HUNTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING AT HUNTLEY VILLAGE HALL**

**on TUESDAY 2ND APRIL at 8.00 pm**

Present: Cllrs. Alan Wood (Chairman), Mrs Jenny Green, T Hill, Robert Watkins, 1 member of the public, Miss A Jones (parish council Clerk)

The Chairman welcomed the parishioner and introduced the councillors

Apologies

Cllrs. Brian Jones (District Councillor) and Brian Robinson (County Councillor) had both decided not to attend, due to purdah restrictions leading up to the elections. It was noted that there would therefore be no reports from them.

Chairman’s Report - The Chairman stated that over the last year the parish council had concentrated on its core activities, improving the parish environment and ensuring that the regular maintenance was carried out correctly and that the associated contracts were fit for purpose.

* New (additional) doggie bin had been installed on the recreation ground and one of the original bins had been relocated so that overall parish provision was improved
* The smartwater initiative had been progressed within he parish
* The community speedwatch was being progressed within the parish
* The provision of a defibrillator “rapid response team” was being progressed
* Grass cutting and tree maintenance had once again been carried out to a high standard and the contract had therefore been extended.
* Precept remains unchanged for a fourth year, with finances in a very good state.
* Thank you to Richard Bowman for his excellent work on grass cutting. Trees & hedges, and thank you to Phil Matthews for carrying out repair work to the play area free of charge.
* Finally thank you to all the councillors for the continued support and commitment to the parish

Financial Report - The Clerk provided the financial report for 2018/19 along with a comparison with the previous year. She explained that the significant reduction on overall spend was due to the improvement works to the hard-standing play area being paid in the previous year. She advised that the council’s accounts were now in excellent order, with reserves being ample cover the future cost of unexpected expenditure and ring-fenced funds increasing to cover replacement of the play area and possible repairs to play provision in future years. There was no anticipation of an increase in the Precept in the foreseeable future now that the situation is stable, indeed council could consider reducing the Precept in future year, however a desire to keep costs down for residents must be balanced against the risk that the capping of parish council Precepts in future could remove the opportunity to increase it again, should the need arise. By keeping the Precept at the current level, the council retains the ability to bring forward improvement projects in the future. A copy of the report is attached to these minutes.

Gloucestershire Constabulary Report - There was no Forest of Dean Police report available, but the Clerk was of the opinion that this was because the APM was being held earlier in the year than usual. She advised that the report would be made available to residents via the web site once it becomes available.

Written questions - There were no written questions

Suggestions / Questions / General Discussion - A resident asked about the parish boundary to the west, and it was clarified by councillors. A brief discussion took place regarding issues with road repairs not lasting long enough.

Conclusion - The Chairman thanked everyone for attending, and brought the meeting to a close

Meeting ended at 20.17 hrs

**Certified as an accurate record of the proceedings of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 2nd April 2019.**

Signed

Chairman Date