



# HUNCOTE PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN: MR. ALEC KNIGHT

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## FEBRUARY MINUTES

Minutes of **meeting** held at 7:00 pm on **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

as an online Zoom Meeting, via -

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81381213088?pwd=THU3dXJZeVFVHNVFMFk5Q3NmVmxNQQT09>

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: 813 8121 3088

Passcode: 796948

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

Before the meeting began, Members and those present held a minute's silence in recognition of the death of Capt. Sir Tom Moore (1920-2021), whose personal act of walking 100 laps of his garden before his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, had galvanised a nation during the first coronavirus lockdown and raised £32.8m to support NHS Charities Together.

8184 **To receive apologies for absence**

**RESOLVED:** Members noted the resignation of Cllr M. Turner. Members were disappointed Cllr Turner had resigned, but noted their understanding in the circumstances.

8185 **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.

The Chairman wished to note that he believed Captain Sir Tom Moore had been a very inspirational character for everyone in the UK during the difficult times of the coronavirus pandemic.

8186 **Declarations by Members of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests** (In relation to Agenda items)  
None.

Cllr Clarke arrived at 7:05pm.

8187 **Confirmation of the Minutes of the meetings held on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2021 (HunPCFeb21/2)**

Members reviewed the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

**RESOLVED:** Noting one minor spelling error, Members agreed to accept and to sign as a true and accurate record.

Cllr Knight proposes, Cllr Clarke seconds, all agree.

8188 **Status report arising from these minutes on items not covered within the agenda**

8176/6 Cllr Knight explained that the new signs were installed by County Highways and are to explain the road remains for access only.

8189 **Parishioners' time** (15 minutes are set aside for Parishioners' to raise issues and ask questions)

No parishioners were present, no comments were raised.

8190 **To Receive Reports from partners** (10 minutes each on items relating to Huncote)

8190/1 **Leicestershire C.C. – Cllr M. Wright**

**Success for rural pubs initiative**

An innovative scheme supporting struggling rural pubs in Leicestershire with a one-off cash

payment has seen 180 applications. Leicestershire County Council offered £1,000 to small village pubs which have been unable to open their doors during the coronavirus pandemic.

### **A Healthy 2021**

People who are keen to make – and keep – healthier resolutions this new year can benefit from free, tailored help from the County Council. Both the council's stop smoking and healthy eating services – Quit Ready Leicestershire and Weight Management Leicestershire – offer flexible, personalised advice and support programmes via telephone or video call.

To get in touch with Quit Ready Leicestershire, call 0345 646 6666 or text 'ready' to 66777 or go to [www.quitready.co.uk](http://www.quitready.co.uk)

To contact Weight Management Leicestershire, call 0116 305 1510 or visit [www.leicestershire.co.uk](http://www.leicestershire.co.uk)

### **Vandalism of Flood Gates at Watery Gate Lane Thurlaston**

The newly installed gates at Watery Gate Lane have been damaged following attempts by motorists trying to access the Ford at Thurlaston. The flood gates are closed by county council highways' teams when the ford reaches a water level which is deemed impassable. The cost of repairing the gates is still being assessed and temporary security measures are in place to secure the gate.

### **Council offering rapid testing to county key workers.**

Leicestershire County Council hope to have one rapid test centre open in each district over the next few weeks, at the time of writing the centre at Wigston Fields is available and a new site at Blaby and District Social Centre on Leicester Road, Blaby.

One in three people who have coronavirus show no symptoms, and rapid flow testing, led by the council's public health team, can help to quickly identify individuals and stop the spread of infection.

Rapid testing is only for those who don't have the symptoms and aren't already isolating. It will be open to key workers and anyone else in the county who cannot currently work from home. The lateral flow tests are self-administered at an approved test site – and you can leave the site straight after you have taken your swab. Results will be sent out by text or email by the end of that day. Sites will be open 6 days a week.

Anyone who cannot work from home is eligible.

Book a test at: [www.leicestershire.gov.uk/covidtest](http://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/covidtest).

### **Plans to boost economy revealed**

A brand-new initiative designed to boost skills and get people into work is set to launch online and in libraries this spring.

Work+ will offer comprehensive support including help with job interviews and digital skills and is one of the proposals unveiled by Leicestershire County Council.

Extending the Government's Kickstart scheme by creating 30 apprenticeships for 16- to 24-year-olds is mooted as part of wide-ranging measures to support those whose job prospects have been most impacted by the pandemic.

