

HUNTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 10TH JANUARY 2008
AT HUNTON PARISH HALL

PRESENT :- Cllr R Sawtell in the Chair, Cllrs K Eatwell, L Leonard, D StJohn, G Thomas, M Walter and Mrs V Stancombe, Clerk

IN ATTENDANCE: Borough Cllrs A Brindle and B Mortimer and 5 parishioners were present throughout the meeting.

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were received from County Cllr P Stockell, Borough Cllr C Parr and PSCO Hannah Percival.

2. PARISHIONERS OPEN SESSION

There were no matters raised.

3. POLICE AND NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH BUSINESS

The Clerk reported that there had been one crime reported since the last meeting being a burglary on Barn Hill where a padlock was damaged.

4. CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA ITEMS

4.1 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations made.

5. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15TH NOVEMBER 2007

The Minutes of the meeting had been previously distributed and were agreed unanimously. The Chairman signed off the official copy.

6. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING

6.1 New Applications received since the last meeting and recommendations made

6.1.1 Barn on Land at Oast House Cottage, Barn Hill – MA/07/1981

Members noted that the application for conversion of a barn to a single dwelling and erection of detached 3-bay garage (amendment of planning application MA/98/0032) has been recommended for Approval.

6.1.2 Elm Croft, Redwall Lane - MA/07/2053

Members noted that the amended application for erection of a two storey side extension, including earthworks to regrade the adjoining banks has been returned with no objection or comment and MBC has subsequently refused this application.

6.1.3 Park House, Lughorse Lane – MA/07/2428

The application for erection of three stables and one hay store was considered at the end of the meeting and it was unanimously agreed to recommend approval.

6.2 Other Planning Matters

Members noted that:

6.2.1 2 Shepherd's Cottages, Water Lane – MA/07/2006

The application for listed building consent for the replacement of existing critical windows with timber framed windows and replacement oak doors has been granted planning permission.

6.2.2 Barnhill House, Barn Hill – MA/07/1585

The application for construction of a sand school and the change of use of the land from agriculture to the keeping of horses has been granted planning permission.

6.2.3 Foremans Barn, Foremans Barn Road – MA/07/2199

The application for variation of condition to state that no person shall occupy the premises for a period

exceeding 10 weeks nor shall that person return within 4 weeks of departure has been granted planning permission.

6.2.4 Hunton Place, East Street – MA/07/0751

The application for listed building consent for the installation of a new doorway from kitchen to patio with French doors and a new window in downstairs toilet has been withdrawn.

6.2.5 KAPC/MBC Training Enforcement – Monday 4th February at the Town Hall

The Chairman and Cllr Walter will attend this training session. ACTION: CLLRS SAWTELL/WALTER

7. HIGHWAY AND FOOTWAY MATTERS

7.1 Erosion of Road – King George V Playing Field

The King George V Playing Field Committee raised concerns regarding the erosion of the road alongside the field. The Chairman reported that he had attended a Kent Highways presentation that day and the Council would be writing to a Senior Manager of KHS in order to try and address the problem.

ACTION: CLERK

8. RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT MATTERS

8.1 King George V Playing Field

8.1.1 Gang Mowing 2008

Members agreed the quotation supplied by Landscape Services for gang mowing for 2008 for 21 cuts at a total cost of £835.58.

8.1.2 Rubbish Bins

Members considered the request by The King George V Playing Field Committee for two further rubbish bins in order to keep the site tidy and Members unanimously agreed this purchase.

ACTION: CLERK

8.1.3 Report on the King George V Playing Field

Cllr Eatwell reported that the footpath from Bensted Close to the Village Hall was raised at the December Committee meeting and that planned play equipment has been put on hold until the footpath has been installed. Cllr Eatwell also reported that the Village Fete will be going ahead on 28th June with some sponsorship already secured. The funds raised from the Fete will go towards the footpath scheme. The next meeting of the Committee is on Wednesday 13th February.

9 PARISH PLAN

It was agreed to defer discussion on this item until the next meeting.

10 FINANCE

10.1 Bank Reconciliation and Expenditure To Date

The financial report to 30th November 2007 was noted.

