



Huntingfield Parish Council

Minutes

Minutes of the meeting of Huntingfield Parish Council held on Wednesday 14th May 2025 in the Hub

Councillors attending: Cllr David Blackmore (Chair), Cllr Sarah Kline, Cllr Edward Watson, Cllr Emma Ward, District Cllr Julia Ewart and County Cllr Stephen Burroughes. Also attending were 16 residents and Clerk/RFO Carol Hume

36.25 Apologies and approval of absences. Cllr Carla Kruger had sent her apologies which were approved.

37.25 To receive Declaration of Interest. None

38.25 To consider requests for dispensations. None

39.25 To resolve that the minutes of the HPC meeting held on 12th March 2025 are a true and correct record.

The council agreed that the minutes were correct, and they were duly signed by the Chairman. The Chairman acknowledged the resignation of Julie Collet as a Parish Councillor and thanked her for her hard work and contributions over the years.

40.25 To receive progress reports for information:

- a. Malt Cottages verges – Holes have been filled in however the ditch is collapsing and a pipe may be needed. Sam Fairs was due to discuss this with a representative from Wilderness Reserve. **Action – Cllr Blackmore will contact Sam Fairs for an update.**
- b. Bridge Street drainage/flooding – Mike Maclean has taken personal responsibility for this and will make sure something permanent is done about it.
- c. Hedge cutting at the top of Brick Kiln Lane estimated cost. This item will be discussed at Item 12.
- d. Report on the village clean-up held on 27th April – due to a lack of advertising the clean-up didn't take place. A new date for this is Saturday 14th June and all equipment required will be sourced. An autumn village clean-up will be on Sunday 2nd November 2025.

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

County Cllr Burroughes gave the meeting a personal health update saying he is still awaiting treatment.

The three main issues arising from his report are:

1. The rise in Solar Farms in Suffolk – There are several new projects proposed at the moment which will have a huge impact on these areas. Suffolk is currently taking a huge hit.
2. Rise in children with special educational needs in Suffolk – It is difficult to provide the services needed which would cost in the region of £9 million.
3. Local Government reorganisation – There will be two tiers of local government. County and District Councils will be scrapped in Suffolk. In May 2026 there will be an election for a mayor; the proposal is for 'One Suffolk', a draft policy has already been done and the strategy for Suffolk will be available by September 2025. The clerk will get an email from ESC inviting parishioners to participate in a county-wide survey related to local government re-organisation.

District Cllr Ewart gave the clerk a written report, which will be put on the website. She then highlighted points from her report: Anglian Water, the EA and Historic England will be coming to carry out analysis in Huntingfield at some stage. The public should have more notice of planned new solar farms in their area and there should be a better policy concerning for example, the difficulty fire engines would have getting in and out of a rural community. DC Ewart stressed the importance when making a response to a planning application of putting in conditions which would be required. ESC planning department are not serving villages like Huntingfield well and views will be ignored. Recent events with ESC planning have made DC Ewart decide to become an independent councillor so that she can ask for changes in the set-up of ESC planning committees and to support rural communities.

Public Participation Session – A resident asked if following recent events with planning applications it would be a good idea to revisit the concept of a Neighbourhood Plan for the village. Having one would put the village in a better position with any new planning applications. The three villages of Ubbeston, Heveningham and Huntingfield have come closer together recently and it would be good to get something positive going forward. There will be lots of work involved and there may be some funding available. **Action – the clerk will contact SALC for information and an example of a template for the next HPC meeting in July.**

Cllr Kline said she was impressed and proud of all the main group who have worked so hard recently on Huntingfield's responses to the various planning applications made by Wilderness Reserve and she wished to say a big thanks to all of them.

