

HUNTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 11th September 2025 in Huntington Community Centre commencing at 7.00pm.

PARTICIPANTS: Councillors J Newman (Chairman), C Benton (Vice Chair), P Wetton, B Lester, M Thompson, S Tunas Bana, R Bailey, J Ashley, (Miss) A Smith, and (Mrs) D Davies (7.05pm).

IN ATTENDANCE: David Wheatley (Finance Officer) and 1 member of the Public.

119/25) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr M Tym and County Councillor C Humphreyson.
Noted

120/25) PUBLIC QUESTIONS

A member of the public raised concerns regarding foliage obstructing the view exiting Wrekin View onto the A34. There is a similar issue at the entrance of Foxfield's. Cllr Ashley agreed to contact Mark Jenkinson at South Staffs District Council regarding this safety issue.

Noted

The member of the public left the meeting at 7.05pm

121/25) 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 attention was drawn to the fact there had been 2 speed monitoring operations in the last 2 week in the village.

Noted

122/25) COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT - CLLR CRAIG ROGER HUMPHREYSON

Cllr Humphreyson was not in attendance but had supplied a written report which had been circulated. Members accepted the report as presented.

Noted

123/25) DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

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

Noted

124/25) MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON THE 10TH JULY 2025.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Smith for stepping in to produce minutes during the Clerks recent illness. The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10th July 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 Thompson and all members unanimously agreed.

Resolved

The minutes of the Parish Council held on 10th July 25 were approved as a true record of the meetings and were signed by the Chairman.

125/25) MATTERS ARISING

None

The Finance Officer was delayed attending the meeting and members agreed to wait until his arrival to deal with the finance agenda item.

126/25) PLANNING

Planning Number 25/00657/COU	Application: Change of use from Convenience store/post office (Class E) to a new car show room and sales pitch (Sui Generis) (Re-submission of application 24/01001/COU)	Address: - Martin McColls Huntington Post Office Stafford Road Huntington CANNOCK WS12 4NU
Decision Consultation period extension approved by planners. Members wish to object on the same grounds as the previous objection. Overflow parking will be an issue 7 spaces is not enough for customers and staff on site members are concerned this will have a detrimental effect on parking for the local co-op and Zanzibar adjacent. There is a property to the rear of the development property which can only be accessed through the alleyway to the side of the site consideration need to be given regarding fencing off the site. Members are concerned that there is inconsistency regarding the development line on some of the plans. On one of the drawing the development area edged red excludes the property known as Littleton Fryer but is included on other plans, could this please be investigated. <u>Community Needs</u> • This would be a loss of community amenities due to the removal of the Fish and Chip shop and the future possibility of a new convenience store for our local residents – all for a car sales business servicing people from further afield. • Our local residents regularly voice concerns that they require additional local facilities for their everyday needs, not a reduction in facilities. A convenience store/post office and Fish & Chip shop provides the necessary everyday items needed by local residents - plus is more accessible for villagers for quick errands or for those with mobility or transport restrictions. <u>Traffic and Safety Concerns</u> • Increased vehicular traffic due to customers traveling into the village to view and test drive vehicles. This will potentially cause congestion on local roads especially the A34 which is already under pressure and gets gridlocked when accidents happen on the M6 motorway as the A34 becomes a diversion, seeing large numbers of trucks and traffic travelling this road. • There is a potential safety hazard from increased vehicle movements and in close proximity of a pedestrian crossing and local primary school. • Inadequate parking spaces leading to parking issues on the A34 main road with the pedestrian crossing regularly in use for access to the shop and the primary school. • Lack of parking spaces leading to parking issues on nearby streets and outside of the local primary school. <u>Noise and Disruption</u> • There are concerns regarding the potential noise pollution from car engines being revved, deliveries and customer activity, particularly during operating hours. • Local residents will be disturbed due to the increased activity and potential late-night opening hours and weekend openings. <u>Visual Impact and Character</u> • A car sales garage is visually unappealing and out of character with the surrounding residential area of our village. This will negatively impact the aesthetic quality of the neighbourhood.		

- Large, fencing and advertising boards associated with car sales could be intrusive and detract from the local environment. This site is directly opposite the village green offering open green space and it would be detrimental to the surrounding area.

Huntington Parish Council request that planners need to visit the site in person to appreciate the impact on local facilities and the detrimental effect to the local area this application could have – in addition to the possible safety issues for our young school children whose school is just across the road from this proposed development.

The members of Huntington Parish Council request that officers take into consideration the concerns raised above when making their decision.

	Application: Cllr Ashley reported that a resubmission had been submitted due to an error. A footpath had been omitted from the plans	Address Garages Silver Birch Way Huntington Staffordshire WS12
Members had no objection in principle however they felt 106 monies should be made available for off road parking due to the large number of vehicles that obstruct the highway.		

