



Helsby Parish Council

Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held at 7.15pm on Monday 23rd August in the committee room at Helsby Community Centre

Present:

Cllr. Paul Standing - Chair
Cllr. Terry O'Neill
Cllr. Mike Branigan
Cllr. Peter Duffy

Also present:

Claire Jones, Parish Clerk
2 members of the public

1. Public Air Time. It was **RESOLVED that the meeting be suspended for public participation – E12/21**. A member of the public asked councillors to press for a controlled pedestrian crossing to be installed between the new Lane End housing development on Chester Road and Hornsmill Primary School, rather than an uncontrolled one. They also asked the Committee to consider carrying out a speeding survey on Callender Way and to approach CW&C to implement traffic calming measures along this route. Another member raised the importance of the location of the current Christmas tree on Chester Road/Queens Drive. There being no other matters brought to the members' attention, it was **RESOLVED that Public Air Time be closed and the meeting reconvened – E13/21**.
2. Apologies were received from Cllrs. Gardner and Ellams.
3. There were no declarations of interest.
4. Minutes of the previous meeting. It was **RESOLVED that the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 5th July 2021 be accepted as accurate and duly signed by the Chairman – E14/21**.
5. Matters arising – Cllr. Standing felt there was a considerable shortfall in the level of proposed developer contributions for the Honeywell development (planning application 20/00324/FUL) in relation to school, health and library provision. It was suggested that the Council should contact CW&C to request that levels be enhanced. It was **RESOLVED to write to CW&C to make a case for a greater contribution from the developer (draft letter to be considered by Full Council at their next meeting) – E15/21**. It was agreed that Cllrs. Duffy and O'Neill would approach the local schools to compile evidence on the need for future additional school places and Cllr. Standing would liaise with health and library representatives.

6. The Environment Committee budget for the year 2021/22 was discussed as follows:

Budget Heading Code	Description	Budget 2021/22 £	Budget Spend to Date £	Predicted To 31/03/22 £
218	Planters/Bedding Plants	400	45.39	400
219	Village clock	0	0	0
220	Maltby Triangle/A56 Land	500	433.50	500
223	Litter/dog/grit bins	400	0	400
224	Village Awards	200	0	0
225	Ho Ho Helsby Traffic M'ment	1050	0	1050
227	Bridge Lantern Lights	1000	259.87	1000
228	Christmas Illuminations	15500	0	15500
228a	Christmas Tree	3000	0	3000
229	Sherwood Court Land	1500	300	1500
230	Street Furniture/BT boxes	250	0	250
231	War Memorial	0	0	0

The following was also noted:

- i) Code 218 - invoice still outstanding for last year's bedding plants at around £400.
- ii) Code 223 – seeking quote from Northwich Town Council for replacement bin in play area. Many grit bins may potentially need to be replaced within the next few years.
- iii) Code 224 – decision not to hold again due to Covid.
- iv) Code 228 – discussions ongoing with Ho Ho Helsby to discuss plans.
- v) Code 230 - potential project to install defib in newly purchased BT kiosk.

7. Miscellaneous matters

7.1 Christmas plans – the minutes of the meeting with Ho Ho Helsby representatives held on 22 July in relation to plans for Christmas 2021 were noted. It was **RESOLVED to recommend to Full Council to continue with the usual plans this year to provide a cut Christmas tree in the same location – E16/21**. Cllr. Duffy suggested that in future years, the Council could explore the possibility of providing a lit tree in the play area, utilising one of the existing fir trees in that location. It was agreed that Cllr. Duffy would bring further information to the next meeting. Cllr. O'Neill felt that it would be a welcome change for the local community to recognise the Council's considerable contribution towards the annual Christmas lighting display as he felt that many people wrongly believed that the illuminations were entirely provided by Ho Ho Helsby.

7.2 Christmas lights 2021 – Cllr. Standing outlined that he had surveyed all the lamp posts in the village to establish where the power points for Christmas lighting were located. He circulated a map of these locations and suggested some areas where gaps could be filled. He also suggested that the lantern lighting on the bridge be converted to LED technology. It was agreed that the Clerk and Cllr. Standing would

initially arrange a meeting with the Council's lighting contractor, AMR Technical, for advice and potential costs.

