



# Huntingfield Parish Council

## Minutes

### **Minutes of the meeting of Huntingfield Parish Council held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2025 in the Hub**

**Councillors attending: Cllr David Blackmore (Chair), Cllr Julie Collett, Cllr Carla Kruger, Cllr Sarah Kline, Cllr Edward Watson, Cllr Emma Ward and District Cllr Julia Ewart. Also attending were 21 residents, 2 representatives from Wilderness Reserve and Clerk/RFO Carol Hume**

**15.25 Apologies and approval of absences.** C Cllr Stephen Burroughes had sent his apologies.

**16.25 To receive Declaration of Interest.** Cllr Collett declared a non-pecuniary interest in Items 7f and 7g. Cllr Blackmore declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 8b.

**17.25 To consider requests for dispensations.** None

**18.25 To resolve that the minutes of the HPC meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2025 and the minutes of the EGM held on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025 are a true and correct record.**

The council agreed that the minutes of both meetings were correct, and they were duly signed by the Chairman.

**19.25 To receive progress reports for information:**

- a. New wheeled strimmer and PPE for the Millenium Green – The ECB grant applied for has been received and all the equipment has now been purchased. These items will be added to the Asset Register and HPC insurance policy.
- b. Roadside verge opposite Malt Cottages – Suffolk Highways representative, Mike Maclean has taken measurements and photos. He will be forwarding a report in due course. Cllr Blackmore will chase him for his report.
- c. Bridge Street drainage/flooding – Mr Maclean (as above) dug out four barrow loads of spoil and said a more permanent solution is needed. He is making this a personal matter.

**20.25 Public participation session (15 minutes) to include County Councillor and District Councillor reports.**

Before the start of the 15 minute public participation session, the Chairman read out a letter from a resident who is very concerned about the effect on village life caused by the strength of feeling among some residents about planning applications made by Wilderness Reserve. The Chairman said it may be a good time to step back and think about the effects of this strength of feeling on all residents, not just those who oppose the planning applications.

Cllr Collett said that since a large sign opposing Wilderness Reserve has been put up near to her property this has been taken to a personal level and that enough is enough. Cllr Kruger said that these issues are splitting the community. Some residents replied that they have the right to protest in a democracy. DC Julia Ewart said that the issue should be about planning and not personal feelings about Wilderness Reserve. Cllr Kline will respond to the resident who wrote the letter.

The 15 minute public participation session then began with a resident voicing her concerns over planning application DC/25/0524/FUL. She wants her objection to this application to be noted because i) the proposed car park is too close to the neighbouring property, ii) the plans show the 'shepherd's huts' to be more in the style of angular cabins, and iii) the proposed number of huts is too many. Another resident asked if there had been any progress on the Brick Kiln Lane overflow. The man from Suffolk Highways had dug out some spoil there too. The hedge will be cut back to minimise leaf blockage. A resident put various questions to Mr Bostock concerning the height of the proposed new wall, and what it would be made of. Also what progress has been made on the construction of the new bridge near Chapel Barn in Heveningham. Mr Bostock said that several licences and permits are needed before construction can start but he hoped it would be done in early summer. Before then Brick Kiln Lane will be used for access and Laundry Lane on a temporary basis for "management services" access. Some residents expressed concern about the use of words such as "temporary" and about the potential dangers of walking up Brick Kiln Lane.

The Chairman decided to move **Item 8** on the agenda (Planning) in front of **Item 7** (Finance). DC Ewart left the meeting at this point.

#### **21.25 To consider Planning Applications:**

**a) DC25/0374/FUL – Extension and modification of the approved car park (DC/22/2572/FUL) to include a defined grass-crete overflow area and a rationalised car park layout, enabling the manoeuvring of larger vehicles, additional EV charging infrastructure and capacity to support the wider tourism masterplan area at Valley Farm, Laundry Lane, Huntingfield, Suffolk IP19 0PY** – Cllr Watson said he objects to this application. The proposed overflow car park will be next to the Millennium Green boundary, the new wall there may be up to 4.5m high and 62.5m in length. He cannot see why this could be moved 50m away in the parkland. Mr Bostock said that the proposed position is for management purposes, will be screened by trees and that the wall will make a big difference. Cllr Blackmore proposed that Huntingfield PC objects to this application for a number of reasons, seconded by Cllr Watsons. 4 Councillors voted in favour and there were 2 abstentions.

D Cllr Ewart returned to the meeting.

