

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HUNTON PARISH COUNCIL

Held on Wednesday 8th March 2006 at 8.00pm at Hunton Parish Hall

PRESENT:	Cllr Roger Sawtell Cllr Les Leonard Cllr Lorraine Redfarn Cllr David St John Cllr Gary Thomas Cllr Moira Walter David Swan	Chairman Clerk
IN ATTENDANCE:	Mr Alan Bishop Mr Dudley Farman Cllr Paulina Stockell Cllrs Brindle, Mortimer and Williams	Chairman, Parish Hall Committee Webmaster County Councillor Borough Councillors

1. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chairman welcomed all present. Apologies were received from Cllr Keith Eatwell and PC Shaw.

2. REGISTER OF MEMBERS INTERESTS

The Register was available for public inspection.

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 11th JANUARY AND MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes were agreed and signed as a correct record. Matters arising were as follows:-

3.1 Long distance footway crossing Hunton Hill

The Clerk had written to thank Ian Hayes, PROW Officer, for his speedy action on this path. He would now enquire whether he had had any success on the related road signs. ACTION: CLERK

4. POLICE AND NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

4.1 Crimes

Through the Clerk PC Shaw reported four crimes involving burglaries, at Buston Manor, Hill Top (2) and the theft of 100 peg tiles from Amsbury Farm.

4.2 Car park

PC Shaw had asked for more details of damage caused. The Clerk would suggest that Cllr Eatwell contacts PC Shaw direct when they both return. ACTION: CLLR EATWELL

5. FINANCE

5.1 Income & expenditure and bank reconciliation – 2005/6

Members endorsed the Clerk's report which showed income of £22957.80, expenditure of £9126.24 and bank and cash book balances of £13831.56 in the year to date. Members endorsed payments authorised by the Finance Sub-Committee since the last meeting to cheque 723.

5.2 Devolved budget grants and work on the village hall

Members expressed their thanks to the Borough Councillors for their help in relation to the hall and to the play equipment. Alan Bishop said that the total grant of £1200 would be of great help to the Committee who intended to build a proper extension at the front of the building.

5.3 Indemnity insurance

This could be arranged through the Parish Council insurance only if the four following conditions were accepted by Members of both groups:-

1. The Minutes of Meetings of the Committee form part of and are incorporated into the Minutes of the Council.
2. Meetings of the Committee are open to the public in the same way as Council meetings.
3. Any accounts of the Committee form part of the account of the Council and are subject to the Council's audit.
4. The Committee to be acting for and under the control of the Council and the Council making any final decisions deemed necessary.

Members concluded that these conditions were acceptable, as had Field Committee members. On (1), they already saw the Committee Minutes and it would be straightforward for these to become an appendix to the Council minutes. On (2) the meetings could be advertised as open to the public in the same way as Parish Council meetings. On (3) and (4), the Committee has no accounts (on the suggestion of the NPFA and Charity Commission) as funding comes through the Parish Council in any event. The Council is also Custodial Trustee.

ACTION: CLERK

The Clerk would send a copy of the Council's insurance policy to Cllr St John as well as Mr Nichols of the Bowls Club who had also requested a copy. ACTION:CLERK

6. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTWAYS

6.1 Meeting with Liaison staff on 24th February

Cllr Thomas and the Clerk met Kathleen Pittock and Sue Fletcher of KCC Highways Liaison to discuss communication between the parish and the Highway authority. Matters discussed included the continuing surface water at the northern ends of both East and West Streets, the hazards at the junction of Water Lane and West Street by the school, the promised reduction of the speed limit to 30mph, the proposed footpath between the Hall, the Church and the houses in the village and the follow up B2163 meeting. Most of the parish's contacts were through the 24 hour helpline on 08458 247 800 which worked well on minor matters but no significant matters were accepted and no feedback was given. These messages were passed to Liaison who in turn passed them to a Highway Inspector. It was agreed that if a spreadsheet schedule was exchanged between the Clerk and KCC, progress could be monitored and reports back made; Mrs Fletcher would arrange. Overall however the meeting was something of a disappointment.

6.2 County Lengthsman Scheme

Cllr Stockell was surprised that although the Clerk had as requested nominated himself as liaison point with the County Lengthsman Scheme some time ago when it began he had not been approached and this element of the new arrangements had not been mentioned on 24th February. She suggested that the Clerk write to Kim Hills, now also acting in Mr Jefford's place, about the speed limit reduction and the County Lengthsman Scheme with a copy to her.

6.3 Hunton School Transport Policy

Mrs Stockell that in discussion with Cllr Redfarn, the Clerk write to John Simmons, the KCC Cabinet Member for education, about the village school's transport policy. The proposal to set up bollards as suggested by PC Shaw and as discussed with Bournes would not now go ahead.

ACTION: CLLR REDFARN & CLERK

7. COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS' BUSINESS

Cllr Stockell reported that the County Council Tax was to increase by 4.75%. The Government had given loan sanction of £9m for highways but no increase had been allowed in the Government highways grant.

Cllr Williams reported that the Borough Council Tax was to increase by 4.5%. Cllr Mortimer spoke about fly tipping and tyre damage and Cllr Brindle spoke about the recent meeting with the water companies.

There was a discussion about the number of additional housing starts being imposed on the Borough by the Government in which a variety of opinions were expressed.

8. KCC LOCAL BOARD

The Chairman thanked Cllr Walter for her report on the 7th February meeting of the Local Board and her offer to attend the next meeting on 12th April if she was available.

ACTION: CLLR WALTER

9. REPORT ON THE KING GEORGE V PLAYING FIELD

9.1 Constitution

Under the arrangements agreed at minute 5.4 above, the minutes of the February Field Committee meeting would appear as an appendix to the minutes of this meeting and subsequent meetings of the Field Committee would receive the same publicity as Parish Council meetings.

ACTION: CLERK

9.2 West Street Boundary

It was suggested that in view of the damage to the hedge from traffic it should be moved inside the ditch. It was agreed to obtain the view of KCC Highways.

9.3 Play equipment

Cllr Eatwell had been in touch with Dave Hitchins at the Borough but with what result was not yet known.

ACTION: CLLR EATWELL

10. CONSIDERATION OF DEVELOPING A PARISH PLAN

The Clerk had tried to seek a speaker through Neil Harris at the Borough but without success. Jim Boot was suggested.

ACTION: CLERK

11. PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

Cllr Thomas reported on the East Farleigh meeting of 21st February which he and Cllr Redfarn had attended. The Chairman reported on the planning training meeting on 27th February which he and the Clerk had attended. It was clear from both meetings that there was a great deal of Parish Council dissatisfaction with the Borough Planning Department.

Two planning cases were considered in committee and the Clerk would advise the Borough of the Council's views.

ACTION: CLERK

12. OTHER MATTERS FOR INFORMATION OR FUTURE DECISION

Alan Bishop reported that the Hall was in need of some attention, in particular the floor, the décor and the sewage plant. The Clerk suggested that the KCC Local Board might be a good source of funding. (See item 8)

13. CONCLUSION AND DATES OF MEETINGS IN 2006

Further meetings in 2006 were planned for 10th May (AGM), 12th July; 13th September and 8th November. All future meetings would begin at 8.00pm.

There being no other business the meeting ended at 9.40 pm.