



HUNSDON PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Meeting Minutes

18th September 7.30pm – Hunsdon Village Hall 2023

Present: Cllrs B Toll (Chair) D. McDonald, D Ottolangui, S. Oliver

In attendance: Cllr Eric Buckmaster, Cllr John Dunlop, 15 members of the public

23.08.01` **To receive and accept apologies for absence.** Apologies received from Cllr O'Shea, who is feeling unwell. Bud and Jackie Carthy are on holiday.

23.08.02 **Declaration of Interest and dispensations**

1. To receive declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda
2. To receive written requests for dispensations for declarable interests; and
3. To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate

None received or made. Cllr Ottolangui declared there is a payment for equipment for the playing field.

23.08.03 **Minutes**

To confirm the Minutes of Hunsdon Parish Council Meeting held on July 17th, 2023, as an accurate record of proceedings. Confirmed and agreed.

23.08.04 **Matters Arising** – no matters arising that are not covered by the meeting agenda.

23.08.05 **East Herts District Councillor Report – Cllr John Dunlop**

Councillor Dunlop advised the grass cutting contract is currently mid-way and now considering ways to make the process as environmentally friendly as possible. He suggests some thought be given to what we would like to see in the grassed areas of the village.

Action: Cllr Dunlop to provide a map of the areas that are cut by the council. Done

23.08.06 **County Councillor Reports – Cllr Eric Buckmaster**

Again there have been a number of houses flooded during the storm on Sunday night. A house that has had the kitchen renovated after the last flood has again been flooded. Residents are putting sandbags outside their houses as soon as they hear the weather forecast.

Cllr Buckmaster is engaging with Ringway to gain confirmation that the gully's are cleared on a regular basis and get East Herts to clear the streets more frequently. He will make the flood team aware of what is going on.

The modelling was undertaken to work out where the water flows. The purpose was to map out the area and to look at how the surface water travels across the area. Now officers are seeking funding to enable work to take place on options studies. Cllr Buckmaster wants the modelling survey report to be shared with the village. A meeting will be set up. Even if there is another stage of getting an options report for the potential solution, it is crucial the meeting takes place.

Cllr Ottolangui observed the severe weather is no longer a 1 in 100, or 1 in 10. We have had two severe storms in the last two years. Climate change is evident.

Cllr Buckmaster is to request Ringway to bring along a vector unit to see if there are any blockages in the drains.

A member of the public observed that the system is not coping, something needs to be done. If the capacity of the culvert is not sufficient, they need to look at stopping the water further



HUNSDON PARISH COUNCIL

up or a remodelling of the pavements. **Action: all residents to send any videos and pictures to Cllr Buckmaster.** Cllr Buckmaster has said to East Herts and County that we need a preventative approach.

A resident asked when we are going to be privy to the modelling outcome. Cllr Buckmaster said that we need to keep the pressure. Have everyone write into him, also write to the MP – Julia Marsden. Write a petition? He will provide a list of the relevant contacts to send a collective group letter to. **Action: Cllr Buckmaster to provide a list of contacts.** The residents group meeting will be held as soon as possible where the letter will be developed.

A question was asked about the 30mph sign on the A602. Cllr Buckmaster will request the removal of the signs.

Storage of salt – not sure how many grit bins there are in the village: one in Tanners Way; the end of Hollands Croft. **Action: find out where all the grit bins are, where can we store salt - at the end of Drury Lane or behind the tennis courts? Then order salt.**

Cllr Toll requested the 30mph sign that is missing south of Hempstalls be replaced. It has been reported on the Highways website. **Cllr Buckmaster to pursue.**

Cllr Ottolangui observed the confusing signage approaching Rosella Bend from Church Lane: a slow on the road, 40mph signs, road narrowing. Needs to be clearer.

23.08.07 Finance – Clerk (Appendix 3)

1. To authorise payments made in accordance with the budget. Authorised
2. Expenditure
3. To note receipt of Income, including grants and VAT refunds. Noted
4. To receive Budget Monitoring Report and Bank Reconciliations. Councillors agreed to accuracy of reports and reconciliation
5. Litter Picking update – councillors approved for the re-siting of the bin by the bus shelter to in front of the childrens play area.
6. Use of a .gov.uk domain name – action: clerk to find out whether it is mandatory.
Action: look at the IT system in place, email, and website.