Extending superfast broadband to hard-to-reach rural areas, attracting more visitors to the area and building a low carbon and sustainable economy are also woven into the plans.

The proposals were considered at the council's scrutiny commission on 25 January and the Cabinet on 5<sup>th</sup> February.

### **Cycling and walking engagement survey**

LCC will soon be drafting a Cycling and Walking Strategy for Leicestershire, which will help to support people across the county to make more sustainable travel choices to help the environment and improve health and wellbeing. The consultation runs from 27 January to 10 March 2021. Residents are encouraged to complete the online survey. For alternative formats contact [CaWS@leics.gov.uk](mailto:CaWS@leics.gov.uk) or 0116 305 0002.

Members were asked to complete the survey. Cllr Clarke noted he found it difficult to give answers to some questions that could actually help shape any future policy.

### **Severe Weather**

Residents are urged to be prepared for flooding, even if they don't think they are at risk, by signing up for flood warnings, preparing their home, and checking their route before they make an essential journey and to drive safely by never driving through flood water. Floodline telephone number is 0345 988 1188

8190/2 **Blaby D.C. – Cllr M. Wright****New Local Plan**

Following Council's agreement on 19/1/2021, the second consultation on the New Local Plan starts on 28<sup>th</sup> January. It will run for 6 weeks and close on Friday 12 March 2021.

Comments can be submitted by email to [planning.policy@blaby.gov.uk](mailto:planning.policy@blaby.gov.uk) or by sending to Blaby Local Plan Options Consultation, Blaby District Council, Council Offices, Desford Road, Narborough, Leicester LE19 2EP.

**Census**

The decennial census is almost here. Households across Blaby will soon be asked to take part in the nationwide survey of housing and the population. It has been carried out every decade since 1801, with the exception of 1941. Households will receive a letter with a unique access code in the post, allowing them to complete the questionnaire online. Paper questionnaires will be available on request. Census day is March 21. For information visit [census.gov.uk](https://census.gov.uk).

**Community Hub Need help**

The community hub is looking for volunteers to help out with shopping and the delivery of food vouchers and food parcels.

If you can help please email Ian Parry on [ian.parry@blaby.gov.uk](mailto:ian.parry@blaby.gov.uk).

**Carbon Neutral Action Plan**

Blaby's carbon neutral action plan is now up on the Blaby District Council website and available for viewing and download.

For queries, please contact [Nick.Fear@blaby.gov.uk](mailto:Nick.Fear@blaby.gov.uk)

**Boundary Commission – Blaby District Council Electoral Review**

An electoral review is necessary in Blaby to address the poor levels of electoral equality. In Blaby 6 of the 18 wards (33%) have variances over 10%.

The Electoral review will determine:

- Total number of councillors
- Total number of wards
- Ward Boundaries
- Number of councillors elected to each ward
- Names of each ward

The review timetable will depend on the 2021 local elections. The process has started with the consultations regarding warding patterns either taking place between July and October or October and December. Final recommendations are expected to be published in 2022 and elected upon in 2023.

Cllr Wright explained that she was still investigating the lack of signage at Spence Lane play area, and noted she was still awaiting details to clarify points made around the development of Whetstone Pastures.

Cllr Knight queried the planning enforcement issues at Huncote Mill. Cllr Wright explained Blaby DC's discussion with the property owner.

An issue of faecal matter being smeared in the bus stop on Narborough Road opposite Ratcliffe drive was noted. It was noted a letter of thanks be submitted to the Environmental Health team for cleaning the mess.

Cllr Wright departed the meeting.

8190/3 **Leicestershire Police** (update and recent crime statistics)

December 2020 crime statistics according to [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk): - 6 incidents

- 1x Violence and sexual offences on/near Compton Drive (Includes offences against the person such as common assaults, Grievous Bodily Harm and sexual offences) Unable to prosecute suspect
- 1x Violence and sexual offences on/near Langley Close (Includes offences against the person such as common assaults, Grievous Bodily Harm and sexual offences) Unable to prosecute suspect
- 2x Violence and sexual offences on/near Bennett Rise (Includes offences against the person such as common assaults, Grievous Bodily Harm and sexual offences) 2x 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 Criminal damage and arson and arson on/near Carey Road (Includes damage to buildings and vehicles and deliberate damage by fire) Unable to prosecute suspect

Members noted the report of a dangerous access to power cables adjacent No. 15A Cheney End on footpath V69, which had been reported to relevant agencies and Leicestershire Police to investigate.

