HUNNINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HUNNINGTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER 2026, 7.00PM AT ST KENELMS CHURCH HALL

Present:
Cllr. Hosking. Cllr. McGregor (Chair), Cllr. Hoskings and Cllr. Waller.

Also Present: Clerk

1. **APOLOGIES**

1.1 Apologies were received from Cllr. G Goodwin, Cllr. S Goodwin and Cllr. Myatt and reasons for absence approved by all councillors.

Clerk confirmed that Cllr. Seeley has resigned and that the Notice of Casual Vacancy has been displayed.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

2.1 Chair asked all members present to declare any personal or prejudicial interest on any items on the agenda.
Other Disclosable Interest
Cllr. Myatt – has a development business in Redhill Place.
Cllr. G Goodwin – member of Cannon Clay Shooting Club.

3. **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S –**

3.1 **Cllr. May –** not present and no report given.
Cllr Nock – not present and no report.

4. **COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

4.1 **Cllr. May –** as 3.1 above

5. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

5.1 It was unanimously **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 29th June 2026 be signed as a correct record, the Chair duly signed.

6. **FINANCE**

6.1 It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve the following payments: -

HMRC	Payroll taxes due	£296.97
Ruth Mullett	Expenses	£26.00
Unity Trust	Bank charges	£7.00

Cllr. Myatt and Cllr. McGregor to authorise the online payments.

6.2 Quarterly Bank Reconciliation Statement approved by all Councillors.

6.3 Agreement for councillor to conduct monthly internal financial control check.

7. **PLANNING MATTERS**

7.1 **District Council Decisions**
Nothing to report.

7.2 **Planning Applications for Parish Council Comments**
Nothing to report.

7.3 **Appeals**
Nothing to report.

7.4 **Bluebird Factory**

- Bellway – 6 properties are completed but yet to be sold, 15 that still need to be built. 2 have been started and the remainder will commence next month with completion expected June/July 2027.
- Willow tree branches have fallen off and are awaiting a tree surgeon quote.
- Kiwi – planning permission for the office building has lapsed and Kiki have confirmed they will now revert back to offices. Residents are not happy that they will not be residential offices and concerns have been raised with regards the amount of traffic and wear and tear of the site of which residents pay a service charge.
- 5 out of 13 apartments have been sold in the canteen building.

7.5 **Grenergy Update**

Summary

- NESO have announced that the Gate 2 schemes alone show an oversupply against target. Of 310%.
- NESO are now proposing an “Oversubscribed. Technologies Commitment Fee” (OTCF) which is a pay to stay fee for simply staying in the queue (see section 2 below).
- Grenergy is still shown as Gate 1 in the NESO/NGED datasets and are not in the Kitwell connection queue.
- Kitwell is shown as having zero headroom and requires an upgrade, scheduled for 2033 (see section 5 below).
- We are approaching the anniversary of the Goodrest Farm planning application being granted (9th October).

EIR Request to BDC (Hugo Hammersley) 24th June 2026

Dr. Hugo Hammersley has received a response to his EIR request from Bromsgrove Planning Department. Documentation provided confirms that the correct procedures were followed by BDC when the planning conditions were applied, and that Grenergy were consulted before the conditions were applied. Also, in an email train provided, the applicant's (Grenergy) agent thanks Paul Lester "for helping get it over the line *after all that was thrown at it*" - so I suppose that is some acknowledgement that we put up a good fight!!

NESO Update CMP470: Introducing an Oversubscribed Technologies Commitment Fee (OTCF)

NESO has now identified that "over 90 gigawatts (GW) of BESS capacity are built or will receive Gate 2 Modification Offers against a 2035 target of 29GW”. An oversupply of 310%, and that’s just Gate 2, it doesn’t include Gate 1 schemes such as Goodrest Farm! NESO considers that there is insufficient incentive for unviable projects to leave the queue, and no mechanism to prioritise the most economic projects.

NESO has therefore issued a report (CMP470) proposing an “Oversubscribed Technologies Commitment Fee (OTCF), a financial measure intended to reduce the bloated queue. In simple terms it is a “pay to stay” penalty fee for projects within an oversubscribed technology type. Developers must pay an upfront financial guarantee starting at *£3,000 per Megawatt (MW)* to keep their spot. The fee applies if oversubscription is above 50%.

