

High Legh Parish Council

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 18 MAY 2020 on Zoom

Present: W Hind (Chairman)
B Adams
G Coenen
M Cooper
T Harrison
J Morton
S Ruddock
J Sykes
J Tuck
R Wright
Borough Cllr Parkinson

In attendance: Mrs D Walker (Clerk) and Nigel Hennerley

Apologies: Lord Grey

1. Minutes

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting held on 6 April were accepted as a true record.

2. Declarations of Interest – Cllr Coenen, CA Trustee and HS2, Cllr Wright for the Village Hall and Cllr Harrison for HS2.

3. Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Meeting

The Clerk explained that under the present circumstances there was no requirement to hold the Annual Meeting or the Annual Parish Meeting and the Chairman may continue in post until 2021. Cllr Hind and Cllr Coenen were willing to continue as Chair and Vice Chair.

An invitation had been sent out to parishioners to join the Zoom meeting and a request for any questions to be sent by email in advance. The Chairman to write a report on the year for the next Newsletter.

4. Business from parishioners

Q. We are still getting a lot of large lorries using Swineyard as a cut through to the industrial estate, one Jack Richards lorry seems to be a regular, mainly first thing in the morning, how can we stop them?

A. The clerk has written to a lot of haulage companies pointing out that they are in breach of the weight limit. Cllr Sykes had a meeting with the PCSO and Borough Cllr Parkinson. Proposed police surgery on Swineyard Lane when possible. Cllr Sykes and the clerk met last year with a CE Highways Office to discuss more signage and they are awaiting funds to be available. We've also asked for Slow Down for Horses signs. Clerk to ask resident to try to get the name of the company, time and number plate so details can be sent to the Logistics Managers of the haulage companies.

Q. Will Specimen Trees be able to clean the footpath on West Lane between The Avenue and Pheasant Walk? It is very mucky and uneven from the mud and stones flung from their vehicles exiting the field when the weather was very wet. We find the going difficult on the vulnerable stretch of narrow pavement.

A. Clerk had emailed Specimen Trees requesting that this is done. West Lane from the motorway to The Avenue was sided out by CE Highways in February and it is in our plans to get the remainder done as soon as possible.

Q. I love the new High Legh gates, but as previously I do question more than ever now why the 40mph starts so long before these gates at High Legh Tennis Club/Bears Paw.

I also like the new islands installed at the village hall.

What I don't like and really annoys me is people turning right when coming from Knutsford direction on A50 after the village hall, when this right turn is for those using the village hall parking and not a short cut to miss having to stop again behind the village hall if they take that turning. I think before suggestions have been made to have this a one way system or maybe this lane should be closed to anyone using it as a right turn from the A50 and it should be one way only for those turning right and give it a larger turn. One of the issues for anyone turning right is visibility due to the parking fencing and any overgrowth that happens or council leaving a rather silly floor "work in progress" sign that totally stopped you viewing. Also I do worry,

that although I like the islands I haven't reviewed them yet when turning right when coming from Lymm to check that if we need to pull out a little more to see cars that there is still sufficient room for someone to move over on the A50 to avoid collision.

A. Re the 40mph zone. This slows traffic down before reaching the village and is a road safety measure for pedestrians. It was a Highways decision; in fact the Council would have preferred the 40mph to start at Swineyard Lane.

Village Hall area - The idea is to try to get some traffic calming. This is an interim starting point. CE may in the future look at a one-way system. We did want a one-way system around the Village Hall. Councillors have spent 4 years trying to persuade CE what is safe and they have done what they think it right. CE have done a lot of work and now is the time to take stock and see how it works.

Q. Sometime ago all of the pavements on the Sunley estate in High Legh were redressed with the exception of Pheasant Walk which is the main thoroughfare? I would contend they are now in a dangerous condition with tree roots changing the levels and grasses growing in holes reducing the width in many places Pedestrians are required to step out into the road when passing each other. This has become more dangerous with a noticeable increase in traffic particularly cyclists travelling in groups which no longer seem to have audible warning.

With the amount of potholes in the road surface causing swerving a serious accident is only a matter of time. The condition of the road between Wrenshot Lane and Pheasant Walk is particularly bad.

A. The clerk has written to CE Highways to ask if there are any plans to slurry seal Pheasant Walk. The roads already done are Egerton, Surridge, Gleyve, Venables Way and North Drive.

Wrenshot Lane and Pheasant Walk potholes were reported in February.

(Post meeting note: Cllr Parkinson and the clerk met with a Highways Officer on 1 June. This area is on a list for patching as there are so many potholes.)