**RESOLVED:** Members suggested the footpath should be reported the footpaths team at Leicestershire County Council, as it is potentially dangerous and on a right of way. It was also suggested to be reported to the HSE.

#### 8191 **Coronavirus/COVID-19 impact update**

8191/1 General update on the impact of coronavirus in relation to Huncote

While rates are coming down nationally, no time for complacency. Rates in Blaby are noted as highest in Leicestershire (363.5 per 100,000 population).

New asymptomatic testing site was opened in Blaby district on 27/01/2021, with rapid testing available for key workers who can't work from home, who can book using <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/rapid-asymptomatic-testing>.

Members noted the latest emails from John Sinnott, Chief Executive, LCC – 29/01/2021 @ 15:24 and Blaby District Council – 29/01/2021 @ 17:05.

#### 8192 **To Review Huncote Enhancement**

8192/1 To determine date for Huncote cemetery wreath clearance

**RESOLVED:** Members agreed to carry out cemetery wreath clearance w/c 15 Feb. Clerk to arrange exact date/time on Sat 13 Feb, depending on the weather forecast at the time.

8192/2 To receive update on quotes received for various works to be completed within the parish  
Cllr McEntee had met with one company to obtain a quote for various works. The Clerk explained no quotes had yet been received.

**RESOLVED:** Members suggested companies where additional quotes could be sought.

8192/3 To receive update on recent upkeep around the public sites in the village

Cllr Knight explained a recent incident of human poo being smeared in the bus shelter on The Green.

**RESOLVED:** Letter to be sent to Blaby DC to thank the team for their work in clearing the mess.

#### 8193 **To Review Financial Report** including:

8193/1 To consider any grant requests received

**RESOLVED:** The Clerk noted a couple of enquiries about grants, but no applications had been received. Members noted without a formal grant request a grant couldn't be considered.

8193/2 To receive update on rental of parish field

Members noted the map for parish assets had been circulated. No enquiries had been received regarding the field.

8193/3 To acknowledge error in transfer from Nationwide Commercial

The Clerk explained an error in the funds transferred from Nationwide Commercial due to misread handwriting, with an additional £5.50 being transferred by the bank.

**RESOLVED:** Members noted the Clerk's intention of completing all future requests electronically, and agreed no further action needed to be taken.

8193/4 To approve Accounts for Payment (**Doc HunPCFeb21/3**)

Members reviewed accounts for payment.

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

Cllr Knight proposes, Cllr McEntee seconds, all agree

8193/5 Summary of Income & Expenditure and analysis to date (**Doc HunPCFeb21/4**)

Members reviewed summary of Receipts & Payments and analysis to date.

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

Cllr Knight proposes, Cllr McEntee seconds, all agree.

8193/6 To note Section 137 Expenditure: Limit for 2021-2022

**RESOLVED:** Members noted the appropriate sum for the purpose of section 137(4)(a) of the Local Government Act 1972 (the 1972 Act) for parish and town councils in England for 2021-22 is £8.41. This is the amount as a result from increasing the amount of £8.32 for 2020-2021 by the percentage increase in the retail index between September 2019 and September 2020, in accordance with Schedule 12B to the 1972 Act.

In terms of Huncote this gave a maximum figure of £13,514.87 (£8.41 x 1,607 electors).

