

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HUNTON PARISH COUNCIL
Held on Thursday 15th November 2007 at 8.00pm at Hunton Parish Hall

PRESENT: Cllr Roger Sawtell Chairman
Cllr Keith Eatwell
Cllr Les Leonard
David Swan Retiring Clerk
Vikki Stancombe New Clerk

IN ATTENDANCE: Cllr Paulina Stockell County Councillor
Sue and David Heaton Editors, Hunton Herald
Alan Bishop Chairman, Hunton Parish Hall Committee
Dudley Farman Website Co-ordinator
One parishioner

- 1. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF NEW CLERK**
The Chairman welcomed all present and introduced the new Clerk. At the close of the meeting the Chairman made a presentation of thanks to the retiring Clerk David Swan and all present thanked him for his most valued contribution.
- 2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
Apologies were received from Borough Cllr Adrian Brindle, Brian Mortimer and Colin Parr, Cllrs David StJohn, Gary Thomas and Moira Walter.
- 3. REGISTER OF MEMBERS INTERESTS**
The Chairman reminded that the Register of Interest was available for inspection.
- 4. POLICE AND NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH BUSINESS**
 - 4.1 Crime figures**
While there were no crime figures to report, Cllr Stockell provided a report prepared by Kent Police highlighting the number and category of recorded crimes for Coxheath and Hunton Ward for the period April to September 2007.
 - 4.2 PCSO Hannah Percival**
Concern was again expressed about how the PCSO would be able to perform her duties satisfactorily without transport. Cllr Stockell will look into this issue.
- 5. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF 13th SEPTEMBER AND MATTERS ARISING**
The Minutes were agreed and signed as a correct record. Matters arising were covered later in the agenda.
- 6. FINANCE**
 - 6.1 Finance Report and Bank Reconciliation**
Members endorsed the Clerk's report which showed carry forward of £10524,14, income of £13793.16, expenditure of £10368.52 and reconciled bank and cash book balances of £13948.78 in the year to date. Members endorsed payments authorised since the last meeting to cheque 850 and agreed payments for cheque nos. 851-854 which were signed at the end of the meeting.

7. EXTERNAL CONTACTS

7.1 Tovil Tip

The Chairman reported on a recent meeting of Parish Councils at Coxheath when various items were discussed including the re-siting of the Tovil tip. The Chairman of Tovil had outlined plans to move the site to the landfill site on the other side of the road and after discussion it was agreed that the Council would send a letter of support for the project and request that some provision is made for queuing vehicles at the new site. ACTION: CLERK

7.2 KAPC/MBC Planning Training on Monday 19th November at 6.30 pm

The Chairman will attend this meeting at the Town Hall.

7.3 Annual Rural Conference Saturday 17th November at Headcorn

It was suggested that Cllr Thomas might be interested in attending and the Clerk was asked to contact him to enquire. ACTION: CLERK

7.4 KCC Maidstone Local Board – KIG – Friday 30th November at Ramada Hotel

Cllr Stockell gave a brief overview of this meeting but there was no one available to attend.

7.5 Highways PIPKIN meeting Thursday 10th January at Ramada Hotel

The Chairman advised that an invitation had been received from Highways to attend a presentation on the introduction of PIPKIN (Prioritising Investments Programmes for Kent's Integrated Network) and he would attend. It was felt that Cllr Thomas may also be interested in attending. ACTION: CLERK

8. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S BUSINESS

Cllr Stockell reported the pilot scheme survey of roads and speeds carried out by MBC will be completed shortly and results notified to each Parish. Maidstone is also carrying out a pilot on congestion busting and a pilot scheme for free bus travel for children regardless of which school they attend is to be brought to Maidstone in June 2008 to try to get cars off the road. Cllr Stockell also reported that George Street is due to be closed from 10th December for up to two weeks due to cabling works by EDF.

