

HENBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 22nd May 2024, 7.20pm, 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 Jane Beeken JBE
Cllr Lesley Smetham LS (Cheshire East)
Sue Loxham-Clerk SL

No members of the public were present.

Public Forum

24/39 Apologies for absence. Cllr Janet Bailey JB (Medical)

24/40 Declarations of Interest

Cllr SB is a member of the Millennium Green Committee

24/41 Minutes of last meeting

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 13th March 2024 be approved and signed as a true and accurate record. The minutes were signed by the chairman.

24/42 PCSO/Beat Managers Report

No PCSO report was received.

24/43 Cheshire East

Cllr LS provided an update on the continuing, serious financial difficulties facing CEC. The serving of a section 114 is a real possibility. CEC have received quite a few grants from the government, but all are ring fenced.

24/44 Status Update on Major Development Planning Applications.

Cllr SB was able to confirm that permission was now granted on 21/0289M (Flora development). Cllr DN updated the council that there had been no approval of the Home Farm Barns plans.

24/45 Highways

It was agreed that it was difficult to determine exactly which of the safety issues had been fully addressed. It was noted the adjustment to the kerb leading to Fallibroome Rd had made a difference. Progress will continue to be monitored until all work has been completed and all safety concerns addressed.

24/46 Safety / Speed Limits

Cllr DN reported that the Pepper St sign and wall at the junction with the A537 had been badly damaged by an HGV delivery driver. Residents were required to help the HGV vehicle to navigate the road. The road is not suitable for HGV vehicles. The Church Lane junction with A537 is not designed for HGVs turning right on A537, hence the use of Pepper St. In the past

HGVs used to use the roundabout at Broken Cross.

Cllr MW expressed concerns that crash barriers and safety signage still had not been replaced on the A537.

24/47 Flood Risk

Cllr LS updated that CEC council were monitoring the drainage work between Bellway/Mitchell land, but that they were waiting for the land to dry out. Cllr MW reported that Mr Mitchell was waiting for permission to link into the Bellway Drain.

Cllr LS also updated the council on the Scrutiny Flood Risk report which stated that 26000 properties in CE are at risk of being flooded by at least 10cm of water. Cllr DN agreed with all the findings of the report, but nowhere did it mention transferring the findings into action.

It was agreed that CEC drainage team had done a good job at addressing the flooding on Church Lane as demonstrated by the lack of water on the road despite torrential rainfall.

24/48 Footpaths

Cllr SB confirmed that the work done at the kissing gate on the Henbury to Whirley path had improved that part of the path. He felt other parts might need further work. He agreed to monitor the situation and report any issues.

24/49 Infrastructure projects 2024/25

Cllr SB had circulated information prior to the meeting as to the types of potential projects for which CIL funding could be used. It was felt that the lack of clarity as to which developments had resulted in the funding was hampering a decision as to a suitable project. If more funding were to be expected, then the project could be more ambitious. Cllr LS agreed to see if she could seek clarification.

24/50 Lower Church Hall car park

Cllr DN sought the council's opinion on whether to scrap the seats and bin in the car park subject to church approval. They were over 20 years old and filthy. The bin was an issue as there was no process in place to empty it. The councillors felt that the fact that bin was full suggested it was well used and so should remain. Cllr MW offered to empty it and then monitor with help Cllr DN how quickly it filled. A suitable disposal site for the rubbish is to be determined.

Cllr DN updated on the progress of the new signage as agreed at the last meeting. The wording was agreed and we are awaiting for the signage costs.

24/51 Millennium Green Trust

Cllr SB stated that the new improved play area surface was completed, and that the Bonfire event would take place this year.

24/52 Environmental Project

Nothing to report. Planning would start in the Autumn. Cllr SB felt that the plans maybe more ambitious if Mersey Forest funding was still available.

24/53 Review of Trees

Nothing to report.

24/54 Village Housekeeping

Cllr MW raised the issue of the increased frequency of water disruptions to the water supply that Henbury residents were experiencing. So far this year there had been 3 instances :18th March 16th April and 18th May. United Utilities only offer compensation if the water is off for 24 hr. Cllr MW felt that Parish Council should monitor the situation and be prepared to act.

Trailing of a rewinding patch was raised by Cllr DN. Cllr SB questioned the cost, Cllr DN agreed that the contractor had exceeded the remit, but it had happened when he was on holiday. The contractor is aware that their work will be monitored closely.

Cllr MW raised the issue of reviewing the gritting contract for next year. Offline discussions will take place and a proposal presented at the next meeting.

24/56 Accounts

Cllr DN signed the AGAR document as a true reflection of the accounts. The report which includes the internal audit will be published at Henbury.org by 24/05/2024 as recorded in AVM 24-06.

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

Balance of Main account = £44,810.20 (- as per bank statement to 13/05/2024)

Balance of CIL account = £19,983.75 (- as per bank statement to 13/05/2024)

Monies received.

CE Precept	£11500.00
VAT refund 23-24	£1126.47
CIL funding	£9869.40

Payments

DR Village greens	£145.00
ChALC membership	£199.88
Zurich insurance	£257.60
TCS Management fees	£59.40
DR Village Greens	£80.00
HMRC	£60.60
SL clerks salary	£268.91
DR Village Greens	£75.00
LCS footpath maintenance	£300.00
DR Village Greens	£145.00
DR collection, prep and planting of wildflowers	£249.00
ThenMedia Ltd Website	£288.00^
Ant Internal Audit fee	£220.50
DR Village Greens	£75.00

^ pending payment

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

The Clerk raised the issue that the additional CIL money received means that additional costs will be incurred this year, as an external audit will be needed next year as well as for year 23/24.

24/56 Planning Applications

It was noted that there were no outstanding planning applications to be reviewed.

24/27 Clerk's Report / Parish Council Housekeeping

Gov.co.uk domain is currently not mandatory. Clerk to circulate the slides from a meeting attended on the subject.

The next meeting will be the Annual Village Meeting on 17th July 2024 @ 7.30pm.

Meeting closed at 9.30pm.