

HUNSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of an Environment Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 22 July 2015 at 6.30 pm in Hunston Village Hall.

Present: Mr S Baker, Mr K Furlong, Ms L Kenney (Chairman)
Mr S Solliss.

In attendance: Mrs C Smith (Clerk)

1/15E Election of the Committee Chairman for 2015/16.

Cllr Kenney was proposed and seconded as Chairman of the Environment Committee.

RESOLVED that Cllr Kenney be elected as Chairman of the Environment Committee for the ensuing Council year.

2/15E Questions/Comments from members of the public.

None.

3/15E Apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr Delaney-Beckford.

4/15E Declarations of Interest.

None.

5/15E Updates

5.1 Traffic calming

Since the Annual Parish Meeting nothing has happened. Councillors were updated on a number of traffic calming issues that had been previously raised with the County Council. These included; the footpath from the canal car park to the new footbridge over the A27, the area around the shops and a crossing by the village hall. It was noted that Sustrans who were involved in matters relating to cycle routes were experiencing funding issues at the present time.

Comments were made about the new hardstanding area that had appeared adjacent to the work on the footbridge. The Clerk reported that this area had been earmarked for gravel extraction and the hardstanding area may well be related to access.

It was reported that Mr Hamilton-Ballie who had provided the Parish Council with options relating to traffic calming had been on breakfast television recently explaining his work. It is understood that visually impaired people had expressed some concern about his ideas as they bore heavy reliance on raised kerbs and differentiating surfaces to get around.

Key road crossing points requiring action were identified as; outside the village hall, outside the shops and near the canal bend.

There was some discussion around the variation of speed limits from the A27 down to Selsey and that there was no consistency along the route. Recent changes to the speed limits in Sidlesham had not included the stretch of road up to Hunston as requested.

A number of things can be done to differentiate between speed limits. The speed activation sign on College Lane in Chichester was mentioned as an option.

Areas where there were no footpaths were also identified as being a problem. The area around the Golf Club was discussed in detail. The latest developments at the Golf Club had attracted a greater number of visitors who travelled by public transport. Neither of the bus stops closest to the Golf Club were considered safe and it was noted that pedestrians had to walk along the road to get to the Golf Club. It was suggested that the bus stops be moved closer to the Golf Club entrance to avoid pedestrians having to walk too far along the busy road.

RESOLVED that the Clerk be requested to write to Stagecoach in the first instance to ascertain if it would be possible to move the bus stops on both sides of the road nearer to the Golf Club entrance.

Further discussion took place on the types of crossing that were available and also their related costs. It was noted that a full pedestrian crossing could cost upwards of £30,000 but there were a number of other types of crossings that might not cost as much.

It was reported that in the Neighbourhood Plan survey many residents had expressed a desire for a proper crossing by the village hall.

It was agreed that Councillors would formulate a wish list of traffic calming measures which would be co-ordinated by the Clerk. The Clerk was also asked to try and arrange a meeting with Key County Council personnel before the next meeting of the Environment Committee.

The Clerk was also asked to try and establish whether there was a registered owner of the canal car park.

5.2 Ditches and flooding

The Council currently holds around £8,000 in Operation Watershed funding which was earmarked for clearance work around the pond on Church Lane, including the removal of a Willow Tree within the ditch. This work was scheduled to take place in October and would be overseen by Jane Reeve, Manhood Wildlife Officer.

It was noted that in future years the village may have to have volunteers to undertake maintenance work on pond. After this work is completed problems in Church Lane should disappear. Future projects may include the pond behind the church and the rife along the main road.

The extensive work of Bolney Parish Council and its army of willing volunteers was highlighted. It was thought that it might be possible to secure additional funding for work that could be undertaken by volunteers.

RESOLVED that the Clerk be asked to write to Strutt & Parker and Langmeads to find out what arrangements are in place to keep ditches clear over the winter months.

It was felt that keeping the pond clear could become a community even if other ditches remained the responsibility of landowners/tenants.

The Clerk was asked to chase up the outstanding report from the Manhood surface water management plan research carried out earlier in the year.

5.3 Cycle routes

The most important route was considered to be from Hunston to North Mundham. Additions were highlighted as an extension of the existing cycle path. The proposed addition would need to cut through car park of the pupil referral unit at Fletcher Place.

6/15E Other matters that may be appropriate for the remit of the Environment Committee

The importance of keeping vegetation cut back along the footpaths through the village was noted. It was generally felt that the current schedule of undertaking work twice a year was insufficient. It was agreed that the Council may need to look at organising community projects to keep the vegetation under control.

The Clerk was asked to add Footpaths and tree management to the next Agenda.

7/15E Terms of Reference for submission to the Parish Council.

It was agreed that the Terms of Reference as presented should be put to the Parish Council for adoption.

8/15E Date of the next meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 2 September 2015.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 7.50pm

Signed _____ Date _____
Chairman