

HUNSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Hunston Parish Council held on Wednesday 29 June 2016 in the Annexe at the rear of Hunston Village Hall.

Present: Mr S Baker (Chairman), Mrs S Gregory, Mr S Solliss

In attendance: Mrs C Smith (Clerk)

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm

56/16C Questions/Comments from members of the public.

None

57/16C District and County Councillor reports.

57.1 Mrs T Tull (District Councillor)

Mrs Tull was unable to attend the meeting.

57.2 Mrs M Evans (County Councillor)

Mrs Evans was unable to attend the meeting and had sent in a report by email.

There is more funding available in the Operation Watershed pot. The problems with the Ambulance Service will be discussed at tomorrow afternoon's Health and Adult's Services Select Committee - 2.15pm in Committee Room 3 at County Hall if anyone is interested in attending.

There are still no definite dates for the A27 consultation, although the consultation period is likely to be for 10 weeks.

58/16C Co-option of a Councillor.

Item deferred.

59/16C Code of Conduct.

59.1 Declarations of interest.

None.

59.2 Requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests.

None made.

60/16C Apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr Furlong.

61/16C Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting of 18 May 2106.

The Chairman called for the approval of the Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on 18 May 2016. These were **APPROVED** and the Chairman duly signed the Minutes as being a true record of the meeting.

62/16C Matters Arising from the Minutes of 18 May 2016.

It was noted that there was a need to remove past signatories from the bank mandate and the relevant form was duly signed.

63/16C Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting on 25 May 2016

The Chairman called for the approval of the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 25 May 2016. These were **APPROVED** and the Chairman duly signed the Minutes as being a true record of the meeting.

64/16C Annual Parish Meeting review.

The Clerk reported that she had now set up a Community Speedwatch group and training for those who has expressed an interest would be schedule as soon as possible.

Traffic calming measures were discussed. It was agreed to look at the option of putting in a village gateway. The Parish Council would review funding and an assessment of where the gates could be effectively positioned.

It was noted that in assessing the Free School application, Highways Officers had agreed to look at the provision of a 30mph speed limit from the A27 to the North Mundham roundabout. The Parish Council agreed to push for this to be extending into Hunston to the existing 30mph limits. In any event it was certain that the speed limit would be reduced to 40mph and if this were the result then this would also be pushed to extend to the 30mph limit in Hunston.

The Parish Council also agreed to explore sources of funding to undertake other measures such as reinstatement of coloured tarmac and road roundels.

It was agreed that the Parish Council priorities for the village should be, the provision of a light controlled crossing outside the village hall alongside the village gateways. It was noted that should funding not be available for the light controlled crossing a zebra crossing may be pursued. It was noted that next on the list should be a safe crossing by the canal corner, particularly if the footpath from the canal northwards is upgraded to include access to the Free School.

It was noted that there have been a few more visitors to annexe since the meeting.

It was agreed that it was important to start work on the hardcourt area as soon as possible. Councillors agreed to contact suitable suppliers to provide options for the site. It was noted that quotations for any project would be required before any funding could be sought.

The Chairman also agreed to contact Highways Officer to investigate the possibility of putting in crosshatching and file in turn signs on the North Mundham roundabout.

65/16C Road Verges.

It was noted that several residents had been to the Annexe to complain about the state of the verges and footpaths. The state of the footpaths has been reported to the County Council. The problems with grass cutting were not specific to Hunston but were county wide. It was felt that this was largely due to funding cuts. Currently Highways undertake 7 cuts per year in urban areas and 4 in rural area. It was agreed that there were areas locally where the grass was so long it made visibility at some junctions difficult. Where verges had been cut these areas were left looking untidy.

With the demise of the Highways Rangers the Parish Council recognised that it was very near the point at which it needed to consider taking on these functions through the village. It was agreed that should the Parish Council budget in future years for these tasks they should be done by a contractor rather than by volunteers because of the issues with health and safety, insurance, storage of equipment and the availability of volunteers.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council would seek a meeting with the relevant Highways Officers to establish what options were available and whether any funding may be forthcoming should the Parish Council take over responsibility for these issues.

In the meantime, it was agreed that the Parish Council should seek some idea of costs from a number of contractors.

It was noted that the newly acquired area behind Outram Way was now also very overgrown and in need of some work.

66/16C A27 proposals.

