

HUNSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Hunston Parish Council held on Wednesday 5 November 2014 in Hunston Village Hall.

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

In attendance: Mrs C Smith (Clerk), Mrs M Evans (WSCC - until 7.50pm),
Mrs T Tull (CDC – until 7.40pm)
Ms J Reeve (MWLG)

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm

134/14C Questions/Comments from members of the public.

Jane Reeve introduced herself as the Water Vole Project Manager. Her role included looking at managing flood water by looking after the ditches. She works with land owners and farmers on understanding how drainage works within the peninsula.

Ms Reeve had been asked to look at flooding issues on Church Lane. She briefly explained the work that had been undertaken around the pond. As a result of the clearance it has been discovered that the ditch from the culvert that Highways have recently replaced is sloping upwards thereby making it ineffective in its purpose. She suggested that an application was made for Operation Watershed funding to help solve the problems. She has already spoken to Peter Smith (WSCC) and the scheme is a relatively simple one and would be funded. The task is to clear the ditches on both sides of Church Lane, remove a large willow tree which has fallen into the ditch as well as digging out the ditch that runs from the pond to the rife along the main road. She also highlighted an issue with the access point for Langmeads which is not draining correctly. Ms Reeve has volunteered to apply for the funding and to co-ordinate the work including contacting the affected farmers and Strutt and Parker as agents for the Church Commissioners. She hoped that the funding would come forward before Christmas and the work would be carried out in January or February.

The Parish Council expressed thanks to Ms Reeve and her team of volunteers who had undertaken a fantastic job on the Pond. The Parish Council also accepted Ms Reeve's offer to co-ordinate the funding application and resulting work.

Ms Reeve then left the meeting.

135/14C Co-option of Councillors.

No-one had come forward. Cllr Solliss suggested that there might be someone willing to come forward at the December meeting.

136/14C District and County Councillor reports.

136.1 Mrs T Tull (District Councillor)

Mrs Tull reported that as the result of an enquiry from the Clerk she had asked about the why the new houses at Foxbridge were now all affordable homes. She explained that the District Council could only deal with the planning side of development and that if a developer chose to sell the site to a Social Housing provider that was outside of their remit.

There is a high demand for affordable housing in Hunston with 38 on the register with local connection. She reiterated that the District Council would be able to influence the nominations put forward.

The Parish Council expressed concerns that comments on the application were made based on the plans presented and that had it or local residents been aware of the eventual outcome responses to the application may have been vastly different. Mrs Tull appreciated this and this had been relayed to the Planning Officers.

Mrs Tull also reported that the District Council Planning Committee were meeting the following week to discuss the horticultural application at Runcton.

136.2

Mrs M Evans (County Councillor)

The campaign for improvements to the A27 continues. Minister John Hayes MP has been to look at the problems. There is still competition from other schemes throughout the Country.

The handover of musculoskeletal (MSK) services from the public to the private sector has been delayed until 1 April next year while an independent impact assessment is carried out.

The County Council is reviewing its safeguarding children policies after the Rotherham incident and a new Chairman has been appointed to the board.

Mrs Evans advised that Flu jabs were free to children under 4, those with a long term illness and the over 65s.

She also advised that the sooner parents applied for school places the more likely they were to get the school of their choice for their children.

This week is also Anti bullying week and the County Council was working closely with schools to eradicate this problem.

Mrs Evans advised that she hoped that work on the pavement outside the Post Office was due to take place at the end of the month.

The Chairman gave thanks to Mrs Evans for her help in having the barrier across the end of the village hall car park removed.

137/14C

Code of Conduct

137.1

Declarations of interest from Councillors on items on the agenda.

The Chairman and Cllr Baker declared an interest in Agenda Item 11 (Village Hall) as members of the Village Hall Management Committee.

Cllr Solliss declared an interest in Agenda Item 13 (Finance) as he had connections with the PTA.

137.2

Requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests.

None

138/14C

Apologies for absence.

There were no apologies for absence.

139/14C

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 1 October 2014.

The Chairman called for the approval of the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 1 October 2014. These were **AGREED** and the Chairman duly signed the Minutes as being a true record of the meeting.

140/14C

Matters Arising from the Minutes of 1 October 2014.

None

141/14C

Chairman's Report.

The Chairman reported that it had been a hectic month and she gave a brief overview of those meetings.

She highlighted;

The use of Military and Community covenants designed to help military personnel integrate back into their local community.

The proposed Council Award Scheme which is due to replace the old Quality Council scheme.

The relationship between Parishes and Sussex Police.

Parish Councils are being urged to increase their Precepts to cover the shortfall in grant monies from District and Borough Councils. This is to ensure that they can continue to deliver the necessary services to residents.

The debate held at the National Association of Local Councils AGM which focused on improving communications between Parish Councils and their residents, including the use of Facebook and Twitter.

At the conference on 30 October a number of key topics were covered including, Neighbourhood Plans, winter management plans, youth and elderly provision.

142/14C Updates on ongoing projects.

142.1 Neighbourhood Plan

The questionnaire has now been finalised and the Clerk is in the process of formatting this so that it can be distributed to residents and local businesses. The process of setting up the questionnaire on the website will be finalised once the annual fee is paid.

