

## **HENBURY PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of a Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2024, 7.30 pm, at St Thomas Church Hall.

### **Part 1 Public and Press present**

#### **Present**

Councillor David Nuttall DN  
Councillor Mike Wood MW  
Councillor Simon Browne SB  
Councillor Janet Bailey JB  
Councillor Jane Beeken JBE  
Cllr Lesley Smetham LS (Cheshire East)  
Sue Loxham-Clerk SL

No members of the public were present.

#### **Public Forum**

##### **24/58 No Apologies for absence.**

##### **24/59 Declarations of Interest**

Cllr SB is a member of the Millennium Green Committee

##### **24/60 Minutes of last meeting**

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2024 be approved and signed as a true and accurate record. The minutes were signed by the chairman.

##### **24/61 PCSO/Beat Managers Report**

No PCSO/Beat Manager report was received.

##### **24/62 Cheshire East**

Cllr LS stated that Cllr Nick Mannion has been elected CE council leader and Cllr Michael Gorman as deputy of CE. It was agreed that Cllr LS would circulate the Cheshire East plans in full after the meeting. Cllr DN felt CEC did not have the manpower or the capability to fully implement the adopted improvement plan.

##### **24/63 Status Update on Major Development.**

Cllr SB informed the council that he had had to act since Bellway had breached the planning permission by removing part of the hedge onto Whirley Rd. He also alerted planning that the planting of native hedging along the boundary with Mr Mitchells land had not been done. As a result, he had been in discussions with Mark Hughes (Bellway's engineer for Manchester).

##### **24/64 Highways & Road Safety**

No updates on the Broken Cross junction, but it was agreed to keep as an agenda item even though it is strictly outside the councils remit until all the safety issues had been fully addressed.

Concerns were raised about the pavements along the A537, namely from Rough Heys Lane to just beyond Church Lane, as the encroachment of vegetation on to the pavement means it extremely difficult to walk along the pavement safely. A request would be sent to highways requesting urgent scything out of the affected areas. Cllr SB agreed to speak to Mr & Mrs Slack as it was felt trimming their hedge may also help alleviate the situation.

Cllr DN reported that the CEC 1-bladed cut along Church Lane and Pepper St had resulted in the blocking of all the drains as well as damage to the verges. He had sanctioned the clearing of drains and repairs at a cost of £250. He had also complained to highways about the standard of work.

#### **24/65 Flood Risk**

Cllr SB, following discussions with Mark Hughes (Bellway), updated the council that Bellway were aiming to do the necessary land drainage this summer. This must happen before any drainage work on Mitchell land can be started. Cllr DN stated that we are still no further forward. There is no impetus to get things done.

#### **24/66 Footpaths**

It was agreed that no work was needed now.

#### **24/67 CIL money usage**

The difficulties in getting definitive answers and identifying key people persists. It was felt that, without an authorised project, the council could be financially liable if the funds were used for a project which was then deemed not to be suitable. Cllr LS agreed to raise the matter with the Chief Planning Officer.

#### **24/68 Lower Church Hall car park**

Cllr DN updated on the cost of the new signage. It was agreed that the total cost of £225 + vat would be met by the council. Cllr MW stated that he was still happy to continue to empty the bin.

#### **24/69 Church Hall**

The church is happy with the support that the council provides.

#### **24/70 Millennium Green Trust**

The council (excluding Cllr SB) agreed to continue to support of the Millennium Green Trust with a grant of £1500. Cllr SB confirmed that Bonfire Celebrations will take place on 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov, and that the trust is happy with the new play area surface as the grass is now growing through.

#### **24/71 Review of Trees**

Cllr DN asked if Millennium Green had any plans to trim some trees on Pepper St. Cllr SB said that he would take that the matter to the Millennium Green Committee.

Cllr DN felt many Preservation Orders trees are becoming too big and dangerous. Cllr MW highlighted that it had taken him over a year to get permission to do some remedial work to his PO tree. He has now obtained permission, but is now struggling to find a contractor as it so large.

A resident on Hightree Drive reported a dead tree outside their house. Cllr LS was asked to report it to highways and request an inspection as soon as possible as the tree is the responsibly of CEC. The CEC will not provide tree maintenance but will remove if it is dangerous or falls.

#### **24/72 Village Housekeeping**

Cllr MW & Cllr DN had reviewed the gritting costs over the last 3 years. Although the cost had risen between year 1 & 2 the service level was deemed excellent. Last year's costs had

increased by ~£900 despite it being a very mild winter and areas were reportedly missed. They proposed speaking to the present contractor with the aim of generating a measurable service level agreement, as well as looking for a potential new contractor should the need arise.

No further issues with water disruptions to the water supply in Henbury since the last meeting so no action needed

Defibrillator maintenance is up to date and fully registered

#### **24/73 Accounts**

Cash books and bank reconciliations were circulated prior to the meeting.

**Balance of Main account = £42 222.77 (- as per bank statement to 08/07/2024)**

**Balance of CIL account = £19,983.75 (- as per bank statement to 08/07/2024)**

#### **Payments**

DR Village Greens	£75.00
SL clerks salary	£268.71
HMRC	£60.80
DR Village Greens work on 17th & 23rd	£155.00
batteries for defibrillator (MW)	£33.49
DR village Greens 30 & 31st May	£170.00
LCS clearance Lower Car park	£600.00
DR village greens 7th June	£80.00
SL clerks salary	£268.91
HMRC	£60.60
DR Village greens 12th & 20th	£150.00
DR additional grass cutting as agreed	£110.00
DR village greens 27th June	£75.00
TCS Management fees	£61.92
DR village greens 4th July incl clearing signage	£130.00

Cllr DN explained the need for the additional grass cutting (repair work).

**Resolved** the above payments be approved and signed for as a true and accurate record.

Cllr SB is actively pursuing the Mersey Forest Grant

#### **24/74 Planning Applications**

No objections were noted for 24/2570M Lily Cottage application which had been circulated earlier in the day.

#### **24/75 Clerk's Report / Parish Council Housekeeping**

Still awaiting the outcome of the external audit and nothing obvious following an initial review of the new financial regulations for councils

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**The next meeting will be on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2024 @ 7.30pm.**

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**Meeting closed at 9.45 pm.**