

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HUNTON PARISH COUNCIL
Held on 22nd September 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
Cllr Mrs Moira Walter
David Swan Clerk

IN ATTENDANCE: Borough Councillors Adrian Brindle, Brian Mortimer and John Williams
Mr Mark Day
Mr Clive Baxter

Before business began Cllr Walter signed the formal written undertaking of acceptance of office & completed the annual Charity Commission form for Trustees of the King George V Playing Field.

1. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

On behalf of the parish the Chairman welcomed Cllr Walter to Membership of the Council. Apologies were received from PC Bryan Hillman.

2. REGISTER OF MEMBERS INTERESTS

The Register was available for public inspection.

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF 14th JULY AND MATTERS ARISING

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

4. 15 MINUTE OPEN SESSION

Mr Clive Baxter, Chairman of Linton PC and a local farmer with land in Hunton raised two matters:- **4.1**

Possible combination of smaller Parish Councils

Mr Baxter mentioned having heard rumours about possible combining of smaller Parish Councils. If this came to pass he suggested that Linton and Hunton might be a satisfactory link.

4.2 Mulberry Farm

Mr Baxter outlined the history of this site from his point of view and explained his and others concerns about future development which he felt could have a significant effect on the village. He was awaiting the outcome of an enquiry to Eric Hotson about the 1996 enforcement notice on the site. If this remained unchanged the option of possible sale of parcels of the land would be much reduced. It was agreed that the Clerk would in the first instance write to Cllr Hotson and if necessary to KCC.

ACTION: CLERK

5. FINANCE

5.1 Income & expenditure and bank reconciliation – 2004/2005

Members endorsed the Clerk's report of 22nd September which showed income of £14504.19, expenditure of £6465.37 and bank and cash book balances of £8038.82. The Clerk mentioned that future income would include the refund of the VAT paid in 2003/2004 and the MBC reimbursement of the sweeping costs incurred in 2003/2004.

5.2 Authorisation of payments

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

6. POLICE AND NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH (NHW) BUSINESS

On behalf of PC Hillman the Clerk reported 3 crimes in the last two months of which one was a burglary other than a dwelling, one was a theft from a motor vehicle and the other damage to a motor vehicle. There was no information from Neighbourhood Watch.

7. BOROUGH COUNCILLORS' BUSINESS

7.1 Fly tipping

Cllr Brindle said that the Borough had the facility to impose £50 fixed penalty fines for fly tipping and throwing litter from vehicles. Details of instances including date time etc to be reported to Graham Steady at the Borough.

7.2 Extra funding

Each Borough Cllr had the sum of £1500 this year and £3000 next for specific projects. The Cllrs would write and the Clerk would circulate the details. Members would consider.

ACTION: BOROUGH CLLRS, PARISH CLLRS, CLERK

8. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTWAYS

8.1 TRAMP

The Group's list of recommendations which included the footpath between Bensted Close and Lughorse Lane had been accepted in principle by KCC and the Borough although it was recognised that they may go no further forward even though the costs of the TRAMP suggestions were very small compared with the main road schemes in the County. If possible it might be helpful to obtain three tenders for the footpath work from local firms but the acquisition of land and the specification of the footway work needed to be established first.

ACTION: MEMBERS

In the meantime the Clerk would put in an application for funding to the KCC local board through Cllr Hotson although the likely cost could exceed the total budget available.

ACTION: CLERK

It was agreed that KCC Highways seemed to lack any imagination or flair in relation to rural areas, unlike Essex CC. The Clerk would look at the Essex ideas on their web site and print off for Members' information.

ACTION: CLERK

The Clerk would circulate recent emails about Shinglebarn Lane which seemed to illustrate many of the difficulties we faced in this area.

ACTION: CLERK

8.2 Maidstone Southern Bypass

It was noted that this was mentioned in the papers related to the examination in public but the section only from the A20 to the A274 was specified.

8.3 KCC Highways letter of 13th September

This letter indicated that the joint arrangements with the districts would cease and all highway work would return to the control of KCC. It was noted that the Borough had taken up the matter with the Secretary of State. The Clerk would circulate the letter for comment.

ACTION: CLERK

9. PLANNING

There were no matters to consider under this heading.

10. KING GEORGE V PLAYING FIELD

Members in their capacity as Trustees of the Field had an informal meeting on 27th July where they discussed 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.

It was agreed that a professional risk management report, which would include all the pavilion buildings, would be set in train. The Clerk would circulate the quotation he had obtained.

ACTION: CLERK

The Clerk would write to Mr Crooks to try to reopen the insurance discussion because this seemed to have stalled when it became apparent that the Hall Committee and not the Parish Council were legally responsible for the Hall insurance costs.

ACTION: CLERK

The Clerk had arranged for Rocky Sharrock of the National Playing Fields Association to meet the Trustees and club representatives on Thursday 4th November in the Hall at 7.30pm. He would write to all concerned to confirm this and set out what seemed to be the main points for decision. The main problem seemed to him to be a change of direction by the Commission.

ACTION: CLERK

11. VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT

11.1 Kerbside recycling collections

The lack of kerbside collection in Hunton of material for recycling was raised. The Clerk would write direct to Malcolm Robertson about this and to point out the inadequate recycling sites in this part of the Borough.

ACTION: CLERK

11.2 Trees in Barn Hill

It was noted that a number of trees in Barn Hill which were thought to belong to Buston Manor were falling over. The Clerk would write.

ACTION: CLERK

12. DATE OF FUTURE MEETING

The next regular Council meeting would be on 10th November.

There being no other business the meeting ended at 8.45pm.