Minutes of meeting of Hunston Parish Council held on Monday 20 January 2025 in the Annexe at the rear of Hunston Village Hall commencing at 6.30pm

Present: Mrs W Gray (Chairman), Mrs S Lucas, Mr T Michell, Mrs C Simms, Mr M Simms

In attendance: Mrs C Smith (Clerk), Mr D Betts (CDC), Mrs S Sharp (WSCC)

1/25C Public Session.
Nothing raised.

2/25C District and County Councillor reports on matters affecting the Parish.
Mrs S Sharp (WSCC) reported on devolution and local government organisation. The Cabinet of WSCC voted to join both ESCC and Brighton and Hove Councils asking to be fast tracked. This may mean that the May elections could be cancelled. The main reason to join is that WSCC does not want to be left behind and there are financial benefits to signing up. If they did not take this opportunity devolution and reorganisation will happen anyway, so choosing to get in early would secure additional funding.
A new mayor would have a lot of power of a wide range of facilities.
There is likely to be a public consultation in February.

Mrs Sharp also spoke briefly about food waste collections and foster care, road safety strategy, the library service (100 years old). Highlighted the Greenway cycle route and the difficulties involved in getting commitments from landowners.

Mr D Betts (CDC) had sent a written report. He gave further information on the devolution and local government changes. He suggested that the District Council felt that the proposals from WSCC were not ideal.

Mr Betts spoke about the flooding locally outside the post office. Work was needed to stop the flooding. Although the issue had been reported to WSCC, it was agreed that the Parish Council should do this as well.

Mr Betts gave an update on the proceedings for the site opposite Oakview and it was noted that an injunction was pending.

3/25C Code of Conduct.
Declarations of interest.
None made.

Dispensation requests made to the Parish Clerk
None.

4/25C Apologies for absence.
None.

5/25C Minutes
Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 18 November 2024.
On a proposal from Cllr Gray, it was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 18 November 2024, be confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting and are signed by the Chairman.

Minutes of the extra ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 18 November 2024.
On a proposal from Cllr Gray, it was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the extra ordinary meeting held on 18 November 2024, be confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting and are signed by the Chairman.

6/25C Actions Update
It was noted that the actions from the last meeting had been completed.

7/25C Planning Application for 186 homes in Hunston
It was noted that the deadline for an appeal for the housing development had passed.

8/25C External meetings.
Cllr Gray updated briefly on the WSALC AGM.
Cllr Lucas and Cllr M Simms had attended Greenway meetings.

9/25C Communications and Village Events
The next Hunston Voice is due out at the end of February.

10/25C Matters raised by Councillors
Security fencing for the allotments
It was noted that the landowner had not agreed to the request to provide security fencing. Video cameras had not worked.

Provision of a Community Support Officer
It was reported that Chichester District Council had withdrawn support for any new Community Support Officers. If the Parish Council now wanted to take on a Community Support Officer, this would cost in the region of £40,000 a year.
The District Councillor had spoken to Pam Bushby at CDC for advice and a question about the type of support being sought.

Areas of concern included the allotments, the village hall, the canal, the hairdressers, and St Leodegars Way. Discussions followed on how to report these incidents and people's reluctance to get involved. It was suggested that the Parish Council promotes the services of Crimestoppers, which allows people to report incidents anonymously to ensure that all incidents get logged.

11/25C Policy Adoption and/or review.
On a proposal from Cllr Michell, it was **RESOLVED** to approve the updated Parish Council Risk Assessment and that it be signed by the Chairman.

12/25C Conservation Matters
It was reported that an ecological assessment of the land near the Foxbridge drive car park would have an ecological assessment in the spring. This will help the Parish Council determine how best to manage the land going forwards.

13/25C Hunston Playing Field
It was noted that there remained £15,000 from the loan to purchase the playing field which had been earmarked for proper fencing between the field and the farmland next door. An up to date quotation has been sought from Knight Fencing, as this project had previously been approved by the Parish Council.

The application for planning permission for a container for the storage of equipment at the back end of the playing field for use by the Football Club had been submitted.

The Clerk and Deputy Clerk had visited a new Community and youth hall completed in November by Littlehampton Town Council and received a good deal of useful advice. It was suggested that a small working group be established to go through the advice given and create a list of all the actions that may be required so that presentation could be made as part of the Annual Parish Assembly.

A number of options were debated on how best to consider the project for a new village hall, these included provision of a questionnaire to seek residents views, concerns about the potential loss of green space, whether to try and get support on designing a new hall or whether this should go through a tender process.

It was agreed that the Clerk and Deputy Clerk would liaise with Cllr Michell on a wish list for the facilities and possible dimensions going forwards.

Mr Betts left the meeting.

14/25C Highways Issues

The two crossings as part of the scheme had now been completed.

15/25C Clerks Report

Councillors were given details of the All Parishes meeting with the District Council on 3 February 2025.

A request had been received from the Manhood Peninsula Partnership to assist with funding for the Manhood PP Project Officer for 2025/26. It was agreed to give funding for the 2025/26 period.

16/25C Finance.

2025/26 budget

The budget had been circulated to Councillors for consideration. Explanations were given for the budget areas.

On a proposal from Cllr M Simms, it was **RESOLVED** to adopt the Budget as presented for 2025/26.

Precept for 2025/26

The Clerk explained how the Precept was calculated from the figures agreed in the budget. This would require an increase in the Band D rate of £14.43 for the year (£1.20 per month).

On a proposal from Cllr Lucas, it was **RESOLVED** that the Precept for 2025/26be set at £76423.00

Schedule of Payments and Receipts

On a proposal from Cllr Lucas, it was **RESOLVED** that the schedule of payments totalling £15,257.52 be approved for payment.

Bank reconciliation

On a proposal from Cllr Gray, it was **RESOLVED** that the bank reconciliation be approved.

Budget monitoring statement

On a proposal from Cllr Gray, it was **RESOLVED** that the budget monitoring statement be approved.

17/25C Items for noting or referral to a future meeting.

No additional items were raised.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.03pm

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Chairman