- 8194 **To Receive application for Street Trading Consent for Franco's**  
**RESOLVED:** Members reviewed the application and noted the hours of operation of musical chimes should be no later than 8:00pm.
- 8195 **To Review Planning Applications** including:
- 8195/1 To review applications received since last meeting for consideration
- None
  - Any other applications received before the meeting  
None.
- 8195/2 To review planning enforcement issues, including
- [APP/T2405/C/20/3263914](#) - Appeal against Enforcement Notice - Huncote Mill Croft Hill Road Huncote Leicestershire  
**RESOLVED:** Members discussed the implications of the site and agreed flooding on the site does exist, but we're not aware of the area where the business is operating from actually flooding. Concerns were noted about the impact of heavy vehicles on Huncote bridge.
  - Multi-storey shed – 22 Field View Close Huncote Leicester  
**RESOLVED:** Members noted that Blaby DC's Planning Enforcement team had been contacted regarding this issue.
- 8195/3 To receive results of earlier comments from Blaby District Council
- [2020/VOCM/0150/LCC](#) - Acresford Sand & Gravel - Application for the Variation of Conditions 25 of Planning Permission 2011/0756/01 to extend the time period for stocks of waste material to be reduced to final restoration levels by 31st December 2019 - Acresford Sand & Gravel, Forest Road, Huncote, LE9 3LE – **Awaiting decision**
  - [20/1106/HH](#) - Two storey rear extension - 12 Peers Way Huncote Leicester Leicestershire – **Application Permitted for a Certificate of Lawful Development for a single storey rear extension**
  - [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**
  - [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**
  - [2017/1389/01/CS/35a](#) - Aggregate Industries UK Limited - Submission under condition 35 of planning permission 2017/1389/01 (updated Environmental Scheme) - Croft Quarry, Marions Way, Croft – **Awaiting decision**
- 8195/4 To review areas of planning concern within Huncote  
 Cllr Clarke noted he had met the Secretary of the Leicestershire Ramblers to discuss the footpaths through the Acresford site. It was hoped he would be able to join the site meeting to discuss the footpaths with Acresford when it is held, provisionally 24 March.  
**RESOLVED:** Concerns about the settlement of the new material adjacent to the footpath were discussed, and these would be discussed as part of the site meeting.
- 8195/5 To receive an update on Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan Joint Working Board and Hinckley National Rail Freight Interchange  
 Cllr Knight explained that Stoney Stanton PC were asking the group to find out if their open spaces could be included in the Neighbourhood Plan, without delaying the referendum process. The Clerk's from Sapcote PC and Stoney Stanton PC would be investigating this.
- 8196 **To Review Highways & Footpaths Issues**
- 8196/1 A review of Highways and Footpaths Issues within Huncote  
 Cllr Clarke and Cllr Ingham commented about the surface of Forest Road breaking up at various points, as well as the drains blocked at Acresford Sand and Gravel.  
 Cllr Knight updated Members on the repairs to the raised footway on Croft Hill Road not yet having a date for the necessary work to be carried out.  
 Members suggested lit, low-level bollards are investigated for installation on footpath V64 from Spence Lane to Denman Lane.
- 8197 **To Receive and Review Quarries Updates** (Acresford Sand & Gravel, Suez, Croft Quarry)  
**ACKNOWLEDGED:** Members noted the updates for the various quarry sites.  
 Acresford Sand & Gravel - Site meeting scheduled for 10 March  
 Croft Quarry - Liaison meeting scheduled for 22nd February 2021 @ 5:00pm – Zoom

Suez site - Email received regarding progress on site.

8198 **To Review Publicity & Public Relations Issues** including:

8198/1 **Journal** – Next Issue Copy Dates - 5 February, 5 March, 2 April, 7 May, 4 June

**RESOLVED:** Members noted the copy dates for the next issues.

8198/2 **Huncote Village News** – Prepare Winter Issue

**RESOLVED:** Members discussed the newsletter and agreed it could be delivered to all houses. Various article topics were suggested.

8198/3 **Parish Council Website** – Review usage statistics/receive update on Parish Council Website  
The Clerk noted little change in public comments to recent articles.

8199 **To Receive Communication from External Groups/Bodies**

**RESOLVED:** Members noted an email from FONS regarding the Narborough footbridge replacement over the railway and the 50th Anniversary of Narborough station which had taken place in 2020.

Cllr McEntee lost connection to the meeting at 8:42 but was soon reconnected and rejoined the meeting.

8200 **To Review Recent Consultations Received**

8200/1 Blaby District Council – [Local Plan Options Document](#)

**RESOLVED:** Members reviewed the New Local Plan and agreed a working party should take place to consider the Council's response. Council agreed to determine the recommendations and review at the March meeting.

8200/2 NALC - Policy Consultation – [PC01-21 Right to regenerate](#)

**RESOLVED:** Members agreed to respond to the consultation.

8200/3 Any other consultations received before the meeting

None.

8201 **To Receive Clerks Report**

➤ Blaby DC – Parish Newsletter

➤ The Clerk explained comments received from resident about footpaths.

➤ Suggestion of a freely accessible hard surface sports court had been received. Members agreed to discuss this in the future.

8202 **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 Bailey queried if he had been copied in to Council emails since March 2020, as he didn't have access while the library was closed and if his account was likely to have been closed. Members assured Cllr Bailey he should be able to access his emails again when the library reopens.

Cllr Bailey queried the opening times of the sales in the pub car park? Members believed these were 10-12 on Thursdays.

8203 **Date of next meeting**

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2021 – Virtual Zoom meeting @ 7:00 pm.

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