

MINUTES

HUNTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT HUNTLEY VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY 3rd SEPTEMBER 2024 AT 7.30pm

Attendees: Councillors: J. Green (Chair), I. Walker, J. Croxall, M. Evans, T. Hill, R. Watkins and A. Wood.

Present: Mr L Williams (Clerk), District Cllr John Francis and up to 4 members of the public (MoP). The meeting started at 7.30pm.

1. **MEMBERS' INTERESTS RELATING TO ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA** – Cllr R Watkins, Items 7A and 8A(d). Book signed.

2. **APOLOGIES** – Received from County Cllr Phil Robinson & District Cllr. Dave Tradgett.

3. **Members of the public, District and County councillors will be invited to address the council at this time.**

Matt Reid, a parishioner, spoke about his role as an NHS Community First Responder and mentioned a shortage of funds to secure dedicated equipment for the local area. It was agreed to consider grant funding at a future meeting.

Cllr Francis reported a largely quiet month but advised that the policy of the new government meant that district housing allocations were being looked at and the Local Plan will be revisited with implications for the NDP.

One MoP asked about a recent unsuccessful planning application and potential solutions. Suitable advice was given.

The clerk added that MoPs had contacted him recently about the overgrown bus stop opposite General Garage and overgrowth affecting the public footpath from Newent Lane towards the school. The bus stop issue has been reported via Fix My Street, the footpath was cleared today by Cllr Watkins.

4. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** – Members **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd July 2024 formed accurate records of the events and they were signed by the chairman.

5. **CLERK'S REPORT** – The report was accepted.

6. **ACTION LOG** – Members **accepted** the Action Log which was discussed with explanations. Key **new** points re:

3. Play Area – Agenda item 14;

10. Tree Planting – Can be merged with Item 16 and closed;

16. Ecological Projects – (i) The bulbs have arrived, planting event agreed for 12th October; (ii) Cllr Wood confirmed that spending had already been approved on bird and bat nesting boxes which he will commission; (iii) The clerk now has a list of the different species of trees offered under the GCC scheme. It was

agreed that Cllr Hill will advise what to order for each site.

21. Allotments – Agenda Item 11.

7. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

A. **Received** – P0979/24/FUL 1 Pauls Walk, Huntley, GL19 3SF. Replacement of bow window at front elevation with bay window. There were no objections. Cllr Watkins did not vote on this matter.

B. **Dealt with Between Meetings** – (i) P0664/24/FUL, P066524LBC The Red Lion, North Road, Huntley, GL19 3DY. (Listed building consent) for conversion of barn into living accommodation. In the light of a lack of detail within the application, and no apparent will at FoDDC Planning to confront the issue, there was no realistic alternative to submitting an **Objection**.

(ii) P0707/24/FUL Poplars Cottage, Tibberton Lane, Huntley, GL19 3DY. Replacement of existing conservatory with games room/gym. Erection of detached garage and associated works. Members indicated **no objections**. Permission **granted** on 21st August 2024.

C. **Decided Since Last Meeting** – (i) P0700/24/LBC The Old Rectory, Main Road, Huntley, GL19 3DZ. Listed building consent for replacement of existing oil boiler. Permission **granted** on 9th August 2024.

(ii) P0701/24/LBC The Old Rectory, Main Road, Huntley, GL19 3DZ. Listed building consent for repositioning of existing house sign from front wall to side entrance wall, replacement house sign to left hand side of front door. Permission **granted** on 9th August 2024.

(iii) P0499/24/FUL 6 Newton Close, Huntley, GL19 3HN. Erection of a single storey side extension. Demolition of existing carport. Permission **granted** on 18th July 2024.

(iv) P0283/24/FUL 75 Oak Way, Huntley, GL19 3SD. Erection of a two storey side extension. Permission **granted** on 1st July 2024.

(v) P0581/24/FUL 21 Lambourne Avenue, Huntley, GL19 3HW. Relocation of existing oil tank to front elevation (retrospective). Refused on 20th August 2024.

D. **Withdrawn Since Last Meeting** – None.

E. **Appeals** – None.

F. **Enforcement Issues** – No updates forthcoming.

G. **NDP** – Members **received and accepted** the most recent NDP update.

8. **FINANCE** – Members **accepted** the parish account balances, **authorised** payments and noted receipts as detailed.

