

MINUTES OF THE HUNTON PARISH ANNUAL MEETING
held on Wednesday 18th May 2005 at 8.00pm at Hunton Parish Hall

PRESENT:

Cllr Roger Sawtell	Chairman
Cllr Keith Eatwell	
Cllr Les Leonard	
Cllr Mrs Lorraine Redfarn	
Cllr Gary Thomas	
Cllr Mrs Moira Walter	
David Swan	Clerk

IN ATTENDANCE:

PC Gary Shaw	Maidstone Police
Borough Cllr Brian Mortimer	
Borough Cllr Adrian Brindle	
Borough Cllr John Williams	
County Cllr Paulina Stockell	
Mr Alan Bishop	Chairman, Parish Hall Committee
Mrs Anne Bishop	Tree and Pond Warden
Mr Dudley Farman	Webmaster, Hunton website
Four residents	

1. Chairman's introduction and welcome

The Chairman welcomed all present, in particular our new County Councillor, Paulina Stockell, our new Policeman, Gary Shaw, our Borough Councillors and those who would report later.

2. Apologies for absence

These had been received from Cllr Liz Oliver, David Froud of Hunton Bowls Club, Mark Day of Hunton Cricket Club and Dennis Fowle of Downs Mail.

3. Minutes of the meeting of 12th May 2004

The Minutes, which had already been agreed by Members, were summarised by the Clerk and endorsed by the meeting. Any matters arising would be taken during the meeting.

4. Chairman's Annual Report

The Chairman introduced the Council Members and the Clerk and advised the meeting that Cllr Oliver was retiring with effect from this meeting. She had spent some 16 years on the Council and had done a great deal of work for the village in that time. It was agreed by Members that her input, not only to meetings but also to circulated work would be missed. Fortunately Liz would be continuing as village Kent Messenger correspondent.

The Chairman announced that the village accounts had been prepared by the Clerk, audited internally and formally agreed by the Council. They would now be sent to the District Auditor. Copies were available.

The Chairman thanked all those who worked for the village. In particular he mentioned Borough Councillors Adrian Brindle, Brian Mortimer and John Williams who regularly attend meetings and take up important issues on our behalf and County Cllr Eric Hotson who had just been succeeded in this area by Paulina Stockell. Also regularly present even though he had looked after 14 parishes was PC Bryan Hillman. Bryan had just transferred to Headcorn area and had been replaced by PC Gary Shaw whose area was the same as the Ward and the church Benefice i.e Hunton, Linton, Coxheath and the Farleighs. He was most welcome and would speak later.

Continuing, the Chairman said he was grateful to Parish Council Members and to the Clerk who served the Council. He also thanked all who gave their time in the sports clubs, the school, the Church Council and, like Anne Bishop, in serving the village environment. The quality of social activity including the use of the Hall for musical performances was excellent and particular thanks were due to Alan Bishop and the Hall Committee without whose hard work the village would be a much poorer place. The Chairman made special mention of the good progress which had been made thanks to the National Playing Fields Association in regularising the structure for the management of the King George V Playing Field. The Council had formally agreed a constitution which created a Management Committee and whose inaugural meeting was on 1st June. The Parish Council had become Custodial Trustee. Thanks to financial help from the Borough Councillors steps had been taken to refurbish the play equipment and we had applied for a grant to set up dog-proof fencing and suitable seating. The Chairman had also obtained a comprehensive wish list for the equipment from the playgroup.

The Chairman commented that events in Hunton are probably better reported than ever before thanks to all the volunteers who prepare the Hunton Herald and to the regular supply of information which is provided for the Kent Messenger and Downs Mail. In conclusion the Chairman mentioned the forthcoming Open Gardens event of 12th June in aid of the church tower project and other charities.

5. Village Reports

The Chairman welcomed and thanked all those who presented the following reports:-

5.1 Police

PC Shaw introduced himself. He had some 25 years experience in Maidstone and West Malling and although in a new role he does know the area well. He did not yet have a mobile phone but could be reached on 608127 or gary.shaw@kent.pnn.police.uk. He hoped to get to know and to become known by people in the villages. He had already spent some time in the Hall car park in the evening and felt that the youths there were not a problem. Although from other areas their intentions were peaceful and PC Shaw did not feel that gating the area was necessary.