9. REPORT ON THE KING GEORGE V PLAYING FIELD

9.1 Committee meeting 11th October

Cllr Eatwell reported the meeting had been well supported. There had been a problem with the boundaries next to the road and Savage Cranes will dig out a new ditch next year. The Village Fete will be on 28th June 2008 and some of the funds raised may go towards the Bensted Close to Parish Hall footpath. New Bye Laws for the playing Field will be displayed and the field is now looking in much better condition following the resolution of the rabbit problem. The next meeting will be on 20th December.

9.2 New Secretary

Following the retirement of David Swan, Margaret Carpenter has been appointed the new Secretary of the King George V Playing Field Committee.

9.2 Consideration of revised Constitution

The Charity Commission had provided a revised Constitution for consideration. The Field Trustees had discussed and agreed the new wording and the Council did likewise. In consultation with the new Field Secretary the Clerk would advise the Commission accordingly. ACTION: CLERK

9.4 MBC Play Area Sign

The Chairman had received an offer to purchase a sign from MBC for the Play Area and passed this to Cllr Eatwell for the Playing Field Committee's consideration.

10. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTWAYS

10.1 Footway between Bensted Close and the Parish Hall

There was discussion regarding the provision of a footpath from Bensted Close to the Parish Hall and it was agreed this was an important project. It was reported that the School would like to have a walking bus from the Parish Hall Car Park and are supportive of this project. Cllr Stockell agreed to keep this as a high profile need and will look at getting funding through the Local Board next year.

10.2 Hunton Hill Works

It was reported that there had been some confusion regarding recent works being done as there had been signs but no work being carried out. Cllr Stockell reported that traffic orders have to be displayed with a telephone number to report any problems and a penalty system is being introduced for contractors where such incidents arise.

11. PARISH PLAN

The Parish Plan was discussed and it was agreed it was important to get the views of the residents on their vision for the future of the Parish. Alan Bishop offered to get some large maps of the Parish on boards with the help of the Chairman and Cllr Leonard and they agreed to meet to discuss ways to move the project forward. ACTION: CHAIRMAN

12. PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

12.1 Trees

The Chairman reported that the Kent Men of the Trees visited the Parish and were impressed with the trees and suggested it would be useful to have some trees to screen the Savage Cranes area. He advised that if the Council could arrange a project for the trees supported by the School he could get five fairly well-established trees provided free of charge. A report was awaited. The Chairman also reported that the Medway River Project also visited but the trees they were offering were not so well established.

Planning

The following Planning Applications were discussed and decisions made at the end of the meeting:

MA/07/2199 – Foremans Barn, Foremans Barn Road - Amendment of Condition - Approve

MA/07/2273 – Wealden Hall House, East Street – Full Planning Permission - Approve

MA/07/2272 – Wealden Hall House, East Street - Listed Building Consent – Approve

There had also been correspondence from KCC regarding the Proposed Diversion of Public Footpath KM164, Hunton. It was agreed that there was no objection to diverting the path and the Clerk would respond accordingly. ACTION: CLERK

13 OPEN SESSION

A parishioner highlighted damaged sign posts at Redwall/East Street and East Street/George Street and enquired about Speedwatch. Speedwatch was discussed and it was agreed that the

problem was not getting the equipment but having enough volunteers to carry out the exercises.

Alan Bishop thanked everyone for their help for the event on Saturday night with special thanks to Cllr Stockell for the financial support in getting the Store room in the Hall finished. The development on Lughorse Lane was discussed and it was noted that a water mains connection had been installed at the site.

14. OTHER MATTERS FOR INFORMATION OR FUTURE DECISION

There were no other matters to be discussed.

15. CONCLUSION INCLUDING DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The date of the next meeting is Thursday 10th January 2008 with future meetings set for the second Thursday of every other month as follows:

Thursday 13th March

Thursday 8th May (Annual Meeting and Annual Parish Meeting)

Thursday 10th July

Thursday 11th September

Thursday 13th November.

There being no other business the meeting ended at 9.00pm.