

HUNTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 10th April 2025 in Huntington Community Centre commencing at 7.30pm.

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs L McClymont (Clerk), and 0 members of the Public.

56/25) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr (Miss) A Smith Mr D Wheatley (Finance Officer), Cllr David Williams – County Councillor

Noted

57/25) 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.

Noted

58/25) COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT - CLLR DAVID WILLIAMS

Cllr Williams was not in attendance and had not supplied a written report.

Noted

59/25) DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

Cllr Ashley took members through his written report which had been circulated prior to the meeting. He also explained to members his suggestions and recommendations for Unitary Councils. He explained that proposals have been submitted to government, and we await a response from them.

Cllr Lester raised concerns about the old Chapple being used as an Airbnb and its use causing problems with parking in the area. Cllr Lester questioned if planning approval was needed for this change of use and should the Parish Council have been informed? Cllr Ashley agreed to take this matter up with officers at the District Council.

Noted

60/25) MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON THE 13th MARCH 2025.

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13th March 25 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 Tym and all members unanimously agreed.

Resolved

The minutes of the Parish Council held on 13th March 25 were approved as a true record of the meetings and were signed by the Chairman.

61/25) MATTERS ARISING

49/25 Amenities – Village Green – Cllr Ashley reported that he has written to the Housing Association and Environmental Health as the local District Councillor regarding the issue of food being left out encouraging rats.

62/25) FINANCE

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Salaries for April 2025	£ 4,770.06	
NEST Pensions - April	£ 286.59	
Cropper Grounds Maintenance (March)	£ 672.49	
H. Caulfield (phone - April)	£ 5.00	
Dales of Cannock (cleaning consumables)	£ 320.21	
Hygienic Concepts (Sanitary waste)	£ 308.37	
Robins Nest Rosettes (Dog Show rosettes)	£ 34.86	
TOTAL	£ 6,397.58	

DIRECT DEBITS TAKEN SINCE THE LAST MEETING

Coopers Waste	£	84.41	
BT (Internet)	£	70.74	
Microsoft (365 subscription)	£	101.16	
Yu Energy (Electricity)	£	120.78	
Yu Energy (Gas)	£	427.46	
E-on (electricity)	£	8.82	
Pennon Water Services	£	211.43	
TOTAL	£	1,024.80	

INCOME FOR MONTH

Doctor's Surgery Rent	£	3,270.25	
TOTAL	£	3,270.25	

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

CURRENT ACCOUNT BALANCE	£	26,464.14	
LESS PAYMENTS AGREED	£	6,397.58	
LESS OUTSTANDING CHEQUES			
BALANCE IN CURRENT ACCOUNT	£	20,066.56	
TOTAL	£	20,066.56	

ON DEPOSIT

BUSINESS INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNT			
General reserves + interest	-£	22,464.81	
Memorial Garden sink fund - per "recommendation"		0.00	
Community Centre sink fund	£	12,502.08	
Leisure Park sink fund - per budget	£	17,720.68	
Sports Ground sink fund - per budget	£	10,560.57	
Bus Shelter sink fund - per budget	£	4,956.80	
Election expenses sink fund	£	16,258.38	
Play Area sink fund - per budget	£	41,500.28	
Skate Park sink fund - per budget	£	20,000.00	
Village Green sink fund - per budget	£	12,127.89	£113,161.87
Total	£	113,161.87	

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

It was proposed by Cllr Davies that all payments are approved payment. This was seconded by Cllr Wetton 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) Bird Spikes – Cllr Newman shared details of some metal spikes of birds and other animals that can be fixed into the trees on the Leisure Park to add interest to the area. Members agreed on 15 different birds and will cost approximately £117. Cllr Newman proposed that the 15 identified spikes be purchased for Littleton Leisure Park. This was seconded by Cllr Davies and agreed by all members.

d) Bus Shelter Artwork – Cllr Newman shared details of how artwork can be added to the Perspex bus shelters panels. Cllr Benton suggested asking local businesses to help with sponsorship. Cllr Lester agreed to ask at Cogger's if they would be interested in supporting. This subject will be discussed further at a future meeting.

e) Community Centre Signage – Cllr Newman took members through 3 options of signage for the Community Centre at various prices. Members fully discussed the options following the discussions, Cllr

Newman proposed that option 2 from UK Sign Shop in white lettering is purchased at a cost of £350. This was seconded by Cllr Bailey 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 15 bird spikes be purchased for Littleton Leisure Park.
- d) Await further information regarding possible sponsorship.
- e) That option 2 from UK Sign Shop is approved up to a cost of £350.00.

