

DRFAT MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING

Monday 17th March 2025

There were 18 members of the village present together with JWT (Chair) MDT (treasurer) and MWT (Secretary).

Apologies were received from Louisa Godwin

1. The Minutes of the Meeting of 7th October 2024 were approved unanimously.

2. **Matters arising:**

JWT confirmed that the Parish Meeting now has insurance in place which covers amongst other things public liability, the indemnity required by the council if SIDS are installed and work to trees which are the responsibility of the Parish Meeting and damage to street furniture (bus shelter etc). In reply to a query from David Johnson, JWT confirmed that the cottage insurance was separate. Efforts had been made to get a single policy to cover both but the combined quotes both from NFU and the specialist Parish council insurers were considerably higher than two separate insurance policies.

3. **Chairman's chat**

JWT said 2 successful biodiversity days had been held as well as the litter pick. Amendments were being added to the village website with new sections covering general village matters, the environment survey and the Mary Page Trust. JWT thanked the O' Reilly's for hosting the post litter pick lunch and David Johnson for providing the equipment for the litter pick. Thanks also to Bob Wade for continuing to run the defibrillator monitoring team and to David Cattermole for replacing the 30 mph sign by the footpath.

Resignations: JWT confirmed that he would be stepping down as Chair and MWT as Secretary at the meeting in May. Anyone interested in standing for either post were warmly encouraged to get in touch.

4. **Treasurer**

MDT's interim financial statement had been circulated ahead of the meeting and there were no comments. A full financial statements will be presented at the AGM in May, after the end of the financial year. MDT reiterated the significant costs that would be incurred if the cottage went unlet for any significant period. However, the present tenants are good, reliable and happy.

5. **Mary Page Trust**

Merle Cattermole confirmed that her 4 year term as trustee nominated by the Parish Meeting was coming to an end. A vote was taken and Merle was unanimously reappointed by the meeting for a further term. She was thanked for her hard work on behalf of the Trust.

6. **Cottage**

JWT reported that the major issue was finding a willing and reliable builder to work on the listed cottage. There were some minor interior works that need doing along with investigations into small areas of damp and a crack around the bathroom tiling. JWT advised a watching brief on this crack as it was insignificant and had not worsened in the last six months. Rickards had provided a quote for carrying out the remaining work and a further, more detailed response is currently awaited.

7. **Andy Mellen** – Suffolk CC

Devolution: AM updated the Meeting on the process of devolution and the public consultation which is underway at present. In brief, Norfolk and Suffolk will have a joint Mayor and the public consultation on this is open at the moment. Within Suffolk both the county council and district councils will be abolished and replaced by 1 or more unitary authority(ies). The present county council administration is in favour of a single authority for the whole of Suffolk, while other county council groups favour either 2 or 3 unitary authorities to help maintain greater connection with local communities and opinion. Full proposals are to be submitted to Government by both county and district councils by September 2026. Mayoral elections are currently anticipated in May 2026. A public consultation regarding the unitary authority arrangement will open in due course.

Speed reduction – AM explained that the process of getting a permanent reduction on the approach road to Hunston from 60 to 40mph was difficult and the grounds for application limited, although after some discussion agreed that point 20 of the County Council speed policy (straight road running into a village) probably was applicable. AM also observed that the current county council administration was generally minded to oppose any speed reductions. The next stage would be to get a formal speed survey done which he could fund from his locality budget. DC and MWT questioned whether further surveys were necessary given that surveys had been done both before (April 2024) and during (Oct '24 and Jan '25) the bridge works showing that there was a major speeding issue. A further safety camera enforcement survey is also being done at present. If the need for a further survey could be avoided and the costs saved that would be sensible. Agreed that MWT would send AM the report she had prepared for highways and which contained all the relevant data from the various speed surveys and the grounds of application under the county council speed policy. DC will also forward AM a copy of the April 2024 traffic survey.

8. AOB

Parish Magazine. It was agreed to renew the subscription, which might be slightly less this year as fewer people require a paper copy. MDT confirmed that the magazine was available on the village website (hunstonpm.org).

Church works: MDT confirmed that the PCC now had the 'faculty' (approval) from the diocese for the works to bring heating and light to the church. The benefit to the community was one of the grounds for the application and it was hoped that the church would be used for Parish Meetings etc once the work had been done. MDT confirmed that the church had most of the necessary funds for the basic works but will also be applying for grants to help with the cost of the works which he hoped would be completed by the end of the year. He confirmed that plans had been amended so that planning permission is not required. There are currently plans also for a stand pipe to bring water but with plans to develop things further in due course.

VE DAY. Marion W asked if anything was planned for this and it was agreed that she would gather a group of helpers together to plan something along the same lines as previous village gatherings for the jubilee, coronation etc.

Village Walk: Andy M proposed reinstating the village walk and possibly combining it with photographing of the Hunston countryside. He is happy to help people with photographic tips and processing any photographs. He also suggested beginning a photographic history legacy to complement the photographs from the Heigham family albums which are on the village website e.g. photographing, in particular, the listed buildings but also the street view etc. He suggested possibly the second May Bank Holiday and will coordinate with others to make this happen.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8pm/