127/25) BUS SHELTER ART VINYL'S

Cllr Newman took members through his written report which had been circulated. This project had previously been agreed but the County Council had reported they were to do some works to bus shelters which has not happened. Cllr Newman proposed that one bus shelter was used as a trial. Cllr Thompson proposed that the winner of the photo competition, 2 years ago, picture is used, and then future competition winners could be considered for further bus stops. A budget of up to £150 is approved. This was seconded by Cllr Smith and agreed by all members. Cllr Newman agreed to arrange the purchase.

Resolved

That approval is given for a budget of up to £150 can be spent on purchasing vinyl decoration for one bus shelter using the winning picture from the photo competition.

128/25) PUBLIC ART COMPETITION.

Cllr Newman took members through his written report which had been circulated. It has been 2 years since the public photo competition. This time Cllr Newman is proposed holding an art competition no photography. Again, there would be 2 categories under 12 years and over 12 years. There would be 2 first prize winners one in each category, winning a £30 voucher and 2 runners up again one in each category each winning £10. This was seconded by Cllr Tunas Bana and agreed by all members.

Resolved

That a public art competition will be held, 2 categories under 12 years and over 12 years with a winner in each category winning a £30 voucher and a runner up in each category winning a £10 voucher.

129/25) CORRESPONDENCE

Date	From	Topic	Action
24/07/25	SPCA	LGA Pay Awards for 2025/26 agreed	Circulated via Email and actioned
25/07/25	SPCA	South Staffordshire District Council Community Governance Review (CGR). Survey closes Tuesday 30 th September 2025	Circulated via email for members to complete.
05/08/25	Pickering and Butters	Documentation relating to the amendment to the Doctors surgery lease and sub lease.	Complete

18/08/25	GSS	Alarm Service overdue	Clerk has tried to book a date in the school holiday but needs more notice. She will continue to try to book after the nursery have left.
20/08/25	South Staffs Council	Possible donation of litter picking equipment to support local volunteer efforts to keep the community clean.	Clerk requested a donation of equipment for Huntington
27/08/25	HAGS	Renewal details for safety checks	Circulated via email
01/09/25	SPCA	Details of the AGM Monday 24 th November 2025 @ 10am in Uttoxeter Town Hall.	Circulated via email
02/09/25	Sir Gavin Williamson MP	Copy of correspondence with a local resident regarding Community Speed Watch Group for the area.	Circulated via email
02/09/25	South Staffs Council	Documentation relating to detailed information from the Police regarding Remembrance Day Services.	Circulated via email
02/09/25	South Staffs Council	Information regarding Martyn's Law and advise that this will be covered at the next Parish Summit on 20 th November	Circulated via email
06/09/25	Member of the public	Requesting the Parish Council remove the flags that have been hung from lampposts around the village	Clerk has advised they contact Highways. PC do not have equipment or staff

Resolved

That the Clerk can order 5 new fobs, arrange for fobs to be renamed and re programmed. Clerk to write to Chill Out Club regarding the issue with their keys. Action to be taken to change locks as agreed including key cutting as needed.

Finance Officer joined the meeting @ 20.24.

130/25) COMMUNITY CENTRE

Cllr Tunas Bana took members through his written report which had been circulated.

Cllr Thompson asked if the door auto released when the fire alarm goes off. The clerk was not sure but there is an emergency release box which does release the door she agreed to ask the question when GSS service the system.

Members asked the Clerk to write to the Youth Club about the key issue reported and make it clear the responsibilities and procedures regarding keys.

Cllr Tunas Bana proposed contacting Sutton and Wilkinson about getting some steps and ramp installed at the bar delivery door as no companies approached have been interested in quoting for the works. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Newman and agreed by all members.

Regarding the signage quotations received were over £900, suggestions had been made about using a 3d printer, but this would need to be tested for durability. Cllr Newman suggested contacting the Scout leader who had the tree topper made for the Christmas Tree.

Cllr Tunas Bana advised members that as part of the budget setting for next year, consideration need to be given to replacing the tables and chairs with ones fit for purpose as the current ones are now beyond further economical repair.

131/25) FINANCE

Salaries for August 2025	£4,971.52	P'd by Chair Action
NEST Pensions - August	£ 221.62	P'd by Chair Action
Salaries for September 2025	4,463.88	
NEST Pensions - September	£ 202.15	
HMRC (PAYE/NIC qtr to 30/9/25)	£3,302.01	
Cropper Grounds Maintenance (July plus Ranger coverage)	£1,644.00	P'd by Chair Action
H. Caulfield (phone - August)	£ 5.00	P'd by Chair Action
TFM (dustbin, premix, cord, mallet)	£ 69.64	P'd by Chair Action
Pickering & Butters (Pharmacy Underlease advice)	£ 427.20	P'd by Chair Action

Dales of Cannock (Comm. Centre cleaning materials)	£ 149.65	P'd by Chair Action
Instant Print (print & recover banners)	£ 60.00	P'd by Chair Action
Blueprint Design (safety wellies)	£ 26.99	P'd by Chair Action
Norton Software (Firewall Protection)	£ 74.99	P'd by Chair Action
Cropper Grounds Maintenance (August)	£ 780.00	
H. Caulfield (phone - September)	£ 5.00	
D. Wheatley (postage)	£ 8.75	
HAGS SMP (Play area maintenance)	£ 102.00	
Diamond Fire & Security (Fire extinguisher maintenance)	£ 295.80	
Orbit Office Supplies (tonners, paper, paperclips)	£ 552.60	
TOTAL	£17,362.80	

