

HUNNINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 4th May 2022, 7.30pm at St Kenelms Church Hall, Romsley

Those present: Cllr. Payne, Cllr. McGrath, Cllr. Austin, Cllr. Myatt and Cllr. McGregor

Chairman Cllr. Payne presided over the meeting attended by no Parishioners.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr. Ensor and reason for absence approved by all Councillors present.

MINUTES

The minutes of the last Annual Meeting held on 6th May 2021 were formally signed as a correct record.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I am completing this report having only been chair for one meeting that took place on 15th March 2022.

Having been placed in that position without any prior notice, sadly due to the resignation of our current chair Cllr. Smith which was announced at the start of the meeting.

I wish to firstly extend my huge personal thanks, those of my fellow councillors and of course on behalf of all the villagers of Hunnington to Cllr. Smith for all the hard work and time that he has dedicated to Hunnington Parish Council during his numerous years that he served them.

This last year has been an especially difficult one both nationally and locally, with continued Covid issues, the impact of the Russian invasion into Ukraine and for us the number of local issues we all face as a Parish Council, several of which as a Parish Council we have never encountered before i.e. the application for a new large housing development, the enrolment of several new councillors with new backgrounds, knowledge and losing also sadly a lot of previous experienced members, coupled with often challenges of the lack of services etc. all of this often without the ability to meet together and talk to each other, other than via a live link.

Despite all of this, we, I feel have done our best to keep Hunnington at the forefront of our decisions, actions, and commitment, with some real positives. We had our first Village Newsletter, posted signed Christmas cards to all residents, we put in place our

three beautiful rainbow Covid benches, and all have continued in doing their utmost to look at all issues, which have been brought before us as best as we have been able.

I would like to thank the Hunnington Parish Clerk Ruth for all her hard work, I know she is paid for her role, but she goes above and beyond to support us all and due to her contact with so many people from Hunnington as both a Clerk and a resident, she is often spoken to about concerns, issues and also positives about our village on a daily basis, which certainly are not noted as part of our minutes or as part of her role.

In addition, I would also like to thank the Lengthsman, along with all others, who have contributed to ensuring our village is maintained as best as we are able.

Of course, I would also like to thank all our HPC Councillors for their time and personal commitment to Hunnington Parish Council. It is often a thankless task and one that sadly a lot of our local community think that we get financial remuneration for.

Finally, I sincerely hope that we can go into our next year with real positivity, commitment and especially desire to work together to help and support our local community as best we are able.

Cllr. Karen Payne

TO RECEIVE THE WRITTEN REPORT OF THE DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE – KAREN MAY

Firstly, please accept my sincere apologies for being unable to attend your Annual Parish Meeting tonight. Unfortunately, I have a diary clash.

As we now learn to live with Covid I thought I would highlight some of your District and County Council achievements over the past twelve months.

- The District Council has obtained £14.5m from the levelling up fund from Central Government. This is money that was not expected, in fact I was informed that it was highly unlikely that any funding via this route would be granted. It is important that we addressed the issue of two vacant brownfield sites in the town centre which we were having great difficulty bringing forward for development. Whilst I recognise that these sites are in the centre of Bromsgrove it is anticipated that the investment of this level will be the catalyst for driving further investment throughout the district.*
- More than £30m of grant funding has been passed through the District Council to support businesses throughout the district. This is one of the largest amounts to have been assigned to any Council and I am delighted that we have been able to support businesses in what I recognise as a particularly challenging time.*
- The development of the old council building site in Burcot Lane is now well underway. There are sixty-one new properties under construction. Having*

visited the site last week one can clearly see the benefit that this will bring to Bromsgrove District. The development will not only provide housing for social rent but will also go part way to addressing the 'levelling up' agenda. On average, in Bromsgrove District, our house prices to earnings ratio stands at 14.3:1 whereas nationally it is 4:1 nationally. This makes it exceedingly difficult for our young people to find suitable housing within the district. We received a million-pound grant from central government to support this initiative as part of the accelerated homes England grant funding, again having lobbied to enable this finance to come through from Central Government. It is anticipated that this site will be completed by December 2022.

- I have been instrumental in introducing a project which is known as Asset-based Community Development not only across the district but also across Worcestershire County. This initiative is around the sustainability and enabling of communities. The prevention of social isolation and social interaction is fundamental to enabling communities to interact, protecting our communities into the future. Age UK is currently undertaking a feasibility study which will ensure areas like Romsley and Hunnington are visited by professionals from within their organisation. This will enable conversations to take place. A road show will take place in Romsley on 18th May, 10.30 to 13.00, at the Scout Centre. The goal is to enable residents to live fulfilled, independent lives in their own homes.*

Following my re-election as your County Councillor for Clent Hills Division I was appointed to the cabinet with responsibility for Health and Wellbeing. May I take this opportunity to thank those residents who kindly supported me. It is very much appreciated and something that I never take for granted.

As the cabinet member one of the first matters, I addressed was the roll out of a consultation document seeking residents' opinions as to the strategy for health and well-being for this county for the next 10 years. We have obtained funding from the NHS to support the County Council with this project which is something that has never happened historically. Adult social care and special educational needs are two of the largest major spends at Worcestershire County Council. Currently around 72% of our budget is spent on 2% of the population. For this reason, it is of importance that we look at what can be done in the preventative sphere.

On Friday I met with the Under-Secretary of State, Nigel Huddleston MP to discuss the broadband roll out across my County Division. I made it clear my concerns about the lack of broadband connectivity in the rural communities. I will continue to push on this matter as it is one of the most fundamental challenges that we locally face.

In closing I once again want to thank you for your support in the work that I do. I can always be contacted both by email and telephone. My email address at Bromsgrove District Council is k.may@bromsgrove.gov.uk and for

Worcestershire County Council kmay@worcestershire.gov.uk. My telephone number is 07818 085140.

As there were no parishioners present, the Chairman duly declared the meeting closed at approximately 7.15pm

Signed..... Dated.....
Chairman – Hunnington Parish Council