

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HUNTON PARISH COUNCIL

Held on Wednesday 13th September 2006 at 8.00pm at Hunton Parish Hall

PRESENT:	Cllr Roger Sawtell	Chairman
	Cllr Keith Eatwell	
	Cllr Les Leonard	
	Cllr Lorraine Redfarn	
	Cllr Gary Thomas	
	David Swan	Clerk
IN ATTENDANCE:	Dudley Farman	Web master, Hunton Village website
	Adrian Brindle	Borough Councillor
	Brian Mortimer	Borough Councillor
	John Williams	Borough Councillor
	Nine residents	

1. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chairman welcomed all present. Apologies were received from Cllrs David StJohn and Moira Walter (the latter representing the parish at TRAMP), Sue and David Heaton and Alan Bishop.

2. REGISTER OF MEMBERS INTERESTS

The Register was available for public inspection.

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF 19th JULY AND MATTERS ARISING

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

3.1 Grant to Kenward House

It was agreed to make a grant of £100 as had been done in 2005.

3.2 Bylaws for the King George V Playing Field

The Clerk reported that bylaws were being reviewed across the Borough and the Parish Council and Field Committee were being consulted.

3.3 Bollards in Bensted Close

The Clerk reported that these were not the responsibility of Maidstone Housing Trust but seem to have been installed by KCC. He would ask for the remaining part of the island to be dealt with similarly.

ACTION: CLERK

3.4 Transporting children from the Hall to the School

The Clerk had written to KCC (KCS) about a vehicle to transport children at the beginning and end of school days. He had received no reply. Less formal enquiries of other bus and coach firms had indicated no interest in such a small contract as vehicles and drivers were fully committed to more major work at these times. The Chairman would explore other possibilities.

ACTION: CHAIRMAN

4. OPEN SESSION - LAND SOUTH OF LUGHORSE LANE

Because of the level of interest in the mobile home which was in this field, the Chairman moved the item up the agenda.

The residents present voiced their concerns about the development on this site. These included doubts over land ownership, the lack of an application for planning permission, the extensions to the access track and as the field was being sold off in individual plots, the risk that the development could spread. They were also concerned about the delay in beginning the planning enforcement process and environmental health issues.

There was a full discussion and Borough Councillor Brian Mortimer who has long experience of such matters including having been Chairman of the Borough Planning Committee in the past explained how the system worked. Hunton had had earlier similar instances but it was not out of step with the rest of the Borough. A temporary stop notice to prevent further development had been issued; if this was not heeded prosecution could follow. If an enforcement notice was issued implementation could take weeks or months. Also important was that a gypsy needs survey of the Borough was not yet complete although it was on the way. Councillor Mortimer was here to help but he wasn't able to promise that an application would be refused.

It was agreed that Cllr Mortimer would alert the residents when the time came for them to lobby Planning Committee Members and they might form a residents association or raise a petition.

ACTION: BOROUGH COUNCILLOR MORTIMER

The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council had been monitoring activity on this site for some years and would continue to oppose any planning application which was made. This was a meadow adjacent to the King George V Playing Field, not a residential area. Most of the residents then left the meeting.

5. POLICE AND NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

5.1 Crimes

PC Shaw reported that there had been six crimes including four thefts from motor vehicles. Three were GPS/SatNav systems and the fourth was a handbag. He strongly advised people not to leave such systems in cars; even the suction marks on windscreens could encourage thieves.

5.2 Neighbourhood policing meeting for parishes on 12th September

Hunton had been represented by the Chairman and Cllr Thomas who reported that the meeting had been well-attended. Many misgivings about the proposed changes had been expressed, not least about the level of PCSO powers, the adequacy of cover during the changeover and the problems of recruiting 440 PCSOs by next April. PC Shaw would provide as much cover as he could but it was agreed that non-urgent matters should be reported on 690045.