23.08.08 Hunsdon Area Planning Applications – Cllr Toll (Appendix 4)

PC Responses and Decisions - See Planning Report. Planning report to be posted to Facebook and on the PC website.

23.08.09 Strategic Planning Issues and Community Activities

1. Gilston Area development – Cllr O'Shea / Cllr Toll -not much movement, waiting for commencement of master planning. Had NPG meeting on Saturday. Cllr Chis Wilson attended to explain his role as executive member for Resident's Engagement. This is a welcome new initiative on the part of the EHC.
2. HANP Task List
 - Updated spreadsheet report - Clerk / Cllr Toll Spreadsheet to be circulated to members.
 - The Dell – Cllr Toll – nothing to report, expecting to hear from County Council Countryside Team at the end of September.
 - Village Pump / Memorial Green, car park – Cllr Toll – Cllr O'Shea is recommending we make a friendly approach to Lord Aldenham estate in the first instance to see



HUNSDON PARISH COUNCIL

what their response is. To see if they are willing to reconsider the offer, they made to the Parish Council to sell us the memorial land, triangle and car park for £1. To include the pump also.

- Tennis Courts / MUGA – JC / Cllr Ottolangui (**Appendix 5**) – Cllr Toll suggests we should progress this now, as we have an amount of £18,352. Cllr Ottolangui proposes we approach the Parish Rooms Trust for the difference between the cost of the tarmac and the balance in the bank of £18,352. Cllr McDonald and Cllr Oliver seconded. All agreed. Cllr Ottolangui said the Tennis Court Committee have identified a bottom line of £45,000 for the project. If we do this relatively quickly, we can then work on the smaller projects and equipment. Cllr Ottolangui asked for some direction from the PC as to a timeline to have the first phase of the project undertaken. There is a weather-related component to that. Cllr Toll suggests we make March 2024 a target for completion. Cllr Ottolangui proposed, Cllr McDonald seconded, all councillors agreed.
- Flooding – Cllr McDonald/Cllr Buckmaster – recorded above
- Community Activities, Events, communications (**Appendix 7**) – Cllr Ottolangui
- Village Improvement update - (**Appendix 8**) Cllr Ottolangui to Discuss with Shane ensuring the gateway is not left open during the removal of the gate.

3. Consultations

- HCC Minerals and Waste Plan – Cllr Toll said there are no notified developments. Cllr Buckmaster thinks it is due to go to the Environment Growth panel by the end of November or beginning of December. The recommendation is that it is likely to go to Reg 19 consultation.
- Stansted Airport Draft Noise Action Plan - Report prepared by Cllr Toll produced responses and which he has discussed with councillors in Gilston, who endorse the points we are making. Cllr Toll would like to write to Stansted airport to say we want to have regular liaison meetings with Parishes. **Action: Cllr Toll to request they come to talk to us about their noise action plan.**
- DLUHC consultation on local plans – NALC Response – Cllr Toll No action necessary.

23.08.10 Correspondence

- Fly tipping – Cllr Ottolangui – resident noted some fly tipping on the airfield and wasn't sure what to do. Footpath Wardens have dealt with this.
- Cllr Buckmaster has a meeting with DEFRA around the delays on Resources and Waste that inform local authorities what they can charge for collection and what the timings are to be.

Cllr Toll wrote to Julie Marson regarding the postal problems. Hasn't heard anything back yet.

23.08.11 AOB

- CAB visiting on the 10th October. Trialling in several of the villages. To enable residents to come along for a coffee and find out about a wealth of information that could help with access to advice and further support they may need.
- Allotments – Cllr Oliver is collecting rent money at the moment. There has been a complaint about a small hawthorn tree which is being held up by a bush in the corner of one of the plots. Cllr Oliver's brother has offered to cut the tree down and dispose of it. Cllr Toll confirms that is OK, all councillors agreed. Cllr Oliver also noted that the gate has dropped at the post end, needs looking at.

