

## HUNSTON PARISH MEETING

### MINUTES OF MEETING ON 7 OCTOBER 2024

1. Apologies from the Myrams, Dartnells, Hilary Witt, Claire DT and Annie W. There were 20 members of the village in attendance (+JWT/MWT/MDT) and Richard Winch (District Councillor)
2. The Minutes of the AGM and General meetings of 9<sup>th</sup> April were approved unanimously (JW/MW AC/JoR proposing and seconding). Marian W asked us to thank David J and his men for help with the Village Sign and this was noted.
3. Matters arising
  - Cottage – The electrical connection will happen shortly.
  - Parish Book – This was now repaired and available for people to look at.
  - Traffic Update -
    - Painting by village gates completed,
    - Detector box has been installed by the police with a view to Hunston joining the rotation of police speed cameras if we meet the speeding threshold.
    - We are seeking to have the 40mph made permanent (probably working with other affected villages) and are seeking the support of our MP for this
    - Lorries are an increasing problem (DJ confirmed that seasonal beet lorries will add to this in the coming months), particularly those going to Badwell development. We are approaching MP to see whether CIL criteria can be amended to extend to adjacent villages impacted by development as a means of getting help with traffic calming etc. Also considering approaching developers to see what can be done to mitigate the impact on Hunston.
4. Chairman's chat
  - JWT highlighted the success of the farm walk and thanked David J and his sons for hosting this, also the biodiversity field day with SWT which had been a great success. Thanks given again to Christine D for use of her paddock. Both events very well attended.
  - Flooding is a continuing problem. Andy Moore from Highways is coming to look at clearing grips by the village gates and also by the pond. The grip running towards Hartwell which Will Johnson cleared for us last year will be cleared again by us this weekend. The ditch running west round Hartwell which is shared between the Mary Page Trust and Hartwell has been cleared and the hedging done so that water should now run from the road all the way down to the river.
5. Treasurer's report
  - MDT circulated his 6 monthly update (copy attached) and talked through the figures briefly. Highlighted that we are still waiting for a rebate from Highways for some of the money for the repainting. David Cox offered to chase this. The meeting felt there was no immediate need for a precept for the coming year.
6. Insurance

This had been precipitated by the need to have £10m insurance cover if the village installs SIDS. JWT confirmed that NFU and Clear Councils (specialists in Parish Council insurance) had been approached for quotes. NFU did not feel able to provide a full quote, whereas Clear Councils' premium was £557p.a. This would cover SIDS, third party liability (including damage caused by trees owned by the village) and insurance of village assets (defibrillator, bus shelter, salt box etc). JWT will also be getting a further quotation from another Parish Council specialist insurer Parishprotect. Merle C asked what the premium would be if SIDS were excluded and JWT believed that it would not be different as the cover we were getting would be the base level of insurance.

David C raised again the question of a possible mirror to help drivers leaving Saxon Meadow. This is on hold as it is a difficult issue as far as finding a suitable site is concerned. It might involve cutting into the hedge by The Yard, which would obviously need their permission. Nothing would be done about this at the moment, particularly till other speeding related issues have been resolved which might alleviate the problem.

#### 7. Report from Richard Winch

There were 3 main issues for which District council had responsibility.

Planning – RW confirmed that Part 2 of the Local Plan is up for discussion at the moment with approval being sort in the New Year. There had been a call for sites (only 1 in Hunston) which included further sites in Badwell Ash (who have produced a draft Neighbourhood Plan) although RW felt that he wouldn't expect many more approvals here given the extensive development that had already happened in BA in the last couple of years. MWT asked whether there was some way for adjacent villages to be actively involved in the development of such plans, particularly in relation to traffic impacts rather than just being a 'passive' consideration for those preparing the Plan. Also raised question of CILs being extended for the benefit of directly impacted villages. Neil M raised questions about local plan and RW confirmed that it had been prepared with some consideration of likely housing policy of the new Government but obviously changes might be necessary.

