

HUNTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 12th March 2026 in Huntington Community Centre commencing at 7.00pm.

PARTICIPANTS: Councillors J Newman (Chairman), C Benton (Vice Chair)(19.33), R Bailey, P Wetton, B Lester, L Davies, M Tym, J Ashley. and (Mrs) D Davies(19.09),

IN ATTENDANCE: David Wheatley (Finance Officer) and 0 members of the Public.

19/26) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr M Thompson, (Miss) A Smith, (Mrs) P Bibb. County Councillor C Humphreyson

Noted

20/26) PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no members of the public in attendance, Members agreed to proceed with the normal Parish Council meeting.

Noted

21/26) CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ANY OTHER AGENCIES PRESENT

The Chairman took members through his written report that had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Chairman explained that he wanted members to start using Teams more to contact each other and staff. The Chairman also raised the issue of a work experience application. Members had no objection to allowing a work experience pupil working with the Ranger. The Chairman took members through a summary of the staff time sheets for the past month.

Noted

22/26) COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT - CLLR CRAIG ROGER HUMPHREYSON

Cllr Humphreyson had submitted his apologies for non-attendance, he had not submitted a written report as there was not much to report.

Noted

23/26) DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT

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

Cllr Tym asked about the encroachment issues on the Colliers Way estate, SSDC have publicised their success rate on encroachment cases and asked that Cllr Ashley chase SSDC to challenge why the encroachment issues on the Colliers Way estate has not been resolved. Cllr Ashley agreed to enquire with the legal department as to what action is being taken regarding this encroachment.

Noted

24/26) MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 12TH FEBRUARY 2026.

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12th February 26 had been circulated for members consideration. Cllr Wetton 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 12th February 26 were approved as a true record of the meetings and were signed by the Chairman.

25/26) MATTERS ARISING

None that would not be covered by an agenda item.

26/26) FINANCE

Salaries for March 2026	£ 5,033.06	
NEST Pensions - March	£ 327.21	
HMRC (PAYE/NIC qtr to March 2026)	£ 3,981.35	
Cropper Grounds Maintenance (February)	£ 780.00	
H. Caulfield (phone - March)	£ 5.00	
HAGS SMP (Play Area annual inspection)	£ 180.00	
Design 380 (Website hosting)	£ 144.00	
Twisted Bliss (Multi skilled performer hire)	£ 370.00	
Jamie Sketchley (Bouncy Castle hire)	£ 600.00	
South Staffs DC (Legal/HR retainer)	£ 840.00	February resolution
L McClymont reimbursement Public Events Easter	£ 62.00	
Orbit Office Supplies (tonner, paper, id badges)	£ 581.40	
TOTAL	£12,904.02	

DIRECT DEBITS TAKEN SINCE THE LAST MEETING

Coopers Waste	£ 96.62	
BT (Internet)	£ 76.12	
Microsoft (365 subscription)	£ 125.31	
Yu Energy (Electricity)	£ 114.30	
Yu Energy (Gas)	£ 448.80	
E-on (electricity)	£ 9.90	
TOTAL	£ 871.05	

INCOME FOR MONTH

TOTAL	£ -	

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

CURRENT ACCOUNT BALANCE	£ 53,136.40	
LESS PAYMENTS AGREED	£ 12,904.02	
LESS OUTSTANDING CHEQUES		
BALANCE IN CURRENT ACCOUNT	£ 40,232.38	
TOTAL	£ 40,232.38	

ON DEPOSIT

BUSINESS INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNT		
General reserves + interest	-£26,276.07	
Memorial Garden sink fund - per "recommendation"	0.00	
Community Centre sink fund	£ 4,200.00	
Leisure Park sink fund - per budget	£ 17,066.82	
Sports Ground sink fund - per budget	£ 14,150.17	
Bus Shelter sink fund - per budget	£ 5,956.80	
Election expenses sink fund	£ 17,258.38	
Play Area sink fund - per budget	£ 47,560.25	
Skate Park sink fund - per budget	£ 22,000.00	
Village Green sink fund - per budget	£ 12,117.28	£ 114,033.63
Total	£114,033.63	

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

It was proposed by Cllr L Davies that all payments are approved. This was seconded by Cllr D Davies 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) Mole Catching Equipment – The Clerk explained that the mole catcher is retiring but he has offered to teach the skills to staff, but we would need to purchase the equipment. He advised a particular trap and supplier that he believes gets a better result as they are far better quality. He recommends having 10 traps, a Mole Run Probe, Mole trap markers, a small border spade and there is also a book on Amazon that might be beneficial to those who take on the responsibility. The cost of the equipment is likely to be less than the annual contract cost. Members agreed to this in principle but requested the Clerk send via email the cost for the equipment before ordering.

Resolved

- a) That all payments are approved for payment as presented.
- b) That the Finance Summary report was accepted as presented.
- c) That members agree in principle to purchasing mole catching equipment as recommended by the specialist but require the Clerk to circulate costs via email prior to ordering.

27/26) PLANNING

The following planning matter has been received for consideration.