23.08.12 **Date of Next Meeting: 16th October 2023.**

23.08.13 **Close of meeting. 9.19pm**



HUNSDON PARISH COUNCIL

Appendix 1 –Councillor John Dunlop – District Councillor Report

Appendix 2 – Councillor Eric Buckmaster – County Councillor Report - August/September 2023

High Street	Hunsdon	20 MPH School Advisory Signs - Design	Ringway	Ordered
Acorn Street	Hunsdon	Traffic Speed and Volume Surveys (Three Devices)	WSP Data Team	Ordered

Flood Modelling the modelling was undertaken by the consultant. The purpose was to map out the area and to look at how the surface water travels across the area. Now officers are seeking funding to enable work to take place on options studies. The assumption could be that the most effective approach is to hold the water back via natural flood management systems. So a range of options need to be presented that are practical and cost effective. As you can imagine this is no small task. It is not a question of just fixing something, but entirely changing the dynamics of water flow through the area so therefore potentially complex. Work on this will be ongoing.



East Herts Capital Projects. Hartham Leisure.

I was pleased to attend the official opening of Hartham Leisure on 9th September. The Leisure facilities, Hertford Theatre, Cultural Strategy and Parks and Open Spaces had been in my portfolio for 8 years. It has been good to see them worked through to delivery despite the hurdles we faced on the way. The aim was always to turn facilities that were subsidised into self-financing where the council receives positive revenue. This is on the way to being achieved. When we embarked on the projects we factored in Brexit, but no one could have predicted the financial impacts of inflation from Covid and then the invasion of

Ukraine. It is these factors that have put the councils finances under pressure but less so than many other councils around the country. Certainly in terms of our social and community infrastructure we have produced a lasting legacy for our residents.

From the **recent government pothole** fund, from which HCC was granted £3.9m this is an update on what exactly it is being spent on and what methods (both current and new) are being used to treat carriageway defects.

How we are allocating the pothole fund across Hertfordshire:

HCC's share of the fund will allow us to fix up to 20,000 additional potholes across the County. Work is being phased, so will be taking place at different times and locations this year. This means that work will not be taking place in all areas at the same time. Teams are working from town to town (drawing on all the evidence, as we have to target our activity where it is most needed), identifying potholes or surface defects that otherwise wouldn't currently meet our intervention levels, and then planning them in to be fixed under this programme. As of 18 August, the funding will have led to over 6,222 potholes* being filled at 1,014 locations across Hertfordshire. Whilst this work is being undertaken, the repair of potholes that meet our intervention criteria will continue to be actioned as normal. The pothole fund work is in addition to this and will not be used to repair potholes that would otherwise be repaired under normal business and process. Residents should continue to report potholes via the fault reporting system as normal. Whilst the pothole fund is a substantial investment and will see many of the lower category potholes/defects being filled.

*Ta pothole is assessed as 1 sq. m. (i.e. 6,222 sq. of road has been repaired)

What it is being spent on:

In the roll out of this funding, the service is looking to repair more of the minor potholes that would usually be planned into nearby and/or future works. In a normal year, the Highways service will fix/repair approx.



HUNSDON PARISH COUNCIL

20,000 Cat1 potholes that meet intervention levels. This funding is allowing an additional amount (we estimate up to 20,000) to be repaired, which is hugely beneficial to road users.

Methods we are using to complete the works:

- **Traditional patching** – Used for small distinct defect areas where the edges of the pothole are saw cut and then hot asphalt is laid and compacted. This is our standard pothole repair but is inefficient if used for large areas.
- **JCB Pothole Pro** – Being trialled, and used for larger patches, this semi-automated process allows for larger areas to be cut out and cleared efficiently, but the capital cost of the machine and the number that we deal with means it cannot be used to replace traditional patching. The Pothole Pro is a machine that cuts the patches and removes the loose material before the hot material is laid and compacted. This partially automated process allows us to cover larger areas more quickly.
- **Thermal Road Repairs** – Being trialled, used for small distinct defect areas. This is being looked at as an alternative to traditional patching. Large areas cannot be done as the material cannot be heated across large areas. The defect area is heated to melt the bitumen binder and then new material is added and compacted to fill the hole. No material is taken off site and there is no need to saw cut the edges.
- **Roadmender** – Again, being trialled, and used mostly for areas where asphalt overlaying a concrete base is cracking or even peeling off (delamination). These defects are generally shallower than potholes, and a large area can be covered in one application, meaning that a potholed area and any surrounding cracking can be covered. Roadmender uses Elastomac, which is a new non-invasive, eco-friendly repair material that lowers the carbon footprint of patch repairs by 85%. It uses a sustainable repair material that replaces fossil fuel bitumen (the glue in asphalt) with end-of-life waste tyres. In addition to being highly durable, the material delivers significant circular economies with 9 end-of-life waste tyres recycled into every ton. Unlike conventional repairs that require potholes to be saw cut and excavated purely to accommodate the compaction requirements of using asphalt, Elastomac is a flowable material that is simply poured into and over the top of defects in a fraction of the time.
- **Spray Injection Patching** – Used mostly on rural roads because this is a time efficient process which enables us to fill shallow potholes/defects quickly with minimum disruption. It would never be used for Cat 1 potholes and we usually limit to a depth of 30mm. It can be used in urban areas but requires surrounding vehicles and properties to be protected as overspray can happen. Spray injection patching is a process where aggregate is simultaneously premixed with a heated asphalt emulsion and sprayed through a hose and nozzle into the pothole

A414 speed restrictions and Barrier Repairs

Work has been undertaken on the worst section of vehicle safety fence eastbound, the temporary barriers have been removed and the speed restrictions raised from 40 to 50 mph. This speed restriction has been retained due to several other sections of Vehicle Safety Fence which are sub-standard and have only been approved for 50 mph. Remaining work is within the design and approval cycle awaiting programming once we have the go ahead. Westbound there has been a vehicle collision with the bridge parapet fence over the railway. In order to protect this the lane closure has been extended by 500m. Work on the Vehicle Safety Fence has been scheduled for October/November following which we will remove the current traffic management, reinforce the bridge temporary parapet protection and raise the speed limit to 50 mph. Repair to the bridge parapet is dependent upon a rail closure as the damaged section is above the live lane.

Serious Collision on A414 closing both lanes on 5th September. At the time of writing I don't know the cause but have asked officers for data relating to the past 5 years of recordable incidents.

Upgraded section of the A602 opens to traffic

The newly upgraded section of the A602 between Watton-at-Stone and Tonwell has opened to traffic today (Monday 7 August), bringing this important link between the A1(M) at Stevenage and the A10 at Ware up to modern highway standards, reducing delays and improving journey times.



HUNSDON PARISH COUNCIL

The new section of road, which replaces the previous A602 carriageway, has been realigned to smooth out sharp bends, improve visibility, and create right-turn lanes at junctions to reduce delays caused by vehicles turning off the road.

A new bridge has also been constructed at the Sacombe Pound junction with a new cycleway to allow cyclists and pedestrians to cross safely under the A602.



This is the final stage of improvements on the A602 between Stevenage and Ware, following previously completed works to improve the roundabouts at the A119 and A10 junctions, and the junctions with Anchor Lane, Westmill Road and Hertford Road.

The Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Team within Public Health at HCC commission Samaritans to deliver Suicide Prevention Training FREE to all front-line public-sector staff. This is aligned to our Hertfordshire Suicide Prevention Strategy to promote more awareness and help reduce the number of suicides in the county.

Exam results support

Young people who are getting their A-level and GCSE results this summer can get support from Services for Young People as they decide on their next steps. Whatever the results, our Advisers are on hand with the latest information and impartial advice to help young people with their important choices. [News \(servicesforyoungpeople.org\) https://www.servicesforyoungpeople.org/about-services-for-young-people/news/exam-results-support-2023/](https://www.servicesforyoungpeople.org/news/exam-results-support-2023/)

Statement on Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) in Hertfordshire schools Hertfordshire County Council is not aware of any Hertfordshire schools needing to close as a result of the direction from the Department for Education (DfE) on managing Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) in schools. Between 2020 and 2021, we carried out surveys on 279 local authority-maintained schools that had buildings constructed during the risk period identified by the DfE. This identified three schools that needed remediation works, and those works were completed in 2022.

