

## Huntington Parish Council

Minutes of General Meeting held at Huntington Village Hall  
at 7.50pm on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2022

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

The meeting was attended by residents - Mr & Mrs Luscombe, P Cleland, P Kelly, A Watson, Mrs B Kinsey, Ms G Watson, T Perrin, T Morgan, W Shone

**The minutes** of the meeting held on 8th March 2022 were read and approved.

**Matters arising** – The planting of an avenue of trees on the Kington entrance to Hergest Ridge for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee had been postponed until later in the year. Mr Lloyd to advise councillors of any developments.

Despite phone calls to HSBC Bank the monthly bank charges will not be withdrawn.

The on going safeguarding process being carried out by HSBC Bank has still not been completed by the Bank.

Mr Lloyd had given Mrs Betty Croose a 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday card from the Parish Council. She enjoyed a lovely tea party in the Village Hall on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> March with 60 family members and friends.

### **Haygrove Planning Application for siting 18 caravans**

Mr Lloyd advised councillors that he had contacted Herefordshire Planning Department after the last parish Council meeting to inform them of the static 7 static caravans already sited. The planning officer had then visited the site and contacted Haygrove by telephone and been told that a Planning Application would be forthcoming the following week. It was three to four weeks later that the Parish Council received the Planning Applications.

The Application to site 18 workers static caravans on land off Mahollem Road to the rear of the polytunnels was thoroughly discussed. Councillors were very disappointed to note that although the Application stated that work had not yet started a septic tank & treatment plant had been installed, and seven static caravans had been put in place. Mr B James to contact the Enforcement Officer. The static caravans measure 10mtrs x 4mtrs and would house 6 people in each, giving a total of 108 workers in the peak of the cherry picking season. Councillors considered that this would be gross over development in a small community, more than doubling the population for periods of the year from 90 adults currently to 198 if the application was successful. Also, the Herefordshire Development Plan had not allocated any new houses in the parish yet the Parish Council have been asked to consider allowing 18 static caravans to be sited! Councillors believe that there will be traffic issues due to the increased numbers of people including workers own vehicles, grocery delivery vehicles and mini bus trips taking workers into Kington etc on a regular basis. There would also be issues with workers making their way to Kington on foot which is not only hazardous to them but also to vehicle drivers and passengers. Huntington Parish is an extremely quiet, secluded and unspoilt area and councillors felt that such a large influx of people would unsettle the natural equilibrium and result in the loss or reduction in numbers of animals such as the brown hare, hedgehogs, deer, and barn owls who avoid human contact at all costs. After discussion Mr B James proposed that the Parish Council should strongly object to this application on grounds of Over development, Traffic issues and Habitat. Seconded by Mr G Jones and carried unanimously.



### **Haygrove Planning Application extension of poly tunnels**

The Application to extend the existing 18.5 hectares of polytunnels by 6.5 hectares on land off Mahollem Road was discussed by councillors. It was felt that the increase of 36% on the existing area of polytunnels was over development in an area which already has its fair share of polytunnels. The parish of Huntington is largely unspoilt and tranquil and this Application would greatly erode this and possibly reduce tourism income into the area. There is no financial, economic or social benefits to residents in Huntington from this Application. The additional tunnels would inevitably result in increased traffic on a road infrastructure that is not adequate to take any more larger size traffic. The additional traffic in narrow lanes would be a great inconvenience to residents and visitors and a danger to other road users, indeed the state of the roads and verges have already deteriorated since the original polytunnels were put up. Mr G Jones was concerned that the extraction of water from the Gladestry Brook would have a serious impact on aquatic life, habitat and farmers lower down the Arrow valley. Mr G Jones to contact the Wye & Usk Foundation to obtain details of the water extraction for this site.

Mr G Jones proposed that the Application be opposed on Over development, Traffic & Habitat grounds, seconded by Mr G Steel and carried unanimously.


Mr B James proposed that an Open Meeting should be organised for all residents to attend at Huntington Village Hall on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> May, seconded by Mr G Meakins and carried. Mr Lloyd advised councillors that he had tried to contact Haygrove on a number of occasions to see if they would come to a meeting without success to date.

Mr Lloyd to advise residents by email and letter, also the Hereford Times, Adam Lewis Planning Officer and try to contact Haygrove Fruit representatives again.

### **Any Other Business**

A cheque was signed for councillors insurance for £247.40

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

*B. H. Jones*  


7/11/22