



# Huntingfield Parish Council

## Minutes

### Minutes of the meeting of Huntingfield Parish Council held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2024 in the Hub

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

- 70.24 Apologies and approval of absences.** There were no apologies. County Cllr Stephen Burroughes hopes to join the meeting via Teams at approximately 8 pm.
- 71.24 To receive Declaration of Interest.** Cllr Collett declared a non-pecuniary interest in Items 10 (Hub finances) and Item 8 e. (Millenium Green fund application)
- 72.24 To consider requests for dispensations.** None
- 73.24 To resolve that the minutes of the HPC meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2024 are a true and correct record.** The council agreed that the minutes were correct, and they were signed by the Chairman.
- 74.24 To receive progress reports for information**
- a. Tree Lights – The Chairman said this is being dealt with and there is a plan of action in place.
  - b. Phone Mast – The petition in the Hub foyer has only a few signatures. The Chairman will put something in the Hare again to get more people to sign.
  - c. Village Green steps lighting – The Chairman said that 45 cm high motion-sensitive, solar powered lights are needed. They cost £30 - £40 each. He asked for permission to spend circa £200 to purchase 4 lights. The Council were all in favour.
  - d. FIT Villages – Cllr Watson will contact Tyler Beales of ESC for an update.
  - e. Bike repair station – has been delivered but is not yet installed. He is away for a month but when he returns Cllr Watson will install the station in a position as yet to be decided. He will monitor how well it is working and report back on usage.
  - f. Emergency Plan – Cllr Collett will add landlines for contacting councillors and will then circulate the final version for adoption at the next HPC meeting in November. This can then be posted on the noticeboard, uploaded on the website and put in the Hub foyer.
- 75.24 Public participation session (15 minutes) to include County Councillor and District Councillor reports.**
- A resident asked how people would know that the bike station is available and how to use it? The information will be put in the next edition of the Hare. Councillor Watson outlined what the station can do. An idea is to have a Saturday morning training session on how to use it too. The station has yet to be installed so a suitable position for it needs to be agreed on. Sam Kenward from ESC is keen to know how successful the new station becomes as he is keen for other villages to have one too. A request was made for HPC to contact Anglian Water regarding the flooding and the smell. Julia Ewart said she will speak to a contact she has at AW. Another resident raised the question of maybe having a village gateway which could be positioned by the 30 mph sign near the church. Councillor Collett said she has experience of the procedure; approval and a licence is needed from SCC costing circa £150. There is a possibility CIL money could be used for this. A small sub-committee will research this and report back to the next HPC meeting. Finally there was a complaint about the noise from Valley Farm early in the morning and late at night. Matt Bostock said that he will report this issue to the relevant person at Wilderness Reserve.

District Councillor Ewart had been unable to provide a report as her laptop was not working so she outlined some important current issues. The CIL money available to spend could be used for new play equipment. She would like an update on the progress made regarding the phone mast. She is keen to have more contact phone numbers for any future flooding. Heveningham are having problems with water backing up in what is the same watercourse as in Huntingfield so make a complaint to the Environment Agency. There is an idea to have another bin collection in the area for food waste which could be difficult because of accessibility in small villages. There is plenty of money to be applied for and DC Ewart will support any applications made by HPC. The Warm Welcomes and Cost of Living Community Grant is available to apply for before the closing date of 30<sup>th</sup> September. It is possible that the HUB may be able to make an application for funding too. The report from County Councillor Burroughes had been circulated to councillors before the meeting and will be posted on the HPC website.

#### **76.24 Update on properties in Huntingfield owned by Heveningham Hall Estates**

Matt Bostock said that there are two planning applications in the pipeline. Access via a new bridge to Chapel Barn. Minor changes to smaller lodges around the parkplus swimming pools. Also premises licensing at Valley Farm Barn. At the end of September there will be a drop-in meeting with professionals involved in these projects available to meet with the public who will be invited to come and ask questions. Guests are now staying at Blyth Manor (formerly known as Valley Farm) and access will be through Laundry Lane until April 2025. Laundry Cottage is now occupied. Matt stressed that if anyone has any issues then he should be contacted as soon as possible. He was asked if there would be any speed limits imposed on the inner roads to which he replied that there may be some signage put up, but he will make enquiries.

#### **77.24 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, with a correction to the CIL money total spent.
- c. To approve the authorisation to pay. Approved
- d. To approve the account receipts – Interest £19.95. Approved
- e. To consider an application from the Millenium Green Trustees for funding. The requested figure of £2760 is for a new shed, slab base materials and installation plus locks and security bars. The shed will be included on HPC insurance schedule and added to the Asset Register. It will be securely locked at all times. The proposal to provide the requested funding was proposed by Cllr Blackmore, seconded by Cllr Ward and unanimously agreed. The money will come from CIL receipts. The request for the cost of a new wheeled strimmer will be considered by DC Ewart as she has funding available for such requests.

#### **78.24 To consider any planning applications – DC/24/2930/LBC Town Pightle Cottage, Church Street** Application was approved without any comments.

#### **79.24 To discuss the Hub finances**

The chairman stressed that the Hub is a very important commodity and that it is a good thing that everyone knows what now needs to be done to keep it running. The purpose of this item is to decide whether HPC wants to support the Hub in principle, and how this is to be done. There will be options to be discussed at the next HPC meeting when the new budget is decided. Councillor Watson then said that he agrees in principle to keep the Hub sustainable, however he feels it needs a business plan outlining an on-going commitment showing its intentions for future years. It would be useful to know how other villages support their village halls financially. Laxfield took out a loan to refurbish their hall and are paying back £11k per year through the precept. **NB At this point County Councillor Burroughes joined the meeting via Teams.** The main reason for requesting funds now is to avoid a problem with cashflow to be able to pay the bills. Cllr Ward agreed with what Cllr Watson said and also suggested a leaflet in Halesworth church advertising Hub facilities. Cllr Kruger thought that help for the Hub needs to come from Ubbeston and Heveningham as well as Huntingfield. Cllr Kline wants to hear more of what DC Ewart and CC Burroughes can offer in the way of financial help.

It was agreed that there is a consensus to commit to financial help but an issue with how to actually do that. Cllr Collett wants a response from HPC in writing so that there are no misunderstandings. The clerk will write to Ubbeston and Heveningham PC's before they have their next meetings saying that Huntingfield has committed to helping the Hub and asking if they can give the same commitment. The next HPC meeting will be discussing the budget so further information from the Hub will be needed before that meeting.

**80.24 Autumn clean-up day and planting**

The date for this will be Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October at 10 am. Equipment can be borrowed from ESC so the chairman will get in touch with them. It is hoped to have the bulbs from East Suffolk Blooms to plant at the same time.

**81.24 New village sign update**

Cllr Collett said she already has a sign which could be put up now. It is important to let the Huntingfield Arms know about the new sign so she will speak to them about it, report back to the next meeting and go from there. There was some discussion about where the new sign should be put, there is a possibility of having too many signs in the village, which would be confusing.

**82.24 Further ideas on how to spend CIL money**

Following the decision to spend some CIL money on the new shed for the Millenium Green, any further ideas on spending will be welcome. The chairman will put something in the Hare too.

**83.24 Correspondence already received and circulated**

The insurance renewal details had been circulated and all councillors were in agreement with the premium for the next year, so this will be paid.

**84.24 Date of the next meeting**

Confirmed as Wednesday **13<sup>th</sup> November 2024** at 7 pm at the Hub.

**Meeting closed at 8.50 pm.**

**Minutes agreed as correct.**

Chairman\_\_\_\_\_Date\_\_\_\_\_

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