

# Hunsbury Meadows Parish Council



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Minutes of the councils meeting held on **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024** at 7.15pm at the Pineham Barns School, Dragon fly way, Hunsbury Meadows, NN4 9FF

Present: Cllr. Mandy Caunt (chair)  
Cllr. Debbie Hammond  
Cllr Stuart Faulds  
Cllr Chowdhury  
Clerk: Jennie Allwork

3 members of the public

<b>23-24</b>	
101	<b>Invitation:</b> The chair opened the meeting and thanked the councillors and members of the public for attending the meeting.
102	<b>Apologies:</b> Cllr Stewart apologies received and accepted
103	<b>Declarations of interest:</b> None
104	<b>Minutes:</b> The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 6 <sup>th</sup> December 2023 were proposed by Cllr Faulds and seconded by Cllr Hammond and unanimously approved
105	<b>Matters arising:</b> Ref Item 092: Cllr Caunt has contacted Cllr Nick Sturgess- Alex regarding the traveller mess. He confirmed that the Traveller Unit should have arranged for a clear up of the rubbish after the Travellers departed, but clearly had not done so. He suggested that Ruth Austin, who is the Assistant Director of Regulatory Services at WNC, would be the most appropriate person to contact regarding this matter. The Chair will obtain a picture to illustrate the problem before writing to her. Ref Item 093 – 10 speed signs have been purchased to re populate Banbury Lane. "Gorilla tape" will also be used to reinforce the signs and to try to prevent tearing.
106	<b>Public participation:</b> A issue was reported regarding the bus stop at top of Ashpole Spinney. Could there be some hardstanding added to the area between the grass and the bus stop. Cllr Caunt will ask Andy at Andandec solutions to provide quotes so that we can consider this. She noted however that this might well be something we can fund from the remaining Section 106 budget linked to Parish developments.
107	<b>Northants Constabulary:</b> Cllr Hammond reported that the police sent a report with zero crime for the Parish of January 2024. There is a new Sergeant for the area Regina O'Conner-Frisby, we await confirmation as to who the new PC and PCSA for the parish will be.  It was noted that there have been an increase in nuisance for of road bikes in Swann Valley and W. Hunsbury.  Cllr Hammond to write to the new Sergeant to alert the neighbourhood team of the off road bike nuisance in West Hunsbury Park at weekends and racing cars in the area of Swann Valley and under the M1 motorway bridge.  Cllr. Tomlin noted that she attempted to report a previous incident but was prevented from doing so by the telephone operator who had dismissed the report. This is counter to what we are told. All nuisance

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024

	issues need to be reported via 101 in order that the Neighbourhood Team become aware of them and can then direct resources to the issues raised.
108	<b>Principal Authority Reports:</b> Cllr Chowdhury attended the Cllrs briefing which will be sent to the Clerk and circulated with the Parish Council. The main topic of interest was where the remaining Section 106 monies were, how much remains available for Parish infrastructure in line with the provisions and when the Parish council was going to receive their allocation. WNC have employed a number of people to work on the data entry regarding the Section 106 money but it is anticipated this will take 4-6 months to conclude. The Clerk is currently in correspondence with WNC regarding our 106 monies under Agenda Item 112 (2). The Chair requested that in those discussions she ask whether we might be able to utilise some of the remaining funds for the bus stop hard standing provision.
109	<b>Planning:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Planning application 2023/0505 (5G mast): No update on the planning portal to say what has happened. However, the Chair reported that she had ascertained that the West Northants Local Access Forum should have been consulted as the proposal is to place the large box infrastructure in the cycle way which will impact on the width of the cycle and footway and make it a hazard for sight impaired and disabled users. The Chair will correspond with a LAF member to ascertain what, if anything they have done regarding this. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) There has been no response from the offices of either Dame Andrea Leadsom or the Rt Hon Michael Gove to whom she sent the queries.. Clerk to continue to chase</li> </ol> </li> <li>2) Ref Planning Application 2020/1176 and the proposed bus stops on Upton Valley Way East. The Chair has written to Future Housing Group regarding this to ascertain who is responsible for putting the bus stops in place and when we might expect them to be installed. A local resident has also been writing to both Future Housing and the Planning Department about the same matter and has escalated the enquiry to Dame Andrea Leadsom as well as our Ward Councillors and the Planning Departments Enforcement team. The Chair is to now escalate the Parish Council enquiry to the CEO of Future Housing to try and get and answer to our questions.</li> <li>3) Ref Planning 2020/1244 – the proposed 80 new houses Upton Valley Way North – Pineham Village: Again, the Chair reported that there is nothing further on the planning portal since 14<sup>th</sup> Dec 2023 when a report regarding traffic congestion concluded that the development would not significantly increase traffic issues. The Local authority draining objected as there was no drainage survey completed. We have previously noted (Minutes November 2023) however that there were some concerns raised regarding flood risk mitigation by the WNC Surface Water Drainage Assessment Team back in October which required a quite detailed reply from the developer.</li> <li>4) Ref 2023/7072 – proposed bridge over the canal just below Wootton Brook – Aviva. Tthis has gone quiet. Per the Planning portal, as of 11/12/23 the Environment Agency raised objections on the grounds that there had not been an appropriate flood risk and draining assessment. Highways have also objected due to the lack of information provided regarding the proposed road on our / tow path side of the canal. They believed the turn would be too sharp for large vehicles. We note that we have still seen no Planning Notices on the East side of canal.</li> </ol>
110	<b>Finance:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) In the absence of Cllr Stewart, Cllr Caunt confirmed that the financial records for the months of December 2023 and January 2024 were in order</li> <li>2) The list of payments for the month of December 2023 &amp; January 2024 was approved. Proposed Cllr. Tomlin seconded Cllr Hammond</li> <li>3) Cllr Caunt confirmed that our Precept Request for the 2024-2025 Financial Year was submitted on 29<sup>th</sup> December and an acknowledgement has been received.</li> </ol>
	<b>Resolutions and Decisions:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) All unanimously supported the move to the new website host as per the information provided. Clerk to respond and sign agreement.</li> <li>2) All supported the training for the Clerk and approved the 2 proposed courses.</li> <li>3) Cllr Caunt has planted 350 more bluebells and snowdrops and winter Aconite bulbs in Wildflower Meadow. The recycled daffodils from last year's spring three tier planter displays are also coming up now..</li> </ol>

