

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HUNTON PARISH COUNCIL

Held on Wednesday 15th November 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	
	Cllr Moira Walter	
	David Swan	Clerk
IN ATTENDANCE:	Adrian Brindle	Borough Councillor
	Brian Mortimer	Borough Councillor
	John Williams	Borough Councillor
	Dudley Farman	Web master, Hunton Village website
	Sue and David Heaton	Editors, Hunton Herald
	PC Gary Shaw	Maidstone Police

1. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chairman welcomed all present. Apologies were received from Cllr David StJohn and County Cllr Paulina Stockell.

2. REGISTER OF MEMBERS INTERESTS

The Register was available for public inspection.

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 13th SEPTEMBER AND MATTER ARISING

It was agreed at line two of item 7.1 of the Minutes to substitute "KCC" for "TRAMP" and at item 14 to substitute "15th" for "8th" November. They were then signed as a correct record.

Matters arising were as follows:-

3.1 Caravan in Lughorse Lane

Cllr Mortimer reported that two enforcement and two stop notices had been served on the site. These would be effective from 23rd November, the latest date of appeal. He had advised local residents to keep a log and would check on the outcome of the water samples which had been taken.

ACTION: CLLR MORTIMER

3.2 Bollards in Bensted Close

Members wished to see these extended right round the island but they were not as thought the responsibility of Maidstone Housing Trust but of KCC Highways to whom the Clerk would write.

ACTION: CLERK

4. POLICE AND NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

4.1 Crimes

PC Shaw reported that there had been four crimes in the previous two months comprising two thefts from sheds and two of field equipment. Crime levels in neighbouring parishes were understood to be rising.

4.2 Neighbourhood policing meeting on 4th December

It was noted that a further meeting for parishes was planned and a volunteer was requested.

5. FINANCE

6.1 Income & expenditure and bank reconciliation – 2006/7

Members endorsed the Clerk's report which showed income of £22962.66, expenditure of £9378.73 and bank and cash book balances of £13583.93 in the year to date. Members endorsed payments authorised by the Finance Sub-Committee since the last meeting to cheque 759.

6.2 Precept 2007/2008

The Clerk reported on the estimated out-turn in the current year and provided a suggested budget for 2007/2008. Members also had copies of the Parish Statistics and Requirements from the MBC Diary to see how the village compared with the Borough as a whole. It was agreed that as the Council's resources had improved in the last two years through careful husbandry the Precept should remain at £7500. The Clerk would advise MBC.

ACTION: CLERK

6. EXTERNAL CONTACTS

6.1 TRAMP

The most recent TRAMP report was on circulation. Members felt KCC were blocking the group's work and noted Cllr Stockell's message about funding next year. The Clerk would ask her what is happening – is another meeting proposed?

ACTION: CLERK

6. EXTERNAL CONTACTS (Cont)

6.2 KCC Local Board

It was made clear at this meeting that Local Board funds could not be used for village halls for which another fund was available. It was thought that Mrs Stockell had advised Alan Bishop.

6.3 South Maidstone Parishes Group and Planning Training meeting

Papers from these meetings would be circulated for information.

ACTION: CLERK

6.4 Future meetings

The MBC Rural Conference 18th November, Police meeting 4th December and KCC Local Board 6th December were noted.

7. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTWAYS

7.1 New leaflets

Members had seen the folder with new leaflets but were more concerned about experiences with off-reported potholes like those at the top of West Street which caused damage to vehicles, no matter how well driven. The Chairman had been assured that remedial work would be taken during week commencing

7.2 KCC 24 hour report line

The Clerk expressed his continued disappointment at the slow response to reports on 08458247800. He would ask Steve Goulette for a traditional finger post sign to be used at the western end of Redwall Lane.

ACTION:CLERK

7.3 County Lengthsmen Scheme

Although the Clerk had been nominated as the Hunton liaison point he could not confirm that the scheme had been discontinued. He would ask for details of the present position.

ACTION: CLERK

8. BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S BUSINESS

Cllr Williams reported that he would be touring the area with Steve Goulette shortly to try to find suitable sites for recycling facilities.

The Borough Cabinet budget was to increase by 3% in 2007/8 which would mean a reduction of £1m in expenditure. The Clerk would write to emphasise the importance in the parishes of the Concurrent Functions grants from the Borough.

ACTION: CLERK

9. REPORT ON THE KING GEORGE V PLAYING FIELD

Cllr Eatwell, Chairman of the Field Committee, reported on the planning for new play equipment. Cllr Mortimer suggested that the Committee contact Dave Hitchins at the Borough, if necessary through him. It was suggested that Brian Ross, Cabinet Member for Leisure would also be a worthwhile contact.

ACTION: CLLR EATWELL

The Clerk had established that the Borough would clean the car park and play areas and remove the rubbish for £50 a visit. Members thought this good value and suggested that a monthly visit should be requested to start with.

ACTION:CLERK

10. PARISH PLAN

The Clerk had circulated a copy of the Bredhurst plan. Agreed for discussion at the next meeting.

11. KCC PROPOSAL TO AMALGAMATE HUNTON AND LADDINGFORD SCHOOLS

Members recorded their pleasure that this proposal had been withdrawn.

12. PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

12.1 Provision for gypsy and traveller caravan sites

A paper from SEERA had been circulated and was discussed, together with the local infrastructure in general. Members commented that no differentiation was drawn between gypsies and travellers who stop permanently and those who do not. Sites to accommodate those who were peripatetic were needed. The Clerk would draft.

ACTION: CLERK

12.2 Planning consultation

A planning application was considered in Committee and the Clerk would advise MBC of the outcome.

ACTION:CLERK

13. OTHER MATTERS FOR INFORMATION OR FUTURE DECISION

The parish archive was in the church but a curator was needed and the post was to be advertised in the Hunton Herald. The Council would help if it could, for example by providing grant aid towards suitable storage.

14. CONCLUSION AND DATES OF MEETINGS IN 2006

The Parish Council meetings in 2007 would be on 17th January, 14th March, 23rd May (AGM), 11th July, 12th September and 14th November.

There being no other business the meeting ended at 9.45pm.