

# HUNSTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17 April 2013 AT HUNSTON VILLAGE HALL

Present: Parish Council Ms L Kenney (Chairman), Mr S Baker,  
Mrs D Bonthron, Mr R Pagram  
Parish Residents 24  
County Councillor Mrs M Whitehead  
Police PCSO McQuillan  
SE Ambulance Services Steve Andrews

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm

**1. Welcome by the Chair of the Parish Council.**

The Chairman introduced herself to those who might not know her. She welcomed residents to the 2013 Parish Assembly and thanked them for taking the time out to attend the meeting this evening.

**2. Minutes from the Parish Assembly 18 April 2012**

The Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 18 April 2012 were approved by those present and the Chairman duly signed them as being a true record of that meeting.

**3. Parish Council report**

The Localism Bill continues to feature strongly in the Parish Council's agenda, and this year promises to be even more challenging as it has crystallised into Chichester District Council's Local Plan. How this affects all of us will be outlined to you in our main presentation this evening on Neighbourhood Planning.

However, there is one issue which is even more immediate. We find ourselves in a difficult position at the moment, because three of our Councillors have had to leave us recently for personal reasons. We really do need to recruit replacements as quickly as possible, as any absence from Parish Council meeting, planned or otherwise, puts us in the potential situation of not having a quorum in order to conduct our statutory and other business. I would urge any of those among you, or any of your friends and acquaintances who are not present tonight, who feel that you can give some time to the village in order to maintain a healthy and thriving Parish Council. To that end, you will see that there are three Councillor Profiles on display which should give you an idea of what to expect if you join us. Although we are technically the bottom layer of Local Government, we really can and do make a difference, and our voice is heard. Please do think about it very carefully, and if you do decide that you want to join us, please get in touch with Carol Smith, our invaluable Parish Clerk.

Finally, in keeping with tradition, the Chairman called upon the Parish Councillors, District Councillor and County Councillor to introduce themselves before proceeding with the rest of the evening's business.

#### 4. **Neighbourhood Planning**

Cllr Pagram gave a presentation on Neighbourhood Planning which is summarised below.

A Neighbourhood Plan (NP) is a new way of helping local communities to influence the planning of the area in which they live and work. It can be used to:

- Develop a shared vision for the neighbourhood
- Choose where future development should be built
- Identify and protect important green spaces
- Influence what new developments should look like

A Neighbourhood Plan cannot:

- Conflict with the strategic policies of the local Planning Authority at Chichester District Council
- Be used to prevent developments
- Be prepared by someone other than the Parish Council, with guidance from Chichester District Council

The Parish Council's vision for the future: In 20 year's time, using a Neighbourhood Plan, Hunston will continue to be a vibrant community which has retained its unique village identity. It will offer people of all ages a sustainable environment with good access to facilities and services, whilst providing a peaceful rural setting which has been developed in a planned and sympathetic way.

Issues that Hunston faces in any future development:

- Influencing where development would be, such that it enhances the village, and that the style of properties is in keeping with our rural location
- Promoting support for existing facilities – the retention of shops and other businesses
- Ensuring that infrastructure issues are addressed: roads, services, facilities and transport
- Protecting green space areas – the playing field, woodlands, the canal and agricultures
- Working towards the provision of safer cycle routes and footpaths
- Regenerating unused brown field sites and buildings for housing and businesses

The Process of creating and adopting a Neighbourhood Plan involves a number of steps.

Step 1: the Parish Council makes an application to Chichester District Council to be permitted to develop a Neighbourhood Plan

Step 2: a formal Consultation Process which we have to go through to achieve this permission.

Step 3: prepare a draft plan, based on the principles already outlined. Following this all residents would be consulted to get their views.

The question is: Would you like a village driven plan, or would you prefer what Chichester District Council may have in mind for you?

The Parish Council needs residents to get involved by: Volunteering to help with fact finding, becoming part of an active working group to write the Neighbourhood Plan, helping out on Referendum Day. Once we are sure that as many voices as possible have been heard, a referendum of all electors would be held to get the Neighbourhood Plan formally adopted.

