

**MINUTES of the HUNTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING  
held on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2009 at Hunton Village Hall**

**PRESENT:** Mr Roger Sawtell as Chairman and all Members of the Parish Council, together with at least 20 parishioners and Mrs V Stancombe, Clerk to the Parish Council.

They were joined by County Councillor Paulina Stockell and Borough Councillors Brian Mortimer, Colin Parr and John Wilson. PCSO Joanna Watts was in attendance until Item 6.

**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 advised the theme for the meeting would be communication.

**2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Were received from Nicola Julier of Hunton and Linton Pre-School.

**3. POLICE REPORT**

PCSO Joanna Watts presented a report for the last twelve months and reported a reduction of 20.4% of all crime recorded. The Police are aware that speeding continues to be an issue and it is hoped that further operations will take place in the forthcoming year. PCSO Watts recommended Speedwatch to tackle and develop the public's awareness of speed.

**4. COUNTY COUNCILLOR – PAULINA STOCKELL**

Cllr Stockell had provided a report of the year's events that was distributed and gave a brief resume of the report that highlighted the council tax increase of 2.4% and a new initiative for the forthcoming year giving each County Member a £25,000 grant fund for small highways projects in their area.

**5. BOROUGH COUNCILLOR – JOHN WILSON**

Cllr Wilson reported the KIG application recently went to MBC Planning Committee and was turned down. The application will now be taken to the Secretary of State. There are plans for regeneration of the High Street in Maidstone Town Centre. Extra funding has been provided to improve the system of Planning Enforcement at MBC. Finally, Cllr Wilson reported TRAMP was particularly concerned about the volume of HGVs in our areas.

**BOROUGH COUNCILLOR – BRIAN MORTIMER**

Cllr Mortimer reported planning and enforcement were the main areas that he is involved with in Hunton and the main concerns he hears from parishioners are the state of the roads, speeding traffic and HGVs.

**BOROUGH COUNCILLOR – COLIN PARR**

Cllr Parr had nothing further to add but thanked the Council for their hospitality during the past year.

**6. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON 8<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2008**

The Minutes of the meeting had been circulated and it was proposed by Mr Leonard, seconded by Mr Thomas "that the Minutes are approved as an accurate record". This was **Agreed** and the Chairman signed off the official copy.

**7. REPORTS OF LOCAL ORGANISATIONS**

The Chairman said he proposed to invite those with reports to speak first and he would speak at the end of the meeting.

**(a) Mrs Sue Pinks for Hunton Flower Festival**

A Flower Festival is to be held 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> October to celebrate the restoration of the stained glass windows in St Mary's Church. Funds to be raised from the flower exhibits and local businesses will be approached.