DIRECT DEBITS TAKEN SINCE THE LAST MEETING

Coopers Waste	£ 100.94	
BT (Internet)	£ 76.12	
Microsoft (365 subscription)	£ 100.07	
Yu Energy (Electricity)	£ 59.67	
Yu Energy (Gas)	£ 13.36	
E-on (electricity)	£ 10.23	
TOTAL	£ 360.39	

INCOME FOR MONTH

TOTAL	£ -	

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

CURRENT ACCOUNT BALANCE	£51,246.93	
LESS PAYMENTS AGREED	£17,362.80	
LESS OUTSTANDING CHEQUES		
BALANCE IN CURRENT ACCOUNT	£33,884.13	
TOTAL	£33,884.13	

ON DEPOSIT

BUSINESS INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNT		
General reserves + interest	-£31,142.43	
Memorial Garden sink fund - per "recommendation"	0.00	
Community Centre sink fund	£ 4,200.00	
Leisure Park sink fund - per budget	£ 17,360.68	
Sports Ground sink fund - per budget	£ 16,100.17	
Bus Shelter sink fund - per budget	£ 5,956.80	
Election expenses sink fund	£ 17,258.38	
Play Area sink fund - per budget	£ 47,710.25	
Skate Park sink fund - per budget	£ 22,000.00	
Village Green sink fund - per budget	£ 14,209.99	£ 113,653.84
Total	£113,653.84	

a) Payments – The Finance Officer took members through the payments presented. He explained the payments made during August under delegated authority powers. He then took members through the payments for September.

It was proposed by Cllr Tunas-Bana that all payments are approved. This was seconded by Cllr Thompson 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) Bank Accounts – The Finance Officer reported that the bank had started to charge for the Memorial Garden account which was no longer being used. The Finance Officer has closed the account so no charges will be incurred.

d) Safety Inspections – members considered the quotations for the safety inspections for the play area and fitness equipment on the village green. Cllr Thompson proposed that the Hags quotation for the same service of 1 Annual Inspection and 3 operational inspections . This was seconded by Cllr Davies and agreed by all.

e) Expenses – Cllr Smith had incurred £52.98 expenses relating to the Family Fun Day event it was agreed to make a repayment.

Resolved

- a) That all payments are approved for payment as presented.
- b) That the Finance Summery report was accepted as presented.
- c) That the old Memorial Garden project bank account is closed.
- d) That Hags quotation for safety inspections for the next 12 months is approved.
- e) That reimbursement is mad to Cllr Smith for expenses incurred for the Family Fun Day

132/25) AMENITIES

- a) **Village Green** – Cllr Newman took members through his report which was circulated prior to the meeting. Members requested a site visit by the pest controller to discuss and advise members on what action could be taken at what cost.
- b) **Littleton Leisure Park** – Cllr Wetton took members through the report he had written which had been circulated prior to the meeting. Members discussed the additional duties that have been carried out by the Temporary Ranger and the Handyperson. Cllr Wetton proposed that the Temporary Ranger be paid an additional 8 hours for grass cutting and water feature work done, and the Handy person be paid and additional 2 hours for her help with the water feature works. This was seconded by Cllr Thompson and agreed by all.
- c) **Sports Ground** – Cllr Lester took members through his report which was circulated prior to the meeting. Members agreed to purchase a new sign regarding organised events on the sports ground from Insta print. Cllr Ashley agreed to design the sign and arrange the production by Insta Print.

Resolved

- a) Noted.
- b) That the temporary Ranger and Handyperson are paid additional hour for work carried out.
- c) That a new sign is purchased from Insta print regarding organised events.

133/25) PUBLIC EVENT

Cllr Smith took members through her report which was circulated prior to the meeting. Members accepted the report as presented. It was agreed that 3 wreaths, 20 Poppy crosses and 6 large Poppies are purchased for Remembrance Sunday.

Cllr Wetton agreed to investigate the supply of a 15–18-foot Christmas tree for the village green:

Check to see if Lee Hall Brass band have been booked for Christmas Lights Event 5th December.

A Public Events Committee meeting will be arranged to ensure events are arranged, date to be confirmed.

Noted

134/25) ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AT THE NEXT MEETING.

Litter Picking Equipment – Cllr Tunas Bana to report.

The Finance officer left the meeting @ 21.20.

135/25) DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 9th October 2025, commencing at 7pm in Huntington Community Centre.

Signed _____

Date _____

136/25) 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.

137/25) STAFFING

Members considered the continued long-term absence of the Ranger and agreed the Temporary Rangers contract needed extending and the hours increasing to the normal hours of work for the Ranger position accommodate the works needed. This was proposed by Cllr Newman and seconded by Cllr Tunas Bana and agreed by all members.

Noted

There being no further matters for discussion the meeting was closed by the Chair at 21.30

Signed _____

Date _____