

# **HUNSTON PARISH MEETING**

## **MINUTES OF AGM**

Held 9th May at Fox House, 7pm

There were 22 parishioners in attendance including the officers.  
Also present were: Jane Storey, SCC; Roy Barker, MSDC; and Vince Clarkson PCSO.  
The meeting commenced at 7.05pm.

### **1. Apologies for Absence:**

Colin and Gilly Myram, Charlie Harvey-Evers, Claire Darroch-Thompson, Jan Watson.

### **2. Minutes of the previous AGM 2013.**

The minutes of the AGM held on 15th May 2013 were agreed and signed.

### **3. Reports from Officers**

Footpaths: All footpaths in the area are open, in good condition, and well-used.

#### Events Co-ordinator:

Jenny Dartnell reported that she is aiming to organise at least one social event each month in 2014 where possible. The year has started off well with a visit to Anglesey Abbey to visit the gardens, and in particular the wide variety of snowdrops. This trip also included an excellent pub lunch. Photos are on the website.

In March we had a village walk based around Walsham which again was followed by a pub lunch. Photos on the website.

The April cycle ride was cancelled due to lack of interest, and May's event is the social following the AGM. Coming up over the next few months we have the Annual Village BBQ in June, a play in the church in July, and a village walk also in July. Details of these and other events will follow over the coming months.

Matthew Darroch-Thompson reported that there is to be an organ concert in Hunston Church on September 5th. Further details to be provided.

Sandra Gover pointed out that the web site is looking good and is much appreciated by all the villagers.

Chairman: David O'Reilly reported that it had been a quiet year in the village with no major issues, and no issues on the horizon going forwards. He felt that the neighbourhood is developing well in terms of having a good community spirit. A lot of the credit for this is attributed to the work that Jenny Dartnell is doing in bringing the community together through the social events.

Tree Warden: Matthew Darroch-Thompson again reported a quiet year with no major issues. The Ash Die Back Disease that was so widely reported has not been so virulent as first expected. Matthew has had notification of some good courses being run near Colchester on woodwork, tree work etc and if anyone is interested details can be forwarded to them.

Treasurer: Greg Watson set out the financial report for the year ending 31 March 2014. Bank reconciliation as of the 31 March 2014 was £2,538.93. Total net assets for the village is £176,486.43. All loans made for works on the Village Cottage will be repayed in full by the end of 2014. Copies of the accounts were handed out at the AGM and can also be requested from Greg Watson. The accounts have been to the internal auditor and signed off. They will be forwarded to BDOLL external auditors following the set process. The Parish Council accounts were formally adopted. Proposed by Alan Clark, Seconded by Mike Wylie. Vote Unanimous.

Neighbourhood Watch Steve Gover reported that the neighbourhood work has been very quiet with nothing significant to report. Emails received from the police are regularly forwarded to parishioners.

Vince Clarkson our PCSO also gave a report on traffic and policing. He reported that in 2012-2013 6 crimes were reported in Hunston:- 2 burglaries, 2 thefts of oil, one fly-tipping and one wound with intent (this was on a bus and happened to take place as the bus passed through Hunston!). In the year 2013-2014 there has been only one reported crime - a theft of oil. Recently there has been a spate of house burglaries within the wider area to isolated rural properties which are not overlooked, and there has been some good results in arrests for these crimes. Vince urged us all to hide jewellery and to install alarms. Alarms are a very good deterrent even for isolated properties as the burglars generally choose houses that do not have alarms fitted.

Vince also gave an update on the recent case of the Parish Chairman in Wyverstone where a large cache of arms has been found.

On the issue of traffic speeding through the village Vince has said he will be out and about at various times with the speed gun, and the 'smiley face' can also be made available if we wish to use that in the village. Steve Gover reported several taxis speeding every day picking up school children, and we were urged to get registration numbers and timing of regular speeders and Vince will address this. Vince's contact details are on the village web site.

### Clerk

This has been my first year as Parish Clerk and thankfully it has been a quiet year here in Hunston.

There have been several planning applications processed this year but they have mainly been for work on trees or house extensions and no objections have been raised. The only major planning application was for a house demolition and rebuild by Tony and Jenny Darnell at Brackenhurst, and at a meeting in November that application was supported unanimously by those present, and that work has now begun.

Currently we are looking into the possibility of installing a bus shelter on the Bury-bound side of the road as the bus is quite well used by villagers, and in particular by some elderly residents. This is moving forward, and is well supported by the Council.

The phone box has been the issue of some debate as it is an unused eyesore, however, it looks unlikely that it will be removed as BT has no other phone facility for emergency use within 400 metres. It seems that whilst BT are keen to keep this facility, they are not in the slightest bit concerned that the phone doesn't actually work and several attempts to chase repair work has as yet yielded nothing!

Speeding traffic has yet again been raised at most meetings as an area of concern for all, and Charlie has initiated work to monitor the speed of traffic passing through. However, despite the fact the results showing that there is a significant traffic passing through at high speeds it would seem there is little we can do about it. The main problem is the fact that the road is relatively straight with no parked cars to slow drivers down as in Pakenham and Badwell. We are currently awaiting an upgrade of the restrictors and the renewal of the road markings at the entries to the village to highlight the fact that drivers are entering a residential area. This work has been authorised and should be completed within a few months (hopefully!). Work has also been approved for the village gates to be repaired and painted white. I have looked into the provision of new village gates but at a cost of £6,500 I think that would be hard to justify.

Broadband speed has been another issue of interest and this work is ongoing and Hunston SHOULD - possibly - hopefully - get broadband download speeds in double figures this year.

#### **4. Jane Storey Suffolk CC - Report**

Jane circulated her annual report which will be sent by separate email.

Also discussed was the ongoing issue of potholes - a legacy from the very wet winter last year. The large pothole on Hunston Green has now been repaired and further works are ongoing.

Jane will be forwarding email addresses for us to all use personally to express to BT and the Project Co-ordinators within the Council for our need for faster broadband. In addition Jane was specifically asked to provide a statement as to what speed Hunston can expect out of this Better Broadband for Suffolk Project, and when this will be delivered.

Council tax has not gone up this year.

#### **5. Roy Barker, MSDC - Report**

Roy Barker gave a brief local report as our MSDC representative, again touching on the problem with potholes.

One particular item of interest was his encouragement for people to go and see the Magna Carta in Bury Cathedral. It is here until the end of May.

#### **6. Cottage Committee - Report**

David O'Reilly reported that all is well with the cottage tenancy. The committee are happy with the tenant currently living there, the condition of the property, and from the service received from the letting agent.

## 7. Election of Officers

All votes on Officers positions were unanimous, or where re-elected were agreed in view of no abstentions.

<b>Position</b>	<b>Nominated</b>	<b>Proposed by</b>	<b>Seconded by</b>
Chairman	David O'Reilly	Hilary Witt	Lee Marshall
Treasurer	Matthew Darroch-Thompson	Mike Wylie	David Johnson
Clerk	Anthea Marshall	David Johnson	Alan Clark
Tree Warden	Sue Cobbald	Matthew Darroch-Thompson	Ron Back
Neighbourhood Watch	Steve Gover	David Johnson	Marion Wylie
Events Co-ordinator	Jenny Dartnell	Lee Marshall	Sandra Gover

The meeting closed at 20.25.