- 7.3 'Helsby the Art of Here' public art project – it was noted that the hoarding was now being used to advertise the new housing by the developer with only a small area currently allocated to children's artwork. The Clerk expressed concern in relation to the appointment of the artist without seeking alternative quotes. It was agreed that she would liaise further with the working group on the matter.
- 7.4 Conservation area – it was noted that CW&C had been notified of the Council's decision to shelve any further work. It was also noted that CW&C had responded to say that they might revisit the project at a later date.
- 7.5 Cycle North Cheshire feasibility study – Cllr. Duffy outlined that CNC were looking for local support in relation to funding a feasibility study for a proposed cycleway between the Hornsmill pub and Helsby High School. It was noted that the study would cost £13.5k and various funding pledges had already been made, including £2k from Cllr. Bowers. Some concern was expressed about certain pinch points along this route but it was hoped that the study might find appropriate solutions. It was **RESOLVED to recommend to Full Council to match fund Cllr. Bowers' contribution of £2,000 towards the study – E17/21.**
- 7.6 Table tennis table replacement - it was **RESOLVED to recommend to Full Council to accept the quote of £715 plus VAT to replace the table tennis table surface at Sherwood Court and to apply to CW&C's Members Budgets Award scheme for a contribution – E18/21.**
- 7.7 Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations in 2022 – it was agreed that the Clerk and Cllrs. O'Neill, Duffy, Branigan and Standing would meet shortly to discuss an action plan. It was expected that the beacon lighting event would take place on Thursday 2nd June, with a community celebration (e.g. a procession) taking place on Saturday 3rd June.
- 7.8 CW&C Local Plan Conversation 2021 – Cllr. Standing to circulate a spreadsheet on each of the themes and councillors to respond with their views. It was agreed that the draft response would then be presented to the next full Council meeting for consideration.
- 7.9 Community noticeboard quotes – the Clerk to action for the next meeting.
- 7.10 Welcome to Helsby signs painting update – it was noted that the work had been completed.
- 7.11 It was noted that a letter and accompanying photos had been sent to the Chief Executive of CW&C in relation to the poor levels of street maintenance in Helsby (e.g. grass cutting, strimming, drain clearance). Cllr. O'Neill stressed the importance of continuing to report issues through the borough council's website.

- 7.12 It was confirmed that the Clerk had made contact with Lane End Developments in relation to granting permission to relocate the 2 planters during the construction period of the new homes on Chester Road. It was also noted that all the village planters had been mapped using Parish Online and these plans would be available on HPC's website shortly.
- 7.13 Phone box defibrillator update – the Clerk outlined that she was seeking further information from the Community Heartbeat Trust in relation to the provision of a defibrillator in the old phone kiosk on Chester Road near Bates Lane.
- 7.14 Cllr. Standing outlined that he had mapped the locations of all the existing defibrillators in the village using Parish Online. Cllrs. O'Neill and Duffy agreed to check whether the local schools had any equipment. It was agreed that the plans would be included on the website.
- 7.15 Sandstone ridge AONB update – no recent activity was noted.
- 7.16 Dog/grit bin survey to repair/replace/improve/add to existing facilities – Cllr. Standing to complete in due course. Cllr. Duffy suggested splitting the task into the three wards and for individual ward councillors to provide feedback on the location and condition of each asset.
- 7.17 New pedestrian crossing in the vicinity of Loxley Hall Nursing and Residential Home – Cllr. Standing reported that he had raised the idea with the Highways team at CW&C. He outlined that their officers had dismissed the idea due to low pedestrian numbers but he agreed to continue to make a case for further investigation. Cllr. O'Neill outlined that the Police and Crime Commissioner was looking into speeding issues and would be carrying out average speed checks in the borough shortly. It was noted that PCC would fund one scheme in each of the 4 Boroughs in Cheshire - Warrington, Halton, CE and CW& and it would then be up to individual Councils to pursue further.

8. Liaison committee and/or emission monitoring reports – no reports were received.

9. Urgent matters – no reports were received.

10. It was noted that the date of next meeting was 15th December 2021.

The meeting closed at 8.29pm

Chairman's signature Dated.....