Minutes of a meeting of Hunston Parish Council held on Monday 16 September 2024 in the Annexe at the rear of Hunston Village Hall commencing at 6.30pm

Present: Mrs B Davis, Mrs W Gray (Chairman), Mrs S Lucas

In attendance: Mrs C Smith (Clerk)

74/24C Public Session.
Nothing raised.

75/24C District and County Councillor reports on matters affecting the Parish.
Neither the District or County Councillor were present.

76/24C Code of Conduct.
Declarations of interest.
None.

Dispensation requests made to the Parish Clerk
None.

77/24C Apologies for absence.
Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr Michell and Cllr Simms.

78/24C Minutes
On a proposal from Cllr Gray, it was **RESOLVED** that Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 15 July 2024 be confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting and they be signed by the Chairman.

79/24C Actions Update
It was noted that the actions agreed at the last meeting had been completed.

80/24C Planning Application for 186 homes in Hunston
It was noted that there was currently no indication that there would be an appeal against the refusal to grant planning permission. An appeal had to be made within six months of the refusal date which was 31 May 2024.

81/24C External meetings.
The Clerk had attended the recent CDALC meeting to remain updated on highways issues. It was noted that this was district wide problem and the Minutes would be circulated to Councillors when received.

Cllr Gray had attended the recent Manhood Peninsula Partnership meeting and reported there was nothing affecting Hunston presently.

82/24C Communications and Village Events
Cllr Gray reported that there had been excellent feedback on the revised Hunston Voice. The children's page was popular with everyone although it was noted that the response to the competitions was poor. The Hunston's 500 words had been well received and several people had asked if this could be extended to include Adults going forwards.

The Community Fun day went well although it was too hot for the dog show again this year. Other suggestions had been made and would be reviewed by the Events Committee.
A brief outline of the remaining events for the year was given.

83/24C Policy Adoption and/or review.
Cllr Gray briefly outlined why the policy was being presented for adoption. On a proposal from Cllr Gray, it was **RESOLVED** that the Vexatious Communications Policy be adopted with immediate effect.

84/24C Conservation Matters

A brief outline of the work that had been undertaken on Parish Council land near Outram Way was given. There was now a need to determine how best to manage the area and to keep the area properly maintained. A number of suggestions were put forward included the option of phased work to help with costs.

It was suggested that the Parish Council talks to the Free School to see whether they would be interesting in working together on an environmental project for the area. Additionally, the Hunston Conservation WhatsApp group may be asked to be involved.

85/24C Hunston Playing Field

The Football Club had some while back asked if it was possible to site a container on the back edge of the playing field to store football equipment. It was likely that planning permission may be required. The Clerk had tried to contact the District Council to find out whether planning permission was required but it was noted that this exercise would cost £186 and it was suggested that the Parish Council just put in an application to save any additional costs.

Concerns were raised about the potential for unsightly graffiti on the container. It was suggested that once in place the container should be painted with anti graffiti paint. Additionally, consideration could be given to increasing the biodiversity of the site by planting around three sides of the container.

On a proposal from Cllr Gray, it was **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council would seek planning permission for the siting of a container at the rear of the playing field for the use of the football club.

86/24C Highways Issues

Serious concerns were raised about the crossing by the shop given that frequently cars were not stopping for the lights when people were trying to cross the road. This was further exacerbated by the fact that much of the vegetation around the crossing area and down towards the Spotted Cow was very high and overgrown. This also made exiting St Leodegars Way dangerous.

It was agreed that the Environment Agency would be requested to clear the vegetation in the rife, Highways would be asked to cut down the vegetation along the roadside and the footpath from St Leodegars Way to Jestico's Close would be reported for clearance.

87/24C Parish Councillor duties

There was discussion on how Councillors could work together as a team. It was clearly difficult for Councillors who had full time work commitments and other volunteering roles but not everything could be borne by those who had retired. The importance of having a full remit of Councillors was agreed and there were discussions on how best to try and recruit another two Councillors.

88/24C Clerks Report

The Clerk raised the issue of the planning application to grant a new access to the playing fields at the bottom of the Selsey Tramway. Concerns about the environmental impact of this work were discussed. It was suggested that the Parish Council could ask the farmer to help in other areas of the village to offset the environmental impact of their planning application.

On a proposal from Cllr Davis, it was **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council withdraws it objection to the application, but that contact is made with the farmer requesting assistance with work in other areas of the village to help offset the environmental impact of the new access.

Interviews for a replacement member of staff had taken place but last minute a further application had been received and it was agreed that this applicant should be interviewed. The interviews had been conducted by Cllr Davis and the Clerk. A suitable candidate had been found but Cllr Davis and the Clerk had agreed that this additional candidate should also have an interview which had been scheduled for the end of the week.

On a proposal from Cllr Gray, it was **RESOLVED** that the final decision on which candidate to offer the role to be delegated to Cllr Davis and the Clerk to help expedite a swift appointment of a new member of staff.

89/24C Finance.

Schedule of Payments and Receipts

On a proposal from Cllr Lucas, it was **RESOLVED** that the schedule of payments and receipts totalling £16,982.85 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.

90/24C Complaint

A complaint had been received from a resident regarding work being undertaken on Parish Council land in the village. The details of the complaint had previously been circulated to Councillors. A verbal update from the Clerk outlining the situation and advice from the Police was given.
After some discussion, it was agreed that a letter would be sent to the resident outlining the facts of the case, also explaining why the work was necessary via Recorded Delivery to ensure a record was retained. There would be no further communication on the issue with the resident.

Given the complexity of the complaint it was suggested that there be an amendment to the Complaints procedure which meant that anyone wishing to make a complaint in the future would need to do this via a Complaints Form.
On a proposal from Cllr Gray, it was **RESOLVED** that the complaints process be updated to include a complaints form.

91/24C Items for noting or referral to a future meeting.

No additional items raised.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.01pm

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Chairman