He suggested the Council approach PC Tony Howland about accident statistics in the village. He would himself raise the need for yellow lines in the vicinity of the school.

ACTION: CLERK

5.2 Hunton Cricket Club

Through the Clerk Mark Day reported that the Club continued to have two Saturday and one Sunday sides with an increasing number of Sunday friendly matches for the younger members and those who did not wish to play league cricket. New members would be welcome as there are only 35 at present with a dwindling number from Hunton. The Club had had a reasonably successful year, with teams 7th out of 16, 5th out of 8 and 3rd out of 12.

5.3 Hunton Football Club

Keith Eatwell reported between 58-67 members in the Club which was in its 105th year. The first team were 5th in the premiership and the seconds were still in division 1. Welcome sponsorship by David Savage continued. Keith looked forward to the development of the new Field Management Committee shortly.

5.4 Tree and Pond Warden

Anne Bishop reported a quieter year than usual although she had attended more forums to share experiences with others. Once the Field Management Committee was in place she would be able to help and advise on the environment of the Field and on possible new plantings. She continued as a contact for pond matters and would also be the contact point for the Kent Men of the Trees Competition which was to begin again this year.

5.5 Hunton Parish Hall

Alan Bishop reported a good year for the Hall with first rate events held and two more promised for the autumn. Alison Williams and Lisa Danch had stood down after some years as Committee Secretary and cleaner respectively and had been replaced by Linda on cleaning and Jackie Crooks on hall bookings. He offered his thanks to them all and to the Committee who had been very supportive. There had been projects to decorate internally and to improve the water heating arrangements and a further project was in hand to increase the storage.

5.6 Hunton Herald

James Forster reported on another successful year for the Hunton Herald. The quality of the newsletter had been maintained and costs had been reduced. The printer had been repaired twice and would need replacement. It was agreed in discussion that this should be funded through the Council and the Borough Councillors might be able to make a contribution from their delegated funds. James would obtain quotations and liaise with the Clerk.

5.7 TRAMP

Gary updated the meeting on the progress of this scheme and of the South Maidstone Parishes Group. 15 specific requests had been made under TRAMP and he hoped that these had been included in the local transport plan. The Hunton submission had been for a footway from the Hall in both directions along West Street. The last TRAMP meeting had been on 25th February but further action was in hand.

5.8 County Council Matters

Cllr Paulina Stockell reported that most of the TRAMP matters had passed through the Joint Transportation Board and she thought most had been agreed and had gone through the LTP to Government. Highways had now moved back to KCC and the new arrangements would include a 24-hour reporting service and 20 lengthsmen teams which would do minor repairs across the county. Senior officers would be pleased to come to Parish Council meetings and she would gladly follow up any points of difficulty. Cllr Stockell is the Chairman of the Local Area Board which has a grants pot of £.5m. All Cllrs have £10,000 delegated funds and grants can include Parish Plan Grants.

5.9 Borough Council Matters

Cllr Williams reported on the new Mayor and other changes that day to various portfolios and confirmed the priority being given to a clean and tidy Borough with an improved recycling scheme. He would let the Clerk have copies of the papers relating to road sweeping. The contact centre on 602162 was now working well.

A Leeds/Langley link to Park Wood was proposed to ease the lorry problems in the town. It was agreed by all present that the lack of co-ordination of the traffic signals in the town caused significant delays.

Cllr Brindle said his personal priority was to clean up the villages and he had discussed this with Steve Goulette.

Cllr Mortimer spoke about possible ways in which the King George V Playing Field might be helped one the Management Committee was in place.

6. Open Forum

All Open Forum matters related to highways. They included congratulation to the highway department for the excellent job done on the south end of West Street but the appalling and dangerous state of the northern end of the road and of Hunton Hill which had recently resulted in damage to a vehicle. Had a motor cycle hit the same hole there would have been injury or worse. The deteriorating condition of Water Lane and the dangers of its junction with West Street were also noted. The Clerk would send a list of all the outstanding highways items in the village to Paulina Stockell for transmission to Kim Hill.

ACTION: CLERK

7. Any other business

There being no other business the meeting ended at 9.40 pm