

HUNSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Hunston Parish Council held on Wednesday 20 February 2013 in the Main Hall of Hunston Village Hall.

Present: Mr S Baker, Ms L Kenney (Chairman), Mr R Pagram

In Attendance: Mrs C Smith (Clerk), Mrs M Whitehead (WSSC – until 9.05pm),
Mrs T Tull (CDC – until 8.15pm), Mr D Sanders (WSSC - until 8pm),
PCSO J McQuillan (until 8pm), 2 members of the public

The meeting commenced at 7.05 pm

17/13C Questions/Comments from members of the public.

Mr Gareth Wright explained that he wanted to raise some traffic calming issues with the Parish Council. He referred specifically to Westlands Road which was now highly populated with young families. He expressed concern that cars had been seen driving very fast along the straight bit of the road. He commented that he had canvassed the views of all of the residents of Westlands Road regarding the input of speed bumps and signage. Details of the survey and results were circulated to Councillors. Mr Wright also highlighted the perils of the main road as well. Dan Sanders (WSSC) has also visited the site with Mr Wright and some options had been discussed.

Mr Sanders reported that he had spoken to a traffic engineer and the response was not good. There are set criteria for the implementation of some traffic calming measures.

Mr Wright stated that it would be good to be able to put up signage that the local children had created. Mr Sanders suggested that highways may be able to put in a pole upon which signage could be put. Mr Wright asked how quickly this could be implemented. It was agreed that the Parish Council would look at how it could help.

The Chairman highlighted other problems with traffic issues within Hunston. PCSO McQuillan suggested passing on vehicle number plates to the Police.

PCSO McQuillan gave a general report to the Council. This was his first attendance at a Parish Council meeting and he highlighted the villages that he covered. The Police can deal with obstruction on the highways and PCSO McQuillan highlighted the extent of his powers. He also highlighted the difficulties for the Police in having traffic calming measures such as speed bumps on the main road. He also mentioned the use of the Police speed guns.

PCSO McQuillan referred to the Police drop in clinic and said that he would be happy to set up a clinic in Hunston. He suggested it would be better to link in with events that take place in the Village Hall. It was suggested that PCSO McQuillan held clinics on the first Thursday of the month to tie in with the village lunch club. Other issues highlighted included hare coursing, deer coursing. The advice if anyone witnesses such events they should call 999. It was suggested that an article go in the newsletter.

In conclusion PCSO McQuillan reported that there had been a number of opportunistic thefts in the surrounding areas mostly from unlocked cars, sheds and garages. He suggested that residents were reminded to keep their property secure to avoid becoming victims themselves.

18/13C Dan Sanders, Principal Community Officer, West Sussex County Council.

Mr Sanders gave a brief overview of his role in the WSCC. He mentioned that some money had been found for small highways related projects locally and he had put the widening of the footpath between the playing field and Church Lane along with the replacement of the footpath outside the Post Office as priorities for the funding.

The Chairman suggested that although there had been a long wait for action on the footpath the hazardous nature of the area outside the Post Office should make that a priority. The Chairman asked whether it would be acceptable for a temporary resurfacing to be carried out by a local contractor. Mr Sanders advised against this because of any liability issues.

Options for making safe the area outside the Newsagents could include wooden looking bollards and railings. The possibility of putting in a lay-by and moving the bus stop was also raised with Mr Sanders.

Mr Sanders agreed to look at whether there were any Section 106 funds available for such a project.

Cllr Baker raised the question of whether one could apply for Section 106 funding for highways from developments that were outside of the local parish.

Mr Sanders agreed look at all the priorities raised to see if some funding can be obtained. Mrs Tull explained briefly how section 106 funding was looked after.

Mr Sanders explained that as the Community Officer a large proportion of the role involves Highways issues. He takes the concerns of the community to the Highways officers. He is currently compiling a community's issues list, a list of local concerns. He added that when consulted on future developments they would be able to review the list to ensure funding would be provided to deal with these issues. He requested that community issues were channelled through the County Councillor Mrs Whitehead.

