

The provision of a permissive footway between Bensted Close and the Field was also important. This was on the KCC list created through the TRAMP initiative but as progress was slow it was agreed that an approach to Michael Devas might be indicated. This also to be included in the next Field Committee agenda. ACTION: CLERK

PC Shaw reported three Hunton crimes in the last two months, damage to a car at the Hall, a garage burglary at Hill Top and the theft of garden items in East Street.

4.2 Alan Bishop – Hunton Village Hall

Alan Bishop reported a busy year for the Hall. There had been four very successful sell-out special events and there were several regular bookings including the daily playgroup and weekly judo group. Fund-raising was a concern; redecoration had taken place in the year and recent work on the floor had cost nearly £2000. A new contractor had been engaged for care of the drainage system and plans were in place for an extension to improve storage facilities. Alan congratulated his team on another successful year but asked for new volunteers for the Hall Committee to come forward.

4.3 Keith Eatwell – King George V Playing Field

This new committee had been a long time coming. Its inaugural bi-monthly meeting with representation from all three Sports Clubs, the Hall Committee and the Parish Council had been in June. It was already getting things done, having arranged a grant for equipment and a professional risk assessment but it was also bringing people together which was very important. Keith was very grateful to all concerned. The current priority is the play equipment but boundaries, the car park and working through the risk assessment were also in action.

4.4 Cllr Gary Thomas – TRAMP

Cllr Thomas reported that TRAMP had made slow progress but Coxheath traffic calming was on the stocks. The footway from the hall to Bensted Close had already been mentioned and was important. People should be able to walk and cycle in safety but sadly no-one in KCC was responsible for improvements in existing villages.

4.5 Sue and David Heaton - the Hunton Herald

Mr and Mrs Heaton had taken over the Hunton Herald in January and their main aims were to establish contacts in the village and publish each edition as early in the month as possible. The financial situation was satisfactory and it had been possible to make a grant to the school from advertising. However a grant from the Council might be needed in future.

4.6 Alan Peckham – the Hunton Club

Mr Peckham was glad of the opportunity to bring information about the Club up to date. In recent months it had been near to closure. Regrettably the post of Steward could no longer be funded and Rose Mitchell would be missed. In response to the crisis the Committee did a huge amount of work and are themselves keeping the Club open. There is now real ale on tap, there is a reading group and several fund-raising activities are planned. New members are needed and will be made very welcome. The Club was opening specially that evening to entertain those present and he hoped everyone would come along.

4.7 John Scott – Peace Cottages

Mr Scott reported that it had become apparent that a loan taken out 20 years ago by the then Trustees should be redeemed. This had been done in recent months and released over £1500 each year to be used in other ways, for example double glazing. The cottages were in a good condition and the garden was kept beautifully by Beryl to whom everyone was grateful.

5. Chairman's report

The Chairman warmly thanked all those who had presented reports.

In particular he was pleased that the King George V Playing Field Committee was working so well as a team under the leadership of Keith Eatwell. He was also glad that the Village Club had been turned round and offered his congratulations to Alan Peckham and the Committee for doing so.

The Hall continued to serve the village well under Alan Bishop and the Committee who were to be congratulated and thanked for all they had done.

The benefice had welcomed a new Vicar, the Revd Peter Walker, in the year but within a week of his arrival St Mary's had to be closed due to an asbestos scare. This had proved to be a false alarm but funds were needed to clean and decontaminate the organ. He noted that David and Linda Twaite were leaving the village shortly and on behalf of the village he thanked them for their work as Churchwarden and Treasurer respectively. The Chairman thanked PC Gary Shaw for his work in the village and attendance at meetings through the year. His work across the villages, particularly with young people, was much appreciated.

The Parish Council appreciated the interest in Hunton shown by our Borough and County Councillors and for the quality of their advice and guidance in dealing with the Borough and County.

Those who provided communications within Hunton were also much appreciated, in particular Sue and David Heaton, Liz Oliver and Dudley Farman. Finally the Chairman thanked the Parish Councillors and Clerk for their work in the year, not just at meetings like this in the village but also by making sure that the village's voice was heard in other forums.

6. Finance

The Clerk made copies of the accounts available. They had again been audited internally and minor errors corrected. After signature they would be sent to the District Auditor and if all was in order they would be signed off. There had been no major expenditure in the year but the Council was aware of the need to improve the Playing Field facilities and had been prudent in its spending.

7. Open Forum

7.1 KCC Local Boards

Councillor Stockell thanked all those who worked so effectively for the community in Hunton. She reminded the meeting of the KCC Local Area Board of which she was Chairman. Among other things the Board made grants for local initiatives.

7.2 Trusteeship

Mr Froud spoke of his concerns about the constitution of the King George V Playing Fields and the relationship between the Trustees of the Field and the Custodial Trustees. He had spoken to the National Playing Fields Association and was happy to help if he could. His views were noted and would be considered at a future meeting.

8. Conclusion

There being no further business the meeting ended at 9.20pm . The Chairman invited all present to join him in the Hunton Club for a drink and refreshments.