



# Helsby Parish Council

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## Minutes of the meeting of Helsby Parish Council held in the Lower Hall at Helsby Methodist Church at 7.00pm on Monday 8th November 2021

### Present:

Cllr. Terry O'Neill – Chair  
Cllr. Patricia Holder

Cllr. Sarah Temple  
Cllr. Chris Ellams

Cllr. Peter Duffy  
Cllr. Paul Standing

Claire Jones, Parish Clerk

### In attendance:

Cllr. Paul Bowers, Cheshire West and Chester Council  
PCSO Lauren Davies (for Items 1-4)  
One member of the public (for Item 1)

### Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman thanked Cllrs. Ellams, Branigan and Duffy and ex-councillor Randles for erecting the poppies and soldiers for Remembrance Day and reminded councillors about the service to be held at St. Paul's Church on Sunday 14th November at 11am. Any councillors wishing to attend were requested to congregate outside the church from 10.45am.

1. Public Participation. It was **RESOLVED that the meeting be suspended for public participation – HPC236/21**. A local resident mentioned a letter she had written to the Council in relation to the interment of her late husband's ashes. There being no other matters brought to the Committee's attention, it was **RESOLVED that Public Air Time be closed and the meeting reconvened – HPC237/21**.
2. Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. Gardner, Branigan and Marsh.
3. Cllr. O'Neill declared a non-pecuniary interest in any matters relating to Helsby Community Sports Club.
4. Policing Update – PCSO Davies informed members that no incidents of anti-social behaviour or criminal damage had been reported in Helsby on either Halloween or Bonfire Night. She outlined that there had been a couple of incidents involving phone scams and it was suggested that she write an article for the next edition of Helsby News/Cllr. Bower's newsletter and distributed leaflets to elderly groups and the local doctor's surgery. She outlined that she had arranged to carry out some crime prevention sessions in Tesco leading up to Christmas (dates to be announced) and it was noted that a successful 'close pass' event had been carried out locally to warn motorists about passing cyclists safely. She agreed to accompany members on any future ward walks. She also agreed to approach local business owners in relation to inappropriate parking on Crescent Drive.

5. It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2021 be accepted as accurate and duly signed by the Chairman – **HPC238/21**.
6. Matters arising – In relation to Item 12.1, the Clerk outlined that defibrillator batteries were expected to last around 5 years. Cllr. Temple agreed to circulate a new councillor induction framework shortly (Item 10.3). The Clerk outlined that she had submitted an application to Cheshire West and Chester Council’s Members Budgets Awards scheme for the table tennis table repair (Item 6).
7. Cheshire West and Chester Council matters – Cllr. Bowers outlined that he had attended CW&C’s latest Planning Committee to voice his concerns about the Mere’s Edge development (planning application 20/00324/FUL). It was noted that revised plans had been submitted in relation to supporting the wall at Rake Lane Cottage. He believed that Helsby was the most likely candidate for the North in relation to the plans for a hydrogen village pilot scheme and outlined that a decision was expected to be made by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy in December. Cllr. Bowers suggested that he was vigorously and publicly opposing the scheme given the lack of green credentials for the type of hydrogen being proposed (initially grey, and then blue). Cllr. O’Neill expressed some concern about the time taken in dealing with planning and enforcement matters at CW&C and in terms of processing the Council’s queries. In this respect, Cllr. Bowers agreed to contact the Planning Department for more information about a new application for Land at Stephen’s Grove (planning application 21/04022/FUL).
8. Councillor Surgery report - Cllr. Ellams outlined 2 members of the public had attended the latest surgery on 6 November and a report had been circulated to summarise their queries. Cllr. Bowers agreed to find out which members of CW&C’s Planning Committee had voted both for and against planning application 20/00324/FUL and to contact one of the attendees in relation to a query on Towers Lane. To note: the next surgery to be held on 4 December at Helsby Community Sports Club between 10am and 11am (Cllrs. Duffy and Holder).
9. Cllr. Temple presented the draft minutes of the Parks, Cemetery and Allotments Committee meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2021. The following was agreed/reported:
  - 9.1 Following a request from the Patients Participation Group at Helsby and Elton GP Practice for the Council to provide some allotment space for mental health support and well-being, it was **RESOLVED to grant permission to the group in principle subject to further discussion and the following conditions: a named individual(s) to be listed on the tenancy agreement as organiser of the project; and the group to be subject to the same standards as the existing allotments holders – HPC239/21**. The Clerk agreed to send the group a copy of the Council’s Allotments Policy and if they wished to proceed, to inform them that they would be placed on the allotment waiting list.
  - 9.2 It was **RESOLVED to purchase a blue Bensham bin for the play area from Earth Anchors at a cost of £508.00 and for Northwich Town Council to remove and dispose of the existing damaged bin at a cost of £122.50 and to install the new one at a cost of £98.00 – HPC240/21**.
  - 9.3 It was **RESOLVED to accept the following quotes from Helsby Garden Services for the parish field: £106.00 to replace the kickboard in the field shelter, £302.00 to carry out path edge repairs at the top end of the field to Parkfield Drive and £192.00 to repair the ground in front of the bench – HPC241/21**.