- (b) **Mr Brian Geddes for Hunton Bowls Club**  
 The Club is supported by 50 playing members of aged 55+ and there are 135 fixtures during the April-September season. The Club's results were a little disappointing last year with A and B Teams in the Maidstone Triples League being demoted and while the A Team in the Weald League was demoted, the B Team finished mid-table. Members continue to enjoy the peaceful setting of the Club and the pavilion has been extended to seat 24 people for tea. More improvements are planned. Thanks given to the other Members of Committee and Parish Council for support.
- (c) **Mr Keith Eatwell for Hunton Football Club**  
 With 60 members in the Club there are plenty of players from which to select teams and subsequently the first team that was promoted to the Premier Division of Maidstone and District Football League finished 6<sup>th</sup> in the division. The Reserves finished 4<sup>th</sup> in Division Two and were runners up in the Tunbridge Wells Charity Cup. Next year will be the 112<sup>th</sup> season of Hunton Football team in the Maidstone League. Thanks to the Field Committee and Parish Council for excellent facilities.
- (d) **Mr David Heaton for Hunton Herald**  
 Going very well with an issue every month. Many people work to produce and distribute each issue and thanks to everyone who contributes time and effort. Parishioners to get in contact if they would like something to appear in the Herald. Thanks to the Book Club for their regular contribution.
- (e) **Mr Alan Bishop for Hunton Parish Hall Committee**  
 Bookings last year were significantly reduced but the last two weeks has been some improvements and the future is looking better. Plans to renovate the front of the Hall soon. There have been several events during the year including a tea dance and the Martin Harley Band concert. Thanks to the Committee and Parish Council for support of the Village Hall.
- (f) **Mrs Sue Wood for Hunton Primary School**  
 A very successful year with an upward trend in test results and Year Six children achieving above the national level in four subjects and 30% of children transferring to grammar school. A pumpkin competition was hosted for 70 Kent schools in the Autumn Term. The November Ofsted inspection returned a result of a good school with outstanding elements and the Diocese of Rochester Education Department's inspection returned an outstanding result. The new classroom will be opening on 8<sup>th</sup> June. The School is keen to see the footpath from Bensted Close to the Village Hall installed as this would reduce congestion outside the school and make West Street a safer place.
- (g) **Mr Allan Peckham for Hunton Village Club**  
 A large flat screen TV has been installed together with new carpet and toilets and improvements made to the electrical system. There has been some live entertainment during the year in addition to the race nights, bingo and quiz nights and a trip was arranged to Shepherd Neame brewery. While membership has fallen this year, with the voluntary work that is carried out by the committee and some members, finances remain in good health. The Club has a website at [www.huntonvillageclub.co.uk](http://www.huntonvillageclub.co.uk).
- (h) **Mr Keith Eatwell for King George V Playing Field**  
 The Management Committee meets bi-monthly when representatives from the three sports clubs, the village hall committee and Parish Council discuss issues relating to the playing fields. Various facilities were improved during the year including the play equipment and car park and new litter bins. The village fete last year was successful with the proceeds going towards the Parish Council's footpath project. Thanks to everyone involved for their support and in particular the Secretary of the Committee who voluntarily deals with the paperwork and liaises with the Parish Council.
- (i) **Mrs Ruth Porter for Peace Cottages Charity**  
 As part of a 3-5 year plan the electrical system has been completely overhauled and brought up to date. Further improvements planned are a new central heating system to replace the night storage heaters as well as the installation of some showers and lowering of some kitchen windows. There has been no change to the occupancy in the Almshouses in the last twelve months and thanks to the resident at No. 3 who maintains the gardens.

**(j) Mrs Alison Ellman-Brown for St Mary's Church**

The congregation of St Mary's is steady with attendance of 18 on Sundays. Festivals and school services are well attended. The Fabric Committee is very strong with the restoration of the stained glass currently the major project. Bell ringers visit regularly and a small group represent Hunton. A group of volunteers keep the Church and the grounds in good order. The Church looks forward to working with the Friends of St Mary's and wish them success.

Revd Peter Walker thanked Alison for all her hard work for the Church and members of the congregation for their commitment in attending on a regular basis.

**(k) Mr Ron Porter for Friends of St Mary's, Hunton**

Just awarded charitable status and with £2,300 to open the account, the aim of Friends of St Mary's is to preserve the building. Events are planned including the Flower Festival in October and seeking people to join and support the charity.

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

**8. PARISH COUNCIL REPORT**

The Parish Council had prepared a summary report, including draft receipts and payments figures for 2008/09, which was distributed at the meeting.

The Chairman reported on the progress to date on the footpath project and also expressed sadness that the Parish Plan had not as yet commenced and once again highlighted the importance of the Plan in establishing priorities for the Parish of Hunton.

The Chairman thanked the Parish Councillors for their hard work during the year, thanked the Borough Councillors and County Councillor for their assistance and support to Hunton during the past year and thanked the Clerk for keeping the Council well informed.

**9. Any Other Business**

A parishioner raised the issue of speeding and Cllr Wilson explained the review currently being undertaken by Highways into the A and B roads that is scheduled to be completed by 2012 will mean that unless there are exceptional circumstances no changes will be made to speed limits until after that time. Speedwatch was suggested and it was noted that six volunteers are required to be trained before this could be implemented.