There followed a brief discussion on the use and role of a Lengthsman and the Chairman explained the extent of the works that could be undertaken by a Lengthsman.

Mr Sanders suggested that this tied in with the County Council's Active Communities Service. The scheme could allow money that would have been spent by the County Council to be passed to the Parish who would then look at ways to undertake the work themselves. It was noted that service level agreements would be imposed with such funding.

Mr Sanders agreed to establish what level of funding would be available to Hunston Parish Council.

Mr Sanders also raised the issue of the canal path. He highlighted the use of the Community Payback Scheme which was using probationers to cut vegetation repair fences etc. This can be a regular resource. Mr Sanders was asked to check the ownership of the canal car park.

The Chairman thanked Mr Sanders for his contribution to the meeting.

19/13C District and County Councillor reports.

19.1 Mrs T Tull (District Councillor)

Mr Tull reported that the District Council was proposing a Council Tax increase £5 for Band D properties. The District Council had decided not to take the Government grant this year amid concerns that the grant may disappear and the Council would then have to impose a huge increase on taxpayers. The final decisions would be made by the full Council next week. Mrs Tull commented on enforcement of double yellow lines. She thought that it wasn't envisaged that yellow lines in rural areas would be enforced but agreed to clarify the situation.

19.2 Mrs M Whitehead (County Councillor)

Mrs Whitehead reported that the County Council had set its budget the previous week and it was agreed to not to impose any increases. The County Council will take advantage of the Government grant to try and keep council tax down.

Mrs Whitehead commented that she had tried to report the potholes in Orchardside but they had already been reported on three occasions.

The Chairman asked if temporary repairs could be undertaken by a local person to the pavement outside the Post Office. Mrs Whitehead advised against this as they may be liable if anyone trips.

20/13C Code of Conduct

20.1 Declarations of interest.

The Chairman and Cllr Baker declared an interest in Agenda Item 13 (Village Hall) as members of the Village Hall Management Committee.

20.2 Requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests.

There were no requests for dispensation.

20.3 Granting of any requests for dispensation as appropriate

None made.

21/13C Apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr Gregory and Cllr Bonthrone.

22/13C Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 16 January 2012.

The Chairman called for the approval of the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 16 January 2013. These were **AGREED** and the Chairman duly signed the Minutes as being a true record of the meeting.

23/13C Matters Arising from the Minutes of 16 January 2012.

There were no matters arising

24/13C Chairman's report.

The Chairman reported that she had been invited to the inaugural running of the new Gold 51 service to Selsey on 1 March 2013.

25/13C Ditches and surface water drains.

A report on the issues relating to ditches and drainage had previously been circulated. The Clerk highlighted the three main areas of concern; outside Hunston Chambers, Meadow Close and Church Lane.

It was suggested that Langmeads be requested to put in a drainage grate on the concreted entrance to the farm land on Church Lane. The Clerk was asked to write to Langmeads about the proposal.

There followed some discussion about the problems with drainage ditches and the responsibility for keeping them clear. It was noted that the land was owned by the Church Commissioners although most of it was tenanted.

Cllr Baker asked if there was a legal obligation for land owners to keep the ditches clear. It was noted that there was but it was increasing difficult to enforce.

The Chairman reported that she had requested a meeting with a number of people regarding the flooding issues but only Stuart Solliss had come forward.

It was agreed that something akin to the Lengthsman Scheme would be well received but that this may mean the Parish Council would have to consider

putting the precept up to cover costs. It was agreed that there was a need to establish what funding might be available and then talk to adjoining parishes. Cllr Baker suggested that the Parish Council should look at properly mapping the ditches throughout the village. The Chairman commented that Stuart Solliss had expressed an interest in assisting with this task.

The Chairman suggested that the Parish Council should also look at involving the Golf Club and Mr & Mrs Fleming in gaining support for encouraging land owners to take responsibility to help clear ditches.

