

**Minutes of the Hunton parish Plan steering Committee
26th October 2011 8pm at Hunton Village Club**

Present: Mr David Heaton, Mrs Sue Heaton, Mrs Kathy Reid, Mrs Barbara Wright, Mrs Annette Trought (Chair), Mrs Di Martin, Mr Guy Oliver, Mr Mike Summersgill, Miss Judi Arnold (Secretary)

In Attendance Mr Nigel Parsons, Mr Tony Stanbridge, Mr Alan Bishop, Mr David Hubble, Mr Godfrey Chapels

Apologies None received

Welcome and Apologies

1. The Chair welcomed everyone attending the meeting. No apologies had been received.
2. It was noted that Simon Reid has stepped down from the Parish Plan Committee

Minutes of 24th August 2011

3. It was agreed that the minutes of this meeting were an accurate record.

Election of Officers

4. The following changes to the Parish Plan Committee were endorsed:

Mrs Barbara Wright was elected to the role of Communications Officer
Mrs Sue Heaton was elected to the role of Fundraising Officer
Titles for both of these roles to be confirmed

Treasurer's Report

5. The Treasurer reported that the account balance remained at £211.98
6. The Treasurer has received mandates to change signatories on the bank account – New signatory mandates were passed to both Chair and Secretary to complete **Action Chair/Secretary**

Committee Updates

Plan Priority 1 – Highways and Transport

7. Speed Watch – Guy Oliver has spoken to PC Warren Jarvis who will provide the training in using the speed gun – date TBC but it is hoped this will be no longer than 6 weeks time. Guy Oliver to meet with PC Jarvis and coordinate the training. A group of 5 local residents have volunteered to be trained, need 6 for the training to be run. Chair to

approach Hunton School to see if one of the school or parents would like to join the group. **Action Chair and Guy Oliver**

8. 20mph speed limit trial at Hunton School – the committee understand that this is to go ahead with new signage but will not be enforced in any way.
9. Gateway signs – the committee learnt that KCC have changed their preferred contractor for the provision of new gateway signs. This has caused a delay in the work being undertaken.

Plan priority 2 – Village Infrastructure

10. Addressed under paragraph's 20-24

Plan Priority 3 – Environment

11. Litter pick held on 15th October yielded 33 bags of rubbish, 20 used tyres, 3 car seats and an assortment of metal and other items and involved 14 volunteers from the local area. Kent County Council has removed the rubbish that had been collected. Next litter pick is planned for 17th March 2012 and will be publicised in the Herald.
12. Footpath – No progress, addressed under later item
13. Community Orchard – David Heaton reported that the Parish council have agreed to the area of land beside the Village Hall being considered as a site for the community orchard. This land is already owned by the parish. David has received an email from Caroline Druit at the Medway Valley Partnership, they looking to support 10 community orchard projects and may be able to assist. The area of land will need to be surveyed and a plan developed including scoping the work needed and funding. David Heaton to gather some information relating to the development of the community orchard which can be circulated to the committee. **Action David Heaton**
Committee recognised that Hunton school should be informed of the developments and engaged in the process if possible **Action Chair**
14. Sustainability – The committee learnt that Maidstone Borough Council do not plan to return to weekly rubbish collections.
15. Mike Summersgill reported that he is gathering information relating to the various scheme's and support available including insulation and solar panels and will arrange for an article in the December Herald to inform local residents of these **Action Mike Summersgill**
16. Biodiversity – Mike Summersgill suggested that a local wildlife survey could be undertaken to establish what wildlife is already living within the village and to enable more coordinated support for wildlife in future. Some information has already been gathered from the church yard working group. It is believed that a local pond survey may also have been carried out **Action Secretary to add this to the actions matrix**

Plan Priority 4 – Community

17. Communications – The village diary is now on the website and has had 22 'hits' in recent weeks. Communications Officer to arrange an article in November's Herald publicising this with consideration to

publishing the diary it's self in the Herald **Action Communications Officer**

18. Village Hall – in addition to Zumba there is now a weekly Pilates Class in the village hall
19. Welcome Pack – Barbara Wright has drafted some ideas for the Hunton Welcome Pack, she will write these up and will circulate these to the committee **Action Mrs Wright**

Mr David Hubble and discussion around opportunities for his 5 acre area of land at West Street

20. Mr David Hubble and his assistant Mr Godfrey Chapels joined the meeting at 8.45pm. Mr Hubble had previously written to the Chair putting forward 5 points for consideration for the possible uses of his 5 acre area of land at West Street which he suggests could possibly be incorporated into providing requirements outlined in the Hunton Village Plan. The Chair had circulated these points to the committee.
21. The committee learnt that Mr Hubble had owned the area of land for around 30 years and hoped that it could be used among other things to provide low cost or affordable housing within the village. This is set out in his recent letter to the Chair. The committee recognised that it is useful to have these options put forward.
22. David Heaton explained that the results of the Parish Plan Questionnaire (used to form the Parish Plan document) had confused matters in relation to the concept of “affordable housing”. The term was used in the paperwork as a general descriptive term. After the production of the Parish Plan it came to light that the term “affordable housing “ has a specific meaning in the lexicon of rural housing terminology which does not support Mr Hubble's options. What had been indentified by the village in the Parish Plan was a requirement for “local needs housing” which is something distinctly different and which would require a formal housing needs survey. As a result of this disparity the committee is planning to have a Housing Needs Survey conducted with the support of Action for Rural Communities in Kent. This will ensure the village is informed about the housing options and has the opportunity to shape likely future developments.
23. David Heaton explained that with the introduction of the Localism Bill the Parish would also need to draw up a Neighbourhood Plan which can be used to inform planning in the area. This will require a local referendum and consultation and will include requirements around affordable and local needs housing.
24. Footpath – There has been no progress on the permissive footpath relating to David Hubble's area of land. The Chair emphasised that this was a crucial development which forms the foundation for further much anticipated development within the village. Its protracted delays were hampering many important developments including traffic control outside the Hunton School and the development of a walking bus. David Hubble expressed his frustration at this lack of progress and reported that he has been in email contact with David Smith at Kent County Council and has been promised regularly that the permissive

footpath agreement is being sent to him but never arrives. Mr David Hubble agreed that he could chase this further. The committee is aware that Mr Roger Sawtell is also chasing David Smith for a resolution to this issue. **Action David Heaton to contact Roger Sawtell for an update on progress**

Future Meeting Dates

25. Next Meeting will be held on **Thursday 8th December** 8pm at the Hunton Village Club. Please note the change of day on this occasion only due to other meetings in the village on the Wednesday.

26. Dates for 2012 meetings (planned to fit with Parish Council meeting dates)

- Wednesday 22nd February 2012
- Wednesday 25th April 2012
- Wednesday 27th June 2012
- Wednesday 29th August 2012
- Wednesday 23rd October 2012

Any Other Business

27. The Communications Officer asked David Heaton for an update on Parish Councillors being champions for an area of the Parish Plan. David Heaton confirmed that this is being discussed. **Action David Heaton/Roger Sawtell to report on progress at the December meeting**

28. Mr Guy Oliver informed the committee that there is a Barn dance at the Village Hall on Saturday 29th October.

29. Mr Alan Bishop reminded the committee that the next Applause event takes place on 25th November.