

HUNSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Hunston Parish Council held on Wednesday 6 February 2008 in the Main Hall of Hunston Village Hall.

Present: Mr S Baker, Mr J Broad, Mr J Carroll (Chairman), Mrs L Kenney,
Mr B Wilkins

In attendance: Mrs C Smith (Clerk). Mrs Melanie Jacks, 3 members of the public.

The Meeting commenced at 7.30pm

292. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

Mrs Melanie Jacks from Sunbeams Pre-school in North Mundham introduced herself. Mrs Jacks explained that Sunbeams had been in operation for seven years. Last year the numbers dropped and the nursery has been struggling financially. Mrs Jacks had recently taken over as Chairman and concentrated on marketing the nursery and as a consequence numbers were slowly increasing. 51% of the children attending the nursery come from Hunston. Mrs Jacks explained that the nursery needed twenty two children to break even and although there were currently twenty one children attending ten of those would be leaving at the end of the summer term to go up to primary school. Mrs Jacks explained that further advertising and marketing was being undertaken but that she was seeking some financial assistance from the Parish Council to help with these costs. Mrs Jacks also advised that a new Mother and toddler group was being started at the nursery with the hope that parents would send their children to the nursery once they reached the age of two.

In response to members questions Mrs Jacks advised that there were three members of staff, two of whom lived in Hunston. All members of staff had worked at the nursery for over four years and all were appropriately qualified. The nursery is a registered charity and is licensed to take 29 children. The nursery advertises locally, it has received financial help from North Mundham Parish Council which has been used to produce the flyers for the recent advertising campaign. Their landlord has donated the use of the premises rent free for the last four months of 2007. The purpose of the group was to provide high quality affordable child care for local families. The nursery is run by a voluntary group of eight people and all are involved in fund raising activities. Any funds raised are used to provide equipment/activities for the children and cannot be used to sustain the nursery.

The Chairman thanked Mrs Jacks for her presentation and advised that the Parish Council would consider her request for financial assistance at the next meeting.

293. DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS.

293.1 Mrs T Tull – District Councillor

Mrs Tull sent her apologies.

293.2 Mr A Chaplin – County Councillor

Mr Chaplin sent his apologies as he was required to attend another meeting.

294. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

There were no apologies for absence.

It was noted that Cllr Bonthron was absent.

295. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

296. CO-OPTION OF A PARISH COUNCILLOR.

Cllr Kenney introduced Mrs Angela Rodbourne as a potential new councillor

Cllr Wilkins introduced Mrs Ann Anderson as a potential new councillor.

The Chairman introduced Mr Dave Hutton as a potential new councillor.

The Chairman welcomed them all to the meeting and invited them to stay and observe the meeting in order that they may see what is involved in becoming a councillor. The Clerk agreed to provide further new councillor packs for each person.

297. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 2 JANUARY 2008

The Chairman called for the approval of the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 2 January 2008. These were **AGREED** and the Chairman duly signed them as being a true record of that meeting.

298. MATTERS ARISING.

298.1 Min 241.9 – Parish Map

Action on this continues.

298.2 Min 250.2 – Footpath Lights

The Clerk reported that the footpath lights between Westlands Road and Orchardside had been installed and were working.

298.3 Min 288 – Insurance

The Clerk advised that the revised quotations had been received and the AON figure was approximately £600 cheaper than the existing insurer's quotation for the same level of cover. A cheque for £1114.32 had therefore been signed by the Chairman and Vice Chairman as previously agreed, and sent to AON to commence the cover.

298.4 Min 289 – Precept

The Clerk confirmed that the request for the Precept of £29,000 had been sent to the District Council and had been duly acknowledged.

298.5 Slow Road signs.

The Clerk advised that Steve Johnson had agreed to repaint the 'SLOW' signs and had been given details as to where they should be. Cllr Wilkins mentioned that the speed limit signs had recently been cleaned but for some reason the Hunston Village signs had not. The Clerk was asked to investigate.

299. MINUTES OF THE PLANNING MEETING ON 2 JANUARY 2008.

The Minutes of the Planning meeting held on 2 January 2008 having been previously circulated were duly **NOTED**.

300. PROGRESS REPORTS

300.1 Playground

The Clerk advised that she had received formal notification from Chichester District Council that the grant for £12,000 towards the playground refurbishments had been successful.

The Clerk and Chairman met with the Regional Administrator from the SITA Trust regarding the grant application. The Regional Administrator had explained the grant process and the possible outcomes for the application. Notification as to whether the application had been successful or not should be issued towards the end of March.

300.2 Highways and Footpaths

300.2.1 Footpath at the rear of the Village Hall. The Clerk advised that the application would be presented to the Rights of Way Committee at its next meeting on the 19 May 2008.

300.2.2 Portsmouth Water road works. Cllr Kenney reported that Portsmouth Water were still undertaking work on the local roads in the Village. Work had been very slow and the reinstatement of the roads had been unsatisfactory. The Clerk was asked to establish how much longer the work will take and who at the District or County Council was responsible for agreeing to the work being undertaken.

300.2.3 Speed Reactive Sign. Cllr Baker asked if there was any news on the possible speed reactive sign at the north of the village. The Clerk advised that the Council's request had been acknowledged and agreed to chase up the enquiry.

300.2.4 Other Highways Matters. Further to a meeting with Steve Johnson the Clerk was asked to chase progress on the outstanding issues of the widening of the footpath by the culvert and the filling of the potholes.

300.2.5 New Footpath. Although the Council's request for the provision of a footpath in front of the properties adjacent to Berrymead Farm had been turned down the Clerk was asked to write to Steve Johnson and ask for this to be put into the following years budget and programme of works. Cllr Wilkins suggested that the letter mentioned that there were an increasing number of people now walking down to the bus stop by Lakeside Barn from the Convent.

