

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HUNTON PARISH COUNCIL

Held on Wednesday 9th November 2005 at 7.30pm at Hunton Parish Hall

PRESENT:	Cllr Roger Sawtell Cllr Les Leonard Cllr Mrs Lorraine Redfarn Cllr David StJohn Cllr Gary Thomas David Swan	Chairman Clerk
IN ATTENDANCE:	Dudley Farman PC Gary Shaw Cllrs Brindle and Mortimer Betty, Edward and Shaun Chambers	Webmaster, Hunton village website Maidstone Police Borough Councillors Residents

1. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chairman welcomed all present. Apologies were received from Cllrs Eatwell & Walter and County Cllr Stockell.

2. REGISTER OF MEMBERS INTERESTS

The Register was updated and made available for public inspection.

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 7th SEPTEMBER AND MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes were agreed and signed as a correct record. Matters arising were covered below.

4. POLICE AND NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

PC Shaw reported six crimes since the last meeting. He had also been approached about the effect of inconsiderate parking in Bensted Close on access by the emergency services. He suggested that the ramps in the Hall car park be cleared to make them more pronounced.

5. FINANCE

5.1 Income & expenditure and bank reconciliation – 2005/6

Members endorsed the Clerk's report which showed income of £18445.08, expenditure of £6992.91 and bank and cash book balances of £11452.17 in the year to date.

5.2 Payments

Members endorsed payments authorised by the Finance Sub-Committee since the last meeting to cheque 707.

5.3 Indemnity insurance

Because of the legal relationship between the King George V Playing Field Management Committee and the Parish Council it was not possible to proceed with the quotation from our normal insurer obtained through Roger Crooks to insure the actions of the Members and Clerk including libel and slander. The Clerk had approached the National Playing Field Association to see if they had an insurance policy which might meet the needs of the Field more specifically. The Clerk would thank Roger Crooks and let Members know when he heard from the NPFA.

ACTION: CLERK

5.4 Parish Precept for 2006/2007

After discussion of various matters including information about other parishes in the Borough it was agreed to set the Precept for next year at £7500. This would enable the Council to discharge more of its urgent tasks from its own resources. Thanks was recorded to the Borough Council for the Concurrent Functions scheme which helped small villages like Hunton with expenditure which would otherwise be outside its means. In particular members expressed the thanks of the parish to the local Borough Councillors for their grant towards the cost of suitable storage space in the Hall.

ACTION: CLERK

5.5 Bill for drainage system servicing

A bill for £311.38 had been received in error, addressed to the Hall. The Clerk was asked to pass it on. The Council could make a donation as could other users of the facilities.

ACTION: CLERK

6. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTWAYS

6.1 Highway safety and reporting problems

During the Open Session Mr and Mrs Chambers and Shaun talked about highway safety in general and about an incident involving another member of their family in particular. Details are not recorded as the matter may be sub-judice. However this led to a useful general discussion about the present problems involving highways in the village. The Chairman was grateful to the family for having come along. All present were reminded that there is a new public KCC Highways telephone line on which highway problems can be reported. It is 0458 247 800. Similarly fly-tipping can be reported on 01622 602142.

6.2 Development of West Street/Bishops Lane safety project

The Parish Council's request to the Highway authority for additional parking restrictions to improve safety near the school had been turned down but a Borough Traffic Attendant would be invited to visit. The school would shortly be advertising for a lollypop person and had lighting improvements in mind if funding could be found.

6.3 Greensand Way

Following the meeting about the hazards where the Greensand Way footpath crosses Hunton Hill, the Public Rights of Way Officer is arranging improvements to the footpath itself and will ask the Highway authority to improve the signs for traffic on the Hill.

6.4 Speed Watch

The Council shared the view of some residents who were not keen on the idea of Speed Watch which involved local people being trained to check the speed of passing motorists; the Council would prefer to see this done by Police Officers.

6.5 TRAMP

The projects from participating parishes (including the footway from the Hall to Bensted Close but also including cycle routes and HGVs) had gone forward through KCC to the Government. A decision was to be made in December.

6.6 Redwall Lane, East Street end

The Clerk had received a complaint that the new surface at this end of the lane is inferior to the next mile or so going towards Linton. The Clerk would pass this on.

ACTION: CLERK

7. BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S BUSINESS

7.1 Rural Roads study

A Borough paper on rural roads was due shortly.

7.2 Fly-tipping

The Clerk and Cllr Thomas would liaise to let Cllr Mortimer know of the present fly-tipping hot spots.

ACTION: CLLR THOMAS & CLERK

8. REPORT ON THE KING GEORGE V PLAYING FIELD

As Cllr Eatwell, Chairman of the Management Committee was unable to be present there was no formal report and various items were included elsewhere in these minutes. However Members had received the Minutes of the October meeting of the King George V Playing Field Management Committee and the next meeting was on 7th December at 8.00pm at the Hall. ACTION: CLERK

9. PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

The Council met in Committee to consider planning applications. The Clerk would advise the Borough of their views.

ACTION: CLERK

Members were much appreciative of the recent planning training session arranged by Mr Morgan. The Clerk would write.

ACTION: CLERK

10. OTHER MATTERS FOR INFORMATION OR FUTURE DECISION

The Clerk reported on the correspondence with Land Registry about the Field. He would take the matter forward.

ACTION: CLERK

The Clerk mentioned the following meetings at which attendance would be welcome:-

AGM of the Kent Branch of CPRE - 18th November 2005

AGM of the Maidstone Branch of CPRE - 30th November 2005

Annual Rural Conference for Maidstone Borough - 3rd December 2005

KCC Maidstone Local Board - 7th February 2006

11. CONCLUSION AND DATES OF MEETINGS IN 2006

The meeting dates for 2006 were set as 11th January, 8th March, 10th May (AGM), 12th July; 13th September and 8th November. To avoid the new judo club in the Hall all future meetings would begin at 8.00pm.

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