

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HUNTON PARISH COUNCIL

Held on 13th July 2005 at 7.30pm at Hunton Parish Hall

PRESENT:	Cllr Roger Sawtell	Chairman
	Cllr Mrs Lorraine Redfarn	
	Cllr Keith Eatwell	
	Cllr Les Leonard	
	Cllr Gary Thomas	
	Cllr Mrs Moira Walter	
	David Swan	Clerk
IN ATTENDANCE:	Dudley Farman	Webmaster, Hunton village website
	PC Gary Shaw	Maidstone Police
	Cllr Mrs Paulina Stockell	County Councillor
	Mrs Judy Vickery	Resident

1. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chairman welcomed all present. Apologies were received from Borough Councillors Adrian Brindle, Brian Mortimer & John Williams and Ian Norman, Kent Community Warden.

Mr Norman had been advised not to attend as Hunton was not within his area of responsibility. Mrs Stockell advised that he had been appointed to Coxheath but could serve in the other parishes in the Ward if he had time. She would look in to the suggestion that his car insurance only covered Coxheath and that he would have to walk elsewhere in the Ward.

ACTION: CLLR STOCKELL

2. REGISTER OF MEMBERS INTERESTS

The Register was available for public inspection.

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF 18th MAY AND MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes were agreed and signed as a correct record. The only matter arising was highways which was covered later in the agenda.

4. POLICE AND NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

PC Shaw reported four crimes, one car theft, one theft of a goat and chickens, an attempted theft of diesel fuel and the theft of a ride-on mower. PC Shaw mentioned Speed Watch which is to be introduced at a meeting at the Police Training School on 17th August. This is the use of volunteers to monitor speeding vehicles. Cllr Thomas would represent the Council and advise the Police accordingly.

ACTION: CLLR THOMAS

There was no Neighbourhood Watch business.

5. FINANCE

5.1 Income & expenditure and bank reconciliation – 2005/6

Members endorsed the Clerk's report which showed income of £18425.38, expenditure of £4758.39 and bank and cash book balances of £13666.99 in the year to date. The Council noted that a grant had been made to the Hall Committee towards the cost of insurance rather than the Council paying the full premium. The Hall Committee had itself paid £500.

5.2 Payments

Members endorsed payments authorised by the Finance Sub-Committee since the last meeting to cheque 663. Further payments were authorised and prepared as follows: 664 £100 Grant to Kenward House for the Grey Zebra project and 665 £350 to Mower Plant Services for a strimmer for the Playing Field.. The Clerk would write to Kenward House and the Chairman and Cllr Eatwell would deal with the strimmer purchase.

ACTION: CHAIRMAN, CLLR EATWELL & CLERK

5.3 Audit

The Clerk was pleased to report that the District Auditor had signed off our accounts for 2004/5. He would let Cllr Leonard have a formal note for the Hunton Herald.

ACTION: CLERK

6. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTWAYS

6.1 Development of West Street/Bishops Lane project and invitation to Area Manager

With regard to this dangerous junction the suggested 20mph limit had been rejected by the Police but a 30mph limit was still planned for most of the present 40mph stretch. The Clerk read a letter from KCC Highways indicating that the request for parking restrictions in the area would be considered during the summer and the outcome advised. The school had a travel plan which included making access safer and Cllr Redfarn would let the Clerk have a copy so that the Council could add weight. Cllr Stockell suggested that once a project had been fully worked up we should invite Kim Hills, Area Manager to visit the village to discuss it.

ACTION: CLLR REDFARN & CLERK

6.2 Greensand Way

Some years ago the dangerous crossing of Hunton Hill by this popular long-distance footway had been raised both with the then HMU and the Footpaths Officer but without any action being taken. The Chairman pointed out that the problems persist and it was agreed that the Clerk would write to Mike Overbeck of KCC to invite him to a site meeting.

ACTION: CLERK

7. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S BUSINESS

Local Board

Cllr Stockell mentioned the work of the Local Board of which she was the Chairman. In particular funding for projects was available and on receipt of a completed form she would make a Member Grant towards the costs of the strimmer for the King George V Field (see 5.2 above).

ACTION: CLERK

Cllr Stockell also commented on various items during the course of the meeting as Minuted.

8. KING GEORGE V PLAYING FIELD

10.1 The Management Committee

Cllr Eatwell in his capacity as Chairman of the newly-formed Committee reported on the inaugural meeting and subsequent action. This included developing an improvement plan for all parts of the site. He hoped to have an outline plan available for discussion at the next Committee meeting on 10th August.

10.2 Car park

Although plans were in hand to level and repair this it was agreed that Sturgeons should be asked to return to inspect their work which was not totally satisfactory.

ACTION: CLERK

9. PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

The Chairman and Cllr Redfarn had attended a Planning meeting with Brian Morgan at East Farleigh. He had offered to arrange training on new procedures and dates were awaited through the East Farleigh Clerk. A list of material considerations for Parish Councils considering applications had been circulated and the Clerk would do so again..

ACTION: CLERK

10. OPEN SESSION

10.1 General state of the roads

Mrs Vickery reported that the hole in Hunton Hill which had caused damage to her car had still not been repaired. Indeed it seemed not to have been reported by the officer whom she had accompanied to the site. She would continue to pursue the matter and if necessary report progress to the Council.

10.2 Bensted Close

Following a discussion about parking in the Close it was suggested that Mrs Vickery approach Chris Blundell of the Maidstone Housing Trust who now owned the land.

11. CONCLUSION AND DATES OF MEETINGS IN 2005

The remaining 2005 meetings would be on 7th September (and not as originally publicised) and 9th November.

12. VACANCY

The Borough had not received a formal request for an election so had agreed that the Council could co-opt. Three applications to fill the vacancy in this way had been received but after some discussion in camera Members were unable to reach a conclusion. They agreed that the Chairman would write to invite all three to the next meeting to meet the Members and to say why they wished to fill the vacancy. The Council would then make a decision.

ACTION: CHAIRMAN & CLERK

There being no other business the meeting ended at 9.10pm.