



Helsby Parish Council

Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held at 7.15pm in the Parish Office at Helsby Community Sports Club on Monday 21st February 2022

Present:

Cllr. Paul Standing (Chairman)
Cllr. Terry O'Neill
Cllr. Chris Ellams
Cllr. Peter Duffy
Cllr. Mike Branigan

Also present:

Claire Jones Parish Clerk

1. Public Participation – It was **RESOLVED that the meeting be suspended for public participation – E01/22**. There being no matters brought to the Committee's attention, it was **RESOLVED that Public Air Time be closed and the meeting reconvened – E02/22**.
2. Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. Gardner.
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 15th December 2021 be accepted as accurate and duly signed by the Chairman – E03/22**.
5. Matters arising. Under Item 7.1, the Clerk outlined that CW&C had been consulted in relation to replacing the lighting on the bridge adjacent to Tesco with LED lights and she was still awaiting a response from their Bridges Department. Cllr. O'Neill reported that an update on the average speed camera pilot scheme was expected at the next ChALC meeting on 2 March (Item 6).
6. The Environment Committee budget for 2021/22 and the agreed budget for 2022/23 was noted as follows:

Budget Heading Code	Description	Budget 2021/22 £	Budget Spend to Date £	Predicted to 31/03/22 (£)	Agreed Budget 2022/23 (£)
218	Planters/Bedding Plants	400	255	505	400
219	Village Clock	0	0	0	300
220	Maltby Triangle/A56 Land	500	434	434	1000

223	Litter/dog/grit bins	400	790	908	400
224	Village Awards	200	0	0	200
225	Ho Ho Traffic M' ment	1050	1020	1020	1050
226	Road Safety	0	0	0	5000
227	Bridge Lantern Lights	1000	577	811	1000
228	Christmas Illuminations	15500	8779	9278	15500
228a	Christmas Tree	3000	3588	3588	3000
229	Sherwood Court Land	1500	756	756	1000
230	Street Furniture/BT boxes	250	0	0	10000
231	War Memorial	0	0	0	0

Footnotes:

- i) Code 218 – 2021 bedding plant invoice outstanding for around £250.
- ii) Code 223 – Northwich TC invoice outstanding for bin installation.
- iii) Code 227 – Billing now monthly via Npower. First monthly charge was £78.
- iv) Code 228 – Electrical bill for Christmas lighting outstanding.

Under Budget Code 231, Cllr. Ellams suggested that the war memorial might benefit from being cleaned. The Clerk agreed to look into this matter and brings quotes to the next meeting. It was noted that bridge lighting energy bills were now being paid to Npower, rather than Eon, and that invoices would be paid monthly rather than quarterly. The Clerk agreed to inform them about the change to LED lighting in due course.

7. Miscellaneous Matters

- 7.1. Correspondence from AMR Technical was noted in relation to damage to a number of Christmas motifs. It was **RESOLVED to contact LITE to request a repair to the damaged Twinkle motif and to source quotes to replace the damaged snowman motif – E04/22.**
- 7.2. The Clerk presented an action plan for the planned beacon lighting ceremony on Helsby Hill as part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations. It was agreed that a working group would be set up to organise the event and to help with the ceremony on 2 June (Cllrs. Duffy, O'Neill, Standing and Ellams). It was noted that a representative from St. Pauls Church had approached the Council to outline their plans to hold a church service and community lunch/picnic over the Jubilee weekend. Committee members expressed their support for the event and offered to make a contribution, if required. The Clerk agreed to invite the representative to attend the next Full Council meeting and to inform the community groups that had expressed an interest in the Jubilee of these plans.
- 7.3. In relation to the National Association of Civic Officers Tree Planting Day on 11 March, it was noted that Cllr. Bowers had outlined that the tree saplings he could source were likely to be far too small. Cllr. Duffy agreed to source a 3-4ft 'Christmas type' evergreen tree and any costs would be covered through the Clerk's emergency fund. Cllr. O'Neill confirmed that the tree could be planted outside the Council office at the sports club and he agreed to identify a specific location in due course.

- 7.4. The Clerk outlined that the new community noticeboards might require licences from CW&C. She agreed to apply to CW&C once specific locations were known. In terms of a noticeboard for the south ward, Cllr. Branigan suggested as an alternative that the Council’s digital screen could be displayed at Tesco or failing that, at the parish office. It was **RESOLVED to propose to Full Council to amend the resolution agreed at the meeting on 10th January 2022 (HPC05/22) to purchase two new community noticeboards for north and central wards only – E05/22.** Cllrs. Ellams and Branigan agreed to put together a specific proposal for Tesco.
- 7.5. A report was considered in relation to the replacement of the village planters. Concern was expressed that the quotes received to replace all 21 units were in excess of the £6,000 budgeted for under Budget Code 230 for 2022/23. Members discussed various options such as replacing only those in the central area of the village with new black planters and attempting to restore a few of the remaining planters by re-setting and jet-washing them. New planter locations were also suggested at the sports club, Helsby Cemetery and Helsby Station. On the basis of these discussions, it was **RESOLVED for Cllr. Standing to put together a specific proposal for the Full Council at their March meeting including the purchase of 6 new planters – E06/22.** Cllr. Standing also agreed to discuss any proposals in advance with Marj Thoburn, as the co-ordinator of the Adopt a Planter scheme. Based on a recommendation from the general maintenance contractor, it was **RESOLVED to recommend to Full Council to replace all the compost in each of the existing planters this year and to purchase compost for any potential new ones – E07/22.** It was also **RESOLVED to recommend to Full Council to remove three old concrete planters from the Council’s asset register – E08/22.**
- 7.6. The Clerk outlined that the general maintenance contractor had identified a number of trip hazards at Sherwood Court. It was also noted that a number of the brick planters were starting to deteriorate in places. It was agreed that the Clerk and Cllr, O’Neill would meet with the Springfield development site manager to discuss a number of options for improving this area.
- 7.7. Member reports - the Clerk outlined that an Extraordinary Meeting of the Parks, Cemetery and Allotments Committee had been arranged on 7th March to discuss the tenders received for the grass cutting, hedge maintenance and tree maintenance contracts. Cllr. O’Neill outlined that some local residents had requested a dog waste bin on Callender Way but it appeared that they were not in favour of the combined dog waste/general waste bins currently being used by CW&C.

8. Relevant liaison committee and/or emission monitoring reports – nothing was raised.

9. Urgent matters – nothing was raised.

10. Date of next meeting – to be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm

Chairman’s signature Dated.....