



Huntingfield Parish Council

Minutes

Minutes of the meeting 15th January 2020 at 7.30 pm at the Hub, Huntingfield

Councillors: Cllr. E. Ward (Chairman) Cllr. J. Driver (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr. D. Burrows Cllr. G. Newton Cllr. D. Blackmore

Also present: Clerk - Karen Forster, County & District Councillor Burroughes & 5 members of the public

19/ 59 **Apologies for Absence**

There were apologies from Cllr. Newton which were accepted.

19/60 **Declarations of Interest & Requests for Dispensations**

Cllr Burrows declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 8 as he is a trustee of the Hub. Cllrs. Burrows, Ward & Driver also declared a non-pecuniary interest as members of the PCC.

At this point, the Chairman proposed to move item 9 (flooding) to after the Open Forum. It was unanimously RESOLVED to move the agenda item.

19/61 **Minutes of the Previous Meetings**

Minutes of 13th November were submitted for approval. **It was unanimously RESOLVED that the minutes be accepted as an accurate record and were duly signed by the Chairman.**

19/62 **Open Forum**

- a) 2 new residents of the village introduced themselves and were welcomed by the Chairman & Council.
- b) A resident stated that the traffic through the village is becoming noisier, larger and more frequent and had previously understood that there was a plan to reroute heavy traffic. Cllr. Blackmore said the plan was to improve both roads through the farm to Heveningham Hall and the traffic to use that. It is thought that this might be starting now. The Clerk was asked to check with Cllr. Newton as to the status of the planned changes. **NOTED**
County Councillor Burroughes stated that the County Council are aware that this is a growing problem and are working with SatNav providers to show better routes for artic/HGV Lorries.
- c) A resident asked why the fencing at the Forge had been removed as this could be dangerous. The Clerk was asked to contact the Heveningham Hall to find out what was going on. **NOTED**

19/63 **Flooding**

The Clerk went through the correspondence regarding the recent flooding in the village. Ultimately, the Highways department are not prepared to do anything at the moment.

County Councillor Burroughes stated that it is necessary to form a dialogue with local land owners however he will request that Huntingfield issues are looked at again. The source of the flooding needs to be identified and landowners approached to rectify the flooding, as well as improvements to the drainage. The Chairman suggested that a Councillor works with Cllr. Newton and Mr. Lucas to identify the issues and, when possible, discuss with a highways engineer. Cllr. Blackmore volunteered to do this.

Cllr. Ward will discuss with the landowner alongside the Heveningham Road, the problems with flooding there.

It was noted that there has been a lot of work done by Heveningham Hall to clear ditches and also by Mr. Joe Thompson, along with Mr. Brian Lucas. The Council wishes to thank them for this. **NOTED**

Signed _____ Date _____



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- 19/64 **Reports from the County & District Councillor**
County/District Councillor Burroughes had previously sent his reports. He made the following additional points:
- The budget meetings are going ahead and will result in an increase to the precept. This is due mainly to the social care funding needs.
 - The school transport system policy is being reviewed to establish a fair system for the rural areas.
 - The District Council is working on provision for special needs. Cllr. Burroughes also encouraged Huntingfield PC to attend the next meeting of the community partnership.
 - Cllr. Burrows asked whether there would be funding for projects currently being funded by the EU which would stop. Cllr. Burroughes suggested that he contacted the MP for that information.
- 19/65 **Update on the Vacancy on Council**
There have been no applications for co-option to Council. Cllr. Blackmore proposed that this is removed from the agenda.
- 19/66 **Accounts.**
- a) The Clerk stated that as at the end of December 2019, the bank account stood at £ 28,080 of which £ 19,826 is ringfenced for the Hub and the balance belongs to the Parish Council including the grant from Cllr. Burroughes towards the solicitor's costs for the Hub lease.
 - b) **Authorisation to Pay:** The previously circulated Authorisation to Pay for £ 1412.25 +VAT was presented. **It was unanimously RESOLVED to approve the Authorisation to Pay.**
 - c) The Clerk asked if her status with the bank account could be changed to full signatory, so as to proceed with internet bank transfers. **It was unanimously RESOLVED to amend her to full signatory and the mandate was signed.**
 - d) The Clerk stated that she had claimed £565 of VAT. **NOTED**
- 19/67 **The Hub**
- a) **Formal Lease Agreement:**
No progress. The existing solicitors are not responding in any way. **It was unanimously RESOLVED to move the business to another solicitor and to not pay anything to the current solicitor.**
 - b) **Requirements for expenditure:**
None received
 - c) **Disabled access automatic door fixture**
It was unanimously RESOLVED to authorise the Hub Trustees to install an automatic door fixture to the Hub building.
- 19/68 **Village Improvements.**
- a) **Defibrillator Batteries**
County/District Cllr. Burroughes is to set aside £400 for purchases of batteries for the Defibrillator
 - b) **Litter and Dog Bin**
The Clerk has placed the order for the Litter and Dog Bin.
 - c) **Handrail**
Expected in Jan/February
- 19/69 **Christmas Decorations for 2020**
County/District Cllr. Burroughes is willing assist with funding the lighting of a permanent tree but requested that this is deferred to April 2020. An offer has been made from local residents to provide a Spruce for planting as a permanent tree. Cllr. Blackmore offered to discuss this further with them and bring a proposal back to the next meeting. **NOTED**



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19/70 **VE 75 Commemoration**

The Clerk had previously circulated information about the official VE75 website where information could be obtained. It was agreed that this would be a village affair. It will be put into the next issue of the Hare, to see if there are any ideas from the public. In the meantime, there will be a meeting organised in February between Cllrs. Driver, Blackmore and other interested parties in February, so that a proposal is brought to the next meeting. **NOTED**

19/71 **Highways & Footpaths**

a) **Speed Indicator Display (SID).**

Cllr. Blackmore had completed the form. A quotation had been received which the Clerk had circulated. **It was unanimously RESOLVED to pursue the "pole" option as opposed to the tripod.** The Clerk will take this information to the Heveningham PC meeting so as to progress further. County/District Cllr. Burroughes will assist with the funding in the next financial year.

b) There was no update from Cllr. Newton as he was away. Cllr. Ward commented that the Carncer is looking excellent since the work has been completed.

19/72 **Meeting dates for 2020**

It was unanimously RESOLVED to accept the meeting dates proposed.

19/73 **AOB**

- a) The Clerk said she had been asked about maintenance to the steps to the millennium green from the hub. This will be on the next months agenda.
- b) The Clerk has received and forwarded to the residents the survey from the Police Commissioner regarding the precept.
- c) The Clerk confirmed that Heelis and Lodge would be the auditors for this financial year.
- d) The Clerk reminded all that the new parking arrangements, whereby the District Council would be responsible for monitoring parking, come into place as of 6th April 2020.
- e) Cllr. Blackmore asked about the litter cleanup. Dates are to be circulated and agreed by email so that a claim for the grant and equipment could be promptly put in. **NOTED**
- f) An email has been received regarding purchasing a small strip of land that belongs to the Hub. The Chairman will meet with the applicants to establish what is required. It will be further discussed at the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.40 p.m. Next meeting: Wednesday 11th March at 7.30 at the Hub, Huntingfield.

Karen Forster - Clerk to Huntingfield Parish Council,
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Signed _____ Date _____