- 9.4 It was **RESOLVED to purchase 5 ground screw spike supports at a cost of £82.90 along with 5 ‘No Dog Fouling’ A4 signs at a cost of £58.45 for the parish field – HPC242/21.**
- 9.5 It was noted that the Clerk had drafted a cemetery risk assessment following the advice given at various ICCM training courses. It was **RESOLVED to approve the cemetery risk assessment – HPC243/21.** It was agreed that the Clerk would update as and when necessary.
- 9.6 Cllr. Temple read out a letter from a local resident in relation to interring her late husband’s ashes adjacent to his allotment plot in the cemetery. It was outlined that the request had been discussed at length by the PCA Committee. It was noted that no memorial stones were located on that particular side of the cemetery path and the burial register did not contain records of any interments in that location. Cllr. Temple also outlined that PCA members were concerned about how to maintain any plots against the railings and were worried about setting a precedent for any similar requests in future. On this basis, it was **RESOLVED to refuse this request – HPC244/21.** There were three votes in favour of this resolution and two abstentions.
- 9.7 It was **RESOLVED to approve the Clerk’s attendance at an ICCM workshop on the management of memorials at Keele Cemetery at a cost of £135.00 plus mileage – HPC245/21.**
- 9.8 It was **RESOLVED to approve the contract with Helsby Garden Services for work at the cemetery and allotments and general maintenance from 2021 to 2024, subject to a review in March 2023, with the following amendments: the number of planters to be kept unspecified and any grass cutting clearance around graves in the cemetery to be discussed further in 2022 – HPC246/21.**
- 9.9 Cllr. Temple outlined that the Clerk had drafted a CCTV policy which would be shared at a later meeting. It was also noted that a preconstruction meeting for the parish field lighting project would be held with the contractor on 15 November.

## 10. Financial Matters

- 10.1 It was **RESOLVED that the bank reconciliation sheet detailing £258,002.15 held in balances as at 31 October be accepted as accurate – HPC247/21.**
- 10.2 It was **RESOLVED that the following payments totalling £9,136.76 paid by either standing order, direct debit, bank transfer, cheque or under delegated authority for October be approved and duly noted – HPC248/21.** The following receipts totalling £324.93 were also noted:

### Payments

SLCC Cheshire	SLCC Conference	£30.00
Northwich TC	Grass cutting	£588.00
Liverpool Doc Syst.	Photocopier move	£190.80
KDE	PAT Testing new office	£63.30
Caloo	Outdoor gym handgrips	£23.76
Claire Jones	Expenses (stamps, stat dec, board)	£53.60
Chris Ellams	NetNerd webhosting	£59.99
Peter Duffy	Expenses (tea, coffee, keysafe)	£49.28
Mark Storor	Art of Here work	£1,500.00
BT	Line rental	£68.86
Water Plus	Water - community centre	£29.46

