

HUNTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 10th October 2024 in Huntington Community Centre commencing at 7pm.

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs L McClymont (Clerk), Mr D Wheatley (Finance Officer), and 0 Public in attendance.

156/24) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr C Benton (Vice Chairperson), Cllr David Williams – County Councillor
Noted

157/24) PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no members of the public in attendance.
Noted

158/24) 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 asked members to help the Clerk with meeting preparations by submitting all written reports the week before the meeting, delayed written reports add unnecessary work and pressure for the clerk.

The Chairman then advised members that he had received a written resignation by Cllr Thompson as Chairman to Littleton Leisure Park Sub-Committee. He thanked Cllr Thompson for all his work over the years and then called for volunteers and nominations. Cllr Tunas Bana nominated Cllr Peter Wetton, and this was seconded by Cllr Silvester and unanimously agreed by all members. Cllr Wetton accepted the position of Chairman to Littleton Leisure Park Sub-committee.

Resolved

That Cllr Peter Wetton is elected as Chairman to Littleton Leisure Park Sub-committee.

159/24) COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT - CLLR DAVID WILLIAMS

Cllr Williams was not in attendance and did not supply a written report.
Noted

160/24) 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. Cllr Ashley also reported that the government have changed the number of new homes to be built in South Staffordshire from 230 per year to 676 per year, that is an additional 446 homes each year. South Staffordshire is 80% green belt land and in order to accommodate this increase the government have said that land will need to be redesignated grey belt to ensure there is enough land available.

Cllr Newman asked Cllr Ashley to investigate at South Staffs Council an area of encroachment into public open space by a resident on Colliers Way.

Noted

161/24) MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON THE 12th SEPTEMBER 2024.

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12th September 24 had been circulated for members consideration. Cllr Tunas Bana 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 held on 12th September 24 were approved as a true record of the meetings and were signed by the Chairman.

162/24) MATTERS ARISING

- a) 149/24 Community Centre Future Refurbishment Plans – Cllr Tym raised concerns that the wrong plans were agreed at the last meeting as there was no toilet access directly from the main hall, the new toilet would be within the Parish Office space. The clerk pointed out that the Parish Office would need to have a dedicated toilet for it to be self-contained and usable by the public during the daytime when the nursery was in operation. The Chairman stated that the finer details can be agreed in the future when and if the project progresses.
- b) 140/24 County Councillor Report – Cllr David Williams – Cllr Lester reported that a site meeting had been arranged for 3rd October with Cllr Williams and an officer with Cllrs Lester and Ashley. No one from the County Council turned up. Cllrs Lester and Ashley stood out in the pouring rain waiting to show the areas where gully clearing needs to be conducted so pedestrians can walk safely. Members were not happy with the lack of response and Cllr Ashley agreed to contact Cllr Williams to arrange another site meeting to discuss the issues in Huntington.

Resolved

- a) Noted
- b) That Cllr Ashley will arrange another site meeting with the County Councillor to visit problem areas in Huntington.

The Finance Officer had been delayed and members agreed to continue and revisit finance once he arrived.

163/24) PLANNING

There have been the following planning items received for consideration this month.

Planning Number	Application:	Address: -
24/00665/FUL	Two storey extension to create 2 self-contained flats and extend the restaurant at ground floor level.	Anujaan Restaurant Stafford Road Huntington WS12 4NQ
Decision Consultation in by 2 Nov 24 The Parish Council have strong concerns regarding this application, and it could be considered an over development of the area. There is a lack of space with particular regard to the parking available for a living space and an expanding business. The access and exit of this property is quite restricted meaning that vehicles already predominantly reverse on the main A34 into oncoming traffic. The plans show a possible increase of 20 additional seats for customers of the restaurant along with the take away orders, 5 cramped parking spaces which do not provide space to turn a vehicle around is considered insufficient by Huntington Parish Council and that does not even consider the parking needed for staff and people living above the property. Huntington Parish council would like the planning authority and County Highways to look at the proposed development area and the impact this will have on the A34 which is a busy road every day of the week, but if there are issues on the M6 its use is increased dramatically including lots of HGV's. Members do not feel the entrance and exit is safe and the parking space available is not adequate for the impact of the increase living, working and retail developments of this property.		