63/25) PLANNING

There were no planning items for consideration this month.

64/25) CORRESPONDENCE

All correspondence had been circulated via email and noted by members.

65/25) COMMUNITY CENTRE

Cllr Newman took members through his written report which had been circulated prior to the meeting. Members accepted the report as presented. The Clerk reported on the situation with the invoice to the Nursery for damage to the wall and the regular booking by a boxing group. The Clerk also raised the issue of an enquiry from a group supporting young carers who wanted to hire the centre on a Wednesday for 2 hours, once per month during term time and for the same hire rate as the Youth Club. It was discussed that although this is a worthwhile group it would mean the centre was not usable on a Wednesday for the other 3 weeks of the month. It was agreed that the Booking Clerk should enquire if they could perhaps use a Thursday night when there is no Parish Council meeting, if they can not change night then they would need to pay the full hire amount for the whole centre (party rate)

Noted

66/25) FRIENDS OF LITTLETON COLLIERY

Members discussed the 3 options proposed by the group at last months meeting. Members also considered the notes from the site meeting which had been circulated and Cllr Ashleys report.

Option 1 A plaque on the plinth removing the colliery location plaque. Members are not keen on this.

Option 3 A piece of artwork a meter away from the fence (doctors' side) next to the bin Members were not keen and felt it disrespectful of the sited so close to the bin.

Option 2 This was the most popular to have a piece of art in the flower bed.

Cllr Ashley proposed having a plaque like in option 1 but in a different location to be agreed subject to a further site visit.

Cllr Lester proposed approving option 2 to have a piece of artwork in the flower bed this was seconded by Cllr Bailey.

Members voted as follows 4 in favour of Cllr Ashley's new proposal and 6 in favour of option 2 a piece of artwork in the oval garden. Therefore, it is resolved that as the majority of Councillors wish to pursue the piece of artwork in the oval garden is approved by Huntington Parish Council.

Resolved

That the piece of artwork in the oval garden is approved by Huntington Parish Council.

67/25) AMENITIES

- a) **Village Green** - Cllr Ashley had covered all items within Friends of Littleton Colliery item above.
- b) **Littleton Leisure Park** - Cllr Wetton took members through the report he had written which had been circulated prior to the meeting. Members accepted the report as presented. Cllr Wetton raised the issue of the amount of time the Handyperson had spent on her own clearing out the water feature and he proposed that she be paid an additional 4 hours for her hard work. This was seconded by Cllr Tunas Bana and agreed by all members.
- c) **Sports Ground** - Cllr Lester reported that the locks on the changing room doors need replacing, we will need a locksmith to do this work. Cllr Lester reported that he has cleaned out the changing rooms and told the teams that if they do not look after them and keep them clean the locks will be changed and they will not be able to use them again.

Resolved

- a) Noted.
- b) That the Handyperson is paid an additional 4 hrs for the extra work carried out on the water features.
- c) Noted.

68/25) PUBLIC EVENT

Cllr Smith had not supplied a report and was not in attendance. The Clerk reported on the arrangements for the Easter Egg Hunt and raised concerns that there is no booking for entertainment at the Family Fun Day and time is running out.

Noted

69/25) 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

70/25) DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 8th May 2025, commencing at 7pm in Huntington Community Centre.

Signed _____

Date _____

71/25) 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.

72/25) STAFFING

- a) The Cleaner has submitted her resignation and would like to finish at the end of April. Adverts have been circulated.
- b) Temporary Ranger, an advert has been circulated for a temporary ranger to remove the responsibility from the Handyperson especially the daily opening and closing and litter picking. The Clerk is working with South Staffs HR to produce a suitable contract.
- c) Assistant Clerk – Cllr Newman reminded members of the need for succession planning and advised members that things will be moving forward to advertise in the near future for an assistant clerk for 10 hrs per week. This in turn will need the development of the office area in the old bar.

Noted

There being no further matters for discussion the meeting was closed by the Chair at 21.08

Signed _____

Date _____