

HUNTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 9th March 2023 in Huntington Community Centre commencing at 7.00pm.

PARTICIPANTS: Councillors J Newman (Chairman), Cllr (Mrs) D Davies (Vice Chairperson), B Lester, S Tunas Bana, D Silvester M Thompson, and C Benton.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs L McClymont (Clerk), and 10 public attending.

44/23) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs J Ashley, M Tym, and (Miss) A Smith. Mr D Wheatley (Finance Officer)
Noted

45/23) PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Residents of Heather Drive addressed the Parish Council regarding their concerns about the planning application to demolish the garages in Heather Drive and develop 1 bungalow and two dormer bungalows. Cllr Benton explained the planning process to the members of the public present and explained how important it is to have relevant planning objections. It was also explained how the Parish Council are a consultee and they can support or object dependent on the impact to the Parish.

Following a lengthy discussion, it was agreed that the local residents could have some valid planning objections in summary:

Inappropriate overdevelopment of the area.

Restricted access for Emergency vehicles due to reduced parking areas forcing people to park on the already narrow road.

It is questionable if the space about dwelling is proportionate, garden space appears to be very small on the drawings.

Due to the slope of the land there would be a loss of privacy as the new properties would be looking down into the rooms of existing homes and gardens.

This area already suffers issues with old ineffective sewage and drainage, these developments could significantly increase the problems.

Request that the planners visit the site as the google pictures could be deceiving.

Noted

The public left the meeting at 7.35pm

46/23) CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ANY OTHER AGENCIES PRESENT

The Chairman introduced the new handyman to members, there were no questions for the handyman.

A Chairmans written report had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting. Members discussed at length the issue of not being able to program all the fobs individually for the door entry as some members had thought. It was explained that those with the app can see exactly which number key fob opens or closes the door so there is a level of controlled entry and the Parish Council now have more knowledge of who is in the centre and for how long than before. Cllr Newman was asked to contact the company to establish if we could make changes to access times ourselves rather than calling the company back in. It was discussed if payment should be withheld as the system did not work as some members expected. It was advised that there was no written request for 30 individually programable key fobs in the quotation everything, that was written down in the quotation that members considered was supplied as quoted, the invoice was for payment on completion. The Clerk advised that this is why it is good practice to have a written specification of requirements prior to requesting quotations and why she always get members to review and agree specifications in advance. It does take longer but can save confusion and disappointment in the longer term.

Noted

The Handyman left the meeting at 7.40pm

47/23) POLICE REPORT

A written Police report had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting. The written report was accepted by members.

Noted

48/23) COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT - CLLR DAVID WILLIAMS

The County Councillor had declined to submit a written report on issues at the County Council due to the upcoming District Council Elections which he intends to stand for.

49/23) DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT – CLLR CHRIS BENTON.

A written report had been circulated prior to the meeting. The written report was accepted by members.

Noted

50/23) MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON THE 9th FEBRUARY 2023.

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9th February 23 had been circulated for members consideration. Cllr Silvester proposed that the minutes be approved and signed as a true and accurate copy. This was seconded by Cllr Lester and all members unanimously agreed.

Resolved

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9th February 23 were approved as a true record of the meetings and were signed by the Chairman.

51/23) MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

Noted.

52/23) FINANCE**a) Finance Statement**

Salaries for March 2023	£ 4,257.99	
NEST Pensions - March	£ 158.92	
HMRC (PAYE/NIC – qtr. to March 2023)	£ 2,829.46	
Cropper Grounds Maintenance (Feb)	£ 672.49	
D. Wheatley (stamps)	£ 12.33	
H. Caulfield expenses (mobile phone - March 2023)	£ 5.00	
Design 380 Ltd (web hosting)	£ 100.00	
GSS Security (alarm system)	£ 4,093.92	
St John Ambulance (jubilee event first aid)	£ 201.60	
Broxap (steel bollards)	£ 680.40	
J. Newman (leaflets)	£ 104.84	
Dales of Cannock (toilet rolls, hand towels, gloves)	£ 135.29	
Orbit Office Supplies (toner cartridge)	£ 92.57	
TOTAL	£ 13,344.81	

DIRECT DEBITS TAKEN SINCE THE LAST MEETING

Coopers Waste	£ 84.00	
TOTAL	£ 84.00	

INCOME FOR MONTH

TOTAL	£ -	

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

CURRENT ACCOUNT BALANCE	£ 24,850.05	
LESS PAYMENTS AGREED	£ 13,344.81	
LESS OUTSTANDING CHEQUES	£ -	
BALANCE IN CURRENT ACCOUNT	£ 11,505.24	
TOTAL	£ 11,505.24	