Noted

164/24) CORRESPONDENCE

All correspondence had been circulated via email and noted by members, there was no further action required.

Noted

165/24) FINANCE**ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

Salaries for October 2024	£ 5,212.02	
NEST Pensions - October	£ 187.84	
Cropper Grounds Maintenance (Sept)	£ 672.49	
H. Caulfield (phone - Oct)	£ 5.00	
T.F.M. (padlock, anvil pruner)	£ 37.56	
Gazebo Shop (Gazebo for event use)	£ 1,293.94	
Sign Maker (RAF Memorial Plaque)	£ 282.13	
The Works (Xmas Fayre gift sets)	£ 145.00	
Royal British Legion (remembrance poppies & wreaths)	£ 149.97	
L. McClymont expenses (Public events consumables & office labels)	£ 89.69	
TOTAL	£ 8,075.64	

DIRECT DEBITS TAKEN SINCE THE LAST MEETING

Coopers Waste	£ 105.00	
BT (Internet)	£ 130.74	
Microsoft (365 subscription)	£ 101.16	
Yu Energy (Electricity)	£ 59.34	
Yu Energy (Gas)	£ 11.54	
E-on (electricity)	£ 15.88	
Pennon Water (water)	£ 173.53	
TOTAL	£ 597.19	

INCOME FOR MONTH

South Staffs DC (Precept)	£ 50,000.00	
Doctor's Surgery rent	£ 3,270.25	
Xmas Event receipts	£ 65.00	
TOTAL	£ 53,335.25	

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

CURRENT ACCOUNT BALANCE	£ 73,042.56	
LESS PAYMENTS AGREED	£ 8,075.64	
LESS OUTSTANDING CHEQUES		
BALANCE IN CURRENT ACCOUNT	£ 64,966.92	
TOTAL	£ 64,966.92	

ON DEPOSIT

BUSINESS INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNT		
General reserves + interest	-£31,249.81	
Memorial Garden sink fund - per "recommendation"	£ 2,583.11	
Community Centre sink fund	£ 13,076.08	
Leisure Park sink fund - per budget	£ 17,985.55	
Sports Ground sink fund - per budget	£ 12,221.57	
Bus Shelter sink fund - per budget	£ 6,300.00	
Election expenses sink fund	£ 16,258.38	
Play Area sink fund - per budget	£ 41,585.28	
Skate Park sink fund - per budget	£ 20,000.00	
Village Green sink fund - per budget	£ 13,839.08	£112,599.24
TOTAL	£112,599.24	

a) Payments – The Finance Officer took members through the payments presented.

It was proposed by Cllr Davies that all payments are approved payment. This was seconded by Cllr Tunas Bana and agreed by all members. All payments approved.

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

c) AGAR – Annual External Audit – The Finance officer took members through the audit report which had been circulated prior to the meeting, members noted the comments and information. Cllr Tuans Bana proposed that the AGAR be accepted as presented and this was seconded by Cllr Tym

d) Quote Play Area Picnic Benches – The Chairman took members through the quotations received for 3 or 4 new benches for the play area. Due to the time of year members agreed to revisit this project after the winter months around March time.

e) Quote Community Centre Doors – Cllr Tunas Bana took members through the quotations received from 2 suppliers, only one of the companies had visited the site. Members requested a 3rd quotation be requested from RB Windows and that Norton Industrial Doors are requested to attend the site to ensure a proper quotation.

f) Quote Wheel and Bus Shelter Cleaning – Members considered the various quotations received for these jobs. Cllr Ashley proposed that IMI clean the wheel subject to being able to complete intime for Remembrance Sunday and that they can obtain the water needed on site. This was seconded by Cllr Tunas Bana and agreed by the majority of members, Cllrs Wetton and Bailey voted against.

