

Hunston Annual Parish Meeting

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 25th May 2016 AT HUNSTON VILLAGE HALL

Present:	Parish Council	Mr S Baker (chairman), Mrs S Gregory, Mr S Solliss
	Parish Residents	35
	County Councillor	Mrs M Evans

The meeting commenced at 7pm.

1. **Welcome by the Chair of the Parish Council.**

The Chairman introduced himself and welcomed everyone to the meeting. He explained that there would be an opportunity for Residents to raise issues and ask questions. The Chairman then introduced the Clerk and Councillors in attendance.

2. **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 25 March 2015.**

The Chairman asked for approval to sign the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 25 March 2015. This was agreed and the Chairman duly signed the Minutes as being a true record of that meeting.

3. **Parish Reports**

Neighbourhood Plan

After making a good start on this it has lost some momentum. Questionnaires were put out and the responses have been reviewed. Although this was some time ago there have been no new developments that have fundamentally changed the environment so we believe the data remains valid. In terms of housing there was a fairly even split between those who favoured any future development being to the north or the south of the village. Respondents were unanimous in favouring only small developments. The other issue that concerned the majority of respondents was related to traffic and road safety. We have reviewed a number of other village neighbourhood plans and we are trying to decide on the level of detail required. Some plans are very lengthy and have been costly to produce by paying for outside expertise. We are hoping to meet with an expert to get some guidance as to what is most appropriate for us. Clearly we need to resurrect the matter and get things moving forward now.

Traffic calming

This is an issue which concerns many of you. I think it is important to understand that Highways have a very big say in what can and can't be done. We have met with Highways to discuss a number of issues. Even where schemes are possible the cost are often very high and Highways are under severe budgetary constraints. We do feel that there are a couple of schemes that we could pursue. One is to create a more prominent indication that vehicles are entering a village and this could be via some picket type structures on the verges with better signage. Replacing some of the damaged and ugly bollards with some nicer wooden bollards to create a better boundary to the carriageway. We also hope to obtain some funding from developments taking place on the Peninsula which would allow us to improve pedestrian crossings particularly to the playing fields and children's playground.

Communication

This is a perennial issue. We currently communicate via the noticeboards, the Parish Council website and distribution of leaflets when justified. We are very keen to hear from you as to which channels work best and also if you have any suggestions of other ways we could investigate. This is a very genuine concern for us as we want to make sure you are kept informed and know what is going on or where we need help.

Parish Councillors

We desperately need volunteers to come forward. Since the last election in 2015 we have lost 4 councillors. We thank them all for their contributions and we understand why they were unable to continue. I would particularly like to pay tribute to Liz who was a Parish Councillor from 2007 and was Chairman from 2008 to April of this year. Liz has made a tremendous contribution and will be sorely missed. However, it is understandable that Councillors will reach a point where they feel they need to step down. Turnover is of course a good thing but we do now need to find some more volunteers. At present we are just about able to operate legally. Please do speak to one of us this evening if you feel you would like to find out more. It goes without saying that having a broad spectrum of views and backgrounds is a good thing. There are no qualifications or experience needed just a willingness to participate as fully as possible in Parish matters.

Planning

Hopefully you are all aware of the plan to build the Free School at the old Carmelite Convent. We believe there are some serious access issues due to the narrowness of the road and the lack of safe pedestrian and cycle access. The District Council decided today went to meeting raised concern taken up by members – almost certainly change in speed limit – would like safe light control crossing which they are going to look at.

There has also been an outline application for Brook Lea. The latest plan is for 6 properties but again there are a number of issues with this including density and access as well as issues for surrounding properties.

Queen's Birthday

The Parish Council would like to invite residents to suggest and support an event to mark the Queens 90th birthday this year. An event around her official birthday in June might be appropriate but again we will need volunteers to help organise and arrange things.

Other issues

The Parish Council is aware of the issues regarding parking in the village and is looking at what may be done to help alleviate the problems.

Cuts in budgets for the County and District Councils has led to consideration as to what services can be provided. More of the services we are used to that do not form part of the statutory duty of the District and County Councils will likely fall to parishes to provide. The Parish Council needs to think about how it can manage and pay for these services. Some villages are already self-sufficient with the support of local volunteers.

The District Council has a target of achieving 50% recycling by 2020. Currently the figure is about 38%. This has gone down as people buy less newspapers. The District Council is also looking at food waste collection; this would be a weekly collection. A consultation on this proposal will be issued in due course.

