



# Huntingfield Parish Council

## Minutes

### Minutes of the meeting of Huntingfield Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024 in the Hub

**Councillors attending: Cllr David Blackmore (Chair), Cllr Julie Collett, Cllr Emma Ward and Cllr Edward Watson. Also attending were 8 residents and Clerk/RFO Carol Hume**

- 16.24 Apologies and approval of absences.** Cllr. C. Kruger, County Cllr S. Burroughes, District Cllr J. Ewart and Matt Bostock. An email sent to councillors and the Clerk from Mr C. Clarke-Watson said he has resigned from the Parish Council with immediate effect.
- 17.24 To receive Declaration of Interest.** Cllr Collett declared an interest in Item 10b – new storage shed for the Hub
- 18.24 To consider requests for dispensations.** None
- 19.24 To resolve that the minutes of the meeting of the council held on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024 are a true and correct record.** The council agreed that the minutes were correct and they were signed by the Chairman.
- 20.24 To receive Progress Reports for information.**
- Cllr Collett said that she had contacted Anglian Water regarding the manhole drain in the middle of the road outside her property which overflows during heavy rain. Anglia Water have not responded. It was agreed that Cllr Collett would talk to Joe Thompson to get some background and then liaise with the Clerk to write a letter to Anglian Water on behalf of the Parish Council. A team from Heveningham Hall Estate has undertaken some initial silt clearance from the drain on the corner of Laundry Lane and from the drain halfway up Brick Kiln Lane. In the near future they will jet clear the blocked drain under the entrance to Laundry Lane.
  - The road markings at the junction of Linstead Road, Cratfield Road and Brick Kiln Lane have been re-done but it is still difficult to see them because of mud on the road.
  - Cllr Collett said she has found another marquee to purchase which is the same size as the original but more robust. It will cost £30 more (plus reclaimable VAT) than the £539 already received as an Enabling Communities Budget Grant. This extra spending was approved unanimously by the other three councillors.
  - Cllr Collett had met with Lawrence Walker to discuss tree-trimming work needed along the Carnser and since then a team from the Estate has made a very good job of the work.
- 21.24 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. The chairman said he had read through both reports, and he highlighted the new pothole repairing machine, known as the Dragon Patcher; the Local Transport Plan public survey consultation which runs until 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024 and the SCC approved budget for 2024-25 which will include £500k project funding for arts and heritage organisations in Suffolk. Mr D Collett then made further comments about the flooding outside his property and the frustration of trying to get in touch with AW. A request came from a member of the public to have information in the Hare about progress reports and upcoming plans relating to properties in the village owned by Heveningham Hall Estates. The clerk will contact Matt Bostock and ask him if he can supply a report regularly.

#### **22.24 Update on properties in Huntingfield owned by the Heveningham Hall Estate.**

Matt Bostock had sent the clerk an update by email. Refurbishment works have commenced at 3 Bridge Street with a view to securing an open market rental. Laundry Studio work will follow.

#### **23.24 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 £42.81 and ECB Grant £539. Approved

#### **24.24 To consider planning applications**

None received.

#### **25.24 To further discuss how to spend the CIL payments received during 2022/2023**

The mobile phone installation – Cllr Ward said that BT would do the installation but it would need as many complaints to mobile providers as possible to make this happen. Cllr Watson has done some research on the poor signal areas in the village. He has no doubt a mast on the church tower would improve that a lot. The chairman said he is going down the private route with this through Huntingfield PCC and will have further information at the next meeting. Jake Barton, who has considerable knowledge of this issue, will be contacted too.

Cllr Collett said the need for a new shed is now acute. There had been no comments about it from readers of the Hare. A proposal from the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Watson, for Cllr Collett to go ahead and order a new shed at a cost of circa £3k was agreed unanimously. It will be ordered using a credit card and then Cllr Collett will be reimbursed by the parish council.

Cllr Watson said that following a recent meeting held at the Hub, Sam Kenward (ES Communities Officer) hoped that it may be possible to provide a bike repair station in several local villages at the same time.

#### **26.24 To note correspondence already received and circulated:**

Nothing to discuss

#### **27.24 Lights on the tree on the village green**

There was a breakage affecting the lights and they droop considerably. Cllr Collett will ask Pearce and Kemp to have a look and send through a quote for the repair work for HPC to consider.

#### **28.24 Neighbourhood Plan**

There had been no response or interest shown following a piece in the Hare about this. For the time being this topic will be removed from future agendas but may well reappear in the future.

#### **29.24 Community Emergency Plan**

The clerk had sent out the emergency plan on the Freckenham village website as an example but will re-send it to councillors for their consideration and it will be included in the next agenda.

### **30.24 The Hare – new financial arrangement proposal**

Helen Cannon outlined the plans to have a bank account for money raised for adverts in the Hare. This has already been set up and will begin from scratch. Cllr Collett has the financial information up to the end of January 2024. Any councillors can have access to the new bank account. As this seems the logical way forward there were no issues raised and everyone agreed to the plans.

The Chairman said he will ask for anyone interested in becoming a councillor in the next issue of the Hare.

It was reported that three trespassers had been seen on the evening of 12<sup>th</sup> March on CCTV on Estate land. Villagers should be vigilant in respect of their own properties.

**31.24 Date of Next Meeting** - The next meeting will be Huntingfield Annual Parish Meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> May at 6.30 pm. This will be followed by the Huntingfield Parish Council AGM and then the scheduled Huntingfield Parish Council meeting.

**Meeting closed at 7.45 pm.**

**Minutes agreed as correct.**

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

Carol Hume  
Huntingfield Parish Clerk [huntingfieldclerk@gmail.com](mailto:huntingfieldclerk@gmail.com)