ON DEPOSIT

BUSINESS INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNT		
General reserves + interest	£ 5,793.91	
Memorial Garden sink fund - per "recommendation"	£ -	
Community Centre sink fund	£ 10,000.00	
New Village Hall Project	£ 314.45	
Leisure Park sink fund - per budget	£ 22,590.16	
Sports Ground sink fund - per budget	£ 6,900.37	
Bus Shelter sink fund - per budget	£ 4,300.00	
Election expenses sink fund	£ 14,398.38	
Play Area sink fund - per budget	£ 37,120.61	
Skate Park sink fund - per budget	£ 16,000.00	
Village Green sink fund - per budget	£ 13,065.59	£130,483.47
Total	£130,483.47	

a) Payments – The Clerk took members through the payments presented. Cllrs Thompson and Davies did not agree with payment to GSS Security as they did not feel the system installed was what they thought they were getting. Cllr Lester proposed that all payments be approved, this was seconded by Cllr Tunas Bana and was agreed by 5 members in favour and Cllrs Thompson and Davies voted against. Majority in favour proposal carried.

b) Financial Statement – The Clerk took members through the Finance Statement. Members raised concerns regarding the lack of utility direct debits again this month. The Chairman is to contact the Finance Officer to rectify the issue of direct debits for the gas and electric payment.

c) Community Centre Hoover – Cllr Tunas Bana reported to members how difficult to use the cleaners hoover is and he recommended that a Shark upright hoover be purchased for the cleaner to use in her duties and the current hoover can be left out for hirers to use if needed. A new Shark hoover is around £350 but there are often offers available. Members requested that Cllr Bana submit quotations to the next meeting for consideration.

d) Quote Swing Seat Replacement – Members were advised about the need for two new flat swing seats and a new baby cradle seat. Quotations had been circulated to members. Cllr Newman proposed that the Hags quotation to supply and fit be accepted, this was seconded by Cllr Davies. Cllr Tunas Bana is to deal with this in the Clerks absence.

e) Quotation Bleed Kits – Cllr Tym had requested this item for consideration, in his absence members requested that the item be considered at the April meeting for Cllr Tym to provide more information.

Resolved

- That all payments are approved for payment as presented.
- That the Finance Summery report was accepted as presented. The Chairman to arrange with the Finance Officer more details about the utility payment and Direct Debits.
- That Cllr Tunas Bana will obtain quotations for the purchase of a Shark hoover for the next meeting.
- That the quotations for the supply and fit replacement swing seats is approved from Hags. Cllr Tunas Bana to arrange for this works in the absence of the clerk.
- That to be considered at the April meeting as more information needed from Cllr Tym.

53/23) PLANNING

The following planning items were received for consideration this month.

Planning Number 23/00138/TTREE	Application: - TPO No 159/1996: Quercus spp. (Oak) – Dismantle and remove	Address: - 10 Badger Close Huntington WS12 4UW
Decision Due in by 15 th March 2023 (Circulated to members prior to the meeting) No Objections		
Planning Number 23/00141/FULHH	Application: - Two storey side extension to form en-suite and study	Address: - 5 Foxfields Way Huntington WS12 4TA
Decision Due in by 22 nd March 2023 (Circulated to members prior to the meeting) No Objections		
Planning Number 23/00088/FUL	Application: - Demolition of existing garages and erection of 1no 1 bed bungalow, 1no 3bed dormer bungalow and 1no 4bed dormer bungalow with detached double garage.	Address: - Garage Site At Heather Drive Huntington
Decision Due in by 23 rd March 2023 (Circulated to members prior to the meeting) Further to the discussions with residents, Huntington Parish Council will object to this development. Inappropriate overdevelopment of the area. Restricted access for Emergency vehicles due to reduced parking areas forcing people to park on the already narrow road. It is questionable if the space about dwelling is proportionate, garden space appears to be very small on the drawings. Due to the slope of the land, there would be a loss of privacy as the new properties would be looking down into the rooms of existing homes and gardens. This area already suffers issues with old ineffective sewage and drainage these developments could significantly increase the problems. Request that the planners actually visit the site as the google pictures could be deceiving.		

54/23) CORRESPONDENCE

A written report of correspondence of note was circulated prior to the meeting.