While we have no reason to believe that any other school buildings contain RAAC, as a precaution we will now also be carrying out surveys on a further 95 lower risk schools.

We are encouraging parents to contact their school directly if they have any concerns.

Salt Bags and Winter Self Help scheme for this year is now open and will run until the 31st of October 2023. Please forward any request you might receive, from Residents and community groups (to be approved by County Member), to the winterselfhelp@hertfordshire.gov.uk

“Resident associations, resident groups (with a constitution or agreed terms of reference) and community groups can request between 1 – 34 x 20kg bags of salt per group to grit the public highway in their area”.

Hertfordshire County Council to increase payments to sponsors of Ukrainian guests

Following the Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022, over a thousand Hertfordshire residents stepped forward to join the national Homes for Ukraine Scheme, welcoming Ukrainian guests into their own homes. As the war continues and the financial pressures of day-to-day living remain, some hosts have been unable to continue on the scheme and the county council is seeking new sponsors who may have a spare room or vacant property able to accommodate a guest.

In addition to the thank you payments of £350 per month¹ Hertfordshire County Council has today announced enhancements to sponsor payments to encourage more applications from potential hosts while also recognising the tremendous ongoing good will of existing hosts.

From September, a host new to the Homes for Ukraine scheme in Hertfordshire will receive²:

- The monthly ‘thank you’ payment (£350 per month)
- An additional £50 per person for each Ukrainian guest, up to £200 per month
- Between October and March each year, an additional £50 per person for each Ukrainian guest up to £200.

The enhancement to sponsor payments would see a new host with three Ukrainian guests receive £500 per month, with payment increasing over the winter months to £650 per month



HUNSDON PARISH COUNCIL



HUNSDON PARISH COUNCIL

Appendix 3 – Clerks Report

Hunsdon Parish Council					
Revenue Expenditure					
Credit					
	Budget	To date	Remaining period	Year	Variance
B/F General	£6,232.08	£6,815.47		£6,815.47	£583.39
Precept	£26,600.00	£13,345.00	£13,255.00	£26,600.00	£0.00
Litter Picker	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Allotment rents	£489.00	£0.00	£489.00	£489.00	£0.00
VAT refund rev	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Grant Neighbourhood Plan	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Santander Interest	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Totals	£33,321.08	£20,160.47	£13,744.00	£33,904.47	£583.39
Debit					
Administration	£2,217.12	£1,199.54	£1,017.58	£2,217.12	£0.00
Litter pickers	£1,600.00	£137.70	£1,462.30	£1,600.00	£0.00
Salary	£6,050.00	£2,956.08	£3,093.92	£6,050.00	£0.00
General Power of Competence	£320.00	£0.00	£320.00	£320.00	£0.00
Allotments	£490.00	£0.00	£490.00	£490.00	£0.00
Playing Field	£700.00	£243.00	£457.00	£700.00	£0.00
Rest of village	£0.00	£1,038.86	-£1,038.86	£0.00	£0.00
Grounds Maintenance	£6,252.00	£3,536.92	£2,715.08	£6,252.00	£0.00
Planning Consultants and Advice	£6,000.00	£527.61	£5,472.39	£6,000.00	£0.00
Churchyard donation	£1,000.00	£0.00	£1,000.00	£1,000.00	£0.00
Insurance	£568.44	£568.44	£0.00	£568.44	£0.00
Defibrillator funding	£365.00	£0.00	£365.00	£365.00	£0.00
Village Event Funding	£800.00	£800.00	£0.00	£800.00	£0.00
Projects	£5,000.00	£0.00	£5,000.00	£5,000.00	£0.00
Contingencies	£500.00	£0.00	£500.00	£500.00	£0.00
Totals	£31,862.56	£11,008.15	£20,854.41	£31,862.56	£0.00
Surplus	£1,458.52	£9,152.32	-£7,110.41	£2,041.91	£583.39
Totals					
Revenue Surplus	£1,458.52	£9,152.32	-£7,110.41	£2,041.91	£583.39
Capital Surplus	£11,256.32	£30,395.51	-£18,352.03	£12,043.48	£787.16
Total Surplus	£12,714.84	£39,547.83	-£25,462.44	£14,085.39	£1,370.55



