

HUNTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 15TH JANUARY 2009
AT HUNTON PARISH HALL

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

IN ATTENDANCE: PCSO Joanne Watts was present at the start of the meeting, Borough Cllrs B Mortimer and
C Parr were present until Item 10 and five parishioners were present throughout the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES

Were received and accepted from Cllr M Walter, County Cllr P Stockell and Borough Cllr J Wilson.

2. COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS

There were no declarations made.

3. MINUTES of PLANNING MEETING held on 6th NOVEMBER 2008 AND FULL COUNCIL MEETING held on 13th NOVEMBER 2008

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.

4. POLICE BUSINESS

The new PCSO Joanna Watts introduced herself and reported three crimes since the last meeting two incidents of theft and one incident of arson.

Cllr Heaton indicated he would like to attend the next meeting of the Rural Neighbourhood Police West Area Parish Council Forum to be held at Loose Parish Pavilion, King George V Playing Field, Loose on Wednesday 18th February. ACTION: CLLR HEATON

5. QUALITY COUNCIL

There was some discussion regarding Quality Council Status and concerns were expressed about the benefits of achieving the Quality mark. It was **Agreed** to defer a decision and invite a Chairman from a Quality Council to the next meeting to gain their views on the benefits of the Quality mark.

ACTION: CLLR SAWTELL/CLERK

6. HIGHWAY AND FOOTWAY MATTERS

6.1 Footpath – Benstead Close to Village Hall

The Working Party reported an investigation with the Land Registry had confirmed ownership of the land. There was some discussion regarding the siting of the path and it was **Agreed** that the Working Party would walk the route of the proposed footpath to establish the options available to be arranged by Cllr Porter.

ACTION: CLLR PORTER

Cllr Eatwell presented £50 towards the Footpath Fund donated from the residents of Pippin Close raised from a Raffle.

6.2 Traffic in West Street and East Street

A resident of West Street expressed strong concerns regarding the speed, volume and type of traffic in West Street and plans to form a Residents Association that will campaign against speeding traffic. Cllr Thomas explained the position regarding reducing speed limits and there followed some discussion regarding traffic calming, signage and village gateways. The Parish Council and Borough Councillors offered their support to the campaign and suggested the first step would be a traffic and pedestrian count. Cllr Thomas advised East Farleigh would be prepared to lend it's Speedwatch equipment and possibly also a trained volunteer. PCSO Watts offered to attend the Speedwatch operation and will try to arrange for a police vehicle check to take place on West Street. The Clerk was asked to contact Highways with regard to the gateways and speed checks.

ACTION: CLERK

Members noted correspondence had been received concerning damage to the property known as Stonewall in East Street by large lorries visiting Baxters at Amsbury Farm. Members Noted the letter from Baxters to Highways on this subject and the Clerk was asked to write to the owner of Old School Farm to request assistance with installing signs that would help to alleviate the problem.

ACTION: CLERK

7. RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT MATTERS

7.1 King George's Field Charity

Cllr Eatwell reported the last meeting of the Management Committee was held on 10th December when various matters were discussed including the water meters and hedgecutting. Ann Widdecombe has been asked to open the Fete on 27th June and the Heraldic Plaques for the King George V Trust have been installed in the wall.

7.2 Playing Field and Parish Council

Members Noted the Clerk has made extensive enquiries relating to this subject and is now awaiting a response from the Charities Commission regarding the issue of filing of accounts of the King George's Field Charity and will report back to the Council when more information is to hand. ACTION: CLERK

7.3 KALC Area Committee

Cllr Thomas would like to attend the next Area Committee to be held on Tuesday 3rd February commencing at 7.30 pm at the Town Hall, Maidstone.

ACTION: CLLR THOMAS

8. PARISH PLAN

The first meeting to discuss the Parish Plan is planned for the end of February.

ACTION: CLLR PORTER

9. MATTERS OF REPORT

Reports were received as follows:

9.1 County and Borough Councillors

Cllr Stockell was unable to be present.

Cllr Mortimer reported on the expected Council Tax rise; attendance at meetings to discuss increase in car park charges, including Sunday charges and park and ride fees; the opening of the new Gateway at MBC and the current situation regarding Coxheath traffic calming. Cllrs Mortimer and Parr both highlighted the problems that the Borough Council is facing in the current economic climate.

9.2 Chairman

The Chairman had nothing specific to report.

9.3 Individual Councillors

Cllr Thomas reported MBC has started to release additional information relating to the KIG application and it was **Agreed** to send the Council's objection to this application. ACTION: CLERK

9.4 Clerk

9.4.1 Clerk – Vacation

Members **Noted** the Clerk's vacation dates for 2009.