300.3 Website

Cllr Wilkins suggested that the Parish Council offered the Sunbeams Pre-School a link to the Parish Council website. The Chairman agreed to contact Mrs Jacks to see if they were interested in the offer.

300.4 Village Hall

The Chairman advised that the Village Hall Management Committee AGM would be on Thursday 1 May. A preliminary meeting between the Parish Council, Village Hall Management Committee and Community Club had taken place. Cllr Baker had been elected Chairman of the group which would take forward any issues raised, including the roof repairs and smoking shelter. It was hoped that a better ongoing working relationship could develop through this group.

300.5 Bus Shelters

Cllr Wilkins stated that he would write an article for the Hunston newsletter to gauge support for the provision of any bus shelters. The Chairman mentioned that there was a possibility of a subsidised shelter at the stop near Berrymead Farm. Cllr Wilkins stated that he thought there was a need to look at providing shelter in the village as priority for people travelling south. Cllr Wilkins expressed concern that the Council seemed to have dropped the provision of bus shelters off its list of priorities. The Chairman pointed out that provision of bus shelters was not an issue that was raised in the consultation for the Parish Action Plan and that the project had started as a means to reduce the higher priorities of traffic congestion and speeding. Cllr Wilkins suggested that the Parish Council should as a matter of importance consider setting a Mission Statement along with its aims and objectives. It was **AGREED** that a separate meeting should be organised to deal with this issue a date for which would be agreed at the March meeting.

300.6 Planning

The Clerk provided members with an updated list of planning applications and decisions. This was duly **NOTED**.

The Clerk explained that as a result of a site visit to Berrymead Farm the issue of the Parish Council providing allotments had arisen. The Clerk had written to the District Council asking for advice and several suggested sources of assistance had been recommended. The Clerk advised that the first course of action was to ensure that at least six letters requesting the Parish Council provide allotments had been received. A site had been identified and details were provided to members.

RESOLVED that the Clerk contact the owner of the land and establish whether they would consider the sale or leasing of the land to the Parish Council for the purpose of providing allotments.

301. CLERK'S REPORT

301.1 Grass Cutting

The Clerk advised that she had received a letter from the contractors confirming their charges for the coming year. The grass cutting had increased by £3.00 to £63.00 a cut and the maintenance work on the car park & mounds had increased by £20.00 to £495.00. This was **NOTED**.

301.2 Excel Training

The Clerk advised that the Excel training had commenced and was proving to be invaluable.

301.3 Holiday

The Clerk reminded members that she was on holiday from 8 to 18 February 2008.

302. BASKETBALL COURT

The Chairman advised that the wires supporting the netting around the Basketball Court had snapped in places and needed mending. The Clerk had asked Knight Fencing to look at the netting and suggested what action might be necessary. The Clerk requested a further two quotes from local contractors. Cllr Wilkins asked if the increasing amount of football being played on the court might affect the durability of the netting. The Chairman advised that the netting had been erected incorrectly using sub standard materials and this was the cause of the current problem. Two quotes were available for members to consider. After some discussion it was agreed that a complete replacement of the netting with higher grade materials would provide a more durable solution that should save money in the longer term..

RESOLVED to request that Knight Fencing be asked to undertake the work as specified in their quotation under Option 3. The Clerk was asked to check with Knight Fencing that the upright posts were still in a satisfactory condition to receive the new netting before requesting the work be undertaken.

The Chairman also mentioned that the light fittings over the court needed attention. This was being investigated by the Village Hall Committee, but there may be a need for the Parish Council to pay for fitting replacements.

303. RISK ASSESSMENTS

The Clerk provided Members with copies of the new Risk Assessments for comment. It was **AGREED** that members would provide feedback at the next meeting.

304. VILLAGE FETE

The Chairman advised that a number of people had asked when the proposed Village Fete was going to take place. Cllr Wilkins advised that there had not been enough people coming forward to take the idea forward. Cllr Broad stated that Cllr Wilkins should be applauded for his enthusiasm and effort. There were however other community events taking place such as the Church fete and the Community Club fireworks. It was **AGREED** that Cllr Wilkins would approach the Community Club to establish whether they would be interested in taking the idea forward.

305. NEWSLETTER

Cllr Wilkins advised that with his new job he was unsure as to whether he could devote as much time to the newsletter as he had previously. There was a considerable discussion on the format of the newsletter and where contributions would come from. Cllr Baker suggested that a format for newsletters be established and notices inviting contributions be placed in the newsagents. Cllr Wilkins suggested that closer ties to the Community Club be established with a greater input from the club.

Cllr Wilkins asked all members to be proactive in asking locals for articles for the newsletter. It was **AGREED** that the next newsletter should be distributed towards the end of April.

306. FINANCE.

306.1 Grants/donations

Members considered the earlier request for financial assistance from Mrs Jacks. **RESOLVED** in accordance with its powers under section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 that it should incur the following expenditure which, in the view of the Council, is in the interest of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with expenditure:

Sunbeams Pre School	£200.00
---------------------	---------

306.2 Schedule of Payments and Receipts

RESOLVED that the payments listed in the Schedule of Payments and Receipts be made – see appendix 1 (February 2008)

306.3. Financial Statement for January 2008

The Financial Statement for January 2008 was **APPROVED**.

See appendix 2 (February 2008)

307. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

307.1 Cllr Wilkins highlighted the fact that as a result of dropping the kerb several parking spaces had been lost in the lay-by at the entrance to St Leodegars Way.

307.2 Cllr Wilkins highlighted the fact that the amount of dog dirt had increased recently.

307.3 The Chairman presented a cheque for £5000 from Village Hall Management Committee.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.51pm

Signed _____ Date _____
Chairman