The matter of the redevelopment of the hard court area has not gone away and it is hoped to make progress on this later this year.

4. Residents Comments and Questions

- Is there a possibility of a 20mph speed limit through the village.
This is highly unlikely and because of criteria required the Parish Council is not optimistic.
- The issue of traffic around the proposed site for the Free School was raised along with a suggestion that there was a light controlled crossing in place. It was noted that the District Council planning committee had agreed to pursue the installation of a light controlled crossing for the site.
- When might the work on the hardcourt area start as the tarmac is now starting to break up.
The process of applying for funding was explained and it was hoped that this project might be completed this year.
- Access into and out of Southover Way remains very difficult. There was talk of putting in a layby and moving the bus stop.
The Parish Council has looked at this and there are a number of issues including problems with services running just underneath the pavement which would have to be moved.
- When the bus stops outside the newsagents it becomes very dangerous.
The Parish Council will review this matter.
- The Parish Council was thanked for opening the Annexe and asked if the information on when it was open could be published earlier.
The purpose of the Annexe was explained. It was available to hire as meeting space and was a useful space for residents to meet with the Parish Council. It was hoped that more people would take advantage of the physical presence of the Parish Council in the village to raise issues.
- Why has the village hall employed cleaning company.
There have been issues with cleaning arrangements over lengthy period and the Trustee had agreed that it would make sense to employ a company who could easily be held to account for the state of the hall.
- Has outline planning been granted for Brook Lea. The full application deals with the details. The application is still under consideration and if matters are sorted at outline stage makes it easier later.
- Is this the only plan for next 5 years.
This application has not been submitted by the Parish Council it is being put in by a private individual. The parish Council responses to the application were explained.
- Is the Parish Council aware of discussions for the land between Lowlands and Oakdene. The Owner has approached the District Council already with a view to putting in 4 bungalows but they were advised that 12 houses would be better suited.
- Will the Parish Council be notified if an application is submitted.
The Parish Council is notified of all applications in the village. Residents can also sign up to alerts from the District Council on the 'My Alerts' page of the District Council website.
- To meet the requirements of the District Council Local Plan Hunston has a remaining allocation of 7 houses. It should be noted that this is not a maximum number and it could end up with more.
- Traffic at the North Mundham roundabout is very heavy first thing in the morning. Would it be possible to have a 'File in Turn' sign or yellow crisscross box as the people travelling from Bognor can be very aggressive and won't even let you turn right.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would raise the issue with Highways.

- This used to be a junction but was changed to a roundabout because of complaints that people coming from North Mundham couldn't get out of the road.

- A resident who had recently moved to the village asked if the Travellers occupying the playing field was a regular occurrence.

No last year was the first time. The Travellers had been reasonably tidy and had moved on within a reasonable timescale when asked. Access had been over the farmer's field and as a consequence another gate had been installed across the farmer's field.

- Flashing speed restrictions are good advisory tools for keeping traffic to the speed limit.

There is one of these at the southern edge of the village. Other options being looked at include; coloured tarmac and better road signs. Unfortunately, there is no money to maintain these. It was agreed to look at the possibility of a speed reactive sign at the northern end of the village. There may be the possibility of utilising New Homes Bonus funds to help towards the costs.

- A resident pointed out that it should be possible to have smaller dinner plate size signs that flash if drivers exceed the speed limit. They currently have these in Surrey Heath.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would look at this.

- If the Parish Council made this investment could it also look starting traffic calming measures around Hunston Mill.

- It was suggested that a roundabout be installed at the Green Lane junction. Highways look at number of incidents at such a location. There was concern that there would have to be a fatality if one incident was not sufficient.

If the 30 mph speed limit by the Free School site was approved the Parish Council will be pushing hard for this to be extended to the southern end of Hunston.

- A resident suggested that tractors and lorries go through the village at speeds in excess of 30mph. Would these people pay attention to speed limits.

The past visit by Langmeads with their tractors was highlighted. The size of vehicle can create impression that it is travelling faster than it actually is.

Certainly case when towing trailers need to keep to speed limits.

It was noted that any traffic calming measures would rely on compliance by drivers.

The use of resident speed watch groups that could be trained on the use of speed guns was highlighted. Offending vehicles would be reported through Operation Crackdown. Residents were asked to volunteer to be trained up a number of people came forward to do this.

There being no further questions the Chairman thanked everyone for taking the time to attend the meeting, declared the meeting closed and invited residents to partake of the refreshments provided.

Signed :
Chairman

Date:.....