

Minutes of the Hunton Parish Plan Steering Committee
Wednesday 9th January 2013
8pm - Hunton Village Club

Present: Mrs Annette Trought (Chair), Mrs Barbara Wright, Mr David Heaton, Ms Di Martin, Mrs Alison Ellman-Brown, Mr Tony Stanbridge, Mr Mike Summersgill (minutes)

In Attendance Mrs Kathy Reid

Apologies Miss Judi Arnold, Mr Guy Oliver

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone attending the meeting (Mr Stanbridge arrived shortly after the start, at Item 4 below). Apologies were received as above.

2. Minutes of 24th October 2012

It was agreed that the minutes of this meeting were an accurate record. Actions from previous Minutes had generally been completed/closed, and any outstanding points are noted in specific Items below – or had been listed on the distributed Agenda for the meeting.

Plan Priority 1 – Highways and Transport

3. Community Speedwatch

The committee learnt that a bid for finding had been submitted and successfully achieved a £1500 'small communities grant'. Equipment has been ordered but is still to arrive; people already trained for its usage.

Plan Priority 2 – Village Infrastructure

4. Hunton Playing Fields

A successful bid had been submitted in relation to the new childrens' play equipment for a Small Communities Grant, and the Parish Council had matched those funds. Equipment is due to be installed w/c 21st January.

5. Village Shop

The committee learnt that the working group have met further and discussed the village 'shop'. The first 'pop-up' shop would be on the Church forecourt at Easter; there may also be one later on the Club car park (not inside the Club).

Plan Priority 3 – Environment

6. Community Orchard

A Questionnaire about the community orchard was circulated in the Hunton Herald, the aim of which was secure funding . Hunton had the highest number of responses of the 14 Kent locations involved in the Community Orchard project.

Following the surveys, another meeting was planned with Pippa Palmer (who has produced a basic management plan for the community orchard) on 10th January at the Club to discuss next steps. The management plan would be used to assist with the bid for heritage lottery fund monies, and other sources.

Action

Mrs Wright to arrange for the Community Orchard Report to be sent round to Committee members.

7. Footpath

The committee noted that there has been no visible progress regarding the footpath, but Mr Heaton advised that imminent political pressure was due

Action

Mr Sawtell to continue to chase/press KCC for progress

8. Neighbourhood Plan

The Parish Plan Committee and Parish Council remain committed to undertaking a housing needs survey and to the creation of a Neighbourhood Plan for Hunton. This can not be undertaken until the Core Strategy is published by Maidstone Borough Council; recent reports (Downs Mail) suggest this is being further delayed by up to a year. Meanwhile, five local Parishes (incl. Coxheath) and one Residents Association had been declared by MBC as 'neighbourhood areas' and are preparing Plans, which will be independently assessed and then put to a local referendum for adoption.

Action (to note)

Secretary to add to agenda when MBC Core Strategy published.

9. Sustainability/Biodiversity

Mark Pritchard (Medway Valley Partnership) will attend a future meeting, when the footpath is in place, and will be able to offer support with the hedgerow aspect of this work. Apart from that, the latest wet weather had helped identify some seasonal ponds on an informal basis. Information still needs collating on the local biodiversity and trees. The school has Bat Boxes.

Action

Mr Summersgill to continue with scoping/establishing a baseline survey for biodiversity in Hunton, to help identify future projects that we may want to bid for (landfill tax credit) funding streams.

Plan Priority 4 – Community

10. Welcome Pack

Is now available and established on the village website, and one was recently printed for a new arrival/family.

11. Litter Picking

Next litter picking event is to be on 16th March 2013 in the morning.

[Note: same day as MBC Freighter is at Village Hall from 13.40 -14.10]

Action

Ms Martin to arrange labour for the next litter picking 'event'

12. Christmas Lights

The festive lights at the village hall this Christmas were very well received, and there are electricity bills to be settled. They will be repeated next Xmas.

13. Christmas Fair

This went ahead at the Church and was thought very successful; excellent response from all village community. Potentially another one to be held on 14th December this year.

14. Future Meeting Dates

Were published for 2013 on the Agenda for this meeting – Abbi Jessop will speak at 1st May one and possibly Mark Pritchard on 26th June. Next = 27/2.

15. AOB

- a. Mrs Trought had attended the 'Find out about Fundraising' event, and found much of interest there for future submissions/events.
- b. Mrs Trought had received a detailed Letter at Xmas from Mr D.Hubble, reiterating his wish to assist the village in providing community facilities and improvement related to land adjoining Benstead Close and East Street. This listed 9 options for use of the land, and was noted with interest; Annette to circulate to Committee and also send to the Parish Council. As noted above, Neighbourhood Plan/Needs for villages awaits published information within the delayed MBC Core Strategy.
- c. All present agreed on reporting to the village on Plan progress in 2012, and agreed this should be an insert in Herald-March .

Action (on item 15C)

All present to draft some information, to send end-January to Chair (Mrs. Wright to assign roles to writers and email that around)