HUNSDON PARISH COUNCIL

Bank Reconciliation			
Total surplus	£39,547.83		
			£4,882.17
04-Sep-23			
Santander bank	Current account		£36,774.29
	Business account		
		Total	£41,656.46
Payments agreed but not cleared bank			
Payments to be agreed			
C Page	Salary for September	Salary	£384.18
HMRC Cumberbaud	PAYE for Clerk	Salary	£96.00
L Lundy	Litter picking for September	Litter Pickers	£20.00
A Wilkinson	Litter picking for September	Litter Pickers	£20.00
M Smith	Internal audit fee	Administration	£60.00
Hunsdon Village Hall	Hall hire for PC meetings_ April, May,	Administration	£67.50
M Nissim	Admin and Comms work June and July	Salary	£45.00
PKF Littlejohn LLP	External audit fee	Administration	£252.00
FreshBinz	Final bin cleaning invoices - no invoices	Rest of village	£300.00
P Knott	August grass cutting - 3 cuts	Grounds	£840.00
D Ottolangui	New tent pegs for goalposts in playing	Grounds	£23.95
			£ 2,108.63
		Balance at Bank	£39,547.83



HUNSDON PARISH COUNCIL

Capital Expenditure					
Credit					
	Budget	To date	Remaining period	Year	Variance
B/F Special Projects	£29,608.35	£30,395.51		£30,395.51	£787.16
VAT refund Cap	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Totals	£29,608.35	£30,395.51	£0.00	£30,395.51	£787.16
Playground Equipment	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Inspection for Equipment	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
MUGA allocation	£18,352.03	£0.00	£18,352.03	£18,352.03	£0.00
	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Totals	£18,352.03	£0.00	£18,352.03	£18,352.03	£0.00
Surplus	£11,256.32	£30,395.51	-£18,352.03	£12,043.48	£787.16
Receipts Check		TRUE			
Payments Check		TRUE			
Reconciliation Check		TRUE			



HUNSDON PARISH COUNCIL

Planning Applications https://publicaccess.eastherts.gov.uk	LHPC Response
3/23/1298/FUL PROPOSAL: Replacement of car park fence (comprising a series of 0.95 metre posts linked originally by chain) with a 1.2 metre post and twin rail timber fence. The new fence will follow the line of the existing fence at 1.3 metre from the edge of the highway. AT: Land Opposite St Dunstans Church Lane Deadline: Please send your comments to EHC by: 3rd August 2023	Support the application
3/23/1344/HH PROPOSAL: Conversion of garage to habitable room and installation of bi-fold doors to rear. AT: 41 Widford Road Deadline: Please send your comments to EHC by: 3rd August 2023	No objections, but noted the extra bedroom could increase the parking burden
3/23/1574/HH PROPOSAL: Conversion of existing detached cart lodge to form habitable accommodation AT: Gate House Hunsdonbury Lane Deadline: Please send your comments to EHC by: 22nd September 2023	No objections
3/23/1575/LBC PROPOSAL: Conversion of existing detached cart lodge to form habitable accommodation AT: Gate House Hunsdonbury Lane Deadline: Please send your comments to EHC by: 22nd September 2023	No objection
3/23/1705/HH PROPOSAL: Erection of games room within rear garden and extension to existing decking AT: 20 Widford Road Deadline: Please send your comments to EHC by: 29th September 2023	No objections
Planning Decisions	
3/23/1144/HH PROPOSAL: Repairs to roof to include replacement roof tiles and hips to match existing AT: Old Stables Acorn Street	Grant Planning Permission subject to Conditions
3/23/1145/LBC – as above	As above
3/23/0617/HH PROPOSAL: Repair of brickwork. Installation of car charging point AT: 7 High Street	Grant Planning Permission subject to Conditions
3/23/0618/LBC – as above	As above
3/23/1344/HH PROPOSAL: Conversion of garage to habitable room and installation of bi-fold doors to rear AT: 41 Widford Road	Grant Planning Permission subject to Conditions



