

**HUNTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**  
**HELD ON THURSDAY 11<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2008**  
**AT HUNTON PARISH HALL**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Borough Cllr C Parr and three parishioners were present throughout the meeting.

**1. APOLOGIES**

Were received and accepted from Cllr R Porter and Borough Cllrs B Mortimer and J Wilson.

**2. COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS**

There were no declarations of interest made.

**3. NEW PARISH COUNCILLOR**

Members noted that Cllr Ron Porter, although unable to be present at this meeting, had signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and is now officially a Member of the Council.

**4. MINUTES of FULL COUNCIL MEETING held on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2008 and PLANNING MEETING held on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2008, already circulated**

The Minutes of the meetings had been previously distributed and were unanimously **Agreed** to be an accurate record. The Chairman signed off the official copies.

**5. POLICE BUSINESS**

Members were disappointed not to have received any information from the Police regarding crime figures for the period since the last meeting.

**6. HIGHWAY AND FOOTWAY MATTERS**

**6.1 Footpath – Benstead Close to Village Hall**

Members noted the quotation of £70,000 received from Highways which does not include the cost of re-aligning electricity, installing street lighting, improving drainage and purchasing the required land from private owners. Cllr Parr reported he had followed up with Highways and a further report with a detailed breakdown of costs is expected before the end of September. Members noted that prior to applying for any funding for this project it would be useful for a consultation to take place with the electorate. Following some discussion it was agreed to discuss this matter at the next Planning Meeting.

**6.2 Peace Cottages**

Following the cost of £3,500 provided by Highways for the kerbing and drainage works required outside Peace Cottages, Members noted that both the School Governors and the Peace Cottages Trustees will discuss this matter at their meetings in October. Following these meetings, it is hoped to establish the amount of contribution that may be available from these parties.

**6.3 Kent Highways**

Following a letter from the Liaison Officer requesting a meeting to discuss and understand any outstanding issues, Cllrs Heaton, Sawtell and Thomas agreed to attend and the Clerk will arrange a suitably convenient date. The latest report of outstanding Highways Issues provided by KHS was discussed and the Clerk will forward the comments to the Liaison Officer.

ACTION: CLERK/CLLRS HEATON, SAWTELL, THOMAS

**6.4 Kent Highways Seminar**

Cllr Thomas will attend the Parish and Town Council Seminar at County Hall on 14<sup>th</sup> October.

ACTION: CLLR THOMAS

**7. RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT MATTERS**

**7.1 King George V Playing Field**

Cllr Eatwell reported at the last meeting of the Committee held in August it was agreed that the Village Fete was a success. The Fete is on the Agenda for the next meeting to discuss whether to hold the event in 2009. The poor condition of the car park continues to be an issue and the Committee are looking at what can be done. The Committee were also looking into the costs of installing CCTV for the Playing Field, Village Hall and Savage Yard.

