



Huntingfield Parish Council

Minutes

Minutes of the meeting of Huntingfield Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 10th January 2024 in the Hub

Councillors attending: Cllr David Blackmore (Chair), Cllr Julie Collett, Cllr Clive Clarke-Watson, Cllr Emma Ward, Cllr Carla Kruger and District Cllr Julia Ewart. Also attending 6 residents and Clerk/RFO Carol Hume

- 1.24 Apologies and approval of absences.** Cllr. E. Watson and County Cllr S. Burroughes
- 2.24 To receive Declaration of Interest.** Cllr Collett declared an interest in Item 10c – new storage shed for the Hub
- 3.24 To consider requests for dispensations.** None
- 4.24 To resolve that the minutes of the meeting of the council held on 8th November 2023 are a true and correct record.** The council agreed that the minutes were correct and they were signed by the Chairman.
- 5.24 To receive Progress Reports for information.**
- The clerk reported that the “Huntingfield People” email group is complete and in use.
 - Cllr Clarke-Watson updated the meeting on flooding. The sub-group has been finalised. Suffolk Highways had apologised for the inconvenience caused by flooding and they will be monitoring the situation and making routine inspections. All surface water is now cleared. Cllr Collett had an onsite meeting with Matt Bostock to discuss areas in the village which are prone to flooding. He agreed that there are some sub-standard areas and once the groundwork estate team are able to, hopefully in February, they will do the jetting and clearing jobs done. They will also clear the Millenium Green blockage. Heveningham Hall workers will also look to install permanent solutions to the drainage issues both on Brick Kiln Lane and in the centre of the village.
 - Plug-in Suffolk – Cllr Collett said there is no interest in this from the Hub committee.
 - Tree-trimming work to be done along the Carnser – the clerk had had no response to emails sent to Lawrence Walker asking him to come and see what needs to be done. Cllr Collett said she will arrange to meet him and point out the areas that need attention.
- 6.24 Public participation session (15 minutes) to include County Councillor and District Councillor reports**
- Reports received from County Councillor Burroughes and District Councillor Ewart prior to the meeting had been circulated. District Cllr Ewart highlighted a few points from her report mainly regarding flooding, available funding for various projects, ESC Warm Welcomes (formerly Warm Rooms) and information available for people needing support for the increase in the cost of living. The Chairman then read out part of the SCC Councillor’s Report regarding the shortfall in Government funding for SCC in 2024/25 which will mean the Council will be unable to keep pace with inflation and demand for its services. Their proposed budget will require a 5% increase in Council Tax in the next year. A member of the public said that there had recently been an accident at the crossroads of Cratfield Road, Brick Kiln Lane and Linstead Road. This involved a police car and a car driven by a resident of Chediston, both cars were written off. After some discussion about the road markings on both sides of the junction which are faint and hedges that may need trimming, Cllr Blackmore said he will take some photos and upload them to the Highways website. The clerk will contact County Cllr Burroughes to ask about the possibility of changing the “Give Way” signs both sides of the junction to “Stop” signs.
- 7.24 Update on properties in Huntingfield owned by the Heveningham Hall Estate.**

Matt Bostock said that at the moment he has no resources to be able to do any works required on village properties but he hoped to be able to start looking at what is needed in February. So at the moment there are no changes. Following a question he confirmed that the Forge conversion will be going ahead in due course.

8.24 Finance

- a. To review and approve the statement of accounts for the current 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 £44.84. Approved
- e. The updated draft budget for 2024/2025 was approved
- f. The proposed precept for 2024 of £6124 was approved
- g. The NALC clerk's salary increase as of 6/11/2023 was approved.

9.24 To consider planning applications

None received.

10.24 To discuss how to spend the CIL payments received during 2022/2023

The mobile phone installation – Cllr Ward has further information from Laxfield, who are very happy with the installation on their church tower, but she needs more detail of the costs involved and will report these at the next HPC meeting.

Cllr Collett outlined the need for a lockable storage cupboard and a shed with shelving located outside for the Hub. The cost would be in the region of £3000 inc VAT.

The bike repair station proposed by Cllr Watson at a previous HPC meeting will cost around £1275. District Cllr Ewart will forward an email to the clerk on making an application for grant and project funding from ESC for the proposed new party tent/marquee. The price would be £539. This would not require any CIL money.

The Chairman said that these three proposals should be put in the next edition of the Hare at the end of January and comments requested so that a decision can be made at the next HPC meeting in March.

11.24 To note correspondence already received and circulated:

The next ES Community Partnership meeting is at Framlingham on 25th January. Cllr Blackmore will be unable to attend but as the next meeting will be at the Hub it is hoped that attendance will be possible.

Precept Survey email received from the Police and Crime Commissioner to be circulated to the Huntingfield People email group by the clerk.

East Suffolk Council have undertaken a review of the litter and fido waste bins in the district which they have a responsibility to empty.

Cllr Blackmore will attend the ES Planning Forum to be held at Lowestoft on 24th January.

12.24 Dog Fouling

The new signs have unfortunately become wet. The Hub still has 4 yellow signs which can be put up instead.

13.24 Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Collett and Helen Cannon are keen to push ahead with this. It is hoped that Heveningham and Ubbeston may also get involved so a social evening is planned to encourage people from all three villages to come to the Hub for some village input on the subject. Helen will write a short piece to be included in the next edition of the Hare and a date for the meeting will be arranged.

14.24 Village Emergency Plan

District Cllr Ewart said that in an emergency it can be difficult to pull all the agencies needed together and a simple plan would help with this. An example would be where the defibrillator is located. The village of Freckenham has a simple plan which is a good example. DC Ewart will forward some more information to the clerk.

15.24 Date of the next meeting: The next HPC meeting will be on Wednesday 13th March 2024 at 7 pm at the Hub.

Meeting closed at 7.55 pm.

Minutes agreed as correct.

Chairman _____ Date _____

Carol Hume
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