



# Helsby Parish Council

## Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held at 7pm in the Parish Office at Helsby Community Sports Club on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024

### Present:

Cllr. Terry O'Neill (Chair)  
Cllr. Rob Nicklin  
Cllr. Rob Foreman  
Cllr. Chris Ellams

### Also present:

Claire Jones Parish Clerk  
CW&C Borough Councillor representing Helsby Ward, Chris Copeman

1. Public Participation – members listened to a short excerpt from a BBC Radio 4 article on levels of contaminated land in Alvanley and Helsby. Cllr. Copeman outlined that he had written to CW&C's Chief Executive to ask the council to measure local levels of PCB's. It was also noted that an article had been prepared on the matter for the next edition of Helsby News.
2. No apologies were noted.
3. Declarations of Members' Interests. None were reported.
4. Confirmation of Previous Minutes. It was **RESOLVED that the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024 were accepted as accurate and were duly signed by the Chair – E04/24.**
5. Clerk's report – the following was noted:
  - The revised Environment Committee section had now been inserted into the Standing Orders;
  - The Clerk to submit another request to meet with CW&C's Property and Library Services in relation to Helsby Community Centre;
  - Helsby Garden Services was yet to repair the loose roof tiles on the council's brick bus shelter on Chester Road. It was suggested that the shelter should be subject to a full buildings inspection in due course; and
  - It was noted that volunteers would be sought at the next Full Council meeting to explore a potential project to utilise any remaining S106 public arts funding.
6. The Environment Committee budget for the year 2023/24 and for the forthcoming fiscal year 2024/25 was discussed as follows:

Budget Code	Description	Budget 2023/24 £	Budget spent 2023/24 £	Budget 2024/25 £	Budget spent to date £	Predicted To 31/03/25 £
218	Bedding Plants	500	868	750	28	400
219	Village clock	0	0	0	0	0
220	Maltby Triangle	200	31	210	0	200
222	Christmas tree	2700	2949	2757	0	2757
223	Litter/dog/grit bins	400	0	400	0	0
224	Village awards	200	0	0	0	0
225	Ho Ho Traffic M'ment	1100	1050	1155	0	1155
226	Average speed cameras	5000	0	0	0	0
227	Bridge lantern lights	1000	742	1000	297	800
228	Christmas Illuminations	15500	9533	20000	694	20000
229	Sherwood Court land	500	1828	525	390	1525
230	Street furniture/BT boxes	6000	6300	4000	2616	3000
231	War memorial	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>33,100</b>	<b>23,301</b>	<b>30,797</b>	<b>4,025</b>	<b>29,837</b>

All figures above exclude VAT and are rounded to the nearest £1.

The following was also noted:

- i) Budget Code 218 – does not include costs for other materials such as compost/fertiliser/bark chippings (this is put under PCA Budget Code 214).
- ii) Budget Code 220 – Cost for hedge work = £33.
- iii) Budget Code 225 – will need quotes this year. Liaise with Ho Ho Helsby.
- iv) Budget Code 226 – funds now moved into earmarked reserves.
- v) Budget Code 228 – funds increased this year to invest in some new decorations.
- vi) Budget Code 229 – £1,000 withheld for work on pavilion. Expected to be paid shortly from this budget.
- vii) Budget Code 230 – south ward noticeboard and Lest We Forget bench purchased under this budget. Clerk to consider including some labour costs and additional materials for installing the new planters and bench here (currently put under the Parks and General Maintenance budget).
- viii) Also earmarked reserves of £50,000 for average speed cameras (Code 519), £10,000 for Helsby Community Centre maintenance (Code 520) and £5,363 for CIL payments (Code 505).

## 7. Miscellaneous Matters

- 7.1. Christmas Lighting – it was noted that the Clerk and Cllr. O'Neill had met with AMR Technical on 19<sup>th</sup> June to discuss the lighting contract for 2024. The Clerk outlined that some new decorations had been discussed including the purchase of 3D spheres, a new artificial tree for Maltby Triangle and 5 new banners. A quote was

noted from AMR Technical to remove the various tree wraps which had now all largely failed and to install new lighting gear on 2 lighting columns. It was **RESOLVED to accept this quote for £2,105 (work to be completed as part of AMR's current contract) – E05/24**. The Clerk agreed to bring quotes for various new decorations to a future meeting for approval. It was also outlined that Cllr. Foster had agreed to attend a meeting with the Clerk and Ho Ho Helsby to discuss plans for Christmas 2024 and to seek their views on an additional tree at Maltby Triangle.

- 7.2. It was noted that the Clerk had written to CW&C about the potential for a pilot project to manage some of the overgrown vegetation and dirty signs in the village in place of the 2025 Grant Show. Members were requested to send ideas to the Clerk about areas in need of attention and it was agreed that a specification for work would need to be put together (possibly by council ward). Cllr. O'Neill suggested that Helsby Footpath Society could also be consulted. The potential for installing electrical car charging points in the village was raised.
- 7.3. Village planters - it was outlined that the replacement planter scheme had been completed and the latest 'Adopt-a-Planter' volunteer list was noted.
- 7.4. It was noted that Northwich Town Council would shortly install the new community noticeboard in South Ward.
- 7.5. Average speed camera project - it was noted that electrical upgrades to the two lighting columns had been completed and the contractors were now ready to install the cameras. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to any local residents in the vicinity of the cameras beforehand to inform them about the project.
- 7.6. The Clerk outlined that F M Landscaping would revisit Sherwood Court shortly to complete the refurbishment work on the pavilion and to install an additional barrier.
- 7.7. The contents of the latest RoSPA safety inspection held on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2024 for Sherwood Court were noted. The Clerk outlined that F M Landscaping had been asked to quote to chamfer the sharp edges of the new planters.
- 7.8. Various requests from local residents to place some additional benches around the village were considered. Two potential locations were discussed – on hardstanding areas near Blue Bridge Lane opposite Helsby Public Cemetery and opposite the bus stop at Bates Lane/Chester Road. The Clerk agreed to source quotes for two benches with 'Helsby' wording and to look at the availability of S106 funds to fund these.
- 7.9. The Clerk agreed to contact Frodsham Tree Solutions in relation to an offer for a wooden carving in the village. Members made a few suggestions including a peregrine falcon or a new Christmas feature (e.g. elf, snowman).
- 7.10. It was noted that the latest Climate Change Working Group had been postponed until September. Cllr. Copeman agreed to try to recruit some new members for the next meeting.

8. Urgent matters – the following was noted:

- Cllr. O'Neill presented a paper on seeking an amendment to the Neighbourhood Plan to incorporate Passivhaus standards into the design criteria for all new homes. It was noted that a public consultation would be required. The Clerk agreed to put this on the agenda for discussion at Full Council;

- The council had been consulted on some potential new S106 funding, including funds for enhancing amenity greenspace. CW&C were proposing to allocate up to £4,000 of these funds to the parish council for the creation of a planted area at the top of Queens Drive, with the remaining balance allocated to Helsby Quarry. The Clerk agreed to contact CW&C to accept this offer;
- Cllrs. Nicklin and Copeman agreed to approach residents where overgrown hedges were deemed to be a particular issue; and
- The Clerk had written to Tesco about overgrown vegetation and overflowing bins on Callender Way. They had agreed to cut back the hedging. They also outlined that CW&C were responsible for clearing the bins – the Clerk agreed to contact CW&C to confirm this.

9. Date of the next meeting – Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024.

The meeting closed at 8.33pm

Chair’s signature ..... Dated.....

DRAFT