- 7.2 Licence for Use of Playing Field**  
The subject of a Licence for the use of the Bowls, Cricket and Football Clubs was discussed and there was some concern expressed about issuing a Licence. The Charities Commission have advised this is not a matter on which they can advise and the Clerk was asked to make further enquiries with ACRK and the Playing Fields Association before a decision is made.  
ACTION: CLERK
- 7.3 Telephone Box – West Street**  
Members noted that following notice of BT’s intention to remove the payphone in West Street, BT have now introduced a “Sponsor a Payphone” scheme. The Scheme requires the Council to pay £500 each year for the retention of the payphone. Following discussion it was Agreed that the Council should consult the parishioners on whether the payphone should be retained and the Clerk was asked to prepare a suitable questionnaire for distribution to all households.  
ACTION: CLERK/CLLRS
- 7.4 Annual Playground Inspection**  
Members noted the Report received from Playsafety Ltd (RoSPA) that has identified some remedial action and Cllr Eatwell advised the KGV Playing Field Committee will have a site visit as soon as possible to establish what work can be carried out locally and report the findings to the Clerk.  
ACTION: CLLR EATWELL
- 7.5 BTCV Kent Heritage Trees Project**  
Following consideration of BTCV’s request for Council support in their application to the Heritage Lottery Fund to run a 5-year project to promote the value of heritage trees in Kent, Members Agreed to support the project that has no cost implications to the Council and to complete the questionnaire provided.  
ACTION: CLERK
- 8 PLANNING MATTERS**
- 8.1 Hunton CE Primary School, Bishops Lane – MA/08/TEMP/0045**  
To construct a new single storey extension with a mono-pitched roof comprising of a new classroom, new entrance and hallway. Following discussion the Council’s recommendation was No objection
- 8.2 MBC Inquiry into Enforcement of Planning Conditions**  
Members considered the Scrutiny Committee’s request for views on planning enforcement and Section 106 compliance. While there have been no Section 106 agreements in Hunton, Members were in agreement that there was poor communication from the Enforcement Officers on Parish issues and sited the Angling Club and Shepherd’s Cottages as examples. It was also agreed that there was a lack of confidence that enforcement actions will be followed through to resolution and the Clerk was asked to respond with the Council’s views.  
ACTION: CLERK
- 8.3 Claremont, West Street – MA/08/1502**  
Members noted the application for the erection of a single rear conservatory has been Granted Planning Permission.
- 9 PARISH PLAN**  
It was decided to defer this item to the next meeting.
- 10. MATTERS OF REPORT**  
Reports were received as follows:
- 10.1 County and Borough Councillors**  
Cllr Parr reported road repairs are scheduled for West Street on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September. KCC would like to put in some extra drainage channels but would like to contact the landowners with a view to getting the current ditches cleared. The Chairman will investigate and advise Cllr Parr of the name of the landowners.  
ACTION: CLLR SAWTELL  
Cllr Parr reported on the realignment of key spending with money being redistributed away from the Park & Ride Services and a group of MBC Councillors had responded to the Government’s Select Committee request to look at the balance of power between Central Government and Local Government.
- 10.2 Chairman**  
Cllr Sawtell reported attendance at the Chairmanship Day run by KALC in July.
- 10.3 Individual Councillors**  
Cllr Thomas expressed concern about the new Planning Bill that takes away responsibility from Local Government on matters of infrastructure. He cited the recent events at the Kingsnorth Power Station and wanted it minuted that he was appalled by the way the Police handled the situation at the Camp which was in essence a planning application.  
TRAMP was raised and it was agreed that a meeting should be arranged.

## 10.4 Clerk

### 10.4.1 Meeting Dates for 2009

The following dates were **Agreed** for the forthcoming year:

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January  
Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March  
Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May - the AGM and Annual Parish Meeting  
Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July  
Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September  
Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November

### 10.4.2 Play Area Bid for Fencing

Members noted that the bid for dog proof fencing was not successful and MBC have advised this was declined due to the poor condition of existing equipment with the suggestion that the Parish review the whole scheme and resubmit for 2009/10. Cllr Eatwell reported that the KGV Playing Field Committee had previously obtained quotations for a new Play Area which totalled £60,000.

## 11 FINANCE

### 11.1 Budget Monitoring Report

The budget monitoring report to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2008 was noted.

### 11.2 Income received since the last meeting

Members noted payments received since the last meeting as follows:-

KGV – Fete Income £957.00

### 11.3 Confirmation of payments already made

It was proposed by Cllr Leonard, seconded by Cllr Walter “**that the following payments made since the last Meeting are approved**”. This was **Agreed**.

S/O - Mrs V Stancombe – Net salary for July	£275.72
811 - Hunton Bowls Club – Insurance contribution	£248.47
812 - Mrs V Stancombe – Reimbursement of payments made by personal cheque as follows:	
KALC – Councillor Information Days x 3 @ £70.50	£211.50
MBC – Litterpicking	£61.10
Kent Men of the Trees – Annual Subscription 2008	£25.00
EDF – Streetlighting Bensted Close	<u>£6.89</u>
	Total: £304.49
813 - MBC – Litterpicking	£61.10
814 – KCS – Grounds Maintenance	£784.65
S/O - Mrs V Stancombe – Net salary for August	£275.72

### 11.4 Cheques for signature

It was proposed by Cllr Leonard, seconded by Cllr Thomas “**that the Council approve the following payments**”. This was **Agreed** and the cheques were signed:-

815 – Playsafety Ltd – Annual Playground Inspection	£70.50
816 – CPRE – Annual Subscription	£28.00
817 – HMRC - PAYE	£196.47
818 – Mrs V Stancombe – Reimbursement of Expenses	£140.83
819 – EDF – Streetlighting Bensted Close	£6.93

### 11.5 Audit Commission and King George V Playing Field Committee

Members noted that while the Annual Return was yet to be returned, the Audit Commission has indicated that the Council should be making only one payment each year to the KGV Playing Field Charity. The Audit Commission expects to see the Charity operating independently from the Council. The Charities Commission have advised that, while not a legal requirement, a separate bank account is good practice and following discussion it was **Agreed** that the Committee will put in place a separate bank account for the start of the new financial year from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009.

## 12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Council Meeting is on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2008 at Hunton Parish Hall.

**There being no further business to be discussed the meeting closed at 9.55 pm**