

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HUNTON PARISH COUNCIL

Held on 12th January 2005 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 and Brian Mortimer
PC Bryan Hillman Maidstone Police

1. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chairman welcomed all present. Apologies were received from Borough Cllr Williams.

2. REGISTER OF MEMBERS INTERESTS

The Register was available for public inspection. Cllr Thomas declared that his CPRE status had changed from Vice-Chairman to Chairman. His form was altered and the Clerk would advise the Monitoring Officer.

ACTION: CLERK

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 10th NOVEMBER AND MATTERS ARISING

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

4. FINANCE

4.1 Income & expenditure and bank reconciliation – 2004/2005

Members endorsed the Clerk's report which showed income of £18692.81, expenditure of £7993.65 and bank and cash book balances of £10699.16 in the year. The Clerk had been mistaken in expecting reimbursed sweeping costs from 2003/4; the annual MBC grants had been part in arrears and part in advance.

4.2 Authorisation of payments

Members endorsed payments authorised by the Finance Sub-Committee since the last meeting to cheque 641.

4.3 Budget setting 2005/6

The Council decided to set the Precept at £6800, an increase of £300 which was less than half the anticipated increase in expenditure in the year. It was noted that insurance – mainly the hall premium – took up over half the Precept. It was noted again that under the Hall charity constitution the premium was due to be paid by the Hall Committee and it was agreed that the Council would write to them to seek a

contribution. The Clerk would advise the Borough.

ACTION: CLERK

5 POLICE AND NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH (NHW) BUSINESS

PC Hillman reported 6 crimes in the 4 months since his last personal report, 3 burglaries, not of a dwelling, 1 stolen vehicle, 1 assault and 1 criminal damage. The clear up rate had been 33%.

Again there was no information from Neighbourhood Watch and the Chairman would make enquiries of Lorraine Hemphrey who was understood to be in charge.

ACTION: CHAIRMAN

6. BOROUGH COUNCILLORS' BUSINESS

6.1 Possible grants for renovation of play equipment

Cllrs Brindle and Mortimer said that one form only was needed for grants from their individual devolved budgets of £1500. Once an estimate for the equipment had been received the Clerk would submit a bid. It was pointed out that bids could not only be made by Parish Councils although Members were often familiar with schemes throughout small parishes.

ACTION: CLERK

6.2 Footpath between hall and Bensted Close

This project had not yet been costed but had been accepted as part of the TRAMP submission. Cllr Brindle suggested that as County Cllr Hotson had a larger devolved budget it might be helpful to seek his help in relation to this project. The Clerk was asked to submit a form with a rough estimate. It was thought that Cllr Hotson would be present at the next TRAMP meeting. It was noted that the next meeting of the Maidstone Local Board would be held on 2nd February. The Clerk would circulate details.

ACTION: CLERK

6.3 Kent and Medway Funding Fair

Cllr Mortimer pointed out this event which was planned for the Ramada Hotel on 3rd February. The Clerk would circulate the details.

ACTION: CLERK

7. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTWAYS

7.1 Leeds Langley by-pass

Cllr Thomas put forward the arguments against the full scheme and in favour of the best route for the village-only scheme. He requested the backing of the Borough Cllrs present for the good of Hunton village which would be adversely affected by results of the full scheme. This was given.

7.2 Flooding in Redwall Lane

Water seemed to be continually flowing across the road near the East Street end of Redwall Lane. The Clerk would report the matter to the HMU.

ACTION: CLERK

7.3 Congestion in Maidstone town centre

It was agreed that this could be relieved by a cohesive scheme for the numerous sets of traffic lights in the town centre, many of them quite new.

7.4 Salt bins

A third bin had been noted, outside the school. However there was some doubt about a bin near Bensted Close. The Clerk would check and advise KCC.

ACTION: CLERK

8. PLANNING

An application relating to the erection of chain link fencing at Wilson's Yard, George Street, which had been one condition of the planning consent, was considered and agreed. The Clerk would advise the Borough Council.

ACTION: CLERK

To speed up circulation it was agreed to set up a separate and distinctive "planning only" circulation bag. The Clerk would see what he could find.

ACTION: CLERK

9. KING GEORGE V PLAYING FIELD

9.1 Comments on draft constitution

Written comments from David Froud, Chairman of the Bowls Club and from the Council Chairman had been received. Mark Day had said he would try to respond in a few weeks time with the views of his committee. Moira Walter felt that more provision was needed for additional clubs in paras 3(1) and 7(2)(3). After discussion it was agreed to prepare and send off the draft to the NPFA at the end of the month taking into account the comments so far received. The Clerk would do this and let Members see in advance. It was noted that the Council was now a full Member of the NPFA.

ACTION: CLERK

9.2 Play equipment

The Chairman was meeting a specialist firm on site that Friday. See also item 6.1.

ACTION: CHAIRMAN

9.3 Gang mowing

It was agreed, to monitor the work which was done, to ask KCC(KCS) to let the Clerk have the dates when mowing was undertaken.

ACTION: CLERK

10. VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT AND TREES

10.1 Kent Men of the Trees

The Clerk confirmed that the Council had joined Kent Men of the Trees for 2005. There had been problems in recent years due to the declining health of the former Secretary, Barbara Butcher, who had now sadly died.

10.2 Trees in Barn Hill

The Clerk would remind Buston Manor about the trees which still needed attention.

ACTION: CLERK

10.3 Christmas lights in the trees outside the Hall

The Clerk was asked to write to Lawrence Martin to seek his advice on how best to achieve this.

ACTION: CLERK

11. PUBLICITY AND REPRESENTATION

11.1 Notice boards

It was agreed to try to make better use of these. Although there was no legal requirement to display Council Minutes there was a need to give advance notice of meetings. The possibility of removing the lock from the East Street board to improve access was discussed as was the location of the board at the front of the Hall. Might it not be better sited near the door?

11.2 Email address

Although the Council did not have an email address the Clerk's email address would be included in the Hunton Herald.

ACTION: CLLR LEONARD

11.3 Representation

The following were confirmed for information:

The Chairman would represent the Council at KAPC Area Committee meetings and on the Hall Committee. Cllr Redfarn would represent the Council at the rural Police meetings. Cllrs Walter and Thomas would represent the Council at TRAMP and associated highways meetings. Cllr Eatwell would be a Member of the Field Committee when established but care would then need to be taken (and possible dispensation requested from the MBC Monitoring Officer) about conflict of interest.

12. OTHER MATTERS FOR INFORMATION OR FUTURE DECISION

12.1 Access to Tovil tip

This was difficult for those with high cars which would not pass below the barrier and were effectively barred. The Clerk would write to KCC.

ACTION: CLERK

12.2 ROSPA

The Clerk would invite ROSPA to inspect the play equipment in July when they visited Kent.

ACTION: CLERK

11. CONCLUSION AND DATES OF MEETINGS IN 2005

The 2005 meetings would be on 9th March, 18th May (AGM), 13th July, 14th September and 9th November.

There being no other business the meeting ended at 8.55pm.