



# HELSEBY PARISH COUNCIL

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## Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held in the parish office at Helsby Community Sports Club at 7.00pm on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2024

### Present:

Cllr. Terry O'Neill (Chair)

Cllr. Chris Ellams

Cllr. Rob Nicklin

Cllr. Rob Foreman

### Also present:

Claire Jones, Parish Clerk

1. Public Participation – no members of the public were present.
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 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024 were accepted as accurate and were duly signed by the Chair – E14/24.**
5. Clerk's Report – the following was noted:
  - Item 7.1 – The parade for Ho Ho Helsby did not go ahead due to high winds so the Clerk would liaise with Blue Arrow in relation to payment for this year's traffic management service;
  - Item 7.4 - Mega Electrical charged £830 to relocate the reindeer to Maltby Triangle. This would be charged to the council as an add-on to their current contract;
  - Item 7.5 – CW&C had responded positively to most of the proposals in the Highways Volunteer Scheme application and the Clerk would arrange a meeting with them to discuss next steps. An article had been placed in the next edition of Helsby News to seek volunteers; and
  - Other updates – the tiles on the brick bus shelter had been repaired, the new Christmas spheres and banners had been delivered and the painting on the pavilion at Sherwood Court had been completed. A bin had recently been set alight at Sherwood Court and the Clerk agreed to seek quotes from CW&C for its replacement and for repairs to the adjacent path. Quotes would be considered at the next meeting.

The Chair brought forward Item 10 (Christmas tree and lighting tenders) prior to discussion of the 2025/26 budget.

**Confidential Matters - Exclusion of the Press and Public**

Pursuant to section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, it was **RESOLVED that, because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and the press leave the meeting during consideration of the following items: To consider quotes for the Christmas Light Installation Contract 2025-28 and the Christmas Tree Installation Contract 2025-28 – E15/24.**

It was **RESOLVED to award the Christmas Light Installation Contract 2025-28 to AMR Technical at a total cost of £22,748 – E16/24.**

It was **RESOLVED to award the Christmas Tree Installation Contract 2025-28 to Northwich Town Council at a total cost of £11,421 – E17/24.**

6. It was **RESOLVED to recommend the following Environment Committee budget for 2025/26 totalling £24,427 for the inspection and approval of the Finance Committee – E18/24.**

Budget Heading Code	Description	Budget 2024/25 £	Budget Spend to Date £	Predicted To 31/03/25 £	Recomm. Budget 2025/26 £
218	Bedding Plants	750	805	805	800
219	Village clock	0	0	0	0
220	Maltby Triangle	210	33	33	100
222	Christmas tree	2757	0	3587	3807
223	Litter/dog/grit bins	400	0	0	400
224	Village awards	0	0	0	200
225	Ho Ho Traffic M'ment	1155	0	2120	2120
226	Average speed cameras	0	0	0	0
227	Bridge lantern lights	1000	753	1000	1000
228	Christmas Illuminations	20000	3800	18000	12000
229	Sherwood Court land	525	1477	1477	1000
230	Street furniture/BT boxes	4000	3803	3803	3000
231	War memorial	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>30,797</b>	<b>10,671</b>	<b>30,825</b>	<b>24,427</b>

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

The following was also noted:

- i) Budget Code 218 – local nurseries have closed, so costs have generally increased and there are more planters to maintain.
- ii) Budget Code 220 – Proposed cost for hedge maintenance in 2025/26 is £75.
- iii) Budget Code 222 - Mega contract costs for 2024/2025 = £2,757 plus an additional cost of £830 to relocate the reindeer to Maltby Triangle.
- iv) Budget Code 223 - Some grit and dog bins may potentially need to be replaced within the next few years.
- v) Budget Code 224 – not held in 2024. Some support for holding the awards in 2025.

- vi) Budget Code 225 – Costs have increased substantially. Blue Arrow will carry out the service for next 3 years at a cost of £2,120 per year.
- vii) Budget Code 226 – Agreed to remove this budget code as no longer relevant.
- viii) Budget Code 228 – Awaiting invoice from AMR Technical = £7,269 plus additional work = £2,105. Also to pay LITE invoices £3,373 and electricity costs around £800. Possibly some additional costs with AMR Technical in relation to installing new/replacement sockets and time clocks.
- ix) Budget Code 229 – Potential cost for hedge maintenance and path edging in 2025/26 is £262.
- x) Budget Code 230 – Budget largely spent on new Lest We Forget bench and South Ward noticeboard this year. Consider new planters at Denbigh Close (see Item 7.1)?
- xi) 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).

It was noted that no resources had yet been spent on any additional village maintenance work such as sign cleaning and hedge cutting in 2024/25 (up to £5,000 had been allocated under Cost Code 261: Community Projects for this purpose). As it was unlikely that this funding would be spent by the end of the financial year, it was suggested that these funds could be reallocated to purchasing new planters and benches, including the daffodil bench agreed at the last meeting and a potential new bench at Sherwood Court.

7. Miscellaneous matters

- 7.1 The Clerk presented a proposal to provide two additional planters at Denbigh Close to tackle the school parking issues on the grass verge. Rather than two planters, it was suggested that other alternatives were explored such as a wood carving or bench. The Clerk agreed to bring options and costs to the next meeting for consideration.
- 7.2 It was **RESOLVED to adopt the draft Biodiversity Policy as presented – E19/24.**

8. No urgent matters were raised.

9. The date of the next meeting was noted as Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

The meeting closed at 7.52pm.

Chair’s signature..... Dated.....