HUNSDON PARISH COUNCIL

Appendix 5 – BRIEF TO COUNCILLORS ABOUT THE TENNIS COURTS

- 1.1 Following Jackie’s note, this sets out the options and our recommendations for the future of the tennis courts.
- 1.2 In brief, we are recommending a two-stage programme to bring them back into use as a games area for the Parish residents.

2. Background

- 2.1 Jackie and her committee have tried to raise the money to pay for an all-weather surfaced multi-games area with all-purpose equipment and fencing but escalating costs and a less generous funding climate have meant that will not be possible for the near future. Cost now would be over £140,000 but the main funders, Sports England and National Lottery will not help us. We have carried out research and sought advice from a number of places, including Wodson Park Sports Centre in Ware on the alternatives
- 2.2 We have had to look to much cheaper options if anything is to be done. We think there is a two-stage solution at an achievable cost which is:
- 2.3 To resurface the tennis courts with simple black tarmac. We have been advised that the underlying base is good.
- 2.4 We think it will be possible to re-use the existing perimeter fencing with some local help to repair the broken parts- the structure and supports are good enough.
- 2.5 Then it will be possible to look to buy the necessary goals and equipment for 2 games areas. The survey will inform us what the majority of people prefer, whether one new tennis court/ mini tennis and or a combined 5 a side/ basketball/ netball/ court.

3. Stage One

- 3.1 With local help we have cleared most of the vegetation and debris around the courts.
- 3.2 We have obtained 3 estimates:

All prices excluding VAT.

	<u>Soft Surfaces</u>	<u>Caloo</u>	<u>Total Surfaces</u>
Preparation	£2,394	Not included	Included in price
Tarmac	£31,500	£40,241	£21,100
Coating	£5,040	Not included	£5,500
Lining	£2,480	£2,760	£1,850

At this stage we can only look to tarmac the courts and propose that the other work, basically white lining the selected games areas and buying the equipment, be in Stage 2 when funds are available in a phased approach, for which we will have to organise new fundraising next year with another member of our committee. We think this will be for £20/25,000 in ballpark figures.

For the resurfacing we are satisfied with the cheapest quote. Because the PC already has £18,352 reserved for the tennis courts/MUGA which mainly comes from the s106 money we received a few years ago for “Refurbishing the village tennis courts in Hunsdon - £14,498.20” plus the money raised at the 2 Village Summer events after Covid and for the Jubilee, we would like to spend that if we can obtain the balance of the £21,100 from the Parish Rooms Trust. Even if the whole of stage 2 takes time, we think it is timely to proceed now with Stage 1 as the costs of these things continually escalate and if we do not use the S106 money, we may lose it.

There will be VAT to pay on the £21100 of £4220 but Carole advises we can recover that within a few weeks after payment. There is another £11000 + in the capital reserve which can cover this short-term outlay.

4. The Lease

If the PC makes this decision, it will effectively mean that we will not be exercising the option we have to terminate the Lease of the Tennis Cort land next year. To remind you of the terms of the Lease:



HUNSDON PARISH COUNCIL

It runs until 2040, but in September 2024 we can break the lease giving 3 months' prior notice. At present the courts are rent free, but after September 2024 rent will be £205 pa for 2 years, then £310 pa for 7 years and £470 pa for the remaining years.

Consequences of breaking the lease:

- a. We would have to pay back the rent-free period –just over £1000
- b. Probably we would have to return the land to how it was before the tennis courts were built, taking down, and disposing of the fencing and digging up and disposing of the hard surface. The landlords can insist on this with cost implications as things stand now but if we go ahead with Stage 1 it would make no sense at all to break the lease next year and we would be committed until 2040 .