Graeme Barrett (District Councillor – the Witterings) has been pushing forward a letter produced by West Wittering Parish Council to be copied and sent to the Secretary for State. Some Councils have already done this and had responses. The latest response from the Department for Transport in response to this letter had been circulated to Councillors. It had been suggested that Hunston Parish Council also sends a copy of this letter. There was some discussion on the information that had been made available to date and there was concern that all of the leaked options were not likely to be forthcoming despite a huge amount of taxpayers money being spent on the proposals. The merits of the north and south options were debated.

The Clerk reported that Highways England had booked North Mundham Village hall on Saturday 6 August 2016 and therefore the consultation was imminent. Councillors expressed concern that the options would only provide short term solutions coupled with the maximum amount of disruption.

Given that the proposed letter from Mr Barrett had already been responded to by the Department for transport it was agreed that Cllr Solliss would contact Mr Barrett for advice on action that the Parish Council could take.

The Chairman reported that at a recent networking event the questions on new development and traffic issues were raised. It was noted the Highways Officers never seem to see a problem with traffic issues for any development. It transpires that planning guidelines they are required to look at developments on an individual basis. Therefore, the cumulative effect is never a consideration.

67/16C Newsletter.

Some items had been submitted to the Clerk. In addition, Cllr Gregory was to provide a spotlight profile on a member of the community and Cllr Baker would provide articles on new Councillors and communication. All articles to be passed to the clerk by the end of the following week. It was noted that the Council's Facebook page was now up and running.

68/16C Neighbourhood Plan.

The Chairman had looked at the stages involved and with the questionnaire completed suggested it was time to start looking at developing policies.

The Clerk had made further contact with Planning Consultants rCOH Ltd and was awaiting a call back. It was noted that should the Consultants be willing to come and give guidance to the Parish Council that North Mundham parish Council had expressed an interest in being part of the workshop.

It was agreed that the Chairman would contact the original steering group members and reconvene a meeting to provide an update.

69/16C Playground/playing field.

The Clerk reported several issues with the play equipment and surrounding. It was agreed to go back to the equipment providers for advice on how to deal with the repairs required and where appropriate an estimate of costs for any remedial work.

It was also reported that the Football Club had refused to pay the second instalment of

the hire fee in accordance with their agreement. The Club had complained that the grass cutting schedule had not been adhered to and that no maintenance work had taken place. It was agreed that the grass contractors would be asked again to terraspikes the football pitch and some work on the worn areas would take place in July. There was concern that the Football Club were refusing to pay and after some discussion it was agreed that the club should be advised that they had signed an agreement to make payments twice a year and that they had not done this. The money that they paid to use the field would be used to carry out any necessary maintenance and therefore if they were not going to honor the payments then it would not be possible to carry out any additional maintenance. As the club were refusing to make the agreed payments the Parish Council agreed that it would inform the club that it was inclined not to renew the agreement when it runs out in 2017. It was agreed that the Clerk and the Chairman would provide a more detailed response to the Football Club.

70/16C Clerk's Report

Nothing additional to report.

71/16C Finance.

71.1 The Queen's 90th birthday grant

Councillors were reminded that a grant of £250 had been approved from the District Council to fund an activity celebrating the Queen's 90th birthday. It was suggested that a village tea party be hosted in the village hall. It was agreed to ask the WI and Lunch Club and Church if they would like to be involved. Details of the event would be put in the newsletter. Access would be by ticket only but these would be issued on request, free of charge. All tickets would be put into a raffle with one winner being drawn at the event. It was agreed that the event would take place on Sunday 4 September in the afternoon.

71.2 Notice of changes to the national Salary Scales effective 1 April 2016.

It was **NOTED** that the pay scale award had been published for 2016/17 and was to be back dated to 1st April 2016. The notification had also been received for 2017/18.

It was noted that it had been some time since an annual appraisal had been completed for the Clerk and the Chairman would undertake this task.

71.3 Schedule of Payments and Receipts

RESOLVED that the payments listed in the Schedule of Payments and Receipts totalling £5448.87 be made. (see appendix 1 – June 2016)

71.4 Financial Statement for June 2016

The statement of accounts up to 29 June 2016 was **APPROVED** and Cllr Gregory duly signed off the bank statement and bank reconciliation.

72/16C Items for noting or referral to a future meeting.

As the Chairman would be unavailable to attend a meeting on 27 July it was suggested that the meeting be moved to 20 July. The Clerk would ascertain which date was most suitable for all other Councillors.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.42pm

Signed _____ Date _____
Chairman