A parishioner asked about the Parish Plan and the Chairman gave an explanation of what would be required to be done in order to complete such a project.

Another parishioner raised the issue of poor road surfacing around the village and the Chairman explained that all the potholes have been reported to Highways.

**There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.25 pm.**

## **Hunton Parish Council**

### **Report for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009**

This was the first year of the four-year term of the Council. At the Annual Meeting in May 2008 the Council re-elected Mr Roger Sawtell as Chairman. Hunton Parish Councillors have all undertaken to act in accordance with a Code of Conduct based on a national model and there have been no complaints to the Standards Board about their individual or collective activities.

Following the departure of David St John last year, Mr Ron Porter was co-opted on to the Council in September.

Extracts of Minutes of meetings are reported in the Hunton Herald and can be viewed in full on the website at [www.hunton.org.uk](http://www.hunton.org.uk). The Council also has a Publication Scheme required under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, whereby copies of particular Council documentation are available upon request.

The following are brief comments on some Council activities:-

The Council was mainly financed in two ways. Firstly, a precept of £9,500 was raised on local householders, collected with the Council Tax. This amounted to £29.78 for a Band "D" property. Then, the Borough Council provided a general allowance of £5,270 to assist with such matters as maintenance of Open Spaces, Streetlighting and Street Cleansing. The first draft of the figures for 2008/09 is given overleaf. Copies of audited Annual Returns are available under the Publication Scheme.

The majority of the Council's expenditure was for the maintenance of the Playing Field and the Council also assisted the Bowls Club and Parish Hall with a contribution towards the insurance costs.

During the year the Council was consulted on around twenty-five planning applications. The Council meets regularly to consider new planning applications and details of these meetings can be found on the noticeboards and website or by contacting the clerk. In considering its views on planning applications, the Council continues to put forward recommendations that it feels best represent the interests of local parishioners, but the Borough Council does not always agree with us!

The Council meets bi-monthly at the Parish Hall usually on the second Thursday of January, March, May, July, September and November and parishioners are welcome to attend. Parishioners are given an opportunity to raise matters at the start of every meeting. Councillors or the Clerk can be contacted direct when more urgent issues arise. Their contact details appear on the village noticeboards, in the Hunton Herald and on the website at [www.hunton.org.uk](http://www.hunton.org.uk).

**HUNTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**DRAFT Summary of Receipts and Payments**  
**2008/2009**

The Receipts and Payments Account summarises the incomings and outgoings for the Council during the course of the financial year and also shows the comparative figures for 2007/08

<b>2007/08</b>	<b>RECEIPTS</b>	<b>2008/09</b>
<b>£</b>		<b>£</b>
7,500	Parish Precept	9,500
5,174	MBC Concurrent Functions	5,270
---	Inland Revenue - Online Reporting Grant	100
---	Grants received	
---	MBC Devolved Budget Grants	1,245
---	KCC Grant	500
9	Wayleaves/Licences	9
47	Bank Interest	21
111	Other	3,064
---	VAT - Reimbursement Received from HMRC	621
12,841	<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	20,330
<b>2007/08</b>	<b>PAYMENTS</b>	<b>2008/09</b>
<b>£</b>		<b>£</b>
	General Administration	
	Running Expenses	
21	Advertising	---
---	Chairman's Allowance	---
250	Clerk's Office Allowance	600
64	Clerk's Travel Expenses	123
---	Data Protection Fee	35
250	Petty Cash	---
---	Postages	94
190	Stationery & Office Expenses	189
62	Subscriptions	477
79	Telephone	10
916	Running Expenses Total	1,528
3,436	Salaries	3,750
210	Audit Fees	210
2,291	Insurance	2,178
6,061	Concurrent Functions	
---	Recreation Ground/Open Spaces	6,239
---	Village Hall	1,838
---	Other	1,181
13	Street Lighting	26
---	Donations	---
---	Training	180
50	s137	---
---	Contingencies	38
12,977	<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	18,089

14<sup>th</sup> May 2009