**b) DC/25/0524/FUL – Change of use of land to use for 5 Shepherds Huts for holiday accommodation including new access at Rose Cottage, Linstead Road, Huntingfield, Halesworth, Suffolk IP19 0QP** – Cllr Watson acted as Chairman at this point. The owner of the property explained the application using an amended plan showing the new site of the car park away from the nearest neighbouring property. She said the huts would not be built all at once. Cllr Collet asked if the number of huts could be limited to 2 rather than 5. Councillors agreed unanimously to support this application with conditions that the car park be moved and that the number of huts be reduced to 2.

**c) DC/25/0569/CON – Wedding licence application** – There was nothing to discuss as this application has been closed.

DC Ewart gave an update on her report. The Cake-off in January at the Hub had been well attended. Thanks had been received from other parishes and she thanked all who had supported the event, making cakes etc. She is still covering for Cty Cllr Burroughes in his absence. She mentioned devolution in Suffolk would mean no elections in May. The proposal is for one large council with a mayor elected in 2026 but the District Council have said no to this as it would be too big. DC Ewart now has 2 jobs on the Museums Board and the Drainage Board, coastal erosion is an issue. SFI grants have been cut to farmers and DC Ewart wants to hear from any farmers who are under stress.

## **22.25 Finance**

- a. To review and approve the statement of accounts for the current financial year. Approved
- b. To review and approve the bank reconciliation. Approved
- c. To approve the authorisation to pay. Approved
- d. To approve the account receipts – Interest £34.99 ECB Grant £506.60 Heveningham PC £81.68 Approved
- e. To discuss One Suffolk website hosting price increase (up by £6/year from 1/4/25) - Agreed
- f. To discuss the Hub insurance premium – Cllr Collett said that the insurance has been paid by the Hub. The lease between the Hub and Huntingfield PC needs to be drawn up now that a problem with the Land Registry is resolved. Cllr Kline said she knows of someone who could help with the lease and she will speak to Cllr Collett.
- g. To discuss the Hub proposed cost of meeting hire (£15 per meeting from 1/4/25 – Cllr Collett explained that as 3 Parish Councils use the Hub for meetings it is the right thing to do to charge them Cllr Blackmore proposed that HPC accept this charge which was agreed unanimously.

**23.25 Village Gateways** – Cllr Collett said that there will be 4 gateways now because of restrictions. It would be necessary to use contractors for the work. She will find out about designs and cost to circulate to Councillors so that a decision can be made at the next HPC meeting in May

**24.25 To discuss further ideas on ways to spend CIL money already received** – Cllr Kruger said a bus shelter at the end of Holland Rise would be a big improvement. The design would be the same as the new shelter put up in Heveningham. The clerk will look at the Heveningham PC minutes and Asset Register on their website to get details and the cost to report at the next HPC meeting. The hedge at the top of Brick Kiln Lane may have to be cut, the cost of this will be reported at the next HPC meeting too.

Cllr Collett said that although Suffolk Highways have been out to clear and jet the gullies/drains, the problem is no better so it is important to keep reporting problems online.

**25.25 Grass-cutting quote from East Suffolk Services** – The quote for this year has risen by 78% to £550. The Chairman proposed that HPC accept the quote for this year but consider changes for next year. The clerk will give the Chairman contact details of other local contractors who may be interested. This proposal was unanimously agreed.

**26.25 To consider affiliation to the East Suffolk Planning Alliance** – Cllr Watson recommends that HPC becomes affiliated. This organisation helps villages when dealing with the planning authorities, give information and invite Parish Councils who are affiliated to meetings. It was unanimously agreed to become affiliated, which the clerk will do.

**27.25 To note correspondence received and circulated** – The date of the Village Clean-up will be on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April. Following a request from a resident it was agreed to purchase some litter picking equipment with Parish Council funds. The clerk will put the Energy Help poster on the noticeboard. A request from Halesworth Museum for a donation was declined. Cllr Ward said that Huntingfield PCC may consider this request at their next meeting.

The Chairman said that the Parish Council needs new Councillors and he will put a note about this in the next edition of the Hare.

**28.25 Date of next meeting** – The next meeting was confirmed as **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at 7 pm in the Hub**. This will also be the date for the **Annual Meeting and the Annual Parish Meeting**.

**Meeting closed at 8.50 pm.**

**Minutes agreed as correct.**

**Chairman** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Carol Hume**  
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