Q. Are there any funds available to "refresh" the surface of the path through the Wrenshot Lane woodland walk? The compressed grit surface layer is breaking up in some places to reveal the stone chippings underneath. Maybe it needs top-dressing & rolling but I will let the PC be the judge of that!

A. The contractor had been asked to investigate but they are no longer in business. The clerk will obtain quotes.

Cllr Harrison reported a pothole on Whitley Lane.

It was proposed by Cllr Morton, seconded by Cllr Sykes and agreed that parishioners should be asked for questions before each meeting.

5. Planning Committee

The Report had been circulated and was discussed. New applications:

20/1730M	Robarn, land used for caravan Storage, Withers Lane	Retrospective for the erection of a general industrial/storage building associated with the Caravan storage park operation.
20/1753M	Dairy Farm, Halliwells Brow	Conversion of a first-floor agricultural building into a C3 residential dwelling
20/1767M	Coopers Square, Warrington Road	Proposed New 3 bay car barn
20/1768M		Listed building consent
20/1779M	Land off Moss Lane, Sink Moss	Proposed new 40mx20m horse exercise arena to an existing equestrian facility.
20/1786M	The Pig Pen, Swineyard Lane	Proposed timber framed orangery with balcony.
20/1882M	54 Rensherds Place	Certificate of lawful proposed development
20/1883M		Single storey front extension
20/1895M	Woodside Cottage, 2 Wrenshot Lane	Second storey ext to add a third bedroom over existing kitchen.
20/1903M	Rowans, West Lane	Detached Car Port

Cllr Cooper reported on planning enforcements.

6. Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Adams had circulated a report. The unspent grant from Groundwork UK had been repaid.

A virtual meeting had taken place on 13 May and as a result the working group are to prepare final comments on the Masterplan.

7. Traffic Sub-Committee

A556 mitigation road improvements around the Village Hall have been completed. A discussion took place about the position of the Welcome to High Legh sign near the Village Hall. Cllr Sykes to action.

Cllr Wright said that the crossing mirror cannot be used for the new crossing point from the car park to the Village Hall. Monitor for the time being.

8. HS2

Cllr Parkinson reported that she had asked Cabinet for a reason that parish councils had not had a response from CE following the meeting in January.

Mr Hennerley, on behalf of Mid Cheshire Against HS2 had written to Graham Brady, MP for Altrincham and Sale, to ask for advice on galvanising MPs locally. Investigation work is continuing. There was no news on NPR.

9. COVID-19

Mr Hennerley reported that the Volunteer Group was running itself.

10. Business Continuity Plan

Cllr Tuck volunteered to look at the draft.

11. Improvements, Amenities and Appearance Committee

Cllrs to let the clerk know if there are any road signs which need cleaning/repairing.

Fanners Lane footpath – a resident has put in a new rolled gravel pathway with topsoil finishing into the margins. Clerk to write a letter of thanks.

Cllr Morton reported a strong smell coming from the reed bed outside Copper Beeches. Clerk to write to them.

Cllr Wright reported that the sewage plant pump is a bit temperamental at the moment. He will monitor it.

12. Finance

Accounts for Payment

RESOLVED that the following be authorised for payment retrospectively:

Groundwork UK	2,970.00
J Tuck	37.97
Campbells OSH garden	180.00
Knutsford TC (CAB)	355.00
Scottish Power	17.23
“	24.56

RESOLVED that the following be authorised for payment:

ChALC subscription	511.56
Zurich Insurance	683.40

The Clerk presented the draft accounts for 2019/20 which will be audited by the Internal Auditor.

13. Climate Change and Environment Committee

Mr Hennerley said that there hadn't been a meeting.

Plastic Free High Legh – next stage is to engage with businesses but now wasn't the right time to start.

14. Matters Arising and Reports from Councillors

i. OSH – Cllr Wright to inspect the hedge.

- ii. Broadband - Cllrs Hind and Sykes are using Vispa and highly recommend it. Thirteen recipients so far and 4/5 awaiting a repeater. Need to publicise it.
- iii. Bus – A virtual meeting had been held with Borough Cllr Browne who is responsible for CEC policy on the allocation of new funds provided by the government to improve local bus services. Awaiting a decision.
- iv. Police – No burglaries or thefts from motor vehicles.
- v. Communications – Cllrs Hind and Tuck to action.

15. Date of next meeting: Monday, 6 July at 7.30 p.m.

Meeting closed at 9.05 p.m.

DRAFT