

**Minutes of the Handforth Parish Council meeting held on
Tuesday 12th January 2016 at 7:30pm, The Youth Centre, Old
Road, Handforth.**

Present: Cllr Burgess

Cllr Clark

Cllr Samson (Chair of Handforth Parish Council)

Cllr Sullivan

Cllr Tolver

Also present Mr Brooks, Parish Clerk and seven members of the public.

16/02/1 To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllr

Smith.

16/02/2 To note declarations of Members' Interests- none.

16/02/3 Open Forum-

A resident asked a question about the future of the stone plaque located in the memorial garden located next to Handforth Railway Station, as this site is due for redevelopment. Ideally he would like to see the stone remain at this location, as it was the site of the Kilham Chapel. Cllr Samson responded that she was aware from a pre-planning application meeting between Cheshire East Council and a developer that the future of the remembrance garden and stone plaque had been discussed, but was not aware if a decision had been made on the long term future of the garden. Handforth PC is waiting to receive a planning application for the development of the site, but in the meantime the Parish Clerk would make enquiries to determine if any decisions have been made but not circulated.

A further question was raised enquiring why the Cheshire East Councillors who represent Handforth do not attend Handforth PC meetings. Cllr Samson responded that both ward councillors are sent copies of the agenda and would be most welcome to attend, but the final decision to attend or not lies with them. The Clerk confirmed that in the past both councillors have

contacted him with updates about the work of Cheshire East Council and these have been incorporated into the Clerk's report.

16/02/4 To receive a verbal report from PCSO G Harding on policing in Handforth.

PCSO Harding confirmed that there were three main areas of concern regarding policing in Handforth, anti-social behaviour, shoplifting and irresponsible parking of motorcars. Crime figures showed a marked improvement in these areas, especially theft. However, they have identified that with regard to shoplifting two distinct criminal groups were at work. Theft from shops in Handforth village was often perpetrated by people living locally. Whereas, thefts from the Handforth Dean retail area were being conducted by criminals who did not live in the area. For this reason Cheshire Police were working more closely with their colleagues in the Greater Manchester Police to tackle cross border crime. To put the crime statistics into perspective, overall Handforth village has a below average level of crime.

PCSO Harding was asked a question about potential problems at Meriton Road Park. He confirmed that in the last six months there had been three incidents of anti-social behaviour, two of which involved young people. There was no damage to property in any of the incidents. PCSO Harding confirmed that he was aware of the consultation concerning the future of the MUGA at Meriton Road Park and although the police had not responded to Cheshire East Council, he was aware that a more senior officer intends to make representations to CEC. He also confirmed that there was no CCTV at the park.

PCSO Harding was asked a question about ATM crime within Handforth. He confirmed that the police are working with retailers, who have been given information about the 'skimming' devices that criminals use and how regular checks on the cash machines will help prevent such crimes.

There was also a question about speeding within Handforth particularly on Wilmslow Road, but also on other routes into the village. The questioner had seen speed cameras located in other areas in Cheshire to tackle such crime, why were there none in Handforth? PCSO Harding responded that the installation of speed cameras is usually determined by the volume and severity of vehicle accidents in a particular area. The police collect the accident data and forward it to CEC Highways to make a road safety assessment. The police recognise that there is a problem with speeding vehicles in Handforth and there is already a plan in place that for the next two months greater emphasis would be placed on enforcing speed limits. PCSO Harding stated that he would obtain the accident figures for Handforth and forward them to the Council

Cllr Clark stated that he would like to see greater community involvement in the reduction of incidents of speeding and that the establishment of a speed watch group might help. PCSO Harding stated that he would be prepared to help establish such a group. Cllr Samson informed the meeting that a similar group formed in Styal had faced abusive comments and had to be dissolved after a member was assaulted. PCSO Harding confirmed that this was unfortunately the case.

PCSO Harding informed the meeting that there were to be changes to operational procedures within the Local Policing Unit, with officers starting their shifts at Macclesfield Police Station rather than Wilmslow Police Station.

16/02/5 To receive a verbal report from Mr A Harrison on the work of the Handforth Community War Memorial Foundation (HCWMF).

Prior to commencing his report Mr Harrison circulated to all present at the meeting a copy of the latest HCWMF newsletter. He went on to confirm that installation of the memorial stonework would commence in the week commencing the 18th January 2016. After extensive research HCWMF have compiled a list of 37 names of servicemen and members of the merchant marine who died serving their country. Mr Harrison confirmed that the group were continuing their fund raising activities in part to ensure that the money would be available to maintain the memorial. He anticipated that insurance costs in 2016/17 would be approximately £500. On behalf of the trustees Mr Harrison thanked the community for their support in raising the funds to enable the memorial to be built.

Cllr Samson thanked Mr Harrison and all of the trustees for the work they did on Remembrance Sunday and for making the idea of a war memorial in Handforth a reality.

16/02/6 To approve and sign the minutes of the HPC meeting of the 8th December 2015.

Cllr Sullivan proposed, seconded by Cllr Tolver that the minutes of the HPC meeting of the 8th December be approved as a true record and signed.

Resolved: unanimously.

16/02/7 To receive a report from the Clerk.

The Clerk's report was noted.

16/02/8 To approve accounts for payment.

Cllr Tolver proposed, seconded by Cllr Clark that the accounts for payment totalling £3424.25 be approved for payment.

Resolved: unanimously.

16/02/9 To confirm that the next meeting of Handforth Parish Council will take place on the 9th February 2016.

The next meeting of Handforth Parish Council will take place on the 9th February 2016, 7:30 pm at the Youth Centre, Old road, Handforth.

The meeting closed at 8:20 pm

Chairman..... Date.....