

# High Legh Parish Council

## MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 23 OCTOBER 2017 AT HIGH LEGH VILLAGE HALL

Present: W Hind (Chairman)  
B Adams  
T Harrison  
Jenifer Morton  
Julie Morton  
J Sykes  
J Tuck  
R Wright  
Borough Cllr Hunter

In attendance: Mrs D Walker (Clerk) and 9 visitors

Apologies: Cllrs Coenen and Cooper and Lord Grey

### **John Atkinson and Stephen Cunningham, HS2**

Mr Atkinson said that they only had a line for the route at present. The design will go to Parliament as a hybrid bill in 2019. Mr Atkinson asked what were the concerns of the parish and what was expected in mitigation.

Cllr Hind said that the position of the Parish Council was that they were strongly against it, as is the community, and would object at every opportunity. The PC will work with HS2 on mitigation.

Cllr Harrison said there were concerns that local side roads may have to be severed. Mr Atkinson said that they have to provide continuation of getting from A to B. There may be diversions.

The PC's experience from the A556 work has been extra traffic through the Parish. It will further complicate access and the ability to move around the Parish. Mr Atkinson said they will be working with Cheshire East and will involve the PC.

Mr Atkinson will visit Ovenback Cottage. It was suggested that a tunnel would be a better solution instead of a cutting. The PC would endorse this.

Mr Atkinson was asked what they proposed to do about the gas pipeline near Agden Lane. He said that they have a Utilities Manager who will be looking into this. Cllr Adams pointed out that Costain experienced lots of services they weren't told about.

Mr Atkinson said they will be speaking to CE and will work with parishes. They have spoken to ChALC and will arrange a meeting with parishes. The Chairman thanked Mr Atkinson for attending.

### **Stretton Airfield Proposed Development**

Mr Cunniff, Ms Partridge and Mr Crofts described the new proposal of a dwelling (contemporary farmstead) and an underground garage for 50 cars which will be in Warrington Borough. They want to maintain the status quo for the High Legh side. It will be farmed as it is now. Cllr Sykes proposed that the PC support this, seconded by Cllr Adams.

#### **1. Minutes**

RESOLVED – that the Chairman sign the minutes of the meeting held on 18 September as a true record.

#### **2. Declarations of Interest – Cllr Wright for the Village Hall and Cllr Julie Morton for High Legh Railway.**

#### **3. Bus Review**

Cllr Hunter had attended a meeting that afternoon. Cllr Hunter said that 1% of the borough would not have a bus service which included High Legh. Cllr Adams said that High Legh made up the majority of the 1%. Cllr Hunter said that it is the usage of the buses which is the problem, people aren't using them, it isn't viable. The PC asked Cllr Hunter to keep the pressure on CE to keep a bus service for High Legh and keep the PC informed. It was imperative to keep a bus service on of some sort. People should be encouraged to use the bus.

Cllr Hunter left the meeting.

**4. High Legh Railway**

Andy Higgins, Vee Limited and owner of the railway, circulated a report about the noise complaint he had received from Cllr Julie Morton on behalf of Woodlands Crescent residents and the PC about the volume and number of times the horn was sounded. After a discussion it was agreed that Cllr Tuck would read the report and look at it in more detail to find a constructive solution.

**5. Business from parishioners**

Planning Application 17/5002M Moss Hall Farm

Roy Spruce, Planning Consultant, and Paul Taylor explained why a new dwelling on the farm was required.

Cllr Cooper had recommended refusal as in the Neighbourhood Plan questionnaire the response from the residents of High Legh was that the Green Belt should be protected. Cllr Jenifer Morton proposed that this was a special circumstance, it was an honest reason for having a house and there was no building that could be converted, the PC should support local farmers. A vote was taken and passed by a majority.

**6. A556** Mr Burrows had sent a report in his absence. Overnight closures from 23 October at Mere junction which will then lead to Mere junction being fully open. Traffic should then start to settle down in the area and establish what will be more long-term patterns. CEC have a sum of money to seek to address issues arising as a result of the A556 improvement scheme.

Cummins will be doing the drainage work for the school. There will be an official opening of the NMU track on 3 November. Cllr Cooper will attend. The Facebook page will close on 10 November.

**7. Planning Committee**

The Report had been circulated and was discussed.

**8. Neighbourhood Plan**

Cllr Adams said that there will be a meeting on Wednesday, 6 December, and encouraged councillors to attend. The proposals for the public exhibition in January/February will be discussed.

Cllr Adams proposed that the NP continue to employ Land Studio to help prepare for the public engagement and to analyse the results. Cllr Adams proposed that a grant should be applied for to pay for these services, seconded by Cllr Tuck and agreed.

**9. Traffic Sub-Committee**

Our CE Highways Hour will be held on 24 October. Cllr Hind proposed that the PC buy some traffic speed signs for West Lane and possibly the A50. The PC were in favour as long as locations could be agreed with CE Highways and the police.

**10. Improvements, Amenities and Appearance Committee**

Spreadsheet had been circulated.

Cllr Morton was concerned about the soak away on the Belfry field. Clerk to get an update from UU.

**11. Finance**

**Accounts for Payment**

RESOLVED that the following be authorised for payment retrospectively:

Campbells Landscapes	£180.00
ScottishPower	£87.85
ScottishPower	£25.67

RESOLVED that the following be authorised for payment:

HLVH room hire	£27.50	
OSH water	£73.58	All agreed

Mark Stant had been appointed as the Internal Auditor.

A Finance Committee meeting will be arranged for the end of November.

**12. Matters arising from the minutes and reports from councillors**

- i) United Utilities – nothing to report
- ii) Village Maintenance – spreadsheet had been circulated.  
Old Oak – Forms for the street licence will be sent to CE Highways.
- iii) VHMC – It had been agreed that the VHMC be disbanded and the function incorporated within the Community Association Council. The main reason for the change is that there are no major development projects in the foreseeable future. In addition, many of the VHMC members also serve on the CAC and we struggle to recruit new committee members.  
HLCA have voted to streamline its formal processes by having one managing committee rather than three. HLCA still very much welcomes the continued participation of two appointed parish councillors to the CAC. The Village Hall income and expenditure will continue to be held in a separate bank account to the CA.  
Cllr Tuck had read the Funding Resolution and the Lease and agreed that it was possible to do this. It was agreed in principle, subject to a revised Funding Resolution, which will be presented to the PC at the next meeting.  
Colin Carter has organised the installation of a Hive heating control system that can work remotely through a phone app giving greater flexibility and better reliability.  
New shelving has been fitted to the boiler cupboard and the under stairs cupboard to increase our storage capacity and a lockable door fitted to the kitchen corner cupboard to secure the Sunday Teas supplies.  
A new automatic tap (complete with isolating valve) has been installed in the Gents toilet – the original tap failed and was uneconomic to repair.
- iv) Old School House – The tenants had requested and been given a 12 month lease.
- v) Manchester Airport – Cllr Adams had attended a meeting. The airport is moving from limited dual runway usage to most of the day. Cllr Adams said this will not affect High Legh. An Outreach event will be held at the Village Hall on 13 November from 3.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.

**13. New Business**

- i) Consultation on the Community Infrastructure Levy Draft Charging Schedule - noted
- ii) Consultation on revised Education Travel policies – noted
- iii) Remembrance Sunday Service on 12 November at 10.00 a.m. Cllr Julie Morton will represent the PC.

**14. Date of next meeting: Monday, 4 December at 7.30 p.m.**

Meeting closed at 10.00 p.m.