



Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Huntington Parish Council held on Wednesday 16th April 2025 at 7.00pm.

PRESENT:	Councillor D. Geogheghan-Breen (DB) – Chair, Councillor D. Jobling (DJ), Councillor K. Orrell (KO), Councillor M. Duncanson (MD), Councillor S. Jobling (SJ), Councillor S. Phoenix (SP), Keith Blanshard, three members of the Friends of Huntington Cemetery (FoHC), two PCSO's and Lorraine Frankland (LF) - Parish Clerk/RFO
APOLOGIES:	Councillor J. Willis (JW) 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):	30/04/2025
DATE TO BE APPROVED:	15/04/2026

ITEM	ACTION
1.	<u>To Note Apologies for Absence:</u> Councillor J. Willis (JW) and Ebony Frankland (EF) offered their apologies <u>It was resolved</u> to accept all apologies and reasons for absence.
2.	<u>To Approve Minutes of The Annual Parish Meeting of 17/04/2024</u> Minutes approved as a true and accurate record of said meeting, signed and dated by Chairman.
3.	<u>Chair's Report 2024/25:</u> Huntington Parish Council has had yet another busy year despite still having six councillor vacancies. Our three halls continue to thrive all are a good financial position and are well used by our local community. We gave a grant of £5000 towards a new boiler at the Community Centre and installed two picnic benches at Orchard Park. We are grateful to the Memorial Hall for a donation of £2000 towards the Gala. Huntington Sports and Social Club is busy, and they plan on doing some work to the outside area at the back. We have also given a grant of £1000 to Club 68 who are a local dance group for ages two to twenty. We continue to employ our two caretakers at Orchard Park and John continues to litter pick, keeping the Parish looking tidy Parish thanks them for all the hard work they do . I am also glad to report we have after a successful recruitment exercise appointed a new Deputy Clerk Ebony Frankland who has taken over responsibility for amongst things the website and our amenities portfolio. She is already making a difference to the running of the Parish.

We again had our annual Gala which was a great success we have received many compliments and are planning our 2025 Gala thank you to everyone who helped on the day, also thank you to HSSC for allowing us to use the club and a donation of £500 from takings on the day which has all gone to charity.

Our Cemetery did have a difficult time at the beginning of 2024 with our new contractors not completing work to an acceptable standard. I am pleased to report our new contractor is doing a great job with the Cemetery looking neat and tidy. Many thanks to the Friends of Huntington Cemetery for the voluntary work they to making the Cemetery look so good. Cemetery Committee continues to support the work of the FOHC .

Cemetery Committee has had to make some difficult decisions to restrict those who can be interred in the cemetery as we need to ensure the Cemetery remains financially sound going forward. Flooding in some parts of the cemetery remains a problem and we are taking action to try and resolve the issue.

Sadly, we have had to remove a number of trees due to disease but will be looking at replacing them.

Our play area at Orchard Park has a new piece of play equipment and we are about to put two new pieces on Garth Road.

We will be replanting out wildflower areas around the Prish shortly and are looking at new areas to plant up.

Planning had proved difficult having opposed the building of 275 homes on New Lane the builder went to appeal the decision to refuse the application. Secretary of State then decided to uphold the appeal and building has begun.

Another 107 homes has been approved on New Lane despite opposition and again work has started, Building of The island on New lane is still to be started.

I would to thank our Clerk/RFO Lorraine for all her hard work throughout the year and to all my fellow Councillors for their continuing support.

Going forward in 2025 our first priority must be to bring the Parish Council up to full complement .

Di Geogheghan-Breen - Chair – 16 April 2025.

RFO's Report – Huntington Parish Council 2024-2025:

4.

The Precept of £173,589.00 was an increase of 20% on the previous year (2023/24), the Council carried forward an underspend from the previous year of £48,992.50 (*this included a double taxation rebate of £26,358.71 received on 28/03/25*) and restricted funds of £29,600.00 grants received for improvements to Garth Road Playground. The total balance in Huntington Parish Councils account as of 31/03/2025 was £ 78,592.50.

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 decreased from £18,665.00 to £12,065.00 a decrease of 35.36% on the previous year, this was in part due to fewer grass cuts being necessary because of the dryer weather and reduced growing season, despite the wet start and fewer recipients of the scheme.

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 and Naurin the Cemetery Clerk, and our newest employee Ebony who is Deputy Clerk. All legislation as regards employment is noted and pay rates are reviewed annually for all staff. John and Lindsay entered the NALC pay scales at point 12 from 01/04/2024 the Cemetery Clerk and Parish Clerk/RFO pay rates are dictated by NALC.

The Parish Council continues to fund a Citizens' Advice Bureau Outreach Service at Huntington Community Centre at a cost of £6,741.67 an increase of 26.82%.

The Play areas continue to be a well-used asset and as such the maintenance costs have remained almost same £10,530.60 (Orchard Park £6,753.00, Garth Road £2,712.00, Vesper Walk £252.00 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 £15,686.39.

The Parish installed two new picnic tables at Orchard Park and an additional bench on North Moor at a cost of £3,758.06 (materials £1,770.86 plus £1,987.20 labour), it was wonderful to see them being used on the date they were installed.

The Parish insurance cover is reviewed annually in depth, whilst we are tied to our current providers until the end of April 2025. There was an increase in the premium for 2024/2025 to £12,721.59, however the cemetery Insurance is now included in the premium.

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 successfully completed last year.

We also have a new .gov.uk website and Councillors have .gov.uk email addresses at an annual renewal cost of £922.80 including annual support.

I would like to thank Ebony for her hard work and enthusiasm 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 a new Councillor Mark Gowland bringing the current number to eight, (D. Geogheghan-Breen, S. Jobling, D. Jobling, K. Orrell, M. Duncanson, J. Willis, S. Phoenix, M. Gowland).

Lorraine Frankland – Responsible Finance Officer – April 2025.

Questions Raised by Members of Huntington Parish

Non-raised

Meeting closed at 7.10pm

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