

High Legh Parish Council

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 6 JULY 2020 on Zoom

Present: W Hind (Chairman)
B Adams
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: Cllr Cooper

The Chairman reported that Cllr Coenen had requested a six-month sabbatical. This was agreed. Cllr Tuck will be Chair of Finance. Cllr Wright will chair a meeting if the Chairman is absent.

1. Minutes

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting held on 18 May were accepted as a true record.

2. Declarations of Interest – Cllr Wright for the Village Hall and Cllr Harrison for HS2.

3. Business from parishioners

Q. It's an ongoing issue, but it's the development in the front garden of Holly Farm on Withers Lane, I don't see any evidence of anything happening this includes the wall, fencing, building in the front garden. I know that Covid has put restrictions on planning officers visiting, but we are now moving out of lockdown.
A. Clerk has emailed Planning Enforcement for an update.

Q. I would like to raise a question regarding responsibility for and when regular maintenance of the trees along Wrenshot Lane from the school and junction into Pheasant Walk & Egerton is planned as the height and spread of branches make them too heavy when in full leaf, so increased risk of damage in high winds. There are also low branches that hang down and a potential safety hazard to vehicles and pedestrians.
A. Trees on Woodland Walk side are CE, trees on Golf Club side and Pheasant Walk are Estate trees. Clerk to contact CE and High Legh Estate.

Q. The question I have has been raised before but does not get resolved – it is concerning the electricity power supply. I know of nowhere else that has to put up with so many breaks in supply. Last week we had a break in supply. The internet went down, and I had to wait for that to restart and then a delay getting Zoom back, maybe 10-15 minutes. Even though only a few seconds break it has ongoing effects.

The other comment to make is how much we love the new pavement and crossing improvements, really quite simple but has made a huge difference to feeling safer crossing the A50. Thank you.

A. Outage on 23 June for 1 minute. Clerk complained to SP Energy Networks. Phone call from Customer Services received. It was an underground fault and one of the joints had blown at Bucklow Hill. The job took a couple of days and they changed over as quickly as possible. Really sorry for the interruption.

Q. Is there anything that could be done to enforce the speed limits on the A50 through High Legh. It's been noticeable through the lockdown that some cars have been travelling at very high speeds along the A50 as the road has been quieter. It has been very unpleasant walking along the pavement. I would question how safe it is when the path is quite narrow in places.

- A. Clerk has asked PCSO Emma Darroch to use the speed gun on the A50. We have also bought a solar powered SID which will be installed between Crabtree Lane and the Village Hall but this has been delayed with COVID. The PC is doing its utmost to get people to recognise the speed limits.
- Q. Dog fouling. It has been noticeable particularly through the lockdown that people are not picking up after their dogs. I have had a few deposits in my front garden as it runs by the pavement at the side. I have had to put a notice up to deter people from letting their dogs foul my garden. Also I have noticed the public footpath over the golf course has had periods of being fouled. Are there any means to enforce compliance to pick up?
- A. Clerk has put a note in the CA Newsletter which will be out at the end of the week. There are notices around the village that the warden put up last year.
- Q. Has there been any progress with a reduction in the speed limit on West Lane through the village? Many parishioners feel that 40mph is unjustifiably high, particularly when children walk to school down this road on narrow footpaths. We were told that the outcome of an investigation into the fatal accident on the motorway bridge was first required prior to any changes.
- A. We are still trying, along with our borough councillor, to get the speed limit on West Lane reduced. We managed to get the pavement from the motorway bridge to The Avenue sided out by CEC at the end of February to make it wider for pedestrians and we have bought a mobile SID to go near The Avenue. This has been delayed due to Corona-19. We've also bought a solar powered VAS for the A50 which will be installed between Crabtree Lane and the Village Hall when we receive it.
- Q. Could something be done about the footpath by the entrance to the Avenue from West Lane? The footpath is dangerously narrow at this point; vehicles travelling towards the A50 tend to get very close as they come around the left-hand corner and currently the hedge/soil are narrowing the pavement further.
- A. We have asked a contractor to side out the remainder of West Lane from The Avenue to the Village Hall but again this has been delayed.

A request for a memorial bench had been received from the estate of Pat Brereton. Clerk to contact Ansa.

Cllr Ruddock asked on behalf of a neighbour if it was legal to park in a turning circle. Cllr Parkinson suggested the resident write to her.