9.4.2 CiLCA

Members congratulated the Clerk on achieving a pass, with distinction, for her portfolio submitted for the CiLCA but noted there is still one section to be completed on the Power of Well Being and once the relevant legislation has been released, this section is required to be submitted and passed to achieve the Certificate.

10. FINANCE

10.1 Budget Monitoring Report

The budget monitoring report to 31st December 2008 was **Noted**.

Members **Resolved** to transfer £200 from the Insurance Budget with £150 allocated to the Subscriptions Budget and £50 to the Training Budget.

Members also **Resolved** to transfer funds of £932 to a Footpath Reserve Fund in order that the money can be clearly identified.

10.2 Income received since the last meeting

Members **Noted** payments received as follows:-

Interest NatWest Capital Deposit Account	£4.19
EDF – Wayleaves	£9.19
KCC Members Grant re Play Area Repairs	£500.00
MBC – DBG re Play Area Repairs	£900.00
MBC – 2 nd Half Concurrent Functions	£2,635.00

10.3 Confirmation of payments already made

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

S/O - Mrs V Stancombe – Net salary for November	£281.16
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10.4 Cheques for signature

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

926 – M&M Contractors – Play Area Repairs	£1,944.62
927 – Audit Commission – Audit Fee	£158.63
928 – The Kent Men of the Trees – Annual Subscription	£25.00
929 – V Stancombe – Reimbursement of Expenses	£128.81
930 – MBC – Litterpicking October, November, December	£182.00
931 – Fields in Trust – Annual Subscription	£35.00
932 – South East Water – Cricket Field Water Charges	£185.13
933 – C Langridge – Hedgecutting Services	£55.20
934 – I R Jones – Installation of Wall Plaques	£388.00

10.5 Concurrent Functions – 2009/10 Budget and Parish Precept

Members **Noted** that the Concurrent Functions Grant for 2009/10 will be £5,360 and further discussed the budget paper produced by the Clerk. The proposed budget was **Agreed** and being mindful of the costs of the Footpath Project it was proposed by Cllr Thomas, seconded by Cllr Porter “to set a Precept of £13,500 for 2009/10 which will increase the approximate charge for a Band D property to £42.55”. This was **Agreed**.

10.6 Internal Auditor

While recognising Kim Owen has been an excellent auditor for the Council for a number of years, Members considered appointing a professionally qualified Internal Auditor for Parish Councils which would be a move towards Quality Council Status. Following discussion it was **Resolved** to appoint Kevin Funnell as Internal Auditor.

10.7 Grounds Maintenance for 2009

Members considered the quotation from Landscape Services together with an alternative quotation obtained from a local contractor and **Resolved** to accept the quotation from Landscape Services for grass cutting in 2009 at £877.35.

11 PLANNING

11.1 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The following applications were considered and recommendations made:

11.1.1 Wealden Hall House, East Street – MA/08/2339

An application for Listed Building Consent for removal of existing sand and cement infill panels, reframe gable end on north elevation, replace infill panel lime render, replace window on north elevation and mullion window and internal works to relocate existing wc/utility door, removing false oak ceiling joints. It was proposed by Cllr Thomas, seconded by Cllr Heaton “to ratify the previous decision made of No Objection”. This was **Agreed**.

11.1.2 Lughorse Cottage, Lughorse Lane – MA/08/2318

Erection of a two storey side extension. . It was proposed by Cllr Thomas, seconded by Cllr Heaton “to ratify the previous decision made of No Objection”. This was **Agreed**.

11.1.3 Goldings, Elphicks Farm, Water Lane – MA/08/2304

Erection of detached garage/store. Recommendation: No objection

11.1.4 The Beast House, West Street - MA/08/2479

Change of use and conversion of building to tourist accommodation. Recommendation: Refuse.

11.2 PLANNING DECISIONS

The following decisions were **Noted**:

11.2.1 Angling Club Car Park, Water Lane – MA/08/1357

A retrospective application for laying of hard surfacing material to existing access drive and car park. Council recommended: No objection. MBC: Granted Planning Permission.

11.2.2 Land Adj The Hollies, Hill Top – MA/08/1772

Erection of replacement agricultural store. Council recommended: No objection. MBC: Granted Planning Permission.

11.3 PLANNING APPEALS

The following Appeal decision was **Noted**:

11.3.1 Gudgeon Oast, West Street – MA/08/0026

The Appeal for the conversion and adaptation of oast house to form a B1 office unit was Allowed with Conditions by the Planning Inspectorate on 16th December 2008.

12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Council Meeting is on Thursday 12th March 2009 at 8.00 pm at Hunton Parish Hall.

There being no further business to be discussed the meeting closed at 10.00 pm.