



Huntington Parish Council

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Website : www.huntington-chester.co.uk

WHAT IS HUNTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL?

Huntington Parish Council are keen to engage with residents at every opportunity. We can also signpost residents to local services provided by CW&C.

To help us to help you, here is a handy guide to what we can and can't do as a Parish Council:

What Huntington Parish Council can do!	What Huntington Parish Council doesn't do! (But we might know someone who does!)
Finance - The Parish Council sets the charge (precept) that will be levied on residents as a small part of the council tax bill on your home, this is the PC's main source of income	We cannot spend money without the necessary statutory power and full resolution by Parish Council
Review local planning applications and provide comments to CW&C. Applicants can ask advice of a PC prior to submitting an application and also can ask them to support their application. The PC can also, in their comments, take neighbours' concerns into account.	Approve local planning applications – that power rests with CW&C (Cheshire West and Chester Council https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/planning-and-buildingcontrol/planning-and-building-control.aspx
Create a Neighbourhood Plan which defines planning policies for our parish. This can influence CW&C (Cheshire West and Chester Council) decision making on planning applications	Empty public litter bins or manage household waste collections https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/contact-us/report-it/report-it.aspx
Speak at CW&C Planning Committee and Planning Enquiries	Repair roads and pavements. https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/contact-us/report-it/report-it.aspx
Assets of Community Value – We have the power to nominate and bid for assets of community value e.g. buildings and land Responsibility to maintain certain areas in the Parish	Impose speed limits or parking restrictions.
We are responsible for the following areas in Huntington: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jubilee Field including play area • The Green (Outside shops) 	Make decisions outside Parish Council meetings. At Parish council meetings, we cannot discuss or decide any business which has not been formally included on the agenda.

WHAT IS A PARISH COUNCIL and how can it help me?

There are 9000 Town and Parish Councils in England which serve over 16 million people and have a membership of around 80,000 councillors, investing over £1 billion in communities each year.

Powers.... Parish Councils have the statutory power to do a huge number of things for their community but have very few things they have to do.

Finance.... Parish Councils are unique from community groups because they are a statutory body, one created by law and they have the power to precept, which means they can each year, set a charge which is levied on the residents of the Parish and is included on your Council tax bill. This money, although collected by CW&C, is paid to the Parish Council. Parish Councils can also apply for grants and will receive money through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) which is applied to new buildings but, on the whole, the precept as it is known is the main source of income for a Council.

Planning.... Parish Councils do not decide planning applications. That power rests with CW&C Council but Parish Councils are in a good position to influence planning decisions in two ways.

- 1) By working with their community to create Neighbourhood Plans which set planning policies locally which are used to decide planning applications.
- 2) By using local knowledge and planning policies from the CW&C Local plan to submit comments for consideration by planning officers when deciding applications. The Parish Council can also speak at planning committees and planning inquiries.

• **People....** For details of who the Parish Councillors are, please check out our website (Details found at top of this leaflet). Alternatively, our notice boards which can be found outside the shops on Chester Rd or by the memorial at Saighton Camp.

Our CW&C WARD COUNCILLOR of Huntington represents our area at the CW&C council. He is also a Parish Councillor but a Ward Cllr does not have to be if they don't wish.

Anyone can be a Parish Councillor so long as they are 18 or over and can meet some or all of the criteria which can be found at www.electoralcommission.org.uk. Parish Councils are elected every 4 years with the next elections in May 2019. If a vacancy occurs between elections, a by-election can be called but if that does not happen, the Council is free to co-opt or appoint someone to fill the vacancy. Almost all Councils employ a Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) whose job it is to do the work of the Council, providing advice and support.

Meetings - The best way to find out what Parish Councils do, is to attend their meetings or read their minutes. You can find Agendas and minutes at www.huntington-chester.co.yj All Parish Council meetings are open to the public (although on some occasions part of the meeting may be closed to the public due to the confidential or sensitive nature of items being discussed) and include an open forum or public participation where members of the public can speak. Huntington Parish Council usually meets on the third Monday of each month at 7.30pm at Huntington Village Hall.

Concerns/Feedback/Comments – If you wish to contact your Parish Council, the easiest way is to contact the Clerk (details found at top of this leaflet) and she will point you in the right direction. It normally follows one of the following:

1. The Clerk may give you a link to the CW&C Officer/web page or reporting hotline (if it falls under the responsibility of CW&C)
2. She may be able to answer your query straight away due to previous knowledge or what the Parish Council have been working on.
3. If it is an area of concern that has not been raised before or adds to work already on-going, the Clerk will either add it as an Agenda item at the next Parish Council meeting or consult with Councillors to agree how best to progress the feedback/Complaint. Councillors, by majority, then decide how to proceed.