(a)	Statement of Accounts as at 29 th August 2024		
	Deposit Account	£	21,342.22
	Treasurers Account	£	393.00
	Defibrillator Account	£	1,124.22

	Play Area Ringfenced Funds Account	£	15,760.83
(b)	Grant Applications - Section 137 of Local Government Act 1972		Nil
(c)	Adverse variance to budget (>£10)		No Report
(d)	To note payment made between meetings		None
(e)	BACS Payments for Approval		
	Clerk's Wages	£	500.05
	HMRC Re Above	£	118.40
	Clerk's Expenses (As per report)	£	9.88
	E Tustin (Bulbs)	£	77.99
	Tindle Newspapers (Adverts)	£	120.00
	R Watkins (Bus stops etc 3,4/23-24 & 1,2/24-25	£	1,040.00
	AM Groundcare Ltd (Grass Cutting)	£	1,065.31
	Pet Waste Solutions Ltd (Dog Bins x 2)	£	86.40
	Huntley Cricket Club (Room Hire)	£	30.00
(f)	To note budgeted payments made in August		
	Quedgeley Computer Solutions (NDP Website)	£	60.00
	Clerk's Wages	£	500.05
	HMRC Re Above	£	118.40
	Huntley Village Hall (Room Hire, July)	£	25.00*
	AM Groundcare Ltd (Grass Cutting + VAR from 23/24)	£	2,684.71
	M. Mills (Internal Audit)	£	90.00
	Pet Waste Solutions Ltd (Dog Bins x 2)	£	86.40
(g)	Payments made between meetings		
	Community Heartbeat Trust (AEB battery)	£	357.00
(h)	Income Received – Since 27th June 2024		
	19/08 Allotment Rent	£	10.00
	28/08 Gloucestershire CC (BBB Grant, playpark)	£	3,000.00
	09/08 Bank Interest	£	49.33
	09/07 Bank Interest	£	41.50

* = Overpaid in error. September's bill will be adjusted.

9. **CCTV POLICY** – It was resolved that the CCTV Policy would be **retained**.
10. **BIO-DIVERSITY POLICY** – It was resolved that the draft bio-diversity policy would be **adopted**. This will be reviewed in 12 months or sooner if legislation or other circumstances necessitate an earlier review.
11. **ALLOTMENTS** – The clerk updated members regarding actions and departures. The only plot in need of immediate ongoing action was agreed to be 18b. **Action:** Clerk to write to tenant to advise that eviction will be considered unless the plot is improved.
12. **TREES** – After discussion it was agreed that council owned trees in Sunset Place and the allotments need to be pruned as well as the pine growing over a memorial bench near the village hall. **Action:** Cllr Hill will contact contractor Rob King and instruct to carry out the works.
13. **GRASS CUTTING** – The suggested Grass Cutting Contract(s), to run from March 2025 had been circulated. After discussion it was agreed:

- (i) The maximum length of the grass on the football pitch should be 3cms after a cut;
- (ii) No pesticides should be used during windy or wet conditions, and;
- (iii) Areas where there are bulbs should not be cut for six weeks after flowering.
14. **PLAY AREA** – After a brief discussion it was agreed to delay a decision regarding which resolve roundabout to buy, along with installation arrangements, until a future meeting.
15. **RECREATION GROUND** – Permission was agreed for the installation of a bench in memory of the late Joan Holford. It is understood that it will be situated close to the village hall.
16. **STREET TRADING** – Street Trading Consent Variation Consultation - F/24/00465/STC in respect of Fabioni's Pizza, trading from General Garage, Ross Road, Huntley. There were **no objections**. It was suggested that the rear car park may be the best location to use.
17. **HUNTLEY HEADLINES** – It was agreed that the following should be included in the September edition:
1. Red Lion and Village Hall events;
 2. Neighbourhood Watch AGM;
 3. Planned road closures;
 4. NHS First Responder information;
 5. Spring bulb planting;
 6. Help to apply for pension credit;
 7. Newent & Gorsley Juniors FC.
18. **MEETINGS/TRAINING/SEMINARS/CONSULTATIONS** – (i) GRCC invited members to a Community Resilience event on 11th September 2024. They are also running an event on Community Consultation at Norton Village Hall on 14th October, 6.30 to 8.00pm. Noted.
- (ii) GAPTC offered several training events. Of particular relevance were: The Power of Local Climate and Biodiversity Action, online 19th Sept (am) or online 17th Sept (pm), and Planning in Plain English, 10th September 6-8pm. Noted.
- (iii) Gloucestershire's Councillor Advocacy Scheme is running a consultation via <https://gloucestershire-opcc.welcomesyourfeedback.net/6kqv4>. There will also be a meeting on 30th September 2024 from 6.00pm to 7.30pm. Venue not disclosed. Noted.
19. **CORRESPONDENCE** – (i) A MoP has made representations about weed growth inhibiting access to the dog bin situated in Frog Lane by Byfords Road and Frogmore Road. This area is owned by GCC Highways. It was **agreed** that Cllr Watkins will monitor and act when needed.
- (ii) A number of MoPs have complained about the removal of a mirror from Tibberton Lane, Huntley. Cllr Green will maintain contact with the developer at the so called Hunter's Grove site.