4. Chair's Report was noted.

5. Planning Committee

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

20/2641M	17A Pheasant Walk	Proposed two storey side extension, detached double garage and new entrance gates
20/2570M	27 Pheasant Walk	Replacement of existing flat roof to front dormer with a pitched roof and replacement of roof tiles
20/2450M	Swallows Rest, Crabtree Lane	Single storey porch ext and single storey Kitchen ext to the front
20/2454M	"	Erection of a new machinery store and Workshop
20/2449M	Moss Legh, Golborne Lane	Two storey side ext & single storey rear ext.
20/2155M	Vinesgrove, Fanners Lane	Construction of triple garage
20/2046M	"	Demolition of existing outbuildings and construction of new residential dwellings

WBC 227650902 HGV Refuelling Bunkering facility next to Lymm Fire Station. Clerk to write to object on road safety grounds.

6. Neighbourhood Plan

Mr Gerrard joined the meeting. Cllr Adams explained that the work on the masterplan was complete and Peter Hamilton is well on the way towards producing the draft NP report. Cllr Adams has applied for a grant to recover the money that had to be returned at the end of March.

Mr Gerrard explained the way forward. Final comments on the draft NP to be submitted by 12 July and then it will be sent to CEC for screening. There are no referendums until May 2021. Need to keep up the momentum.

Design Code – we have time to do one and have a quote. If we don't do one we will have to rely on Cheshire East's. There is a grant available as long as affordable housing is included.

Cllr Tuck expressed some concerns and said that we would need to get further quotes. Mr Gerrard said that it might be difficult to get quotes as NP work is unattractive to planners.

The Chairman thanked Mr Gerrard and he left the meeting.

7. Traffic Sub-Committee

Funding has been agreed by the Area Highways Committee to install Horse Warning Signs on Swineyard Lane and an assessment of signage for HGVs on Swineyard Lane.

It was agreed to send a letter to CE Highways about the position of the gateway sign near the Village Hall car park and a request for larger 40mph signs on the A50.

8. HS2

Ground Investigation work had commenced in Mere. Traffic was using Wrenshot Lane. Cllr Parkinson was trying to lobby CE to engage with parish councils.

9. COVID-19

Mr Hennerley reported that the Volunteer Group was running itself. He had been asked if some of the Street Champions would be willing to deliver newsletters.

10. Improvements, Amenities and Appearance Committee

Woodlands Crescent to the Belfry field access – Clerk to contact United Utilities.

Requests for litter bins on Moss Lane and Withers Lane had been received. A litter picker had been supplied to one resident.

Cllr Sykes will contact the contractor to carry out some work on the roads and pavements.

11. Finance

Accounts for Payment

RESOLVED that the following be authorised for payment:

Davidson Stant	240.00
Cheshire Trees	300.00
Cheshire Community Action	50.00
D Walker salary & Expenses	1,609.50
ScottishPower	43.33
"	26.99

Audit

Cllr Tuck said the accounts were very comprehensive. The accounts were accepted.

The Annual Governance and Accountability Return for the External Auditor was approved, proposed by Cllr Tuck, seconded by Cllr Adams and agreed.

Appointment of Internal Auditor - Mark Stant of Davidson Stant, had agreed to continue.

12. Climate Change and Environment Committee

Mr Hennerley said that it was difficult to make any progress at the moment, possibly in September.

13. Business Continuity Plan

The document had been circulated. Cllr Tuck proposed that the Business Continuity Plan be accepted, seconded by Cllr Hind and agreed.

14. Matters Arising and Reports from Councillors

- i. OSH – Cllr Sykes reported that a gas certificate, boiler service, legionella survey and electrical inspection and test had been carried out. A fallen tree had been removed and a quote for a leaking drainpipe had been requested.
- ii. Broadband – Need to keep publicising Vispa.
- iii. Bus – Cllr Parkinson had a meeting with CE later in the week.
- iv. Police – No burglaries or thefts from motor vehicles. Clerk had requested a speed check on the A50. People had been camping in the woods on Moss Lane.
- v. HLCA – Cllr Morton reported that a printed version of the Newsletter will be distributed soon. A Risk Assessment on the Village Hall had been done and a small team is working to implement the required measures so the Hall will be COVID safe. The plan is to open at the beginning of September but the kitchen will remain closed. During July and August urgent damp proofing and electrical changes will be carried out. There will be no Sunday Teas for the rest of the year.

15. New Business

- i) New footpaths – An Antrobus resident was looking at PROW with a view to adding 'lost ways' to the definitive map. It was agreed to invite Mr Dodgshon to the September meeting.
- ii) Consultation on Model Code of Conduct – Cllr Tuck said it appears to be tightening up what councillors can say to the media. Cllr Parkinson said it was about openness and transparency. Councillors to let Cllr Tuck have any comments in order for him to respond to the consultation by 17 August.

16. Date of next meeting: Monday, 14 September at 7.30 p.m.

Meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.