

Minutes of the meeting held on 8th February 2024 in Huntington Community Centre commencing at 7.00pm.

PARTICIPANTS: Councillors J Newman (Chairman), C Benton (Vice Chairperson), B Lester, R Bailey, P Wetton, S Tunas Bana, J Ashley, D Silvester, M Tym, (Mrs) P Graham, and (Mrs) D Davies.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs L McClymont (Clerk), Cllr David Williams – County Councillor and 4 members of the public.

20/24) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs M Thompson, and Mr D Wheatley (Finance Officer).

Noted

21/24) PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Huntington Welcome Space Group – Members were informed of the new free to all Huntington Welcome Space Group that has been set in St Thomas church on a Wednesday afternoon. It is being run voluntarily to provide a warm welcoming space for people to visit and hopefully help to reduce loneliness for people. The volunteers are looking for funding to help set this project up. The clerk confirmed that a formal written request for funding had been received and this would be considered at the appropriate agenda item in the meeting.

Noted

22/24) CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ANY OTHER AGENCIES PRESENT

The Chairman took members through his written report that had been circulated prior to the meeting. Members accepted the report as presented. The Chairman also reported that the competition pictures agreed had been printed and will be displayed on the noticeboard in Littleton Leisure Park.

Noted

23/24) POLICE REPORT

There was no Police representative in attendance, a written report had not been received.

Members were not happy that yet again there was no police representative in attendance, and concerns were raised regarding the alleged mugging at knife point in Common Road.

Noted

24/24) COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT - CLLR DAVID WILLIAMS

Cllr Williams gave a verbal report to member on the on-going activity from the County Council. It covered budgets balancing, the money from the HS2 being provided in bits over the next 3 years and the activities of highways regarding gritting works and pothole filling.

Noted

25/24) DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

Cllr Ashley took members through his written report which had been circulated prior to the meeting. Members accepted the report as written.

Noted

26/24) MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON THE 11th January 2024.

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11th January 24 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 Bailey and all members unanimously agreed.

Resolved

The minutes of the Parish Council held on 11th January 24 were approved as a true record of the meetings and were signed by the Chairman.

27/24) MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising that would not be covered by an agenda item.

Noted.

28/24) FINANCE

a) Finance Statement

Salaries for February 2024	£ 4,669.75	
NEST Pensions - February	£ 170.33	
Cropper Grounds Maintenance (January)	£ 672.49	
MSJ Plumbing (Gas Safety Inspection)	£ 60.00	
PJ Entertainments (July Fun Day deposit)	£ 150.00	
H. Caulfield (phone - Feb)	£ 5.00	
J. Newman expenses (Outdoor Poster printing)	£ 51.07	
L. McClymont expenses (books & food for events)	£ 73.70	
Busy Bees Mascots (event attendance deposit)	£ 200.00	
PJ Entertainments (Christmas light event deposit)	£ 150.00	
TOTAL	£ 6,202.34	

DIRECT DEBITS TAKEN SINCE THE LAST MEETING

Coopers Waste	£ 105.00	
SEFE (Gas)	£ 704.72	
BT (Internet)	£ 54.18	
Microsoft (365 subscription)	£ 101.16	
TOTAL	£ 965.06	

INCOME FOR MONTH

TOTAL	£	

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

CURRENT ACCOUNT BALANCE	£ 10,242.64	
LESS PAYMENTS AGREED	£ 6,202.34	
LESS OUTSTANDING CHEQUES		
BALANCE IN CURRENT ACCOUNT	£ 4,040.30	
TOTAL	£ 4,040.30	

ON DEPOSIT

BUSINESS INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNT		
General reserves + interest	-£ 10,687.06	
Memorial Garden sink fund - per "recommendation"	£ 3,546.19	
Community Centre sink fund	£ 14,514.45	
Leisure Park sink fund - per budget	£ 21,178.06	
Sports Ground sink fund - per budget	£ 9,643.17	
Bus Shelter sink fund - per budget	£ 5,300.00	
Election expenses sink fund	£ 15,258.38	
Play Area sink fund - per budget	£ 42,056.53	
Skate Park sink fund - per budget	£ 18,000.00	
Village Green sink fund - per budget	£ 12,813.63	£131,623.35
Total	£131,623.35	

a) Payments – The Clerk took members through the payments presented. It was proposed by Cllr Tunas Bana that all payments are approved payment. This was seconded by Cllr Benton and agreed by all members.

b) Financial Statement – The Clerk took members through the Finance Statement. Members accepted the Financial Statement as presented.

c) Grant Funding Request – Members considered the application for a grant from Huntington Warm Space Welcome Group. Cllr Lester proposed a grant of £250 towards the project on the understanding that the grant money is ringfenced this this project and if the money is not spent it must be returned to the Parish Council. This was seconded by Cllr Wetton and agreed by all members.

Resolved

- a) That all payments are approved for payment as presented.
- b) That the Finance Summary report was accepted as presented.
- c) That a grant of £250 is granted to Huntington Warm Space Welcome Group. Payment made to St Thomas' Church and money to be ringfenced for use on this project only.

29/24) PLANNING MATTERS

There were no planning matters received for consideration at this meeting.

Noted

30/24) CORRESPONDENCE

There had been no correspondence that required discussion or decision making this month, all correspondence had been circulated via email.

