

Huntington Parish Council

Minutes of General Meeting held at Huntington Village Hall
at 7.30pm on Tuesday 8th March 2022

Present: B James, G Jones, G Meakins, G Steel, P Williams, M Lloyd

The minutes of the meeting held on 31st August 2021 were read and approved.

Matters arising – There were no matters arising

The Queen's Jubilee Green Canopy

Mr Lloyd had previously sent two emails to councillors advising them that Kington Town Council and Kington Rural Council, under the direction of Mrs Elizabeth Banks, were proposing to plant trees for approx 150 metres after the entrance to Hergest Ridge from the Kington end of the Ridge. The majority of Parish councillors had indicated that Huntington Parish Council should support this venture. There would not be any cost to the Parish Council as the tree saplings would be provided by the Woodland Trust and money would have to be raised through donations / grants to fund the fencing of individual trees and a fence and gates leading onto the ridge after the tree planting area. Mr G Jones commented that Beth Gilbert of McCartneys would be the best person to contact with reference to grants. Mr & Mrs R Banks would seek approval from the Hergest Ridge Commoners for the tree planting and the fencing off of the area. Mr Banks would also seek approval from the Secretary of State to erect a temporary fence on common land. Natural British deciduous trees would be planted, and help with this from the parish council would be appreciated. Mr G Steel felt that the best way for trees to grow was to allow the area to seed organically. Councillors appreciated Mr Steel's comments, however, planting of trees would give a good variety and eventually provide a very attractive area for wildlife as well as walkers. Mr Lloyd to keep councillors informed.

Workers caravans on Haygrove cherry fields

The Parish Council had been advised that 7 static caravans had been sited in the cherry fields now owned by Haygrove Fruit. Mr B James had been told that the caravans were to be used by fruit pickers picking blueberries after the cherry picking had finished. Mr G Steel thought the static caravans had been put on the site towards the end of August 2021 and had not been used by seasonal fruit pickers for the last 5 months. Councillors questioned whether planning permission was required or whether a seasonal licence would be more appropriate. Mr G Jones questioned whether a septic tank system was in place, and whether rubbish was stored and disposed of in a correct matter. Mr Lloyd to contact Herefordshire Council for their advice on this matter.

Planning application The Salt Box.

The Parish Council had received a planning application for a two storey extension at the Salt Box cottage. Mr Lloyd had forwarded plans of the application to councillors prior to the meeting for discussion. Mr G Steel informed councillors that he had lived at the Salt Box for two years when he had first come to Huntington, it was a very small stone built property, upstairs consisted of one bedroom with a small area which could be used as a study, downstairs consisted of two rooms and a small area with a toilet, sink and shower. The extension would double the size of the property.

Mr Lloyd advised councillors that the extension would be faced in sawn feather edge timber weather boarding rather than stone, the roof would consist of plain clay tiles as the existing property. Mr Steel informed members that the extension would have minimal impact from the road. It was felt that this is a much needed improvement to a very small property, the extension would be a sympathetic addition to the existing building and environment. Mr G Steel proposed that the planning permission be approved seconded by Mr G Meakins and carried unanimously. Mr G Jones suggested that it should be noted that an archaeologist be present on site when excavation takes place due to its proximity to Huntington Castle.

Any Other Business.

Mr Lloyd reported that HSBC Bank were now charging a £5.00 monthly account charge, he had spoken to HSBC explaining that the Council only write out five cheques a year and receive two BACS payments. The charges of £5.00 a month relate to £70.00 a year ie £10.00 per transaction. There is no way that HSBC will withdraw/reduce these charges! The charges will have to be included on the Annual Precept.

Mr Lloyd explained that he was still trying to sort out the HSBS safeguarding review for the Parish Council which had started in September 2021! A manager had spoken with Mr Lloyd by telephone in early February and said that the safeguarding would be completed within two weeks – it has not as at 8th March 2022!! Mr Lloyd to chase up.

Mr Lloyd informed the Committee that Mrs Betty Croose would be celebrating her 100th Birthday on 25th March 2022. Mr BH James suggested that a birthday card should be sent on behalf of the Parish Council. Mr Lloyd to organise.

Cheques were signed for Huntington Village Hall hire £40.00; MA Lloyd £266.20 (clerks fee £80.00, PAYE £20.00, £166.20 Upper Bridge enterprises Website support)

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.05pm

B. H. James 10/5/2022.

