

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HUNTON PARISH COUNCIL

Held on Tuesday 23rd 2007 at 8.00pm at Hunton Parish Hall

PRESENT:	Cllr Roger Sawtell	Chairman
	Cllr Keith Eatwell	
	Cllr Les Leonard	
	Cllr Lorraine Redfarn	
	Cllr David StJohn	
	David Swan	Clerk
IN ATTENDANCE:	Dudley Farman	Web master, Hunton Village website
	Sue and David Heaton	Editors, Hunton Herald

1. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chairman welcomed all present. Apologies were received from Cllrs Gary Thomas and Moira Walter, Borough Cllrs Brindle, Mortimer and Williams, County Cllr Paulina Stockell and Alan Bishop.

2. REGISTER OF MEMBERS INTERESTS

The Register was available for public inspection.

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 15th NOVEMBER AND MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes were agreed and signed as a correct record.

Matters arising were as follows:-

3.1 Bollards in Bensted Close

As opinions in the Close were now understood to be divided and the origins of the enquiry could not be recalled it was agreed that no further action should be taken at least for the time being.

3.2 Finger post at the end of Redwall Lane

The suggested approach to Steve Goulette for a traditional-type replacement for the broken aluminium sign had been unsuccessful although he would refer the suggestion to Kent Highways on our behalf. The matter had first been reported in April.

3.3 County Lengthsmen Scheme

No reply had been received from the enquiry about the present status of this scheme.

4. POLICE AND NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Members noted with regret that this was the first meeting for several years when there was no police presence. This was due to the revised policing arrangements. The crime figures had been received by email direct from PC Steve Taylor. They showed a total of eight reported crimes in the period from 24th November to 15th January, almost all thefts from outbuildings.

5. FINANCE

5.1 Income & expenditure and bank reconciliation – 2006/7

Members endorsed the Clerk's report which showed carry forward of £12944.76, income of £12912.76, expenditure of £10960.09 and bank and cash book balances of £14897.43 in the year to date. Members endorsed payments authorised by the Finance Sub-Committee since the last meeting to cheque 770 and noted the grant received and payments made under the Concurrent Functions scheme.

5.2 Concurrent Functions

Members discussed how the grant of £5006 received from the Borough had been spent this year, mainly on the KGV Field. The scheme was very important to small villages such as Hunton and the recent letter from Eric Hotson, now Leader of the Council, offered some reassurance for its future. It would be circulated.

ACTION: CLERK

6. EXTERNAL CONTACTS

TRAMP and the South Maidstone Parishes Group were discussed. No new invitations were to hand.

7. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTWAYS

7.1 Footway between Bensted Close and the Parish Hall

The path was again discussed, at some length. The King George Field Committee had made the point at their last meeting that finding funds for the new play equipment could be much easier if the path was in place. To aim for a centre of play in the village which was not safely accessible on foot or cycle was wrong. The Clerk would write to County Cllr Stockell.

ACTION: CLERK

7.2 White lines

Members expressed the view that most white lines in the village were in need of repainting. Specific examples would be reported on 08458 247 800.

ACTION: CLERK

8. BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S BUSINESS

Cllr Brindle had asked the Clerk to advise Members of the forthcoming work to renew utilities in the town centre which would last some three months.

9. REPORT ON THE KING GEORGE V PLAYING FIELD

Cllr Eatwell, Chairman of the Field Committee, presented the report on Field. He endorsed the point recorded at 7.1 and thanked those who had commented on the correspondence from the Audit Commission.

It was understood that the monthly litter pick and rubbish removal by the Borough would begin in January. It was agreed to suggest to the Committee that other quotations for mowing be obtained.

ACTION: CLERK

10. PARISH PLAN

The Bredhurst plan was discussed and it was agreed to air the matter in the Hunton Herald. The matter could only be moved ahead if new people in the parish offered their services. Cllr Leonard would generate an article.

ACTION: CLLR LEONARD

11. PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS INCLUDING TREES

11.1 The mobile home in Lughorse Lane

The most recent information about this was discussed and it was reported as having moved on the site. The closing date for representations to the Department in connection with the appeal was 28th January and for information the Clerk had a copy of Cllr Mortimer's recent letter.

11.2 Planning consultation

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

ACTION: CLERK

12. OTHER MATTERS FOR INFORMATION OR FUTURE DECISION

The parish archive was discussed. The Council itself could help financially but a small committee was set up under the Chairman to look at various ways forward.

13. CONCLUSION AND DATES OF MEETINGS IN 2006

To avoid clashing with the judo club which used the hall two evenings each week it was agreed to meet on Thursdays in future. The Clerk would write to Jackie Crooks.

The Parish Council meetings in 2007 would be on 15th March, 24th May (AGM), 12th July, 13th September and 15th November.

There being no other business the meeting ended at 9.35pm.