

High Legh Parish Council

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY, 18 MAY, 2009 AT HIGH LEGH VILLAGE HALL

Present: C Hay (Chairman) J Morton
S Abbey G Pemberton
T Haigh P Sutton
T Harrison J Tuck
M Hosker Cheshire East Cllr A Knowles (part)

Apologies: Cllr R Wright, Lord Grey and PC Andrew Duncan
In attendance: Mrs D Walker (Clerk)

1. Minutes

RESOLVED – that the Chairman sign the minutes of the meeting held on 30 March as a true record.

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Hosker declared an interest in the 132kV power line.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

i. Utilities

Cllr Hosker reported that the pump house was now completed.

The overhead cables along Halliwells Brow are being replaced with underground cabling.

ii. Village Maintenance

- The Chairman and Clerk had met with the Area Highways Engineer to discuss the bollards at the corner of Rensherds Place. He thought that four bollards would be better. Clerk to ask the Area Engineer to order the bollards.
- The potholes on Rensherds Place have been filled in. The Area Engineer has put in a bid to have the road resurfaced but he doesn't hold out much hope as the money isn't available.
- West Lane footpath – Highway inspector said it would benefit from some siding out but it was not possible at the moment. He will keep an eye on it. He might be able to at least get the grass cut back.
- Re the quality of the road at Golborne Lane. The Area Engineer had visited the site but said there wasn't anything he could do. Clerk has contacted the police to see if they can stop the vehicles parking on the verge.
- Cllr Tuck had spoken to the Manager at the Golf Club. The Clerk had asked Highways to inspect the hedges. They will contact the Golf Club.
- Cllr Hay had spoken to Highways about putting up new High Legh signs at the entrance to the village.
- Cllr Hosker proposed that the PC write to Highways saying that at our Annual Meeting members of the public forcibly made the point that West Lane and also Rensherds Place needed resurfacing. Cllr Knowles said the contact was David Brickell.

iii. The School House and Village Hall & Management

The Clerk had written to the Community Association informing them that the rent was due to be increased from 1 April. The CA had replied that it was still very difficult financially for them and would appreciate a reduced rent. The Chairman had written to say that the PC will be invoicing at the new rate.

A letter had been received from Mrs Marsland, Sunday Teas Supervisor. This will be brought to the attention of the CA/PC sub committee. The lease and contract will be discussed. The PC need to know what the CA need from a caretaker. Cllr Hay has been in touch with another parish council who have a similar village hall. Cllr Hay will progress the line painting in the car park.

iv. School Governor's Report – 127 children on roll. The Year 6 children had taken the SATs last week. It is Walk to School week this week. The school would like a meeting with the Parish Council and other interested parties about the parking on Rensherds Place.

v. Traffic safety

Cllr Hosker reported that the PC had written to Highways asking for a weight restriction to be put on Swineyard Lane. Their reply asked for residents to monitor the traffic.

vi. Play Area/Amenity land

The Chairman reported that she had met with Mr Belt and had seen and approved the new maintenance schedule.

vii. Parish Plan

The committee are working hard preparing reports for the open meeting on 24 June at High Legh School.

viii. Local Government Reorganisation

Cllr Hay and the Clerk had attended a Cluster meeting on 23 April in Mobberley. Cllr Knowles said that the idea of Local Area Partnerships (LAP) had been discussed at this meeting. There was a need to make sure money is put into rural areas. The police are getting more involved and hopefully it will mean parishes are more involved.

Cllr Tuck had attended the Cheshire Association of Local Councils (ChALC) meeting on 7 May at Plumley and reported that ChALC will be getting funding for more development officers. They had advised everyone to use the 0300 numbers to contact Cheshire East. Cllr Tuck was disturbed that there are 450 children in care in Cheshire East and there were no lawyers working in Children's Services yet. There is no town or parish council representation on the Local Area Strategic executive for Cheshire East but there is for Cheshire West and Chester. Where do the parishes fit in? Cllr Tuck had felt slightly minimised by what he was hearing. Cllr Knowles said that there are seven areas in Cheshire East and the Boundary Committee are looking at the wards. In the rural areas one member will be sufficient for a ward. At present Cheshire East has 81 councillors which will increase to 82. Cllr Tuck said he was nervous of how a parish like High Legh at the outer edge of the county is going to be heard in the centre. Cllr Knowles said that everybody was working to get the LAPs involved, hopefully in 6-12 months.

Cllr Hosker said that the members of the public at the AGM were very angry about a planning decision (Bears Paw farm) and there are no representatives of the Bucklow Ward on any planning committee. Cllr Knowles will look into getting someone on the Northern Planning Committee. John Knight is now the Chief Planning Officer.

Cllr Hosker asked how the Parish Council could get a planning application called into committee, e.g. Appleton Autodrome. Cllr Knowles can organise this and could give his view. He was happy to help.

Cllr Hay said that the mobile library day had changed from Tuesday to Friday which was not the best day. Cllr Knowles will look into this. Cllr Tuck said there was supposed to be a vehicle at Booths with IT where you could go and voice your problems, a local point of contact.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Knowles for attending. Cllr Knowles left the meeting.

4. Planning Committee Report

The report was circulated and discussed. Cllr Hosker reported that a letter had been sent to Planning objecting to the Honda totem sign. Cllr Abbey and the Clerk had attended an open meeting with the developers of the Appleton Autodrome.

5. Finance

Accounts for Payment

RESOLVED that the following be authorised for payment:

Travis Perkins (gravel for Village Hall)	£207.19	
HLCA	£20.62	
ScottishPower (pump house)	£20.78	
“ (Bowling Club)	£119.50	
Came & Co (Insurance)	£262.50	All agreed

6. New Business

i) PC Duncan had offered to hold surgeries, possibly before the Parish Council meetings.

ii) A letter had been received from some residents of Rensherds Place asking for support regarding the grassed area at the entrance to Rensherds Place. They would like the No Ball Games sign replacing or the area to be disabled by mounds of soil or part made into a car park for residents. They are experiencing anti-social behaviour with the playing of football by about 8 boys between 10-15 years of age. The Chairman and Clerk had spoken to Highways who own the land and therefore a sign cannot be put up because football shouldn't be played there. Highways will look into the possibility of car parking. It was also suggested that maybe a swing could be put there.

7. Next Meeting: Monday, 6 July

Meeting finished at 10.20 p.m.