(iii) GCC advise that Hinders Lane, Huntley will be closed on the 4th November 2024 for one day. This is to allow for works by National Highways. Emergency and pedestrian access will be maintained. Noted.

(iv) GCC further advise that A4136 Hopes Hill , Longhope will be closed for resurfacing for approximately eight nights from Monday 9th September until Wednesday 18th September 2024, 8.00pm to 7.00am, excluding weekends. Noted.

(v) West Gloucestershire Neighbourhood Watch have shared details of their AGM, 7.00pm on Thursday 10th October 2024 at Cinderford Council Offices. Noted.

20. **ITEMS FOR NEXT OR FUTURE MEETINGS** – Consideration of an ex-gratia payment to Cllr Watkins in respect of his voluntary efforts clearing gutters and path edges.
21. **NEXT MEETING** – To be confirmed as 7.30pm on Tuesday 1st October 2024, at Huntley Village Hall.

The Part A meeting ended at 9.46pm with the Part B meeting starting at 9.48pm

22. **Part B, CONFIDENTIAL ITEM** – After discussion a motion was proposed by Cllr Wood and seconded by Cllr Hill. It was **agreed** unanimously that no member of Huntley Parish Council, no member of the Huntley NDP Steering Group nor the Parish Clerk would hold any meeting or discussion with any landowner, developer or agent about any possible planning matter prior to the formal submission of a relevant planning application.

The Part B meeting ended at 9.55pm.

HUNTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk's Report 2nd September 2024

EXPENSES: I claim the following expenses: Ink Cartridges £9.88

PAVEMENT ISSUE: The pavement close to the Newent Lane end of Byfords Road (Job Ref No 22053121) has been repaired.

FOOTPATHS: The GCC PRoW team advise that all known issues within the parish have now been resolved.

NDP Steering Group Update - August 2024

The consultation for the new Forest of Dean (FoD) Local Plan finished on 19th August. Normally, the FoD strategic planning team would now review all comments and update the Plan, as necessary.

The Local Plan housing target was based on Government figures from October 2023. The target was for 330 new homes to be built per year for the next 20 years. This was ambitious as the FoD has on average only managed to deliver 130 homes per year.

In August 2024, the Government revised the housing target to 597 new homes per year, an increase of 80% on the new Local Plan target. This is a mandatory target, and the Government can intervene if the target is not met.

In addition, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) has significant changes made to it and the draft version is out for consultation until 24th September 2024. One notable change is the presumption that planning applications for affordable homes are approved, and no longer allows objections based on location or design.

The new housing target and the proposed NPPF amendments will mean that the new FoD Local Plan will need significant changes.

For Huntley, it seems inevitable that at least one parcel of land registered on the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) will be subject to a planning application. Although the parcels of land are outside the Settlement Boundary, with the pressure from the new housing targets, and the amendments to the NPPF, it will make it difficult to challenge any planning application for affordable housing.

The NDP Steering Group were planning to start the review of the policies within the Huntley Neighbourhood Development Plan. Due to the current level of uncertainty this will be delayed until an update on the FoD Local Plan is published and the NPPF consultation has completed.

Signed:

Date: