



HUNCOTE PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN: MR. ALEC KNIGHT

CLERK: STUART BACON, c/o 3 MOUNTFIELD ROAD,
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OCTOBER MINUTES

Minutes of **meeting** held at 7:00 pm on **Thursday 1st October 2020**

as an online Zoom Meeting, via -

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82154214421?pwd=V3JCdjhRZ1VyK2VNTUICclpDRXYvQT09>

Dial in via 0203 901 7895, 0131 460 1196, 0203 051 2874, 0203 481 5237 or 0203 481 5240

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Meeting ID: 821 5421 4421

Password: 319941

- Present:** Cllr A. Knight (Chairman) Cllr J. Cheesman (Vice Chair) Cllr R. Bailey
Cllr M. Ingham Cllr M. Turner
Cllr. L. McEntee (joined at 7:05pm)
- In attendance:** Cllr M. Wright (County/District Councillor)
Stuart Bacon (Clerk)

8105 To receive apologies for absence

A candidate for co-option had confirmed by email that they would be unable to attend due to family commitments.

8106 Chairman's opening remarks and Member introductions

The Chairman welcomed all those present, before outlining the roles of himself and the Clerk in facilitating the meeting, how Members and any members of the public (if they join the meeting) should act and respond to queries, by physically raising their hand in front of the camera and waiting to speak if connected by video chat or by asking to speak by telephone, Members would introduce themselves to all present, and then one person to speak at a time. The Chairman also requested all Members to mute their microphones when not speaking by video chat. Those joining by telephone were requested to remain quiet if not speaking.

8107 Consider candidates for co-option

No candidates were present for consideration.

8108 Declarations by Members of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests (In relation to Agenda items)

None.

8109 Confirmation of the Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd September 2020 (HunPCOct20/2)

Cllr Bailey queried the agenda reports and the reference to standing orders requesting all queries with the minutes are raised in advance. The Chairman explained that this was to save time at the meeting. Cllr Wright explained that this was standard practice for all local councils.

Cllr McEntee joined the meeting at 7:05pm.

Members reviewed the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 3rd September 2020.

RESOLVED: To accept and to sign as a true and accurate record.

Cllr Knight proposes, Cllr Turner seconds, all agree.

8110 Status report arising from these minutes on items not covered within the agenda

Any relevant status reports were provided under existing agenda items.

8111 Parishioners' time (15 minutes are set aside for parishioners to raise issues and ask questions)

None.

8112 To Receive Reports from Partners (10 minutes each on items relating to Huncote)

8112/1 Leicestershire C.C. – Cllr M. Wright

Cllr Wright provided a written report which was accurate at time of writing but has subsequently changed.

COVID-19 - The County Council in for the "long haul" in the fight against the virus.

The council says there remains a rising trend in the number of positive Covid-19 cases across Leicestershire. However, at the time of writing 23/9/2020, the latest data shows that Oadby

and Wigston's rate has dropped to 94.6 per 100,000 but there has been increases in Blaby District to 72.7 and in Charnwood where figures are 42.7.

In parts of Charnwood and Blaby, the Council is now delivering thousands of leaflets to people's homes and businesses as well as contacting GP surgeries to highlight the need for people with symptoms to get a test. Mike Sandys, the County Council's director of health said, "Although we welcome the government's new restrictions, the clear message remains that it's up to us all to fight the virus."

We all need to wash our hands regularly, use a face covering when social distancing is not possible and try to keep your distance from those not in your household.

The Government has given councils new powers to help prevent, contain and manage local COVID-19 outbreaks – this means councils can impose prohibitions, requirement or restrictions in relation to individual premises, events and public open spaces.

Businesses across Leicestershire are also being urged to create an NHS QR code poster to make it easier for their customers to check-in to the national "test and trace" system. -

www.gov.uk/create-coronavirus-qr-poster

Business Recovery Fund

Leicestershire County Council launched the fund of £750,000K in the summer and have given out grants of up to £10,000k to 16 companies to help them recover from the effects of COVID 19. Small businesses are still being urged to apply for their share of the fund. To find out more and apply visit www.oakleaves.org.uk/leicestershire-business-recovery-fund.

Applications can be made for grants between £2,000 and £10,000 to ensure business recovery, through projects to help the business diversify, improve skills, or new technology or equipment.

There is currently no deadline for applications but businesses should apply as soon as possible as funding will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

Heritage Centres reopened

Heritage sites across Leicestershire welcomed back visitors w/c 7th September. These include Bosworth Battlefield heritage Centre, Harborough Museum, the 1620's House and garden at Donington-le-Heath, Melton Carnegie Museum and Charnwood Museum.

Visitors to all sites will need to pre-book a timed slot. For details of opening days and times and to book a slot online, please visit the individual websites:

- www.bosworthbattlefield.org.uk/ or call 01455 290 429
- www.doningtonleheath.org.uk/ or call 01455 290 429
- www.harboroughmuseum.org.uk/ or call 0116 305 3627
- www.meltonmuseum.org/ or call 0116 305 3860

Hinckley – Rugby Road Improvement Scheme

A scheme to improve two key junctions on Rugby Road, alongside a range of improvements to existing cycling and pedestrian routes in Hinckley, will begin in Spring 2021. Work on the £5m scheme was due to start this summer, however, plans have had to be rescheduled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Details of the traffic management requirements and programme of work will be issued once finalised.

Government letter to kickstart unitary bid

The Government will be asked to invite Leicestershire to put forward unitary plans as part of an East Midlands devolution deal. The proposals agreed by the County Cabinet on 18th September will include an update of the business case to reflect the White Paper, be discussed at scrutiny commission and at full council by the end of the year. An independent research company will be brought on board to seek the views of stakeholders on the revised business case.

Cllr Wright noted the White Paper had subsequently been delayed until February/March 2021.

8112/2 **Blaby D.C. – Cllr M. Wright**

Local Government White Paper – Devolution and Local Recovery White Paper

This item was covered in the Leaders Statement on 22nd September 2020 where more details are available. The expanded White Paper will now include a response to the pandemic and be published in October. The Government will focus on the creation of additional Combined Authorities with directly elected mayors. The Government will also encourage local government areas to reorganise themselves ahead of the creation of new Combined Authorities, to create single tier, unitary structures in those areas where there are currently two tiers. Also create Parish or town councils where at present they don't exist.

Carbon Neutral Action Plan (CNAP)

Following the launch of the Climate Strategy, Blaby is now publishing its Carbon Neutral Action Plan to support the aims and ambitions of the Climate Change Strategy. For more information call Nick Fear in the Environmental Services team on 0116 2727605 or email climatechange@blaby.gov.uk

Blaby Plan 2021 to 2024

The Blaby Plan sets out the Council's high-level ambitions for a 3-year period. The existing plan comes to an end in March 2021. The current Blaby Plan states our ambitions as "Blaby District Council is made up of thriving and vibrant communities where people are happy to live, work and visit". Whilst the overarching sentiment remains the same it is recognised the environment, the way we work and the fact that many residents' lives and businesses have been changed since the COVID-19 pandemic the approach and priorities of the plan need to reflect this. Consultation will now begin which includes consideration by scrutiny.

Planning Changes

On the 6th August the Government launched an 8-week consultation entitled "Changes to the Current Planning System". This is a full public consultation and the closing date for responses is the 1st October. This consultation paper sets out 4 main proposals.

1. Changes to the standard method for assessing local housing need.
2. Securing of First Homes through developer contributions.
3. Temporarily lifting the small sites threshold.
4. Extending the current Permission in Principle to major development.

Officers drafted notes to the Government consultation were accepted by Full Council on 22nd September.

At the same time a more fundamental reform of the planning system is also proposed. The details to this are set out in the published White Paper "Planning for the Future". The consultation runs to a later date.

The new Community Safety Partnership Strategy for 2020 to 2023 was approved at Full Council on 22nd September and will now be published.

Bouskell Park Ice House Restoration Blaby

Work commenced on 1st September and is anticipated to take 12 weeks. The Ice House was built around 1843 and was a form of early refrigeration for Blaby Hall. The project comes following a successful application for £156,000 in funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund. There are also plans for a community archaeological dig to take place in Bouskell park in 2021.

Croft Quarry planning application

The application was originally schedule to be heard at the October Planning Committee but this has been delayed until November.

8112/3 **Leicestershire Police** (update and recent crime statistics)

August 2020 crime statistics according to www.police.uk: - 11 incidents

- 3x Criminal damage and arson and arson on/near Leisure Centre Sports Field (Includes damage to buildings and vehicles and deliberate damage by fire) 3x Under Investigation
- 1x Other theft on/near Compton Drive (Includes theft by an employee, blackmail and making off without payment) Investigation complete; no suspect identified
- 3x Violence and sexual offences on/near Critchlow Road (Includes offences against the person such as common assaults, Grievous Bodily Harm and sexual offences) 3x Under Investigation
- 1x Public order on/near Critchlow Road (Includes offences which cause fear, alarm or distress) Under Investigation
- 1x Other theft on/near Duncan Avenue (Includes theft by an employee, blackmail and making off without payment) Investigation complete; no suspect identified
- 1x Violence and sexual offences on/near Duncan Avenue (Includes offences against the person such as common assaults, Grievous Bodily Harm and sexual offences) Unable to prosecute suspect
- 1x Drugs on/near Narborough Road (Includes offences related to possession, supply and production) Under Investigation

8113 **To Review Planning Matters** including:

8113/1 To review applications received since last meeting for consideration
None.

- Any other applications received before the meeting
None.

8113/2 To receive results of earlier comments from relevant planning authority

- [20/0698/FUL](#) - New vehicle access (dropped kerb) to connect new private access and driveway from Narborough Road on to Tinglebug Farm - Tinglebug Farm Narborough Road Huncote Leicestershire LE9 3AW – **Awaiting decision**
- [20/0526/FUL](#) - Erection of two storey garage and workshop building with residential annexe (amendment to 19/0685/FUL) - Elms Farm Narborough Road Huncote Leicestershire – **Application Permitted**
- [2019/CM/0125/LCC](#) - Aggregate Industries UK Limited - Proposed lateral extension to the mineral extraction area within Croft Quarry, retention of access and ancillary development and reclamation via the importation of restoration material. - Croft Quarry, Coventry Road, Croft, LE9 3GP – **Awaiting decision**
- [19/0019/FUL](#) - Installation of 7 lighting columns - BMX Track The Pavilion Leisure Centre Sportsfield Lane Huncote – **Awaiting decision**
- [2017/1389/01/CS/35a](#) - Aggregate Industries - Submission under condition 35 of planning permission 2017/1389/01 (updated Environmental Scheme) - Croft Quarry, Marions Way, Croft – **Awaiting decision**

8113/3 To receive an update from the Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan Joint Working Board
The Clerk noted that no meeting had yet been arranged with the Neighbourhood Plan group.
RESOLVED: The Clerk will endeavour to contact the Chairman of the FVNPJWB to find out when the next meeting will be held.

8113/4 To receive update on demolition of buildings at Croft Quarry
Members noted that all demolition blasts were now complete.

8113/5 To review areas of planning concern within Huncote
RESOLVED: There were no areas of planning concern raised by Members and the Clerk noted that there weren't any new enforcement cases in Huncote.

8113/6 To receive update on transfer of open space between Peers Way and Preston Way from Jelson Ltd to the parish council
The Clerk updated Members that the draft transfer agreement had been sent to the parish council.
RESOLVED: The Clerk will review the transfer agreement with a solicitor as part of a free legal advice session offered through LRALC on 13 October.

8114 **Coronavirus/COVID-19 impact update**

8114/1 General update on the impact of coronavirus in relation to Huncote
The Chairman explained that the management of the virus was constantly evolving, but everyone should do what they are told to manage the virus.
RESOLVED: The Clerk will provide updates on the changes.

The Clerk had to reconnect his audio to the meeting via telephone, due to technical difficulties.

8114/2 Reopening play areas – update and review on local compliance
The Clerk advised that the newly instigated QR code posters for public venues had been installed in time for 24th September at all parish council owned sites in the village: at end of footpath between Forest Road/Critchlow Road, on side of Under 11's play area, and in notice board at side of community centre on recreation ground, on the three accessible corners of the sports field and in the various building on the corner of the sports field as well as on the cemetery entrance.

8115 **To Review Huncote Enhancement**

8115/1 To review Huncote Community Award trophy options
The Clerk advised that the trophy options considered in September were only available in blue and black and not available in other colours.
RESOLVED: Members didn't want to go with a paperweight or plain glass piece with vinyl sticker on reverse containing the details, instead opting for multiple versions of the wording
The Clerk explained there would be an additional £40-£50 charge to include the Huncote motif in the engraving or a colour insert could be stuck onto the award (c. £1/unit) if the motif was required.
RESOLVED: Members agreed that the awards would not contain the logo and each winner would receive an award with engraved text on them.

RESOLVED: Members agreed that a photograph would be taken of each of the awards being presented

Cllr Bailey updated his nomination for the award. Cllr McEntee queried how many nominations had been received. The Clerk explained that the circulated list of nominees contained all received nominations.

8115/2 To receive update on recent mowing around the public sites in the village

RESOLVED: No further comments had been received about the mowing.

8115/3 To review hedge cutting/tree care

The Clerk explained that the portions of the hedge not cut by the flailer had been cut manually so as not to cause damage to the fencing. The other hedge cutting had been carried out.

8115/4 To receive update on annual play inspection and report

The play inspection report had not yet been received.

RESOLVED: The report would be circulated to all members once received.

8115/5 To receive invitation for one representative to lay wreath in Croft on Remembrance Sunday

The Chairman explained he had received a letter from the Croft Branch of the Royal British Legion to advise that the usual Remembrance Day event would not be taking place. A wreath laying event was being organised for one person from each parish council and the British Legion to lay a wreath.

RESOLVED: Cllr Knight to attend the wreath laying in Croft with all other Members laying the wreath on the memorial garden in Huncote.

RESOLVED: Members noted that Croft Parish Council will be taking over preparing the Remembrance event.

RESOLVED: Members agreed to purchase a Lest We Forget flag to fly below the Union Flag on the flagpole.

8115/6 To acknowledge delivery of Community Emergency Store equipment and update asset register accordingly

RESOLVED: Members noted that all the Community Emergency Store grant equipment had now been delivered and was available should it be needed.

RESOLVED: The asset register would be updated to acknowledge all the new equipment.

8115/7 To acknowledge installation of new cemetery benches

The Chairman noted that the benches had now been installed.

RESOLVED: Members approved the purchase of additional anchor points to ensure each leg of the benches is fixed down.

The Clerk explained that a number of requests to 'claim' the benches had been received to install a memorial plaque to be placed on them.

RESOLVED: Members agreed that the entrance benches weren't available for memorial plaques to be installed on. No locations were currently available in the cemetery for new benches to be installed. Locations in the cemetery extension would be determined when that became available.

8116 To Review Highways & Footpaths Issues

8116/1 A review of Highways and Footpaths Issues within Huncote

The Chairman explained that Cllr Wright had held discussions with Alberto Costa MP and been advised that a crossing wouldn't be provided in the centre of the village. LCC Highways had confirmed that there wouldn't be sufficient case for a crossing to be provided.

RESOLVED: Cllr Knight to chase Cllr Wright to confirm the details of this.

Cllr Cheesman explained that she was aware of various comments on Facebook about improving the footpath to Narborough. Residents were considering preparing a petition to get the path widened. Cllr Cheesman had advised people about the efforts the parish council had taken to get the path widened, and the difficulties we had faced with Countryside Properties.

Cllr McEntee queried if the hedges would be cut back along Narborough Road at the same time as the footpath work took place. The Chairman explained that the footpath would be edged back and all vegetation cut back, but the hedges were the responsibility of the respective field owners.

The Clerk advised that the Handymen had edged back the footpath through the park and the path was now looking much better.

Cllr Ingham asked if there was a reason the kissing gate frame hadn't been removed on the footpath from Spence Lane to Denman Lane.

RESOLVED: Clerk to request LCC Highways remove the frame of the kissing gate.

Cllr McEntee noted the brambles at adult eye height along the same footpath.

RESOLVED: Cllr McEntee to cut back brambles.

Cllr Cheesman queried if there was any further stencilling being carried out, due to concern about an increase in dog poo around the village. Cllr Knight noted this was in the newsletter.

RESOLVED: Handymen to carry out additional stencilling.

8116/2 To receive update on damaged/worn street signs

The Chairman noted the Croft Hill Road sign hadn't been replaced. The Clerk advised that Blaby DC had confirmed the name plates were on ordered and would be fitted around other responsibilities.

8116/3 To receive update of application for Highways Parish & Community Funding

The Clerk advised that the application had been approved at the initial stage and that the necessary work was now being costed. Once the costing work has been carried out the council will be advised if the application is being progressed to the next stage.

8117 **To Review Financial Report** including:

As Cllr Knight is listed in the payees he handed over to Cllr Cheesman for this item.

8117/1 To approve Accounts for Payment (**Doc HunPCOct20/3**)

Members reviewed accounts for payment. A query was raised about the lawnmower service which required a new carburettor.

RESOLVED: Clerk to hold discussions with Farol UK regarding requirement for new carburettor so soon after mower was purchased.

RESOLVED: To accept and to sign as a true and accurate record.

Cllr Cheesman proposes, Cllr McEntee seconds, all agree.

8117/2 Summary of Receipts & Payments and analysis to date (**Doc HunPCOct20/4**)

Members reviewed summary of Receipts & Payments and analysis to date. The Clerk noted the second precept payment had been received.

RESOLVED: To accept and to sign as a true and accurate record.

Cllr Cheesman proposes, Cllr McEntee seconds, all agree.

The Chairman noted the difficulties faced in clearing green waste from the recreation ground. The Clerk explained the options with taking rubbish to the waste transfer station and paying to dispose of it, as parish council waste permits were no longer available after 2015 from Leicestershire County Council.

8117/3 Update on Audit

RESOLVED: Members noted the email from PKF Littlejohn the sectors External Auditor, acknowledging their opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to their attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

RESOLVED: Members noted that there is not a prescribed timeframe for how long the Notice of Completion of Audit needed to be displayed.

8118 **To Review Recent Consultations Received**

8118/1 Leicestershire County Council Highways - New Proposed Gates at Ford - Watery Gate Lane, Thurlaston

RESOLVED: Members agreed that closing the road to traffic to stop vehicles being dragged out of the ford.

RESOLVED: Members noted fencing was needed to complement the gates to block the way when the gates were closed.

8118/2 Department for Transport - [Pavement parking: options for change](#)

Members reviewed the consultation on pavement parking, noting pavement parking was already illegal where vehicles obstructed the pavement.

RESOLVED: Members agreed that Option 2: to allow local authorities with CPE powers to enforce against 'Unnecessary obstruction of the pavement', should be supported.

8118/3 Any consultations received before the meeting

None.

8119 **To Review Publicity & Public Relations Issues** including:8119/1 **Journal** – Next Issue Copy Dates – 9 October, 13 November, 8 January

Members noted that Issue 492 returned to paper copies on 26th September.

8119/2 **Huncote Village News** – Review Issue 74**RESOLVED:** Members noted the newsletter had now been prepared, and all Members would assist in the delivery to all houses and businesses.8119/3 **Parish Council website/social media** – Review usage statistics/receive update

The Clerk explained some minor complaints had been received via Facebook.

RESOLVED: Members noted that some planned maintenance by the website management company on their servers had seen the website closed down on Tuesday 29th September

8119/4 Website management – update on compliance with website accessibility requirements

RESOLVED: Members noted that the Clerk was still working through all the documents on the website to ensure they were in compliance with necessary accessibility requirements.8120 **To Receive Clerks Report**

- Blaby DC – Parish Newsletter provided to all Members
- The Clerk noted the Blaby DC Annual Parish Seminar was normally held during October. This year the seminar is being considered for Zoom meetings or online webinars.
- The Planning White Paper was noted as being a difficulty for all local councils and local authorities to deal with
- The A46 Expressway has been noted as being scrapped by the Leicester Mercury
- A FOI request was noted to have been received. The Clerk explained the implications for dealing with FOI requests and how they can affect Members.
- Members were asked to provide items for inclusion to the budget for 2021-22
- The lamppost poppies will be installed in the first week of November, noting the British Legions comments that there is no correct way to wear or install a poppy. The best way to wear a poppy is simply with pride.

8121 **Any other business**

(It should be noted that no substantive issues can be raised under this item (i.e. those requiring decisions or with a financial implication). It should be used only to register items for a future Agenda or items that are solely for information only)

Cllr Ingham queried if any rules existed in relation to bonfires. Members explained that there were no restrictions on people holding bonfires as we don't live in a smoke-free zone.

8122 **Date of next meeting**

Wednesday 4th November 2020 – Virtual Zoom meeting @ 7:00 pm.

Details of how the access the meeting will be publicised on our website's meeting calendar.