02/03/23	South Staffs Council	Public notice consulting on a proposal to increase the fare charged by hackney carriages in South Staffordshire.	Circulated
02/03/23	South Staffs Council	Estimated costs to be recharged to the Parish Council for the election process	Circulated
07/03/23	South Staffs Council	Training Opportunity: Managing Projects and Change.	Circulated.

The Chairman and Clerk reported on the recent compulsory training regarding 106 money and encouraged other members to attend. One of the most important issues identified was the importance of registering with District at the earliest opportunity when sites are identified that there is a need for 106 contributions connected with development of the area. There needs to be sound and reasonable grounds for the needs of 106 money. The example of Pear Tree Farm was used as this is already known as a development area of land, but the Parish Council should be registering the needs as part of the 106 agreements for any developer. Suggestions are to make a more suitable access to the Sports Ground as part of the development. It could be that utility connections are required on the edge of the boundary or fencing or equipment or MUGA. There must be sound reasoning behind the request with a justified need and be proportionate and not a long wish list, but worth considering for the future.

55/23) COMMUNITY CENTRE

The Chairman took members through the written report submitted by Cllr Smith and circulated to members. The report was accepted as presented.

Noted.

56/23) AMENITIES

- a) **Village Green** – A written report had been circulated to members prior to the meeting, members accepted the report as presented.

Bench Plaque request – Members considered the request and the report that Cllr Ashley had circulated regarding possible options. Cllr Tunas Bana proposed that the option for the seating area by the oval garden be used for non-mining memorial plaques like this request. This was seconded by Cllr Lester on vote 5 members voted in favour and 2 voted against Cllr Davies and Thompson. The majority vote is carried.

- b) **Littleton Leisure Park** – A written report had been circulated to members prior to the meeting, members accepted the report as presented.

- c) **Sports Ground** – A written report had been circulated to members prior to the meeting, members accepted the report as presented.

Resolved

- a) That the child memorial bench plaque request is approved providing it is sited on the seating area around the oval garden and not the square facing the mining monument.

57/23) PHASE 2 MEMORIAL BRICKS PROJECT

No report had been received for this item and Cllr Ashley was not in attendance. Cllr Lester suggested additional details being added to the Parish Plaque about who was involved etc. It was agreed more details and costs were needed to be able to make any formal decisions. Cllrs Lester and Ashley to provide more details in a report for the next meeting.

Noted

Standing Orders were moved by 15 minutes.

58/23) PUBLIC EVENTS

A written report had been circulated prior to the meeting including supporting documentation referring to quotations; Cllr Davies took members through the report.

- a) The Chairman questioned why the quotations were for such large afternoon teas and individual packages when the committee had agreed trays of sandwiches and cream scones. Members agreed to obtain further quotations from the Littleton Arms and The Cabin Café on Buxton's site.
- b) The quotation of £295 was considered for the magician for the event. Members approved the cost and booking as he was very good at Christmas.
- c) The Clerk provided evidence to prove that no TV licence is needed for 6th and 7th May 2023 to show the coronation events in Community Centres.

- d) Members agreed the need of at least 500 meters of bunting for the event. Cllr Davies would investigate and advise members via email of costs.
- e) Cllr Davies requested that delegated powers of authority to spend from the budget. Members agreed to delegated powers to spend from the budget for the Coronation Event are given to the Parish Council Chairman, Finance Officer and Clerk. This was seconded by Cllr Tunas Bana and agreed by all members.

Resolved

- a) That further quotations would be obtained for consideration from local businesses.
- b) That the cost of £295 is approved for the Magician and is to be booked.
- c) That evidence confirmed no TV licence was needed to show Coronation Event programmes during 6 & 7 May 23 for Community Centres.
- d) That, 500 meters of bunting is needed for the event. Cllr Davies to investigate and advise cots to members.
- e) That delegated powers to spend from the Coronation Event budget is given to the Parish Chairman, Finance Officer, and Clerk.

59/23) ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AT THE NEXT MEETING.

- New Hoover for Community Centre – Cllr Tunas Bans to provide quotations for a new Shark Hoover.
- Council Chamber redecoration and re siting honours boards and pictures – Cllr Ashley from March meeting
- Phase 2 Memorial Garden Brick Project – Recommendations on design and cost of new plaques for consideration – Cllr Ashley and Cllr Lester to report.
- Bleed Kits – Cllr Tym to report.

Members were reminded agenda items and supporting reports need to be emails to the Clerk the week prior to the meeting to be included.

Noted

60/23) DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 13th April 2023, in Huntington Community Centre, commencing directly after the Annual Parish Meeting

Meeting closed at 10.15pm

Signed _____

Date _____