A resident said that one of the windows in the Hub may need to be replaced and the steps to the Millenium Green are dangerous in places so would need to be repaired/replaced. A quote will be requested from Steve Thurston to be given at the next HPC meeting. **Action – the clerk will check if CIL money could be used for this.**

42.25 Finance

- a) Statement of Accounts for the financial year ended 31.3.2025 was reviewed and approved.
- b) Bank reconciliation was reviewed and approved.
- c) Authorisation to pay was approved for payment.
- d) Account receipts of interest £16.69, CIL £13,345.56 and Precept £6,715.29 were approved.
- e) AGAR 2024/2025 Accounting Statements were signed by the Chairman and approved.
- f) Annual Governance Statement was signed by the Chairman and approved.
- g) External Audit exemption was agreed.
- h) CIL return ending 31.3.2025 was approved.
- i) Heelis and Lodge were approved unanimously as Internal Auditor.

43.25 Planning

a) Cllr Blackmore reported on the Planning Committee North meeting held on 13th May 2025 saying it was a lengthy meeting lasting 5 hours which was emotionally and physically draining for all those present. The Planning Officer had written the report and he had 45 minutes to put his case, followed by questions and then the objectors were given time for their presentations also followed by questions. DC Ewart also spoke, the Committee then had a debate, form an opinion and take a vote. The following proposal was, after a casting vote from the Chair, lost. Another vote on the number of people allowed to attend events at Blyth Barn was not passed as there was no majority. There were some conditions imposed namely no marquees allowed and no amplified music. Cllr Blackmore summed up the meeting as a moral victory for Huntingfield PC but in the end the application was passed. DC Ewart said the problem was the Planning Committee policy and CC Burroughes said it was not a fair result. Hopefully Wilderness Reserve will be respectful to residents by carrying out their business without impacting the village. WR will have to keep a log of events held no more than 8 times a year which should not exceed 270 guests. This log will be available to ESC however it will be up to Huntingfield PC to make any detailed complaint so it will be important for residents to monitor events. The construction of the new access bridge may take up to six months and is being held up by EA reports. Cllr Blackmore suggested asking Mr Bostock if HPC could help him in any way to speed things up.

b) DC/25/1460/FUL – A Huntingfield resident has written a letter and put it on the ESC Planning Public Access portal. Cllr Watson said any planning application made retrospectively should be rejected anyway. He proposed HPC reject this application on the same grounds as laid out in the resident's letter. This was seconded by Cllr Blackmore and agreed unanimously. **Action – Cllr Watson will forward the clerk a copy of the resident's letter to be uploaded on the Public Access portal as an official comment by HPC.**

44.25 Village Gateways – Cllr Kline will get together with Julie Collett to discuss the best way forward for these with a view to approving at the next HPC meeting in July.

45.25 Proposed bus shelter at the end of Holland Rise – The Chairman said that the proposed position of the now re-named 'community' shelter has received a letter of objection. A new proposed position further up Holland Rise, set back behind the tree will depend on whether Flagship or someone else owns the land. Cost of the project would be in the region of £15k. **Action – Cllr Blackmore will try and determine if residents of Holland Rise are happy with the idea and if it is a viable project.**

46.25 The Hub/Huntingfield PC lease – There is no update on this. Cllr Kline has a contact who is a lawyer with experience of Land Registry issues. **Action – Cllrs Kline and Blackmore will arrange a meeting to look at the template previously supplied by SALC.**

47.25 Further ideas on how to spend CIL money – The ditch line owned by HPC from the drain at the top of Brick Kiln Lane will need 90m of piping, plus clearing hedging to stop the flooding further down the hill. Cllr Blackmore has had a quote from a local contractor to do the work for around £5k. This would be the perfect solution to the problem if approved. **Action – the Clerk or the Chairman will get two further quotes for this work from AW Collyer and Cotton and Downes to present at the next HPC meeting.**

48.25 To note any correspondence received – A letter circulated regarding Wilder Communities was noted.

48.25 Date of next meeting – The next meeting was confirmed as **Wednesday 9th July 2025 at 7 pm** in the Hub.

Meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

Minutes agreed as correct.

Chairman _____ **Date** _____

Carol Hume

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