It would be reassessed biannually, and if oversubscription has reduced by less than 25% the floor would first ramp to £5k/MW and then in £5k/MW increments up to a maximum level of **£25k/MW**. It would be disapplied if oversubscription (in that technology) dropped below 25%.

So, by my calculations, being a 70MW scheme at a cost of £3K per MW would indicate a security of £210,000 for Grenergy, if they wished to stay in the queue. This could subsequently ramp up to £1,750,000! If Grenergy opted to stay in the queue, then they would have to gamble that oversubscription drops to below 25%.

Following consultation, NESO's final CMP470 report has been submitted to Ofgem on 14th July 2026 and a final decision from Ofgem is awaited. The proposed implementation date is 1st January 2027.

Incentive to move from Gate 2 to Gate 1
NESO has now issued further guidance allowing schemes to downgrade from Gate 2 to Gate 1, or exit the queue entirely, thus avoiding the OTCF costs for remaining in the gate 2 queue. This is yet another incentive for schemes to gracefully exit the queue without undue financial penalties.

Grenergy Communication and Gate 2 Connection Offers
In February this year we contacted Grenergy who advised us that as they had planning permission, they were expecting to be reassessed with Gate 2 status, and they were therefore awaiting a connection offer from NESO. They also said that they would be in contact once this happened. On 3rd August we contacted Grenergy again, as it had been 6 months since their last update, and they advised that their position remains unchanged. The Goodrest Farm scheme still shows Gate 1 on the national datasets, *and the window for Gate 2 Phase 1 offers closes 30th September.*

Kitwell Grid Supply Point
There is no change to the NGED Kitwell dataset and Grenergy are still shown as Gate 1 with no connection date. It is becoming clear that there are technical network constraints at Kitwell, and the Kitwell website shows that "Developer Capacity Available" is zero. It also states that the total capacity is currently available for developers to connect to the GSP, taking into consideration existing connections and those in the queue. I am assuming that this is the status after the BESS sites in the queue have connected.

Grenergy's have stated on their website that the site operational date is dependent on a network upgrade at Kitwell and the National Grid has flagged that any further capacity injection at Kitwell is directly conditional upon wider transmission reinforcement works. The national Grid's operational target for completing these upgrades is ***October 2033.***

I have fed the NGED data set information into Chat GPT and it has concluded that the Kitwell constraints are the leading factor in Grenergy having Gate 1 status. Furthermore, the West Midlands "Battery Zone" is even more

oversubscribed that the national picture, so Grenergy moving to Gate 2 is even more unlikely.

Approval Anniversary
The Grenergy application was approved at the Bromsgrove Planning Committee meeting on 9th October 2025, which is almost a year ago. I suggest that this is an ideal time to provide an update to residents, even though we still can't give a definitive answer about whether the Goodrest Farm BESS will ever be built.

Chris Bloore Letter re Local Area Energy Plans
Chris Bloore (MP for Redditch) is sponsoring a private members bill for compulsory "Local Area Energy Plans" (LAEPs) to ensure that there is proper coordination of where infrastructure is placed and that they fit within a wider strategy. This contrasts with the current speculative "free for all" forcing communities like Hunnington and Feckenham into an unsupported defensive role. The letter contains a QR code should anyone wish to support his proposal. I recommend that this is published on the HPC website and promoted through WhatsApp groups.
https://www.chrisbloore.co.uk/local-area-energy-plans

8. **ROADS/FOOTPATHS/TRAFFIC/HIGHWAYS**

8.1 **Village Green Enhancement Bid –** council have attended the Romsley and Hunnington Gardening Club to update them on the project. The group met on the green to discuss the project with council, and it was agreed to carry the funds over and commence the project in the spring.

8.2 **Community Litter Pick –** this item was deferred.

8.3 **HPC Response/Action Plan for Severe Weather –** this item was deferred.

9. **PARISH LENGTHSMAN/MAINTENANCE**

9.1 Clerk confirmed that the Lengthsman had resigned and we have now taken on new one Steve Tromans, who will be attending Lengthsman Training at Worcestershire County Council in the next couple of weeks.

10. **CLERKS' REPORT**

10.1 Nothing to report.

11. **TO RECEIVE REPORTS OF PARISH COUNCILLORS**

11.1 AH – speed camera data to be included on next agenda.
IM – Fibre Nova poles could become an issue with residents.

21. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – 26th October 2026.

22. **CLOSE OF MEETING** - Meeting closed at 19.37.

Signed …….
Chair, Hunnington Parish Council