

HUNTINGTON PARISH

Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on 9th April 2026 in Huntington Community Centre commencing at 7 pm.

PRESENT: Councillors J Newman (Chairman), M Thompson, P Wetton, M Tym, R Bailey, L Davies, B Lester, (Mrs) P Bibb, and (Mrs) D Davies.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs L McClymont (Clerk), Mr D Wheatley (Finance Officer) Mr L Gittus and Mr B Deacon – South Staffordshire Council Wate Team. 5 members of the public.

1/26) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr C Benton (Vice Chairperson), J Ashley, (Miss) A Smith.

2/26) SOUTH STAFFS COUNCIL – FOOD WASTE SERVICE

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and handed over to members of South Staffordshire Council Food Waste Team to explain about the new food waste disposal procedures.

Mr Gittus and Mr Deacon explained that the new food waste collection has been made mandatory for all council s by the Government and not South Staffs Council, they confirmed that they are not mandating this to residents but hope residents will see the benefit and use the facility.

Food Waste bins will be collected weekly, every bin day regardless of colour. Liners for inside of the food waste bin are being provided, towards the end of each roll there is a yellow tag that residents attach to the handle of the kerbside collection bin when put out this identifies to the collection team that you need a new roll.

Questions and comments raised were.

- Concerns were raised about people being able to carry full bins to the kerbside especially if they have mobility issues. A full bin could be quite heavy with food in and there are no wheels to help.
- What is going to happen about all the bis that are being left out on the streets, some pavements are hard to negotiate as it is due to bins being stored there. SSDC team advised that the bins that are left out are reported.
- Can residents obtain additional bins if a large family. SSDC team advised that additional bins can be provided at no cost.
- Will the flats have a communal collection bin. SSDC team advised yes, each individual property will get a household grey bin and there will be a communal large bin.

3/26) OPENING ADDRESS BY THE CHAIRMAN CLLR NEWMAN

The Chairman, Cllr Newman had provided a written annual report which had been circulated and he read out the contents to the meeting.

This annual report is the fourth I have prepared as Chairman of Huntington Parish Council and, as with previous years, it has been a privilege to hold the position during this period.

There have been a number of changes in personnel within the Parish Council over the year, with several councillors stepping down and new volunteers joining up – in the last few months we have welcomed Cllr Lee Davies and Cllr Polly Bibb into the fold. A small annual turnover in members can be beneficial as it ensures that the council continually has people bringing new ideas and fresh enthusiasm to the table. We are still operating with one vacancy for a Councillor.

There have also been a few changes to the Parish Staff during this period – we have both a new Cleaner, Jodie Bradshaw, and a temporary Ranger, Dean Caulfield, who have both settled brilliantly into their respective roles and are proving to be valuable assets to the village.

The last 12 months have been a period of consolidation, where we have endeavoured to maintain our assets and continue to offer the same excellent events as previous years.

Along the way we have once again been supported by our partners across the village – The Littleton Arms, The Barns, and The Co-Op. I would like to thank them for their ongoing support.

In regard to events, over the last year we have continued to grow in the scale of what we deliver. The Summer Event, held in July 2025, was a massive success – even though the extreme heat meant that we had to cancel the dog show.

The November Remembrance Service was again well attended, expertly marshalled by Cllr Davies, and it was great to hear a piper close the ceremony.

At Christmas we held two events, a Christmas Fayre, and the annual Christmas Light Switch On. As with the previous year we had to move the Light Switch On inside due to the inclement weather, but it was enjoyed nonetheless by all who attended.

Finally, last week we ran the Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt on the Littleton Estate. Although not attended as well as previous years it was great to see so many happy kids arriving to see Elsa (from Frozen) and head off on the hunt for clues.

As a Parish Council, we have challenged ourselves to continue this excellent level of service during the forthcoming 12 months and continue to grow these events where possible.

The Huntington Litter Picking Group is still operational (into its fourth year now) and has been handed over to a local resident to run – albeit still supported by the Parish Council whenever required.

As you are probably aware, it is the Parish Council's responsibility to decide whether to increase the precept (the amount levied on local residents each year to be paid to the Parish to allow us to function and pay our staff). The difficult decision was made this year to increase the precept by just over 4%. In real terms this probably equates to an increase of a few pounds over the year per household. This was not a decision taken lightly especially in these difficult times. The extra monies we receive from the increase will help fund the events and services the Parish Council offer.

In summary, the Parish Council continues to grow and strive to offer a quality service for the residents of the village. We have some exciting plans for 2026-27 and cannot wait to see these become a reality.

Resolved

That the Chairmans Annual Report to the Parish was accepted as presented.

4/26) MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting held on 10th April 2025 were distributed and perused by those present. The Clerk confirmed that the minutes had been checked for accuracy by the Parish Council at their meeting in May 2025. Cllr L Davies proposed that the minutes be signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record. This was seconded by Cllr Bailey, and everyone agreed.

Resolved

That the minutes were a true and accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

5/26) QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

The Chairman invited questions from the Public.

There were no questions raised.

There being no other questions raised by the public, the Chairman closed the Annual Parish Meeting at 19.35 and thanked everyone for their attendance.

Signed _____

Date _____