

**MINUTES of the HUNTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
held on Thursday 8th May 2008 at Hunton Village Hall**

PRESENT: Mr Roger Sawtell as Chairman, and 4 Members of the Parish Council, together with at least 23 Parishioners, and Mrs V Stancombe, Clerk to the Parish Council.

They were joined by County Councillor Paulina Stockell and Borough Councillors Colin Parr and John Wilson.

1. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed all those present and introduced the County and Borough Councillors and Members of the Parish Council and the Clerk. The Chairman congratulated Cllr Wilson on his recent appointment.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Were received from Borough Councillor Brian Mortimer, PC Gary Shaw, PCSO Hannah Percival and Mrs Moira Walter.

3. POLICE REPORT

The Police were unable to be present.

4. PRESENTATION ON "RECYCLING" BY ALISON SOLLIS, EDUCATION OFFICER, ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, MBC

Alison Sollis showed a DVD on the new Recycling Service which is currently being introduced by Maidstone Borough Council and explained the different types of materials that will be able to be recycled. Details of the scheme will be sent to every household when the service is scheduled to be introduced.

5. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON 14TH MAY 2007

The Minutes had previously been agreed.

6. REPORTS OF LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

The Chairman said he proposed to invite those with reports to speak first and he would speak at the end. The County and Borough Councillors agreed to report towards the end of the meeting.

(a) Mrs Sue Wood for Hunton Primary School

The School has continued to strive for rising standards and achievement and this was reflected in the results at the end of July last year with 100% of children expected to gain entrance to grammar school this year having secured their places. IT plays an increasingly important role at the school and a computerised weather station is now in place. School clubs are very popular including the gardening club which led to the achievement of the Green Flag Award for Eco Schools and the KCC clean schools red flag award.

The Diocese of Rochester and KCC have agreed to fund a further classroom. Three pupils then gave their own views on the need for a footpath from the School to the Village Hall.

(b) Mr Keith Eatwell for King George V Playing Fields

Over the past year there have been significant improvements to the ground and facilities and the Parish Council were thanked for their support. There has been more co-operation between the sports clubs this year and this has resulted in the Committee arranging a Village Fete on 28th June this year.

(c) Mr Alan Bishop for Hunton Parish Hall Committee

The Hall is well used with the Pre-School every morning and regular evening appointments. There have been several events during the year including Applause and Hunton Players Youth Orchestra Concert. The store extension has been completed and has transformed the facilities. New Members of the Committee would be welcomed.

(d) Ms Nicola Julier for Hunton & Linton Pre-School

A difficult year with financial problems but optimistic moving forward. More children would be welcome. An overview of activities was given including the topic of Beasts this term and Kinder music visits every fortnight.

- (e) **Mrs Alison Ellman-Brown for St Mary's Church**
 St Mary's has been busy in 2007 and while average weekly numbers are 18 on Sundays, celebration days see numbers of 150-200. There were 5 weddings in 2007 and 2 funerals. Restoration of the stained glass windows is ongoing as is the debate to install a toilet and washing facilities. The PCC were grateful to the PC for the loan of the mower which had made care of the churchyard easier. The Church is in good order thanks to the generosity of the people in the village.
 Revd Peter Walker thanked Alison for all her hard work for the Church and reported that a film company came to the Church for two days last year to film 4-minutes of Half Broken Dream.
- (f) **Mr John Scott for Peace Cottages Charity**
 All residents in the Almshouses are in good health but the 5 bungalows have an outdated system of heating which will need to be replaced soon. Some secondary glazing has been installed. The Charity has a sound financial base.
- (g) **Mr Allan Peckham for Hunton Village Club**
 A new gas central heating system and some new equipment was installed this year which has transformed the Club. Although some of the 150 members do not visit on a regular basis, with the assistance of the team of volunteers giving their time, the Club is now on a sound financial footing. Various social evenings are organised including Quiz Nights and Bingo and a large screen TV is to be installed this year.
- (h) **Mr Mike Nichols for Hunton Bowls Club**
 The club enjoyed a good set of results during 2007 and with the fund raising efforts of the committee and members, including coffee mornings, raffles and an Open Day, the Club remains entirely solvent. Thanks given to the other Members of Committee and Parish Council for support.
- (i) **Mr Simon Taylor for Hunton Cricket Club**
 The Club was not very successful last year with all three teams being relegated and injuries to players appeared to be reason but now with three good team captains the Club is looking forward to the new season. One long serving member of 40 years gained his 950th wicket last year. New members would be welcome.
- (j) **Mr Keith Eatwell for Hunton Football Club**
 The President of the Club died recently and his presence at the Club will be missed by all. The Club had over sixty active members for the season with the first team having a good season ending up second in the league and winning promotion to the premiership. The reserves ended up just below midway in the Second Division. Thanks to the Field Committee and Parish Council for excellent facilities.
- (k) **Mr David Heaton for Hunton Herald**
 Going well with twelve issues in twelve months. 20-30 people work to produce and distribute each issue and thanks to everyone who contributes time and effort. Would like to include more diary dates of village events and results of sports matches in future issues.

The Clerk to the Parish Council holds full copies of most of the Reports made to the meeting.

7. COUNTY COUNCILLOR – PAULINA STOCKELL

Cllr Stockell had provided a report of the year's events that was distributed and in addition reported that the KCC Budget for this year had increased to £155m with £25.5m earmarked for Highways. Concessionary fares will be subsidised by KCC in order that they may start at 9.00 am.

8. BOROUGH COUNCILLOR – COLIN PARR

Cllr Parr thanked the Council for their hospitality during the past year and reminded all of the Devolved Budget Grant. He reported that an inspection has taken place of the verges at the Almshouses and the scheme is awaited. Once received it will be necessary to find a way to fund the scheme.

Cllr Parr also reported on the action taken to date in recognition of the need for a footpath from Bensted Close to the Village Hall. A site meeting was held with KCC Highways to discuss the way forward. KCC have not been asked to fund the project but to carry out a feasibility study and costing exercise. Once obtained it will then be necessary to raise the appropriate funds for the project and there are various avenues available for funding, namely Local Board Grants, Members Grants.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Parr for his assistance and commitment to Hunton during the past year.

BOROUGH COUNCILLOR – JOHN WILSON

Cllr Wilson agreed with the importance of the footpath and looks forward to working with the Parish Council on the scheme.

9. PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

The Parish Council had prepared a summary report, including draft receipts and payments figures for 2007/08, which was distributed at the meeting.

The Chairman thanked the Parish Councillors, Borough Councillors and County Councillor for their work during the past year. Attendance at various meetings during the year has proved both interesting and rewarding. Thanked Cllr Parr again for the enormous amount of time and effort spent on trying to resolve problems in the parish. The Parish Plan is important and would like to see this project move forward which will be a good tool in establishing priorities for the parish of Hunton.

On behalf of everyone, Mr Gary Thomas thanked the Chairman for all his help, time and effort during the past year

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