

Hungarton Parish Council

Environment Committee DRAFT Minutes

Meeting held on Monday, 8 July 2024 at 19.00
At Hungarton Village Hall

Present: Alistair Clemence
Paul Dixon
Marie Lloyd
James Patterson (acting Chairman)
Caroline Pick
Martyn Richmond
Anna Sixsmith
Pam Smith

1. To receive apologies for absence and requests for leave of absence:

Apologies were received and accepted from Kathryn Richmond.

The Chairman informed the Committee that Kathryn Richmond had expressed to him her intention to resign from the Committee. Those present wished to record their appreciation and thanks to Kate for all she has done for the Committee, and to wish her well.

2. To receive any dispensations or declarations of interest under the Council's Code of Conduct related to business items on the agenda.

None

3. To accept that the minutes of the Environment Sub-Committee Meeting of 24 April 2024 are a correct record.

The minutes were approved as an accurate record.

4. Matters arising from the minutes of 16 March 2023.

There were no matters arising that would be covered by the current agenda.

5. "Watery Walks" booklets.

Martyn Richmond, Josie May and Sally Gower have been finalising the three booklets.

- a. Ordnance Survey (OS) maps are subject to Crown Copyright, and the OS has quoted a fee of £4.99 for specific references made in the booklets to OS maps. However, a minimum fee of £49.75 + VAT would be payable. This was agreed by the Committee.

- b. Except for the above references, it is proposed to assign copyright of the booklets to Hungarton Parish Council, pending its agreement. **Action: Caroline Pick**
- c. A QR code will be printed on each booklet, giving access to an online version of the booklets.
- d. It was proposed that wildlife observations would be sent to Martyn Gower's Hungarton Parish Council email address for compilation by him, pending his confirmation that this would be acceptable. **Action: Martyn Richmond**
- e. The text of disclaimers in the booklets is to be reviewed by the Environment Committee. **Action: All**

6. Green My Drive

The Committee agreed to leave this initiative in the hands of the Garden Club and, indeed, the Garden Club has already incorporated the concept into its proposed Produce Show.

7. Bird Boxes

A suggestion had been made at a previous meeting to see whether the Committee could connect those wishing to own one or more bird nesting boxes with those willing to make them. Spring being imminent, no action had been taken but it was agreed that now would be the time to gauge interest. **Action: Alistair Clemence**

8. Environment Event proposals

Originally proposed by Jo Peryer, the idea of a one-day, drop-in event to highlight environmental issues has been discussed previously by the Committee. It was agreed to share thoughts on the proposal by email and to set up a small task force to plan the event, which might take the form of stalls, each dedicated to a specific subject. Membership of the task force would not be limited to the Committee but would include parishioners with specific interests and/or experience. **Action: All**

9. New members

James Patterson had looked into the procedures for recruitment to the Committee and established that there is no specific protocol for adding new members.

A suggestion was made to use the Parish WhatsApp to describe the scope of the Committee and invite new members.

It was agreed to approach Sylvia Thompson. **Action: Anna Sixsmith**

10. AOB

- a. Paul Dixon told the Committee that he had established three wildlife ponds and that two had been colonised by great crested newts! It was hoped that this success would be repeated in the third, also. A visit is to be arranged. **Action: Paul Dixon**

- b. It was noted that the pond near White's Barn had become increasingly colonised by vegetation over 30 years and there was no longer any open water. A suggestion was made to draft a letter to David Wilson, suggesting some remedial management.

Action: Alistair Clemence

- c. Leicestershire County Council's Highways Department has confirmed that the 30mph speed limit through the village will be reduced to 20 mph following the completion of a traffic survey. Warning measures on the road in the form of painted signs, or gateways, can be added to further prepare drivers for the new limit, but at a cost to the Parish Council. Councillor Pick asked for the Committee's view of these options and stated that they would be an item for discussion at the next Annual Parish Meeting.

The Highways Department further confirmed that a 30 mph limit could not be extended to Baggrave Road or south from the existing 30 mph limit on Barley Leas, because both meet the criteria for application of the National Speed limit.

- d. James Patterson noted that he had acted as Chairman for the previous several meetings and asked for a volunteer to take the Chair on a longer-term basis. There was a proposal that Committee members should take the Chair on a rotational basis, and this was agreed. James agreed to chair the September meeting before handing over to another.

11. Next meeting

Wednesday 25 September 2024 at 19.00.