

High Legh Parish Council

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 9 JANUARY 2017 AT HIGH LEGH VILLAGE HALL

Present: R Wright (Acting Chairman)
B Adams Julie Morton
M Cooper J Sykes
T Harrison Borough Cllr Hunter

In attendance: Lord Grey (advisor), Mrs D Walker (Clerk), Mr Burrows, and 4 parishioners
Apologies: Cllrs Coenen, Hind, Jenny Morton and Tuck

1. Minutes

RESOLVED – that Cllr Wright sign the minutes of the meeting held on 5 December as a true record.

2. Declarations of Interest – Cllr Wright for the Village Hall Management.

3. A556

Mr Burrows reported that the team constructing the A556 is focused on ensuring that the new road is ready to be open to the travelling public by the end of March. Prior to the Christmas break, drivers benefitted from improved, safer journeys as the new free-flow arrangements with the M56 opened for the first time. This was a key milestone for the project and a major step towards opening the new road. With the bulk earth works and structures now complete, the main construction work focuses on re-aligning the side roads to connect in with the new road layout. There will continue to be a series of road closures that are required to facilitate this work. Chapel Lane will reopen on 21 January. From 17 February there will be five weekend closures planned for the A556. Once the road is open, there is a programme of works to de-trunk the current A556 Chester Road. This involves reducing the carriageway to single lanes and providing non-motorised user facilities for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders. This is expected to take approximately seven months to complete. We would like to thank the local community for their ongoing patience and co-operation.

Cllr Adams asked if the signposting off the M56 at J7 for Lymm/Altrincham were in their final state as it was confusing at present. Mr Burrows will look into this with Highways England.

The next Traffic Management Meeting will be held on 24 January. Cllr Wright to attend.

4. Business from parishioners

Mrs Coupe asked for a response to her email sent the previous day asking about progress on the West Lane speed reduction and HGV prevention. Cllr Wright asked if the situation had improved since J7 had reopened. Mrs Coupe said that it had improved at night but there were still a lot of HGVs during the day.

Cllr Hunter said that she had taken the issue to the Highways Committee and it will be discussed early in 2017. It is not compulsory, the S106 monies was to investigate whether the speed limit in the vicinity of Copper Beeches can be lowered. It's a long process to get a change in speed limits.

Cllr Cooper asked Mrs Coupe what she would like the PC to do as we have asked the police to enforce the speed limit and we have asked CE to look at it. It was not in our power to do more. Mrs Coupe would like commitment to getting 40 mph on West Lane and 30 mph either side of Wrenshot Lane and a weight limit on West Lane.

Cllr Adams reported on statistics from the SID on West Lane over the last four years.

High Legh Golf Club Driving Range

Mr Vaughan said that the light validation test was done in June to the satisfaction of CE Planners. Cllr Wright said he hadn't seen this on the CE website. This needs clarification. Mr Vaughan's Planning Consultant has been in contact with CE Planners. The Enforcement Officer visited the site at the beginning of November and someone from the Planning Department visited just before Christmas but didn't make any comment. Clerk said that the lights can be seen on Peacock Lane and Mr Vaughan showed pictures of shades on the lights.

Cllr Sykes said that most of the frustrations are with CE Planning. Cllr Hunter to take back to CE that CE communication is bad, people aren't being kept informed about what is happening.

Cllr Adams asked if it would be possible for Mr Vaughan to give the PC a list of the planning applications they have applied for and what his view of the state of them is.

Re the temporary structure, Mr Vaughan's Planning Consultant contacted CE Planning on 5 April explaining what they proposed to do and why he felt it did not need planning consent. CE have not replied. The Enforcement Office felt that it may need planning consent but it is up to the experts to decide.

Signage on Broadoak Lane – Mrs Vaughan will ask Dan to remove the sign.

5. Matters arising from the minutes and reports from councillors

- i) United Utilities – Pumping Station on the Belfry field - Cllr Julie Morton and the Clerk met with UU on 8 December to discuss fencing round the pump on the Belfry field. They will do the work in the Spring.
- ii) Village Maintenance – There have been problems on Swineyard Lane whilst Warrington BC are resurfacing Barleycastle Lane. HGVs are using Swineyard Lane at night as there is no alternative route. Verges have been damaged but WBC have said they will return after Christmas to rectify damage.
Clerk to report a pothole on the A50 and blocked gulleys at the West Lane/A50 junction.
A request had been received to reinstate a pavement on Halliwells Brow from Specimen Trees to Golborne Lane. Clerk to contact Highways.
Clerk had again reported Mag Lane bridge.
There had been an accident on the A50 at the S bend on 28 December when it was icy.
- iii) School Governor's Report – no report received due to holidays.
- iv) VPMC – Cllr Julie Morton reported that the new kitchen is now open to all users. It is lighter and brighter, has more storage space and work surfaces, better equipment and lighting and a much-improved work flow. It is not complete and will remain a 'work in progress' for some time to come. As users (especially Sunday Teas users) get to grips with the new layout and facilities we expect them to ask for changes and fixes which we will endeavour to implement. Mike Walker is indebted to the Kitchen Team for all their ideas and hard work (under the project management of Colin Carter) that made the new kitchen possible. It should also be recorded that we are grateful to Veolia Environmental Trust for a grant of £7200 to the Parish Council for their contribution of £5000, which made the whole project viable.
In 2017, we are planning to paint the outside of the Village Hall and to renovate the floors in the Main Hall and Side Hall. We have arranged a meeting for later this month to discuss our programme for 2017 and beyond, always assuming that the funds are available once our two main objectives are completed.
- v) Old School House – The tenant will be leaving soon.
- vi) "Gateway" features and road safety around the Village Hall – nothing to report.
- vii) Old Oak – nothing to report.
- viii) Shale Gas – Cllr Cooper reported that he had been in contact with Ineos. Up until now most of Ineos' efforts have been centered on the North East and on the Midlands. Ineos do not anticipate getting round to any seismic testing in Cheshire for at least 6 months and probably longer. They have an obligation to inform Cheshire East of any actions that may occur in our area 28 days in advance of them happening. This means that we will definitely have advanced warning of anything that will happen in the area.
- ix) Broadband coverage
Clerk reported that some people on Swineyard Lane and Withers Lane would like faster broadband.
- x) Swineyard Lane – Clerk had contacted Warrington BC several times before Christmas with complaints from residents about the HGVs using the lane during the roadworks and the state of the road. Clerk to ask WBC to leave the No HGV signs up a bit longer.
- xi) HS2 – there is an event in Altrincham on 11 January. An email had been received from the owners of Ovenback Cottage.

6. Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Adams reported that a sub-group has agreed the invitation to tender to be sent to master planners. Once this has been agreed by the Steering Group it will be sent out.

7. Planning Committee Report was circulated and discussed.

8. Finance

Cllr Sykes was appointed to check the bank reconciliations.

Accounts for Payment

RESOLVED that the following be authorised for payment retrospectively:

Electricity car park	55.56
D Walker (laptop and mouse)	554.90
D Walker (salary & expenses)	919.94

RESOLVED that the following be authorised for payment:

HLVH (room hire)	40.00
OSH water	20.46
Electricity (sewage pump)	14.54
ICO	35.00

All agreed

9. New Business

- i) CE Consultation on Household Waste Recycling Centre provision - noted
- ii) Police Funding Consultation – noted
- iii) Letter from Mr Osborne MP - noted

10. Dates of next meeting: Monday, 6 March at 7.30 p.m.

Meeting closed at 10.15 p.m.