	Approval was given for both the Chair's purchase of the bulbs and for 2KG of wildflower seeds for the Wildflower strips in Wildflower Meadow proposed Cllr Hammond Approved Cllr Faulds
112	<p><b>Reports from the councillors and clerk:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Ref. Emergency Plan Progress: Cllr Stewart was not present at the meeting to report however, the Chair was aware that he had had a successful meeting with the Head of Pineham Barns School regarding the potential use of the facilities in an emergency situation. Cllr Stewart will report at the next meeting</li> <li>2) The Clerk has had contact from a James at West Northants Council regarding our Section 106 queries but they have been missing each other. Our original query had related to asking what bus route some of the money had been used to subsidise as had been advised in previous correspondence. (The only bus in the Parish is the 87 and the Parish Council only subsidise that) This has now extended to wanting to know exactly what monies are left, what they can be used for, and in the light of the earlier query regarding the need for a hard standing bus stop at the top of Ashpole Spinney for the no 87 bus, whether they can be used to fund this.</li> <li>3) Ref – Pineham Village Residents Association = Cllr Stewart not present to report. No update provided</li> <li>4) The Chair has had contact from Helen Howard in Highways regarding the verge cutting on Upton Valley Way Easts between the top of Banbury Lane and the canal bridge. The most recent update is that the cost of cutting the whole area is being undertaken to include that stretch of road.</li> <li>5) There are 2 Cllr vacancies. It was agreed that we shall use the same flier as previously distributed across the Parish for a mail drop to every house in the Parish,. A Notice is to also be placed in all three Notice Boards using the more simplistic design suggested by Cllr Tomlin. Cllr Tomlin reported that she has posted the vacancies on social media each week. Cllr Chowdhury has offered to help with the letter drop and will also set up a twitter account so that the vacancies can be highlighted there.</li> <li>6) Cllr Caunt reported that the blocked culvert under Upton Way and the tow path has been jet washed and cleared so that the flood water along the ditch on the Hunsbury Meadows side of Upton Way has dropped away. Ward Cllr Nick Sturgess-Alex has passed on the WNC Engineers report which indicates that further clearance work will be done in the summer as the culvert does need more work. For now, water is flowing and we have no adjacent flooding.</li> <li>7) Clerk attended the Community Governance Review Briefing on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023 on behalf of the Parish Council. She was able to raise our question as to whether we can increase the number of permitted Councillors to 10, given the Parish has increased in size substantially since inception. The Clerk advised that this is possible, the permitted number of Councillors is linked to the number of voters on the electoral register. She will therefore look up the new Register to ascertain where we stand with this possibility.</li> </ol>
113	<p><b>Correspondence:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Cllr Caunt reported that the pads for the defib at Pineham Lock will be expiring in March. Those for Pineham Village expire in June. She noted that she has contacted David Smith (EMAS) regarding replacement. There will be a small cost to the Parish to replace the pads.</li> <li>2) The Clerk had received correspondence asking whether we could have a textile bank within the Parish. It was noted that there are some at the Co Op in the Pineham Village Neighbourhood Centre but otherwise, there is no land on which such facilities could be placed. Clerk to respond as such.</li> <li>3) The Clerk has received a request for suitable location for vaccine van. Consideration was given to the grass area at the top of Samwell Way near the post box where the Election cabin sits but given the wet conditions it was felt that the ground would be too soft for a large lorry such that a Vaccine Van is likely to be. Cllr Tomlin suggested, and it was agreed, that the cul-de-sac near the Pineham Barns School and just off the roundabout at the top of Dragonfly Road would be most suitable provided Highways have no objection. (This is an adopted Highway) The Clerk will reply accordingly.</li> </ol>
114	<b>Date: next meeting</b> agreed to be March 6 <sup>th</sup> 2024

The meeting closed at 8.48pm

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024