Noted

31/24) COMMUNITY CENTRE

Cllr Tunas Bana took members through his written report which had been circulated prior to the meeting. Members accepted the report as presented. Cllr Tunas Bana drew members attention to the meeting date with the architects regarding possible improvement to the centre on 15th February.

Noted

32/24) AMENITIES

- a) **Village Green** – Cllr Ashley took members through his written report which had been circulated prior to the meeting. Members agreed the following actions from the report.
 - 1) **Grassed Area in front of electric Cabinet** – Cllr Wetton raised the issue that this was not in the written report, but the grass needs to be replaced with slabs or concrete as discussed at the site meeting.
 - 2) **Water Supply** – the Clerk reported that costings were obtained in 2021 for a standpipe but members decided it was too expensive for the amount of use that was needed. It was agreed that Cllr Ashley would investigate with South Staffs Water the options and costs relating to a standpipe and a permanent supply of water.
 - 3) **Wheel** – Cllr Ashley to contact the Ranger regarding who cleaned and painted the wheel in the past.
 - 4) **Welding Works** – Cllr Ashley and Bailey to work together obtaining quotations for the welding repair works to the cradle.
 - 5) **Lectern Display boards** – Cllr Lester to collaborate with the Handyman when the weather improves to clean out and reseal.
 - 6) **Knee Rail under the noticeboard** – Clerk to arrange for the Handyman to remove 2 upright and 1 crossbar that are rotten.
 - 7) **Play Area water logging** – Cllr Ashley to investigate options regarding drilling down and filling with sand to help drainage issue.
 - 8) **Safety Matting** – Cllr Newman to contact the company used for the Community Centre regarding wet pour surfacing costs.
 - 9) **Fencing the Play Area** – Cllr Lester to arrange for Gatesland to supply a quotation for hooped top fencing initially on the Colliers Way edge of the play area.
 - 10) **Play Area Signage** – The Clerk to find the old draft designs and wording and pass on to Cllr Ashley.
 - 11) **Seating Units** – It was agreed to ask Gatesland if they could supply a quotation for suitable seating units in keeping with the others on site.
 - 12) **Surgery Fence** – Agreed to develop communications with the surgery to discuss access routes people use and fencing of the site.
- b) **Littleton Leisure Park** – Cllr Thompson was not in attendance but had supplied a written report. Members accepted the report as presented.

Cllr Wetton raised the issue of the tree felling that had been discussed some time ago and as we are fast approaching the bird nesting season time is running out to get this work done. Cllr Wetton had a contact who is qualified to chop down trees on slopes like ours if the Ranger could be available to meet them on site to identify the area of works, we could consider the costs next meeting. Members agreed that Cllr Wetton should arrange a meeting with the Ranger and Cllr Thompson to obtain a quote at a mutually convenient time.

- c) **Sports Ground** – Cllr Lester took members through his written report that had been circulated prior to the meeting. Members accepted the report as presented.

Collapsed Manhole - Members discussed at length the issue with the collapsed utility hole cover. The Clerk stressed caution due to the land having had Japanese Knotweed on for years and disturbing the ground could encourage rapid regrowth and any tool or machinery would need to be properly cleaned off on site to prevent contamination. In addition we do not fully understand where any why the pipe work is there does it affect any other property? Cllr Silvester proposed to fill the hole in, this was seconded by Cllr Ashley and at vote agreed by 8 members 3 members abstained to vote (Cllrs Wetton, Benton, and Davies). Cllr Lester is to arrange for the hole to be filled in as soon as possible.

Stretcher – Cllr Davies advised that her investigations regarding the Parish Council purchasing a stretcher for use by the football teams has found that the Clerks concerns were correct. If the Parish Council purchase the stretcher, they would be responsible to provide formal certificated training to all those who would be using it. Members agreed not to purchase a stretcher.

Noted

33/24) PUBLIC EVENT

Cllr Graham took members through her written report regarding Public Events. Members accepted the report as submitted. Cllr Graham drew members attention to the date of the next Subcommittee meeting 22nd February. The following actions were agreed from the report and discussion.

- a) **Fun Day Event Times** - The timing for the Fun Day will be 10am to 3pm.
- b) **Food Hygiene Qualifications** – Cllr Davies stated that she already holds her certification, and it was agreed that Cllr Graham and the Clerk should also obtain certification. Cllr Davies is to provide a copy of her certificate for display purposes.
- c) **Staff Payments for Events** – The Clerk left the room while this item was discussed. Cllr Graham proposed to members that the Clerk should be paid for any public events that she assisted with and attended. This was accepted by all Members and The Chairman advised that, like last year, the number of hours to be paid to all staff members would depend on what happened on the day (i.e. if the event had to be cut short for any reason) and would be calculated after the event.

Noted

34/24) ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AT THE NEXT MEETING.

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

Noted

35/24) DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 14th March 2024, in Huntington Community Centre.

Signed _____

Date _____

Resolved

In accordance with section 1 of the public bodies (admission to meetings) Act 1960 the Council Resolved that the Public were excluded from the meeting on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

37/24) District Enforcement Issues

Cllr Ashley verbally apprised members of the various ongoing enforcement issues in the village, unfortunately these involve legal issues and need to be left in the hands of the District Council.

Noted

There being no further matters for discussion the meeting was closed by the Chairman at 21.25

Signed _____

Date _____