Scottish Power	Electricity - community centre	£66.00
Helsby Garden Serv.	General Maintenance	£1,082.00
Cosmos Solutions	Defibrillator battery Loxley Hall	£284.40
Blachere Illumination	Christmas light repairs	£90.36
ICCM	Cemetery memorial training	£162.00
ChALC	Cllr. training	£55.00
Water Plus	Allotment water bill	£167.29
EoN	Bridge lighting	£138.53
Cycle North Cheshire	Feasibility study donation	£2,000.00
Siemens FS	Photocopier lease	£147.81
HPC Staff	Salaries - Oct 21	£1,544.59
HMRC	Tax and NI contributions Oct 21	£495.59
NEST	Pension contribution Oct 21	£246.14

### Receipts

Various	Allotment rents	£207.50
Co-op deposit acc.	Interest	£12.24
Claire Jones	Refund - noticeboard	£34.99
M Robinson	EROB cemetery transfer fee	£70.00
Natwest	Interest Oct 21	£0.20

## 11. Miscellaneous Matters

- 11.1 It was **RESOLVED to top up the SIM card for the activated speed sign on Chester Road at a cost of £30.00 (£25.00 plus £5.00 VAT) – HPC249/21.**
- 11.2 It was requested that all remaining councillors adopted a Helsby Parish Council e-mail address as soon as possible. Cllr. Ellams agreed to progress.
- 11.3 It was **RESOLVED to approve a payment of £90.36 to Blachere Illumination for a set of replacement Christmas lights – HPC250/21.**

12. The following new allotment tenancies were received – Hayes (Plot 2B, Old Chester Road), Willoughby (Plot 11, Old Chester Road) and Nuttall (Plot 3F, Queens Drive).

13. Protos – it was noted that Cllr. Temple had circulated a report along with the minutes from the Community Forum meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> October. Cllr. Temple outlined that she had been unable to source any further information on the proposed hydrogen project but a presentation would be arranged for the next forum meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> January. Other key points raised were as follows:

- Piling work due to be completed soon but there may be some additional work towards the end of the year;
- Covanta’s contractor is arranging a “meet the buyer” event for local businesses on 9th November and is setting up a local liaison group to engage with local residents;
- Planning applications have been made for the Plastics Park scheme and for increasing the number of HGV movements to the Waste2Tricity plant;
- The 2020 air quality report for the Helsby monitoring station at Eccies/RSK has been posted on the Protos website and shared with CW&C; and
- Peel will contribute £50,000 to the Protos Community Benefit Fund for 2022. The next meeting will be held on 1 December.

14. Helsby the Art of Here – Cllr. Ellams outlined that an event was being held at Hornsmill School on 17 November. It was noted that the Steering Group were next due to meet in early December and an update report on the project would be circulated by the group for consideration at the next Full Council meeting.
15. Helsby Community Association – it was noted that KDE had now carried out the work to establish which electricity meters read which part of the building at the community centre. On the basis of their findings, the Clerk agreed to write a letter to CW&C to suggest that HCA/HPC may have been paying for the electricity usage at the library for a number of years. Cllr. Bowers outlined that CW&C’s Climate Emergency Fund would re-open in January.
16. Cycle North Cheshire – Cllr. Duffy outlined that a number of additional donations had been made to the feasibility study. It was noted that the group were next due to meet on 10 November.
17. Helsby Community Sports Club – Cllr. O’Neill outlined that Cllr. Branigan would be attending his first meeting as HPC representative on 9 November. It was **RESOLVED that the Clerk would purchase a kettle and small fridge for the parish office for councillor surgeries and other meetings – HPC251/21.**
18. Cheshire Association of Local Councils – Cllr. O’Neill outlined that a successful AGM had been held on 20th October. In relation to the average speed camera trial, it was noted that Cllr. O’Neill had met with Steve Jones, the ChALC representative, on 3 November. He outlined that there were currently around 20 potential applicants and the PCC would decide on the pilot areas in December. It was noted that the project would cost around £50,000 over 10 years. Cllr. O’Neill thought that Helsby had a good chance of being selected given the data submitted and the levels of community support. It was **RESOLVED that the Clerk would write to the local MP to request his support for the project – HPC252/21.**
19. Transport and Wind Farm Matters – the contents of Cllr. Ellams’ report were noted. It was outlined that successful applicants to the Marshes Community Benefit Fund would be notified by the end of the month. He reported that Transport for Wales had been carrying out route checks with their new rolling stock through Helsby and had purchased some ex-Virgin coaches to be used on the Holyhead to Manchester line. It was also noted that services to Liverpool Lime Street over the Halton Curve continued but only on a two-hourly service.