5. We will be pleased to take questions and comments at the next PC meeting.

Frank O'Shea
Dave Ottolanguì
Carole Page
Jackie Carthy

Appendix 6 –Recreation Area Report for Hunsdon Parish Council September 2023

Playground

The annual inspection of the playground equipment took place in July. We were not informed of the date beforehand, so neither Carole nor I were able to be there, which would have been very useful for us. All findings were low risk, but I have had to contact the company for clarification on some of the comments. Carole and I have drawn up an action plan based on the inspection. The main issue is still the combi-gate, which needs replacing. Carole has already organised for the litter bin and a couple of redundant and rusty benches to be removed and we are waiting for the trees to be cut back where they overhang the equipment.

Tennis Courts/MUGA

A clear up day took place on Sunday 5th August. Sadly, turnout was not too good, but with the help of Steve Venables of Principal Trees we managed to make one court usable. The edges of the courts will need spraying with weedkiller on a twice-yearly basis to prevent the court getting overgrown in the future. Cutting back work is still needed on the second court together with a second community volunteer clearing up day.

Following a failure to get funding from Sport England Small Grants Programme and a contact in the sport funding area saying that large grants are now almost impossible to find, a decision was taken to look instead at a Plan B for the Tennis Courts/MUGA.

The steering group has been expanded to include Councillors O'Shea and Ottolanguì, and Daniel Carter. We are starting to look at getting the court upgrade done in stages as funding becomes available. We are getting quotes on that basis. Phase 1 will be surfacing. We have decided that we will conduct a village-wide survey to find residents' views on what types of court they would use/like to see. To be finished by the end of October. Not having this information was the main reason we didn't get National Lottery funding. **Need Parish Council agreement on payment of printing costs.**

Appendix 7 - Hunsdon Community Events

FREE to attend Annual Events

The summer "Festival on the Field" in June was a great success and the 2024 festival date has been set for June 29th 2024.



HUNSDON PARISH COUNCIL

The Christmas Fayre is taking place on Saturday 2nd December and the planning meetings commence later this month. The target is for these annual events to be self financing for 2024 but this will depend on a succesful Christmas Fayre and no increase in overheads

FREE Community Lunches and Brunches

After a short summer break following the very succesful Coronation Tea (over 100 attendees) the regular FREE community events continued with a Sunday Brunch on 12th September. The event was attended by about 50 village residents. These events continue to run at a loss despite generous voluntary donations. The average loss (ca.£100) per event is equivalent to the hire cost for the VH, which is the largest single overhead for these events. Whilst there are sufficuent funds from grants, voluntary donations and HPC funding in the short term there will need for further fundraising in 2024 to secure long term viability.

Volunteers

For both regular and annual events there are great core teams of volunteers but we are always open to new peole joining either of these sub committees. Please contact Dave Ottolangui (dave.otto1204@gmail.com) if interested

Appendix 8 - Village Improvements - UK Shared Prosperity Fund application

Following informal notification of our unsuccessful UKSPF (UK Shared Prosperity Fund) application in June we are still waiting a formal notification of next steps for future UKSPF application and allocation. This has been chased via John Dunlop on our behalf and whilst Andrew Figgis has stated he has communicated with HPC on prioritisation of sub projects we have no record of this communication. Once we receive formal notification of the process going forward, we can update the list of projects accordingly. In the meantime HPC village improvement funds from the allocated portion of the precept are being used as follows

Village Sign



The village sign has been removed and is in the process of being refurbished at a cost of approximately £1600. This is higher than the original estimate (£1200) due to the size of the sign (840mm x 700mm) and its double-sided construction.

The refurbishment is very timely as the village signpost was rotten and almost at the point of falling over. A new post will be erected to take the refurbished sign. We expect the sign to be back in place by the end of October

Playing Field Gates



The gates have been in a very poor condition for some time and these will be replaced at the same time as the new village signpost along with rubbish clearance in the same area of the playing field. The parish council would like to thank Shane White Groundworks for undertaking this work