

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HUNTON PARISH COUNCIL

Held on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2005 at 7.30pm at Hunton Parish Hall

<b>PRESENT:</b>	Cllr Mrs Lorraine Redfarn	Chairman
	Cllr Keith Eatwell	
	Cllr Les Leonard	
	Cllr Mrs Liz Oliver	
	Cllr Mrs Moira Walter	
	David Swan	Clerk
<b>IN ATTENDANCE:</b>	Borough Councillors Adrian Brindle,	Brian Mortimer and John Williams
	PC Bryan Hillman	Maidstone Police
	Alan Bishop	Chairman, Hall Committee
	Anne Bishop	Tree and Pond Warden
	Dudley Farman	Hunton village website

### 1. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The acting Chairman welcomed all present. Apologies were received from the Chairman, Cllr Roger Sawtell who had a family funeral that day and from Cllr Gary Thomas.

### 2. REGISTER OF MEMBERS INTERESTS

The Register was available for public inspection. The Clerk had advised the Monitoring Officer of Cllr Thomas' change in CPRE status from Vice-Chairman to Chairman.

### 3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 12<sup>th</sup> JANUARY AND MATTER ARISING

The Minutes were agreed and signed as a correct record. There was one matter arising not covered later in the agenda. The Clerk's remit to write to Lawrence Martin about Christmas Lights in the trees outside the Hall was clarified and he would now do so.

ACTION: CLERK

### 4. OPEN SESSION

#### 4.1 Playing Field

Alan Bishop asked who was responsible for the King George V Playing Field. The Clerk said that it was the Council acting as Corporate Trustee but later in the meeting this would finally pass to the Field Committee for whom a constitution had now been agreed with the National Playing Fields Association. The Committee would then assume responsibility and the Council would become custodial Trustee as it was for the Hall. Alan said that the chain link fencing between the car park and the field area was inadequate to deter irresponsible drivers and that further work on the joint car park was needed. These points were noted but it would be for the new Committee, once established, to decide priorities.

#### 4.2 Hall Bookings

Alan advised the Council that Jackie Crooks was now taking Hall bookings in place of Lisa Danch. This change would be reported in the Hunton Herald.

### 5. FINANCE

#### 5.1 Income & expenditure and bank reconciliation – 2004/2005

Members endorsed the Clerk's report which showed income of £18712.50, expenditure of £8851.95 and bank and cash book balances of £9850.55 in the year. The Council had been cautious in its spending this year because of the potential financial commitments in relation to the Field.

#### 5.2 Grant from devolved budgets

Members endorsed payments authorised by the Finance Sub-Committee since the last meeting to cheque 644. A further payment since the report had been prepared which illustrated the point made above, was £1204.38 on urgent repairs to the play equipment. Further expenditure on the equipment would be required and Members were very grateful to the three Borough Councillors each of whom had allocated £300 from their devolved budgets towards this project. The Clerk would write.

ACTION: CLERK

### 6. POLICE AND NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH (NHW) BUSINESS

PC Hillman reported one burglary not of a dwelling, in George Street. There was no NHW business.

## **7. BOROUGH COUNCILLORS' BUSINESS**

### **7.1 Telephone masts**

Cllrs Brindle reported that the Scrutiny Committee had been advised that masts were not unsafe and would become smaller. It is unfortunate that unlike France and the USA where masts are shared, each UK supplier had to have its own network.

### **7.2 Borough Council budget**

The Borough Council's budget which forms about 15% of the total Council Tax, had been increased by 4.9%. Cllr Williams would let the Clerk have details for circulation. ACTION: CLERK

### **7.3 Gypsies**

The policy was to have smaller controlled sites in the Borough.

## **8. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTWAYS**

### **8.1 Footway south from the Hall**

The Clerk had been unable to ask for a grant towards the footpath without a formal Council decision as to its location and competitive estimates of cost. As the path was already included in TRAMP proposals it was agreed that no further action by the Parish Council was indicated now.

### **8.2 Speed limit**

It had been agreed, subject to available funding (and the Borough Cllrs' devolved budget should be borne in mind if there was a problem), to reduce most of the 40mph limit to 30mph. This was very welcome but 20mph near the school would be desirable and would tie in with proposals to develop a school travel plan. The Clerk would write about the 20mph proposal. ACTION: CLERK

### **8.3 Redwall Lane gully**

Cllr Oliver reported that this had now been repaired. The correspondence was on circulation.

### **8.4 General state of the roads**

The adverse weather had caused further damage to the road network and Members were advised to report particular instances direct to Adrian Hygate. There were also some dangerous damaged alders near the mill which the Clerk would report. ACTION: CLERK

## **9. PLANNING**

An application for 3 Brickyard Cottages was considered in Committee and the Clerk would advise the Borough Council of the outcome of the discussion. ACTION: CLERK

The new planning only bag was working well and tended to speed up the whole process for which the Clerk was grateful.

## **10. KING GEORGE V PLAYING FIELD**

### **10.1 The Constitution and Management Committee**

In its capacity as Corporate Trustee of the Field the Council formally agreed, signed and witnessed the constitution agreed by the National Playing Fields Association of which all Members and the sports clubs had had copies. The Council thus became Custodial Trustee and responsibility for the Field thereby passed to the Management Committee established under the constitution. The Committee would be made up of two representatives each from the Bowls Club, Cricket Club, Football Club, Hall Committee and Parish Council. The Committee would not in itself have any funds; income and expenditure would be recorded as separate items in the Parish Council accounts which are publicly audited and subject to inspection. The Clerk would convene a meeting of the Management Committee and be present to advise if required. ACTION: CLERK

### **10.2 Play equipment and seating**

The necessary repairs had been completed. See also items 4.1 and 5.2.

The Clerk had received a letter from the Borough to say that grants would be available for play equipment. It was agreed that he would apply for dog fencing on behalf of the Field Management Committee. ACTION: CLERK

Members were impressed by the Tabula seating which was in use at Teston and West Farleigh and the Field Management Committee might consider their use in Hunton in due course.

## **11. VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT AND TREES**

Cllr Leonard would include details of the Kent Village of the Year Competition in the Hunton Herald.

## **12. PUBLICITY**

There were no matters for discussion under this heading.

### **13. CLERK'S REMUNERATION**

Based on the 2005/6 National Salary Award for Parish Clerks, the Clerk's hourly rate was set at £11 from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2005 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2006..

### **14. OTHER MATTERS FOR INFORMATION OR FUTURE DECISION**

Members noted with regret Cllr Oliver's decision to stand down at the AGM after many years service to the village. The consequential vacancy would be announced.

ACTION: CLERK

### **15. CONCLUSION AND DATES OF MEETINGS IN 2005**

The remaining 2005 meetings would be on 18<sup>th</sup> May (AGM), 13<sup>th</sup> July, 14<sup>th</sup> September and 9<sup>th</sup> November.

There being no other business the meeting ended at 8.40pm.