20. Planning

20.1 The Council’s responses to the following planning applications were duly noted:

<b>21/03640/S73</b>	Land At Helsby Sports and Social Club Chester Road Erection of 118 dwellings (following Outline Application 14/04044/OUT) - Variation of condition 2 (approved drawings) on planning permission 18/04391/REM No objections
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<b>21/03909/FUL</b>	47 Mountain View Helsby First floor side extension No objections
<b>21/03542/FUL</b>	81 Latham Avenue Helsby Demolition of existing conservatory, erection of single storey rear extension and provision of pitched roof over existing flat roof No objections
<b>21/03495/FUL</b>	19 Hallstone Road Helsby Single storey front porch extension, single storey side and rear extension and render application Neither support nor object - comments made on parking provision and privacy issues in relation to skylights
<b>21/04178/TPO</b>	Woodland Alvanley Road Helsby Various works on various trees, including felling. See tree survey for full description of tree works. Neither support nor object - comments made on the potential need for a diversion/safety cordon
<b>21/04022/FUL</b>	Land At Stephens Grove Helsby Erection of one dwelling with associated access, car parking and landscaping Object - awaiting further comments
<b>21/04024/FUL</b>	Land Off Ash Road Elton Construction and operation of a stand-by electricity generation plant with ancillary structures including an access road, DNO metering station, transformer compound, switch room, storeroom and oil storage tanks Object - awaiting further comments
<b>21/04076/FUL</b>	Plots 9b, 10a, 11 and 12 Protos Grinsome Road Ellesmere Port Materials recycling facility, two plastics recycling facilities, a polymer laminate recycling facility and a hydrogen refuelling station Neither support nor object - awaiting further comments

20.2 The following planning notifications were noted:

<b>21/03301/FUL</b>	30 Kings Drive	Approval
<b>21/02814/FUL</b>	Acer House	Approval
<b>21/01663/FUL</b>	The Old Hall	Withdrawn

20.3 Application 20/00324/FUL Land at Cable Drive, Helsby – Cllr. Duffy outlined that the decision at the November CW&C Planning Committee had been very close with 6

members in favour and 5 against the proposal. He noted that some of the members had picked up on the points made by HPC and Cllr. Bowers. It was noted that concerns remained on flood risk and school catchments. Cllr. Duffy requested Cllr. Bowers to check with the Planning Department if a lack of any public consultation was sufficient grounds to refuse an application.

20.4 No member reports were received.

21. The dates of the next Council meetings were noted as follows:

22 <sup>nd</sup> November	Standing Orders Committee
13 <sup>th</sup> December	Full Council meeting
15 <sup>th</sup> December	Budget meetings

22. Part B – Exclusion of the Press and Public. It was **RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paras 7, 8, 9 and 12 of Schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1972 – HPC253/21.**

PART B – Exclusion of the Press and Public

23. Confidential item – Quotes were received in relation to felling 20 conifer trees at the lower end of the parish field. It was resolved to gather further quotes and discuss again at the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

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