The Clerk was asked to gauge interest in a joint scheme with adjoining parishes.

26/13C Foxbridge Drive Car Park.

A note had been circulated by Cllr Baker the contents of which were debated. Restricted access to the car park had been tried and had brought its own problems and it seemed that the Parish Council should either control access to the car park, giving residents keys or leave it open.

Cllr Baker suggested the problem with locking the car park was the haphazard opening and closing off the gate.

Problems with fisherman and visitors to Chichester using the car park and then not being able to get out when they returned were noted. It was noted that the canal car park was not extensively used. It was suggested that the Parish Council should look at making the canal car park a more desirable place to park. Perhaps looking at putting in another entrance to the car park along with removal of the litter to make it less attractive as a meeting place.

The Clerk reported that she had asked PCSO McQuillan to arrange for the removal of abandoned and untaxed cars from the car park. It was also noted that the DVLA can remove cars that are untaxed and have no SORN.

It was suggested that the Parish Council look at possibility of issuing parking permits. This would at the least identify vehicles that were not local residents. It was agreed to put an article in newsletter about the possibility of putting in permit parking.

27/13C Police drop in clinic.

It was noted that PCSO McQuillan had already agreed to a request for a drop in clinic and it was thought that to coincide with the Thursday lunch club would be a good starting point.

28/13C Parish Assembly.

The Chairman circulated copies of the proposed presentation for the Parish Assembly. It was agreed that Cllr Pagram would talk through the PowerPoint presentation. It was felt that the presentation was excellent.

Cllr Pagram suggested that consideration should be given to having a small microphone. It was agreed that the presentation should last about 10 minutes.

The Chairman also mentioned a meeting she had with the new divisional commander who agreed that Police presence would be there and also the Fire Brigade. Mrs Whitehead agreed to ask the SE Ambulance Service.

29/13C Village Hall.

Cllr Baker reported that work on the electrics was continuing and that there were some outstanding maintenance issues. The Clerk had been requested to ask the contractor to finish off the remaining work on the roof. It was noted that the

Village Hall management Committee AGM was being held in April.

30/13C Clerk's Report.

Stagecoach Buses

Stagecoach is launching an enhanced bus service on 1st March and will be showcasing their new vehicles along the route. They will be in Hunston at The Spotted Cow on Friday 1 March and hope that residents will come along, celebrate with them, see their new vehicles and find out more about their local bus service.

SALC

The February newsletter from the Sussex Association of Local Councils is attached for interest.

Training

Permission is sought for the Clerk to attend the conference being run by Hampshire ALC on the 7 March 2013. This may be useful in exploring ideas on how to more effectively engage with residents through a variety of different media. **RESOLVED** that the Clerk's attendance be approved.

Laptop & Software update

The Clerk requested that consideration be given to upgrading the Parish Council laptop and software. The laptop is now nearly 5 years old (purchased in July 2008). The computer is running quite slowly and often crashes – this takes up valuable time restarting it. The Laptop is running Windows Vista (there have been two updates since then Windows 7 & 8) and using Office 2007 (now Office 2013 is available). It was agreed that this would be looked at over the next couple of months.

Clerk's Holiday

The Clerk reminded Councillors that she would be away on holiday from 11 to 18 March 2013.

CDC Meeting with the Parishes

The Clerk reported that the next District Council meeting with the Parishes will be on Thursday 23 May at the District Council offices. Two Councillors are invited to attend.

31/13C Finance.

31.1 The Schedule of Payments and Receipts

RESOLVED that the payments listed in the schedule of payments and receipts totalling £2503.50 be made. See appendix 1 (February 2013)

31.2 The Financial Statement for February 2013

The Statement of Accounts up to 31 January 2013 was **APPROVED**. See appendix 2 (February 2013).

32/13C Items for noting or referral to a future meeting.

Risk assessments, appointment of the Internal Auditor,

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.28pm

Signed _____ Date _____
Chairman