

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HUNTON PARISH COUNCIL

Held on Wednesday 7th September 2005 at 7.30pm at Hunton Parish Hall

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Dudley Farman Webmaster, Hunton village website
Cllr Mrs Paulina Stockell County Councillor
Cllrs Brindle, Mortimer and Williams Borough Councillors
Mrs Judy Vickery & Mr David St John Residents

1. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chairman welcomed all present. Apologies were received from Cllr Les Leonard and PC Gary Shaw.

2. REGISTER OF MEMBERS INTERESTS

The Register was available for public inspection.

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 13th JULY AND MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes were agreed and signed as a correct record. There were two matters arising:-

3.1 School Travel Plan

Cllr Redfarn reported that the information about this would be circulated shortly. ACTION: CLERK

3.2 Area covered by the Kent Community Warden

Cllr Stockell reported that the Warden had resigned. The post would include the smaller parishes if Coxheath duties permitted. Questions concerning car insurance cover outside Coxheath would be clarified.

ACTION: CLLR STOCKELL

4. POLICE AND NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Through the Clerk PC Shaw reported two thefts in Hunton, one involving an animal. He would answer any questions at the next meeting.

5. FINANCE

5.1 Income & expenditure and bank reconciliation – 2005/6

Members endorsed the Clerk's report which showed income of £18436.16, expenditure of £6398.30 and bank and cash book balances of £12037.86 in the year to date. Members were disappointed to learn of the poor service currently being provided by NatWest to the Council.

5.2 Payments

Members endorsed payments authorised by the Finance Sub-Committee since the last meeting to cheque 672. Two payments of £100 to the BTCV in respect of the Tree and Pond Warden schemes were agreed as was a quarterly payment of £4.35 to Seeboard for the one light in the village.

5.3 Indemnity insurance

As part of his review of the various village insurances Roger Crooks had obtained a quotation from the Council's insurer of £36.22 to insure the actions of the Members and Clerk including libel and slander. It was agreed to go ahead with this.

ACTION: CLERK

6. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTWAYS

6.1 Development of West Street/Bishops Lane safety project

The information about the school Travel Plan would be circulated shortly to enable the Council to add weight to the school's bid. The Clerk would chase up the request for parking restrictions in the area.

ACTION: CLERK

6.2 Greensand Way

Ian Hayes, Public Rights of Way Officer, had offered to meet Members and 2.00pm on 22nd September in the hall car park was best. The Clerk would pass this on.

ACTION: CLERK

6.3 Speed Watch

Cllr Thomas had attended this meeting on the Council's behalf. The equipment could cost up to £3,000 per unit and joint ownership between parishes might be prudent. Suitable volunteers would need to be trained but the Police would take any steps that were necessary after the speeding had been reported. Members were willing to liaise but speeding was not seen as a major problem in Hunton and the Council would sit on the fence before committing any resources.

6.4 Road closures

The Clerk reported that Dean Street would be closed from 9.30am to 3.30pm on 12th September and that East Farleigh Bridge would be closed from 7.00am to 5.00pm at weekends from 17th September.

6.5 TRAMP

The next TRAMP meeting was with Adrian Hygate on 13th September. The 15 projects from 14 participating parishes (including the footway from the Hall to Bensted Close) had gone forward through KCC to the Government. A decision would be made in December but there was no certainty that it would go ahead.

7. COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S BUSINESS

7.1 Local Board

Cllr Stockell drew the attention of Members to the next Local Board meeting at Allington on 3rd November. Members expressed their thanks for the grant for the strimmer which had been agreed.

7.2 Local Transport Plan

Cllr Stockell reported that there had been a poor settlement this year and a decision was awaited on the use of the £38,800 budget. Sunday buses on routes 89, 5 and 12 would be funded by the income from Council tax on second homes. Cllr Brindle commented that the Park and Ride service was to be reviewed because of losses, particularly at the Sittingbourne Road site.

7.3 High Trees charge scheme

Cllr Mortimer would let the Clerk have a leaflet on this scheme which appeared to mean that those reporting high trees (and possibly other things in future) would have to meet the costs of enforcement. The Clerk would circulate and Members would decide how to react. A written objection to the Chief Executive might be indicated.

ACTION: CLLR MORTIMER & CLERK

7.4 Litter Wardens

Cllr Brindle suggested that if anyone was seen throwing litter from a car (the source of 90% of litter) the details should be obtained and reported to the Borough Litter Wardens for enforcement action. The Wardens would be visiting the larger villages.

ACTION: CLERK

7.5 Devolved budgets

All three Borough Cllrs reminded the Council of their devolved budgets which was more than £3000 each this year.

8. REPORT ON THE KING GEORGE V PLAYING FIELD

As Chairman of the Management Committee Cllr Eatwell reported that:-

- the meeting of 10th August (Minutes of which the Clerk distributed) had been encouraging and had included a wish list;
- the professional risk assessment and health and safety scrutiny was planned for week commencing 26th September; he would contact the other clubs to arrange access to their buildings;
- quotations would be obtained for a proper gate from the car park into the Field to prevent unwanted vehicle use but allow access for the disabled and for pushchairs;
- discussions would take place with Alan Bishop about the car park drainage before involving Sturgeons and possibly involving extra costs;
- the Field would benefit if there was a Hunton Parish Plan. The Clerk would speak to John Wilson, Chairman of East Farleigh Parish Council which was starting on a Plan and report his advice.

9. PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

Cllr Thomas led a discussion about the South East Plan Consultation Document, copies of which the Clerk distributed together with short questionnaires which Members would complete and return for onward transmission. As had been made clear already, the lack of water resources was the main problem for additional housing as was land for jobs. The final KCC consultation meeting was on 27th September.

10. OPEN SESSION

At the last meeting it had been suggested that Mrs Vickery, who had raised the matter of parking in the Close might approach the Maidstone Housing Trust who it was thought now owned the land. She had established that in fact the Trust owned all the land except the green which still belonged to the Borough Council of whom Cllr John Williams would enquire.

ACTION: CLERK

11. CONCLUSION AND DATES OF MEETINGS IN 2005

The remaining meeting in 2005 would be on 9th November.

12. VACANCY

In camera Mr David StJohn was chosen to fill the casual vacancy. The Chairman and the Clerk would take the necessary action.

ACTION: CHAIRMAN & CLERK

There being no other business the meeting ended at 9.20pm.