The Clerk reported that an email request to attend a meeting had been received from Holly Nichol (Assistant Rural Housing Officer – CDC). She wished to discuss Hunston's housing needs and the different delivery methods that could be included within the Neighbourhood Plan.

In addition a letter has been received from Henry Adams Planning Ltd regarding a site for development for inclusion in the Neighbourhood Plan. Councillors expressed concern about the water course that goes into the field identified as well as safe access onto the B2145 from the site. It was agreed to pass this onto the neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

142.2 Additional meeting room

The application for a new meeting room at the back of the hall was validated in October and indications are that this might be approved later this month. An application is being sent to Shona Archer for funding from the Section 106 monies being held by the District Council.

142.3 Pond clearance

About 20 people turned up to help with the Pond clearance in October. Most of these were The Conservation Trust volunteers although Cllr Solliss and three other residents did come and assist. There is further work to do and this will be co-ordinated by Jane Reeve.

142.4 Manhood Stakeholder meeting

The Chairman and Cllr Solliss attended this meeting with Engineers from CH2M working on behalf of WSCC. There had been meetings arranged with every Parish Council on the Peninsula. The Engineers were extracting information about water courses ditches and road drains. This information will be transferred to a map from which they will formulate a Water course Management Plan. It is understood that site visits have been arranged for November to enable the Engineers to view the problem areas raised by the parishes.

142.5 Traffic Survey

Cllr Solliss reported that the fee for Mr Hamilton-Baillie to undertake a traffic survey is £800 not including VAT or travel costs. His plan will be to arrive mid-morning and to walk the route from North Mundham School to Oakview. He would

take photos and sketch out ideas for possible treatments of the road to improve traffic speed. He would then present his report to the Parish Council and any other relevant people. There was some discussion on the types of traffic calming measures Mr Hamilton-Baillie had suggested for other villages. Cllr Solliss reported that he had also spoken to the Chair of North Mundham Parish Council about the possible visit.

RESOLVED that Cllr Solliss be authorised to confirm to Mr Hamilton-Baillie that the Parish Council would engage him to undertake a traffic Survey.

Once possible dates for the visit had been provided the Parish Council would arrange via Mrs Evans (County Councillor) suitable Highways Officials to attend the presentation.

143/14C Traffic Regulation Order for 30 and 40mph speed limits on the B2145, Sidlesham and adjoining roads.

Details of the consultation on the proposed TRO had been circulated to Councillors. It was suggested that the Parish Council should push for the new 40mph speed limit to be extended from just past Jury Lane up to the Hunston 30 mph speed limit. This would help vehicles trying to access the B2145 from Green Lane, the golf course and local residents do so safely.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council would respond requesting the 40mph limit was extended not just past Jury Lane but all the way up to the Hunston 30mph limit.

It was noted that Mrs Evans (County Councillor) had agreed to support the request.

144/14C Village Hall

Nothing to report

145/14C Clerk's Report

Selsey Neighbourhood Plan

The Selsey Neighbourhood Plan is now open for consultation and the Parish Council has an opportunity to comment on this until 1 December 2014.

It was agreed that the Clerk would send the link through to Councillors and that the Chairman would co-ordinate any response.

Parish Council Elections

The next Parish Council elections will be held on 7 May 2015 and all current parish councillors will formally retire on 11 May 2015. Should a casual vacancy occur after 11 November 2014 then the Parish Council has two options. The first option is not to fill the vacancy and await the election of parish councillors on 7 May 2015. The second option is for the Parish Council to decide to try and fill the vacancy. The Parish Council is not obliged to fill the vacancy. Should the Parish Council fill the vacancy under this option the person co-opted should be informed that they will only serve until 11 May 2015. Should they wish to stand after that date they will need to take part in the nomination process which will commence in March 2015.

What makes the Peninsula Special

The Clerk reminded Councillors that they had agreed to attend this event on Thursday 6 November. Full details of the event were circulated.

Winter Plans

West Sussex County Council will have new webpages on its website at www.westsussex.gov.uk/snow from mid to late November, where residents can find out more about how to cope in snow and ice conditions. You can look up

which roads the County Council is able to grit, read about how the County Council prepares in the event of bad weather, and also about what you can do. It was agreed that once the information as available to publicise this on the Parish Council website.

Sussex Police Crime Commissioner

Katy Bourne the PCC is consulting widely on whether to increase the Police Precept in 2015. Full details of the consultation will be put onto the Parish Council website.

Newsletter

It was agreed that the Parish Council was overdue producing a newsletter. Articles would include the Pond restoration work and the need for people to come forward as Councillors.

146/14C

Finance.

146.1

Grant/donation requests

A request for a donation has been received from North Mundham Primary School PTA.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council makes a donation of £150.00

146.2

Schedule of Payments and Receipts

RESOLVED that the payments listed in the schedule of payments and receipts totalling £6860.42 be made. See appendix 1 (November 2014).

146.3

Financial Statement for November 2014

The Statement of Accounts up to 31 October 2014 was **APPROVED**.
See appendix 2 (November 2014)

The Clerk advised Councillors that the first draft of the budget for 2015/16 would be presented at the December meeting and that the Parish Council should give some thought to the projects that it wished to undertake and potential costs so that a budget could be properly prepared.

147/14C

Items for noting or referral to a future meeting.

2015/16 Budget, Bonfire night, Councillor Recruitment

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.20pm

Signed _____ Date _____
Chairman