



**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Huntington Parish Council held on Wednesday 15th
 April 2026 at 7.00pm.**

PRESENT:	Councillor D. Geogheghan-Breen (DB) – Chair, Councillor D. Jobling (DJ), Councillor S. Jobling (SJ), Councillor J. Willis (JW), Councillor M. Cook (MC), Councillor M. Duncanson (MD), Councillor N. Addison (NA), Councillor K. Orrell (KO), Councillor T. Mossop (TM) and Lorraine Frankland (LF) - Parish Clerk/RFO
APOLOGIES:	Councillor G. Russell (GR) and Ebony Frankland (EF) - Deputy Clerk
CIRCULATION:	To attendees, apologies and other all members of the Parish Council
MINUTES PREPARED BY:	Lorraine Frankland
DATE (Draft):	30/04/2026
DATE TO BE APPROVED:	21/04/2027

ITEM	ACTION
<p>1. <u>To Note Apologies for Absence;</u> Councillor J. Willis (JW) and Ebony Frankland (EF) offered their apologies No apologies received from Councillor S. Phoenix (SP) <u>It was resolved</u> to accept all apologies and reasons for absence.</p>	
<p>2. <u>To Approve Minutes of The Annual Parish Meeting of 16/04/2025</u> Minutes approved as a true and accurate record of said meeting, signed and dated by Chairman.</p>	
<p>3. <u>Chair's Report 2025-2026:</u> 2025 has proved to be a successful year for the Parish we have recruited 4 new Councillors throughout the year we still have some vacancies and we continue to encourage local residents to join us in our work. Planning has again been busy we continue to engage with the builders on New Lane during construction and we now await reserved matters to be approved for the 970 houses to be built on North Lane/Monks Cross . Our gardening scheme has continued with us helping over 70 local residents. We have also purchased accessible play equipment for Garth Road and Orchard Park and have purchased new picnic tables at Orchard Park which are well used. We provided a grant to the Sports Club for the refurbishment of the outside area at back of the club and can report it is looking very good and will be well used by the local community. We also provided a grant to the Bowls Club for the re-sighting of the office area . We continue to employ our caretakers at Orchard Park and our litter picker thank you to both of them for their hard work. All of our Community Centres continue to be well used and maintained .</p>	

Sadly our Gala had to be cancelled due to inclement weather but we are planning another Gala in 2026.

Our Cemetery on New Lane is still experiencing problems with some flooding work is ongoing to resolve this. Friends of Huntington Cemetery continue to work in the Cemetery many thanks to them for all they do making the Cemetery look so lovely. Thank you to our Cemetery Clerk for her hard work during the year.

Our finances remain in good order I will leave the detail to our RFO Lorraine.

Finally thank you to our Clerk/RFO Lorriane and our deputy Clerk Ebony.

Thank you to Dave who as my Vice Chair has been so supportive during a difficult year and thanks to all our Parish Councillors for continuing to give up time to make Huntington a great place to live.

Di Geogheghan-Breen - Chair – April 2026.

4. RFO's Report – Huntington Parish Council 2025-2026:

The Precept of £173,589.00 was an increase of 5% on the previous year (2024/25), the Council has carried forward an underspend from the previous year of £70,779.72 as of 31/03/2026 (a double taxation rebate of £30,135.65 received on 02/04/2026). The total balance in Huntington Parish Councils account as of 02/04/2026 was £100,833.06.

As HPC records the finances on a receipts and payments basis, all transactions have to be recorded as they actually come in and out of the account.

The Gardening Scheme continued to run this year, and there are several new recipients onto the scheme. The scheme is intended to be from the start of April to the end of October but, due to the wet weather conditions, once again over-ran towards the middle of November. The cost of running the scheme increased from £12,065.00 to £12,825.00 an increase of 6.3% on the previous year, this was in part due to additional grass cuts being necessary because of wet weather in October.

HPC Now has five employees – Lorraine as Clerk and RFO and John Cliffe and Lindsay Ball to look after the Orchard Park play area and park – one working four days and the other three - John also works for HPC on three days as the Street Cleaner, Naurin who is the Cemetery Clerk, Ebony who is Deputy Clerk. All legislation as regards employment is noted and pay rates are reviewed annually for all staff. John and Lindsay are on the NALC pay scales at point 12 the Cemetery Clerk and Parish Clerk/RFO pay rates are at point 24 by NALC and Ebony is at point 21.

The Parish Council continues to fund a Citizens' Advice Bureau Outreach Service at Huntington Community Centre at a cost of £5,475.48 a decrease of 18.8%.

Sadly the 2025 Gala had to be cancelled due to the extreme weather forecast, at a cost to the Parish Council of £5,903.79

The Play areas continue to be a well-used asset and as such the maintenance costs have remained about the same £10,218.00 (Orchard Park £8,400.00, Garth Road £1,722.00, Vesper Walk £96.00 and inspections £813.60). The cost to the Parish of the litter collection and daily inspections and gate closing at Orchard Park is an additional £17,050.41. New Equipment installed to Garth Road amounts to £42,757.72 however £29,600.00 of this was raised by a resident who applied for grants on behalf of the parish council.

The Parish installed three Christmas Trees at a cost of £2,707.22, this included the replacement of the lights damaged in the cellar flood at HCC.

The Parish insurance cover is reviewed annually in depth. There was an increase in the premium for 2025/2026 to £13,173.64, however the cemetery Insurance is now included in the premium.

The Closed Churchyard cost £8,379.89 to maintain, however new Earswick Parish Council paid £1,810.02 towards this cost.

The Cemetery has had running costs of £33,449.39 (including £7,195.00 Drainage, £4,543.14 maintenance, £1,400.25 replacement benches, £1,500 tree work and £13,404.00 grass cutting).

Invoices to be presented for payment, bank reconciliations and the up-to-date financial situation continue to be circulated to Councillors monthly. Carrie Pillow, Elker Services Ltd, was appointed as internal auditor. External Audit with PKF Littlejohn were completed last year.

All Councillors have .gov.uk email addresses at an annual renewal cost of £ 769.00 including annual support.

I would like to thank Ebony for her and Naurin for her continued support, together with Councillor Di Geogheghan-Breen as Chair and all other Councillors for their help and service. We have four new Councillors bringing the current number to eleven, (D. Geogheghan-Breen, S. Jobling, D. Jobling, K. Orrell, M. Duncanson, J. Willis, S. Phoenix, T. Mossop, G. Russell, M. Cook, N. Addison).

Lorraine Frankland – Responsible Finance Officer – April 2026.

5. **Questions Raised by Members of Huntingdon Parish**

TM – asked about the garden scheme LF gave a brief outline of what was provided and who the scheme was aimed at and that the scheme is not means tested

Meeting closed at 7.14pm