



HUNSDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes - Annual Parish Meeting

15th May 2023 in Hunsdon Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr Toll, Cllr Oliver, Cllr O'Shea, Clerk – Carole Page

Jo Mazanowska / John Felstead / Angela Felstead / Martyn Reid / Andrew Pummell / John Dunlop / Anthony Bickmore / Pauline Fitch / Karen Osterley

1. To receive and accept apologies for absence. Cllr McDonald, Cllr Ottolangui / Bud Carthy, Jackie Carthy, Mike Newman, Cllr Eric Buckmaster sent their apologies
2. To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 16th May 2022. Minutes accepted as approved.
3. To receive reports on actions agreed at the Last Annual Parish Meeting. Reports received. The outstanding action from 2022: Having a display board on the Queens Platinum Jubilee celebrations for the village hall was carried out.
4. To receive the Hunsdon Annual Report 2022/23. Report received and accepted. Report has been posted on then Parish Council website, Facebook and Facebook Community Hub.

- **Chairs report** – Summarises work done in the last year and drew attention to the fantastic work that Cllr Ottolangui and his committee have done in pulling together a team to put on lunches / brunches and Summer and Winter events. Also a big thank you to all members of the Parish Council for their hard work over the last year. A big thank you to Steve Burton who due to pressure of work has stood down as a councillor.

John Felstead asked what are the major pressures on the Parish Council. Cllr Toll responded that the biggest issues are in planning, but that we have the Gilston Planning Group to help with the Gilston allocation. A very serious threat to the village is the proposed quarry.

- **Parish Rooms Trust** – Andrew Pummell presented his report. No questions.
- **Parish Footpath Wardens** – Martyn presented the report. No damage to the footpaths due to the flooding. Cllr Toll thanked Bud and Martyn for the fantastic job they both do in maintaining the standard of our footpaths and liaising with the Herts CC Countryside team.



- **HANP** – Cllr O'Shea presented and updated on the Hunsdon Neighbourhood Plan that went through the public examination process and passed and that we were commended on its high quality and that it made the examiners task easier. Referendum in September had a very good turnout with one third of all eligible voters turning out to vote. Majority in favour of the plan.

Since the adoption of the Neighbourhood Plan, there have been a couple of planning applications which were turned down as being contrary to the HANP.

Re finance, which in broad terms the Plan cost just over £20,000, £14,000 of that came from central government grants. £6,400 came from Parish Council funds. Cllr O'Shea thanked everyone who worked so hard on this. Namely: Bud Carthy, Jackie Carthy, John Felstead, Pauline Fitch, Mike Newman, Carole Page, Malcolm Slater, Bob Toll

- **Joint Neighbourhood Planning Group** – Anthony Bickmore presented the Group's annual report to the sponsoring councils and thanked them for their continuing support during the year. He looked at present situation as reported, the wider implications of the proposed development and some of the positive aspects as well as negative.
- **JMI School Report** – not present. Cllr Toll summarised. Cllr Toll proposed the Annual Parish Meeting recognise the pressures under which the schoolwork and the appreciation **of the Parish Council on behalf of parishioners for the extraordinary contribution the school and its staff makes to the community.**
- **County Councillor Report** – Cllr Buckmaster not present. Report is very comprehensive and is best read on the web site. Cllr Toll mentioned information on Highways that Hertfordshire roads are better than the national average. Also locality grants he awarded. There is a deal of money available to organisations.
- **Recreation area** – not present.
- **Cubs and Scouts** – Karen Osterley – significant change in the group previously had 28 members, but after a recruitment campaign, now have 74 members. Thank you to Parish Rooms Trust for the funding. Children are from Hunsdon and the surrounding villages. Some from Roydon whose group closed down. Hunsdon have taken those children that were unlikely to get into Stanstead Abbots.



- **Clerks report – presented.**
- **District Councillor Report** – John Dunlop – recognises the developments are an issue for the villagers: Quarry development; buses not going into Harlow. Cllr Dunlop said he is here to represent the people that voted for him. Development is his number one. How asked how he could position himself in the council. He said he could be used as a weapon to be loaded and pointed in whatever direction where he could be most useful. Not sure where the areas are, but looking to the village to see what areas he could be most effective.
- **Village Hall** – Cllr O'Shea – welcomed the new trustees to help run the building, which takes a lot of running, but that we need to continue to look for new ideas and input. There is a vacancy for one trustee. 100 year as a charity in 2027. AGM of the Village Hall Trust Charity on 10th July. Accounts will be presented there. Building belongs to the charity. Angela says regarding the hire price increases – we have only had 2 increases over the last 6 years.
- **Hunsdon Community Events** – Cllr Ottolangui not present.

5. Questions and Open Forum – Martyn – asked if there was anything that could be done about the effect of agricultural sprays in from the airfield, one incident was on the 2nd May. **Action: Martyn to send email to the Parish Council.**

John Felstead observed that pavements in and around the village are becoming narrower with encroaching grass – and also the number of dead trees on the road to Stanstead Abbots. Cllr Toll says report the trees on the East Herts website. John also said there is a noise nuisance of one or two car either Friday or Saturday nights who come hurtling through the village, at around 1.30-2 in the morning.

Action: clerk to speak to the police.

6. Close of meeting – 9.00 pm