Planning Number 26/00126/COU	Application: Change of use from Class E (office) to Class F1 (education use)	Address: - Security House Littleton Drive Huntington Cannock WS12 4TS
Decision consultation response by 23 rd March 26 No Objections		
Planning Number 26/00202/TTREE	Application: TPO no. 159/1996: Oak – reduce height by 2 meters	Address: - 10 Badger Close Huntington Cannock WS12 4NZ
Decision consultation response by 20 th March 26 No Objections		
Planning Number 26/00187/FULHH	Application: Dropped Kerb to Stafford Road	Address: - 115 Stafford Road Huntington Cannock WS12 4NZ
Decision consultation response by No Objections		

Noted

28/26) CORRESPONDENCE

Date	From	Topic	Action
28/02/26	Staffordshire Search and Rescue Team	Request for a donation towards a specialist drone that will allow them to cover larger areas of the county more quickly and reach difficult terrain and spot people who might otherwise go unseen.	Circulated via email Resolved £500 donation Proposed by Cllr D Davies seconded by Cllr Tym all agreed.
03/03/26	Staffordshire Police	Community Speed Watch Community Engagement Coordinator enquiring about arranging a drop-in session for people who might be interested in joining a CSW group. Dates for March and training dates.	Circulated via email

10/03/26	Chill Out Clubs	Giving formal 1 month notice of intention to leave the Community Centre (10 th April) they will remove their supplies from storage during the Easter holidays.	Circulated via email. Clerk to advise they remove rubbish and equipment from site not fill the bin. Also ask to leave the TV stand in one of the meeting rooms
6/3/26	Anonymous Residents of Huntington	Letter received in the Post 10/2/26 Complaint about parking in Huntington and rubbish at McColl's site. Unauthorised parking on the grass verge at the side of the Littleton Arms including large vans and a caravan being parked there. Causing grass to be churned up into mud and mud on the pavement causing pedestrians to walk in the road. Also, the ever-growing pile of rubbish at McColl's illegal dumping site attracting vermin and encouraging fly tipping. The author wishes to remain anonymous but requests the issues be taken seriously and addressed as a priority.	Scan copy circulated. The Parish Council have no powers of authority both issues would need to be dealt with by either South Staffs Council or County Council Highways. As Anonymous unable to sign post to the relevant authority. The chairman is to post on social media regarding which authority is responsible.

29/26) COMMUNITY CENTRE

Cllr Benton took members through his written report which had been circulated prior to the meeting. Further to the report Cllr Benton proposed investigating the cost of alternative chairs and tables for the meeting rooms in the Community Centre. This was seconded by Cllr Newman and agreed by all members.

Resolved

That Cllr Benton will investigate the cost of alternative chairs and tables for the meeting rooms in the community centre and report back.

30/26) AMENITIES

- a) **Village Green** – Cllr Newman took members through his report which was circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Lester questioned if we should consider metal trip rail fencing. Cllr Tym raised concerns regarding how short the shrubs have been cut. Cllr Newman explained that the agreement referred to was super seeded due to advice from the pest controller regarding rat issues in the area. Cllr Tym then stated that safety fencing is needed.
- b) **Littleton Leisure Park** – Cllr Wetton took members through the written report circulated prior to the meeting. The report was accepted as presented. Cllr Tym recommended displaying further disclaimer signage as is used at other Nature sites locally. The Clerk asked that the exact wording be provided for consideration by members.
- c) **Sports Ground** – Cllr Lester took members through his written report circulated prior to the meeting. Members accepted the report as presented. Cllr Lester advised members that the project as suggested by the Dynamos FC be put in abeyance until the issues surrounding the new build near the area are settled.

Noted

31/26) PUBLIC EVENT

In the absence of Cllr Smith, the clerk gave a verbal report of the current situation regarding public events planning. She advised members that there will be a public events committee meeting on Thursday night to finalise details for the Easter Egg hunt and confirm details towards the Annual Family Fun Day.

Noted

32/26) ASSISTANT CLERK

Cllr Benton took members through his written report which had been circulated, regarding his proposal to employ an assistant clerk. This would provide support to the Clerk, provide holiday cover and to ensure succession planning for the clerk's future retirement. Cllr D Davies confirmed she believed this to be a good idea. Cllr Ashley suggested that in the next few years there will be a number of people with appropriate

training from the local government reform looking for employment. Members agreed to continue further discussions regarding this topic in May to include cost that would be incurred.

Noted

33/26) GRANT FUNDING

Cllr Benton took members through his written report which had been circulated prior to the meeting. Members thought some of the funding might be appropriate for some of the large projects they wished to pursue. Cllr Tym asked if we have costings for the projects in place ready to apply for the funding. There is often only a small window of opportunity to apply and we need to be ready to go, with all details to hand.

Noted

34/26) ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AT THE NEXT MEETING.

None

35/26) DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 9th April 2026, commencing directly following the Annual Parish Meeting in Huntington Community Centre.

There being no further items for discussion the Chairman closed the meeting at 20.37.

Signed _____

Date _____