The process is not a short one – it could take up to 2 years to produce an effective Neighbourhood Plan, but there is no time limit.

Now is our opportunity to get the future of our community right!

The Chairman added that the Neighbourhood Plan was not just about housing but that it was important to look at the regeneration of small businesses. In these tough times it was important to encourage the young people to be entrepreneurial and alongside this they may need office space or workshops that could also be provided for within a Neighbourhood Plan.

Questions were invited.

Q. What area would a Neighbourhood Plan cover?

A. The plan covers everywhere within the Parish Boundary.

Q. Would we have a better chance of having the Plan accepted if we focused on sites already identified by the District Council as suitable for housing?

A. It certainly wouldn't hurt, but it is important that the residents decide where they wanted development to take place.

Q. Is it possible to look at the problems with sewerage?

A. Yes, all aspects of infrastructure will be examined when developing the plan.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their comments adding that as part of the exercise the Parish Council would also be talking to adjoining parishes and others on the Peninsula to ensure there was continuity between each parishes Neighbourhood Plan.

## **5. Village Hall**

Steve Baker, Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee an update on matters related to the Hall.

Thanks to the very generous financial support of the Parish Council and with some of our own funds we were able to completely replace the flat roof covering the areas to the rear of the Hall and the Community Club. Unfortunately the roof had reached the end of its lifetime and had it not been for the Parish Council we would have faced a very difficult challenge in trying to fund this. Since then we have put in place proper measures so that the Village Hall Management Committee can fund this sort of work in the future.

We have also carried out redecoration to some areas and had some of the old wiring replaced.

The Parish Council also purchased the modular staging for the Hall which is available to any users. This has been particularly helpful to the annual pantomime that has been put on by a local volunteer group in the last couple of years.

We are very grateful to our regular users for their continuing support and also those in the community who choose to hire the hall for their family and other functions.

As a Committee we will continue to carry out improvements and essential maintenance to the Hall whenever we can as it is a very valuable asset to the community and one that, as custodians of, we must protect for future generations.

**6. Residents Questions**

- Q. A resident raised the issue of the B2145 from the A27 to the North Mundham roundabout. He expressed concerns about speeding, volume of traffic and the lack of a bus shelter.
- A. The problems surrounding changing a speed limit were explained and the PCSO agreed to try and facilitate some formal Police speed checks along that stretch of road.
  
- Q. A resident asked if anything was going to be done about the Selsey Tram footpath which had recently been decimated by Southern Electric contractors undertaking maintenance work.
- A. A footpath ranger was due to inspect the path shortly and would report back. In the meantime residents could write to the Rights of Way Team at the County Council if they wanted to complain further.
  
- Q. A resident asked when the bonfire debris would be cleared and expressed concern about the amount of glass still lying around.
- A. Three attempts had been made to get the digger in to clear the bonfire. Unfortunately because of the amount of rainfall the water table was still too high and the field was too soft to allow the equipment in. It was noted that the area had been fenced off and as soon as it was possible to undertake clearance this would happen.
  
- Q. Several residents raised the issue of the amount of dog poo that was lying around and the general lack of any policing of owners to ensure they cleared up after their dogs.
- A. It was agreed that further advice would go in the newsletter and posters would be made available in the worst hit areas.

A resident thanked the Parish Council for all their hard work on behalf of the residents of Hunston.

Other items raised by residents included a missing cycle path sign, the expected date for fibre optic broad band to be available and the state of the roads where they had been dug up by service companies undertaking work.

Steve Andrews from the South East Coast Ambulance Service gave a quick update on matters relating to the service. This included the new central Ambulance Centre proposed in Tangmere and the number of call outs and the response times for the Hunston/Sidlesham villages.

There being no further questions the Chairman declared the meeting closed and invited residents to partake of the refreshments provided.

Signed:.....  
Chairman  
Hunston Parish Council

Date:.....