Refuse – RW said Mid Suffolk is well below average on recycling and Government initiatives meant that increased recycling was required by March 2026 at the latest. MSDC are seeking to increase recycling from 40 – 60% by introducing weekly food waste recycling, with paper and cardboard, glass and general refuse to move to a 3 week collection cycle. More details will follow. Collection will probably be in small, hopefully electric, vehicles from houses.

Bus Service – This is an ongoing issue. Simmonds are running a service till 27 December but not beyond that if they don't get a subsidy. RW and Adrian Ramsay (MP) actively involved in lobbying SCC over this.

Alan C raised question of infrastructure alongside housing and RW confirmed that unfortunately MSDC has no control over infrastructure.

#### 8. Environment weekend

MWT confirmed this will run over the weekend of 12/13 October and cover both a general tidy and clean of bus shelter, signs etc, limited litter pick along The Street and clearing of grip by Hartwell. We would also run a limited, 'introductory' biodiversity survey, particularly outside Hartwell with people taking photos of plants for identification and ultimately uploading to village website. Full details will follow shortly. Please let MWT know if you are free and able to help.

Marian W said she would be taking hazardous waste (paint etc) to Thetford this weekend and might be sensible to take things for other people too (provided in line with guidance on transport of hazardous waste).

#### 9. SIDS

10. JWT said there had been a limited response to the SIDS survey with 7 in favour, 2 in favour with reservations and 2 against. David J raised question of cost and JWT said as an indication the figures produced earlier this year (for solar, with traffic data recording) was about £6k (+ insurance costs and maintenance costs – although Jake W said adjacent villages had not signed up for the official maintenance agreement that was offered with SIDS which was quite expensive). There was then some discussion about the issue with a range of views expressed. JWT then put the following to the vote

**Is the Parish Meeting in favour of installing 2 SIDS?** On a show of hands there were 16 in favour, 2 against and 4 abstentions.

DoR asked for views of those against SIDS. JWT said his view was that volume rather than speed was the issue and SIDS would not impact that, also that he was against too much urbanisation of the village with street furniture and that he did not feel the likely impact of SIDS justified the expenditure. DC indicated he would prioritize getting the permanent 60 to 40mph reduction first which if unsuccessful, would make the SIDS essential in his opinion.

Following further discussion it was agreed that we do not go ahead immediately as we need to see the impact of the possible speed camera, permanent 40mph between villages etc before reaching a final conclusion. RW suggested we do a house to house survey to make sure everyone had a chance to respond and felt heard on the matter. RW confirmed that a locality grant might be available towards the capital costs. Mike W also said he felt the cottage reserves of £29K were enough to fund this as well as providing a safety blanket against sudden large expenditure being needed on the cottage.

#### 11. AOB

David J asked whether we were aware of Highways proposal to make Kiln lane (Stowlangtoft) and the Langham Road one way. Both roads would only take traffic south to north with traffic wanting to travel south being diverted along the Ixworth/Walsham road to Walsham where they would then head south and on through Badwell and Hunston to the A1088. He had been in touch with Andy Mellen (SCC) who supported his view that to have both roads one way north to south was not sensible and that one running north south and the other south north would be more sensible.

David J mentioned that if Reserves were felt to be too high (he mentioned previous £10k reserve for cottage, although this was some time ago) the church might also be in need of funds.

Gigaclear – JWT said he had written to Gigaclear asking what their plans were as their approach of contacting individual households made things rather unclear. He asked anyone else who was approached to let him know. Neil M confirmed that they had been approached twice with different terms and conditions attached to each proposal. He had not taken the matter further and was not interested.

JWT confirmed that MWT would be standing down as Clerk and thanked her for her work to date. MWT will carry on with the environment group and also trying to get the 40mph made permanent. Anyone interested in taking over as clerk should let MWT or JWT know. JWT also confirmed that it was likely he would be standing down as Chair at the next AGM.

Meeting closed at 7.50 pm