



Huntingfield Parish Council

Minutes

Minutes of the meeting of Huntingfield Parish Council held on Wednesday 13th November 2024 in the Hub

Councillors attending: Cllr David Blackmore (Chair), Cllr Julie Collett, Cllr Carla Kruger, Cllr Sarah Kline, Cllr Edward Watson and District Cllr Julia Ewart. Also attending were 9 residents and Clerk/RFO Carol Hume

85.24 Apologies and approval of absences. Apologies from County Cllr Stephen Burroughes and Cllr Emma Ward were noted and accepted.

86.24 To receive Declaration of Interest. Cllr Collett declared a non-pecuniary interest in Items 10 (Hub Trustees meeting) and Item 8 k. (Millenium Green equipment purchases)

87.24 To consider requests for dispensations. None

88.24 To resolve that the minutes of the HPC meeting held on 4th September 2024 are a true and correct record. The council agreed that the minutes were correct, and they were signed by the Chairman.

89.24 To receive progress reports for information

- a. Lighting for Village Green steps – these have been purchased, installed and are working well. There are two spare lights available.
- b. Phone Mast – There is not enough interest in this at present.
- c. Bike repair station – Has been installed. A training date will be arranged by Cllr Watson and will be advertised in the Hare.
- d. Autumn clean-up and planting day (October 13th) – This was very successful with 17 people turning up to help. The bulbs from Suffolk Blooms are now available so a date will be arranged for planting and will be advertised on Facebook.

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

Two residents complained about the speed that farm and estate vehicles are doing when they pass Malt Cottages, and that the roadside ditch has been pushed in because of the size of these vehicles. This item will be discussed later in the meeting (see Item 11). Cllr Watson reported that he had attended a Community Partnership meeting on October 10th. At this meeting information about Sizewell C Community Fund grant programmes was outlined. Community organisations can apply for grants up to £10k a year maximum £30k over 3 years or for a larger grant over £10k a year up to 3 years. Any grant must be spent within 3 years and the funding is available for the next 10 years. It is important that local community groups make an application asap. Cllr Collett spoke about a possible new village sign. The location and content would need to be agreed so it was decided there would be discussions and ideas from residents put forward before the next HPC meeting in January 2025 when this item will be on the agenda.

The reports from County Councillor Burroughes and District Councillor Ewart had been circulated to councillors before the meeting and will be posted on the HPC website.

91.24 Update on properties in Huntingfield owned by Heveningham Hall Estates

Matt Bostock said that there are no further updates on village properties. It was therefore agreed to remove this item from future agendas.

92.24 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 £33.76, CIL £5,008.47. Approved
- e. To consider a new budget – due to a proposed increase in the precept for the next financial year it was agreed that the Chairman and the clerk will have a meeting to draft a budget for 2025/2026 for approval at the next HPC meeting. Cllr Collett presented figures for future Hub finances which showed a potential deficit for the next year of circa £1k. The increase in the precept will be around £500 which could be used to support the Hub. Cllr Blackmore proposed this, seconded by Cllr Watson and agreed unanimously. This will be reviewed before the next HPC meeting.
- f. To approve the CIL report. Approved
- g. To review STO's and adopt new Financial Regulations. Reviewed and adopted.
- h. To review the Risk Assessment and Internal Controls. Reviewed
- i. To review the effectiveness of the internal audit during 2023/2024. Reviewed as effective
- j. To review and approve the clerk's hourly pay rate increase. Approved
- k. To discuss the MG cost estimate for the purchase of a strimmer and protective equipment. DC Ewart said there are grants available for this and she has sent a link to Cllr Collett who will then discuss the funding available with the MG. The cost of both items is circa £610.
- l. To discuss purchase of a new SID battery. The cost would be shared with Heveningham PC. Cllr Blackmore will source prices for two batteries and the clerk will determine if CIL money can be used for this type of purchase.

93.24 To consider any planning applications – DC/24/3258/FUL Valley Farm, Laundry Lane

Matt Bostock was asked several questions from residents and councillors about this retrospective application. The main concerns involved access to Wilderness properties and traffic using Brick Kiln Lane. Mr Bostock said that when the new bridge is built there would be no need to use the current access areas. A proposal from Cllr Collett, seconded Cllr Blackmore that HPC accept the current application was agreed with a majority of 3 councillors in favour. Cllr Watson and Cllr Kline abstained. Cllr Blackmore will provide the clerk with a response from HPC to be posted on the ESC planning portal which will highlight concerns.

94.24 To discuss matters arising from the Hub Trustee meeting held on 2nd October 2024

- a. Team Up Calendar – This will be open to other groups so that dates of events don't clash. The idea is to move it on to the HPC website. There would be no cost and it should be easy to move en bloc. The clerk will liaise with Cllr Collett on this.
- b. The marquee – Due to the structure of the marquee it was decided that it is not suitable for hiring out.

95.24 Roadside verge at Malt Cottages

Residents reported that agricultural and estate vehicles are travelling too fast along the road causing the verge to wear away. A permanent drain along the verge would reduce the risk of flooding. Mr Bostock said he would ask estate staff to slow down when driving along the road and Cllr Blackmore will ask Sam Fairs to pass on the same message to farm staff. Cllr Blackmore will report the issue on the Suffolk Highways portal.

96.24 To discuss an application from Cratfield PC for funds from ESC Outdoor Playing Space Fund

There were no objections to Cratfield PC going ahead with their application.

97.24 New street furniture

Cllr Collett said that any gate-type structure put up near the current 30 mph signs on the outskirts of the village would serve as a traffic calming measure too. The landowner's permission would be required and a licence fee of £150 to pay. The cost would be between £400 and £1k. It was agreed to research this project further. All were in favour in principle.

98.24 To discuss further ways to spend CIL money received to date

The chairman stressed that big decisions need to be made to spend CIL money within the next four years. There are ideas such as spending £2.5k on new storage units for the Hub; a slide for the Millenium Green; a bus shelter near Holland Rise (more information is needed on this); resurfacing the Hub car park; painting 30 mph limit on the road surface (DC Ewart to make enquiries); drainage from the Millenium Green down to Bridge Street.

District Councillor Ewart then spoke of several matters from her report (see previous Item 90.24). Sizewell – Archaeologists will be working at the site of the proposed Yoxford roundabout. Vehicles will only be marked on the back to identify them. Speeding is a problem in Yoxford and Peasenhall. Walpole may have police motorbikes in situ to deter speeding. Wayne Saunders (Suffolk Highways) has been upgraded so there will be a new contact for our area. Environment Agency documents were passed to the clerk for reference. Community Partnership next round closes in January 2025. Vigilance is needed with planning applications because they are under attack. The leader of ESC is coming to the Cake-off tea to be held at the Hub on 18th January 2025. A cake from each village would be appreciated for this event.

99.24 Date of the next meeting

Confirmed as Wednesday 15th January 2025 at 7 pm at the Hub. Other HPC meeting dates for 2025 were agreed.

Meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

Minutes agreed as correct.

Chairman _____ **Date** _____

Carol Hume
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