Members considered the bus shelter cleaning and Cllr Newman proposed that Mr Jupp the local window cleaner quote for £700 to clean all the bus shelters be approved. This was seconded by Cllr Graham and agreed by all councillors.

g) Quote Professional PA System – Cllr Graham took members through the quotation for a professional PA system at the Christmas Fayre event. Cllr Graham proposed the quotation from Tremor be accepted this was seconded by Cllr Newman and agreed by all members.

h) Grant Application Huntington Harriers Kids Football Team – The clerk took members through the application which has been circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Lester proposed a grant of £200 subject to confirmation of booking to the Holland Cup in 2026. This was seconded by Cllr Thompson and agreed by all members.

Resolved

- a) That all payments are approved for payment as presented.
- b) That the Finance Summery report was accepted as presented.
- c) That the AGAR is accepted and the comments noted.
- d) Noted
- e) Noted .
- f) That IMI is approved to do professional memorial cleaning of the wheel subject to being completed in time for Remembrance Sunday and they have a supply of water. Also, that Mr Jupp is approved to clean the bus shelters in the village.
- g) That the cost for a professional sound system by Tremor at the Christmas Fayre is approved.
- h) That the promise of £200 grant towards the team's trip to the Holland Cup 2026 subject to confirmation of booking.

166/24) 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 took members through the options of Display boards for the exterior of the Community Centre. Members preferred the key locking system options and agreed size A0 to be the correct size. Cllr Newman proposed that quantity 3 size A0 lockable frames with keys are purchased up to a cost of £350 per frame. This was seconded by Cllr Bailey and agreed by all members.

Resolved

That approval is given for the purchase of qty 3 size A0 lockable frames be purchased for the exterior of the Community Centre.

167/24) AMENITIES

- a) **Village Green** - Cllr Ashley took members through his written report which had been circulated prior to the meeting. Members accepted the report as presented.
Cllr Tym questioned why the Parish Council is progressing with a water supply as it is so costly. It was explained that we are currently awaiting further detailed quotations before the Council can make an informed decision.
Cllr Newman explained to members that the Wellington Bomber plaque had to have the colour changed when ordered as they had no stock of the colour requested and there was not time to wait for restock.
- b) **Littleton Leisure Park** – Cllr Thompson took members through the report he had written which had been circulated prior to the meeting.
- c) **Sports Ground** – Cllr Lester reported to the meeting that the sports ground gates have been found open when they should have been locked. Concerns have been raised regarding who has access. In the interest of security, a new combination lock has been purchased which is now on the gates.

Noted

168/24) PUBLIC EVENT

Cllr Graham took members through the written report which had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. The report was accepted as presented. Cllr Graham requested that the football teams are made aware of the functions at the Community Centre on the 3rd and 24th November and the teams need to park elsewhere. Cllr Lester agreed to make the teams aware.

Noted

169/24) 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.

- Cllr Lester would like to discuss CCTV Camera's at the next meeting.

Noted

170/24) DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 14th November 2024, commencing at 7pm in Huntington Community Centre.

Signed _____

Date _____

171/24) CONFIDENTIAL

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.

172/24) STAFFING COMMITTEE – APPOINTMENT OF AN ASSISTANT CLERK

Cllr Newman took members through the Staffing Committees written report and recommendations to employ an assistant Clerk as part of succession planning which had been circulated to members. Cllr Newman proposed that that approval be granted to start the process with a target date of April to appoint. This was seconded by Cllr Tunas Bana and agreed by all members.

Resolved

That the Staffing Committee have the approval to commence the process of employing a suitable Assistant Clerk in April 2025.

There being no further matters for discussion the meeting was closed by the Chair at 21.37

Signed _____

Date _____