

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HUNTON PARISH COUNCIL

Held on 14th July 2004 at 7.30pm at Hunton Parish Hall

PRESENT: Cllr Roger Sawtell Chairman
Cllr Keith Eatwell
Cllr Les Leonard
Cllr Mrs Liz Oliver
Cllr Mrs Lorraine Redfarn
Cllr Gary Thomas
David Swan Clerk

IN ATTENDANCE: PC Bryan Hillman
County Councillor Eric Hotson
Borough Councillors Adrian Brindle, Brian Mortimer and John Williams

Before business began Members checked their Register of Interests forms, confirmed that they were complete and accurate and signed their formal written undertakings of acceptance of office. The election of Roger Sawtell as Chairman was proposed by Cllr Oliver and seconded by Cllr Thomas. This confirmed the decision at the May AGM.

1. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chairman welcomed all present, in particular Cllr Brindle whose first meeting this was. Cllr Brindle said he would do his best for the village. The Chairman also offered the Council's congratulations to Cllr Thomas on his election as Chairman of the Kent Branch of the Council for the Protection of Rural England. Apologies had been received from Mark Day and Anne and Alan Bishop.

2. REGISTER OF MEMBERS INTERESTS

The Register was available for public inspection.

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF 12th MAY AND MATTERS ARISING

Both sets had been distributed and were agreed and signed as a correct record. Matters arising were included later in the agenda.

4. POLICE AND NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH (NHW) BUSINESS

PC Hillman reported 5 crimes in the last two months of which two were stolen cars and two were cases of criminal damage. PC Hillman would remind his colleagues of the need to conduct speed checks in West Street.

5. FINANCE

5.1 Income & expenditure and bank reconciliation – 2004/2005

Members endorsed the Clerk's report of 14th July which showed income of £14504.19, expenditure of £4583.98 and bank and cash book balances of £9920.21.

5.2 Authorisation of payments

Members endorsed payments authorised by the Finance Sub-Committee since the last meeting and agreed a number of new payments.

6. COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS' BUSINESS

6.1 Gypsy transit camp

Cllr Hotson explained the background to the suggestion of a camp at the top of Barn Hill as set out in his earlier letter. No final decision had been made but both he and Sandy Bruce-Lockhart, Chairman of KCC, were of the opinion that the site did not meet the criteria KCC had set down.

6.2 New Borough Council

Cllr Mortimer said that following the election the Council was still hung politically and that Cabinet work was getting underway again. He said that the High Street would be closed during the evening of 8th August for a free 1970s music concert. He would look into the possibility of a Park and Ride site being made available to help overcome parking problems and to make the event more user friendly for the less mobile.

ACTION: CLLR MORTIMER

7. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTWAYS

7.1 Speed limits – new Government guidance

Members had seen the letter from Steve Goulette and the accompanying guidance which indicated that all a standard limit of 30mph in villages should be the norm. We had been invited to make suggestions and the Clerk would write to suggest that there should be clear village entrances in East and West Streets and Redwall Lane to a universal 30mph limit in the village.

7.2 TRAMP

The Parish Council is represented on the TRAMP group by Cllr Thomas. The group's aim is to improve the quality of rural life by controlling traffic in the villages south and west of Maidstone. The main recommendations,

including a pavement between Bensted Close and Lughorse Lane, traffic calming in Coxheath and the introduction of weight restrictions on the medieval bridges have now been referred as part of the Rural Packages programme for decision by KCC. The outcome is awaited. Members were pleased that the Linton-based South-Maidstone group now seemed to be campaigning on similar lines.

8. PLANNING

8.1 Mulberry Farm

Members discussed this case which was to go to an informal appeal hearing at 10.00 on 27th July 2004 in the Town Hall. The points made to the Inspectorate by the Clerk in January were endorsed.

8.2 The Old Post Office, Hunton Hill

It was felt that the decision to allow this planning application was inappropriate and contrary to the Borough's policies which had been wrongly applied. Members thought that there were two properties on the site, at least one of which was up for sale or had been sold, and each had been subject to a separate application. It was acknowledged that it was too late for the decision(s) to be changed but if the property details and the policies which had been applied could be clarified from Parish Council records, the Clerk would write to the Borough.

ACTION: CLERK

9. KING GEORGE V PLAYING FIELD

Matters which Members needed to discuss informally in their capacity as Trustees of the Field included risk management, insurance including the status of the Hall Committee, maintenance costs and the advice received from the Charity Commissioners and the National Playing Field Association. The Clerk would prepare an agenda and assemble the required papers. The meeting would be at Cllr Oliver's at 7.30pm on 27th July.

ACTION: CLERK

10. OTHER MATTERS FOR INFORMATION OR FUTURE DISCUSSION

The Clerk would write to Jacqueline Leach to thank her for being their representative on the school Governing body for the last four years and to express the hope that she would be prepared to continue.

ACTION: CLERK

Following a Members' discussion the Clerk would write appropriately to the two applicants for the casual vacancy arising from Pat Parker's resignation.

ACTION: CLERK

The next regular Council meeting would be on 8th September.

There being no other business the meeting ended at 20.50.