6. FINANCE

6.1 Income & expenditure and bank reconciliation – 2006/7

Members endorsed the Clerk's report which showed income of £22985.13, expenditure of £6887.32 and bank and cash book balances of £16097.81 in the year to date. Members endorsed payments authorised by the Finance Sub-Committee since the last meeting to cheque 750.

6.2 Anticipated expenditure

Two future items of expenditure were discussed, work to overcome the puddles in the car park and the storage extension to the Hall. No decisions could be made as costs were not known but the Council was holding £1200

from 2005/6 for the extension and a further £1200 was due for the current year. The parish was grateful to the three Borough Councillors for these grants. It was expected that Alan Bishop would be able to advise on costs at the next KGV committee meeting in October and the Clerk would make sure the matter was on the agenda.

ACTION: CLERK

7. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTWAYS

7.1 TRAMP

Cllr Thomas was disappointed to report that despite so much work and so many meetings about highways so little progress had been made by TRAMP or by other bodies. This included the footpath between the Hall and the rest of the village which was so badly needed and which had at one time been a priority, the traffic calming in Coxheath which was due to have been completed in the summer but which has not yet started and the control of HGVs in Yalding.

A meeting with two priorities, speed limits and HGVs was to be held with Keith Ferrin and Kim Hills of KCC on 20th September. At present KCC Highways seems to have stalled.

The Chairman thanked Cllrs Thomas and Walter for their work for the village on highways matters.

7.2 KCC 24 hour report line

The Clerk expressed his disappointment at the evident lack of response to his reports to 08458247800 of highways work which needed to be done. The blocked culvert at the northern end of East Street was reported on 20th June and a reminder call made on 30th August. It was still blocked and the road flooded on the day of the meeting.

Two other cases, of broken signs, were reported on 14th August and reminder calls made 30th August. No action had been taken on the ground.

A request was made for traditional finger post signs to be used.

ACTION:CLERK

7.3 KCC letter re speed limits

The Clerk reported a letter from Keith Ferrin of KCC introducing DfT Circular 1/2006 which the Clerk had downloaded and printed. Both would be circulated.

ACTION:CLERK

8. BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S BUSINESS

Cllr Brindle reported that the Borough Development Framework had been updated and would be published for comment.

The Street Traders Act had been adopted which would mean that hot dog traders in Week Street and cars for sale at the roadside would become things of the past.

9. REPORT ON THE KING GEORGE V PLAYING FIELD

Cllr Eatwell, Chairman of the Field Committee, reported favourable on progress on the Field. In recent weeks it had been particularly well used by all three clubs with up to 150 people on site at one time. This was warmly welcomed by all Members.

Work was progressing on planning for new play equipment with one quote made and one awaited. Cllr Mortimer suggested how the initiative could be progressed. Cllr Eatwell worked through the minutes of the last Committee meeting which were issued to Members. It was helpful to have held meetings in part on site.

Rubbish was an ongoing problem and the Clerk's efforts to have the bins emptied by MBC and to set up a contract had been unsuccessful. Cllr Williams would make enquiries.

ACTION: CLLR WILLIAMS

The Clerk would check the Health and Safety items which were on circulation.

ACTION:CLERK

10. PARISH PLANS

The Clerk would purchase and circulate a Hunton copy of the Bredhurst plan which appeared to have more in common with Hunton's needs than several of the more glossy productions. It was recognised that the village would achieve more with a plan than without one.

ACTION:CLERK

11. KCC PROPOSAL TO AMALGAMATE HUNTON AND LADDINGFORD SCHOOLS

The decision was due to be announced the following Monday, 18th September.

12. PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

Three planning cases were considered in Committee and the Clerk would advise MBC of the outcomes.

ACTION:CLERK

13. OTHER MATTERS FOR INFORMATION OR FUTURE DECISION

There were no matters of importance to report under this heading.

14. CONCLUSION AND DATES OF MEETINGS IN 2006

The remaining Parish Council meeting in 2006 would be on 8th November. Those of the KGV Field Committee would be on 11th October and 13th December.

There being no other business the meeting ended at 9.55pm.