllr. Duffy, seconded by Cllr. O'Neill and **RESOLVED that the clerk would approach scout leader, Colin Ashcroft, to see if he might be willing to take on the role – E06/20.** Cllr. Massey also outlined that Tesco had offered the services of their staff for any local volunteering projects including litter picking. It was proposed that Betty Grieve was formally thanked for her generous services to the village at the next Full Council meeting.
  
12. It was noted that despite HPC providing the resources to purchase the interactive speed sign on Chester Road, CW&C had written recently to say that they owned the sign. This followed some repair work that the clerk had recently arranged via the suppliers, TWM Traffic. It was proposed by Cllr. Duffy, seconded by Cllr. Branigan and **RESOLVED to forward any invoices from TWM Traffic relating to the sign to CW&C and make reference to CW&C's e-mail about ownership in the Council's asset register – E07/20.**
  
13. It was agreed that the clerk would forward the list of Christmas light locations to committee members for consideration of any additional provision this year. Cllr. Massey suggested a small reindeer. The clerk agreed to arrange testing of the lights with AMR Technical Ltd in due course and replace any bulbs if required.
  
14. It was noted that the Council had signed a lease to put a defibrillator in the newly-adopted telephone box opposite Bates Lane, Chester Road. It was proposed by Cllr. Duffy, seconded by Cllr. Branigan and **RESOLVED to check that the contract committed the Council to the installation of a defibrillator and if so, to explore the feasibility of grant funding for a unit – E08/20.**
  
15. The clerk raised the possibility of replacing the 2 Helsby Parish Council noticeboards as they were in a poor state of repair. Committee members were happy with the proposal in principle and suggested a possible third location in South Ward. It was proposed by Cllr. Duffy, seconded by Cllr. Ellams and **RESOLVED to look into the costs of new noticeboards – E09/20.**
  
16. Members noted Cheshire West and Chester Council's forthcoming call for habitat provision as part of a pilot project in relation to Natural England's national Biodiversity Credits Scheme.
  
17. Urgent matters. The clerk outlined that MP, Mike Amesbury, had written to the Council in relation to a request from a local resident about gritting provision in the village. Cllr. O'Neill and the clerk to explore the matter further. In the meantime, the clerk would send a short response to the MP.
  
18. Date of next meeting – Wednesday 9th December 2020.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm

Chairman's signature ..... Dated.....