10.2 Income received since the last meeting

Members noted there have been no receipts since the last meeting.

10.3 Confirmation of payments already made

Members endorsed the following payments made since the last Meeting:-

Mrs V Stancombe – Net salary for November	£245.00
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10.4 Cheques for signature

The following payments were agreed and cheques signed:-

856 – HMRC – PAYE	£223.13
857 – NPFA (Fields in Trust)	£25.00
858 – Mrs V Stancombe – Reimbursement of Expenses	£25.17
859 – EDF – Streetlighting	£6.80
860 – Seeboard – Cricket Field Water Charges	£278.79

10.5 Concurrent Functions – 2008/09 Budget and Parish Precept

Members noted that the Concurrent Functions Grant will be £5,270 for 2008/09 and further discussed the budget paper produced by the Clerk. The proposed budget and a Precept of £9,500 was agreed for 2008/09 which will increase the approximate charge for a Band D property to £30.05.

10.6 Annual Audit

Members noted that the Audit Commission have now approved and returned the amended accounts.

10.7 Members Allowances

Members noted that MBC have provided their report of the Parish Independent Remuneration Panel and unanimously agreed to continue with their current arrangement but with the addition of a Chairman's Allowance of £100 for the financial year 2008/09.

11. MATTERS OF REPORT

11.1 County and Borough Councillors' Reports

Cllr Mortimer advised that, together with Cllr Parr, he is liaising with Kent Highways regarding various problem areas including Hunton Hill and East Street repairs.

Cllr Mortimer reported the outcome of MBC's recent Review of the Concurrent Function Grant and advised that the amount of Devolved Budget Grant will be decided in February.

Cllr Brindle reported on the attempts to keep a full A&E Department at Maidstone Hospital and it was agreed that closure of this facility is unacceptable. Cllr Brindle reported that a meeting has been arranged with the temporary Chief Executive and he would keep the Council informed of developments.

11.2 Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported that he had spoken to Cllr Stockell at the PIPKIN seminar and she was very supportive of the plans for a footpath from Bensted Close to the Village Hall. The Chairman felt that the PIPKIN criteria could be applied to the footpath and the Clerk was asked to write to Cllr Stockell to see how this project can be moved forward.

ACTION: CLERK

11.3 Individual Councillors Reports

Cllr Thomas reported that the next TRAMP meeting is on 23rd January.

The Chairman and Cllr Thomas reported their attendance at the Kent Highways PIPKIN (Prioritising Investments Programmes for Kent's Integrated Network) seminar that morning. The main element of the Seminar was to explain the complete re-organisation of the responsibilities in Highways and to introduce the new Programme that is applicable to new projects and schemes only. PIPKIN has four main criteria to consider and these are Congestion, Accessibility, Safety and Air Pollution. It was also explained that rural and urban roads are looked at as a whole and it was felt that these two areas should be separated in order that rural areas have some benefit from the Programme. The Clerk was asked to write to Highways to express the Council's concerns about PIPKIN.

ACTION: CLERK

11.4 Clerk's Reports

11.4.1 Casual Vacancy

The subject was discussed at the end of the meeting when the Chairman advised that David Heaton had expressed his interest in filling the vacancy. It was unanimously agreed to invite David Heaton to take up the position of Parish Councillor and the Clerk was asked to write to him accordingly.

ACTION: CLERK

12 CORRESPONDENCE

12.1 Invitation to Civic Service at Canterbury Cathedral on Tuesday 4th March at 11.00 am

There was no one available to attend this event.

12.2 KAPC Maidstone Area Committee AGM on Tuesday 15th January

Cllr Thomas and the Chairman would like to attend this meeting at the Town Hall starting at 7.30 pm.

ACTION: CLLRS SAWTELL / THOMAS

12.3 Letter from Hunton Primary School

The Chairman advised he had received a letter regarding the development of the playing fields and which will be passed to the Playing Field Committee.

ACTION : CLERK

13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Council Meeting is on Thursday 13th March at Hunton Parish Hall.

There being no other business the public meeting ended at 9.10 pm and items 6.1.3 and 11.4.1 were discussed.