

HUNTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 14TH JANUARY 2010
AT HUNTON PARISH HALL

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Borough Cllr J Wilson and one parishioner were in attendance throughout the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Walter.

2. COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS

Cllr Eatwell for Item 6.1 as Chairman of the King George's Field Management Committee.

3. MINUTES of the FULL COUNCIL MEETING held on 12th NOVEMBER 2009

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

4. POLICE BUSINESS

There were no crime figures available at the meeting but Cllr Wilson reported there had been an increase in vehicle and farm vehicle theft.

5. HIGHWAY AND FOOTWAY MATTERS

5.1 Footpath – Bensted Close to Village Hall

The Chairman updated Members on the current situation regarding obtaining permission for a footpath from the land owners and reported that while Mr Hubble has already given permission, written confirmation is awaited from the tenant farmer. This confirmation is required before Tregothnan Estates will consider the Council's request for a path across its land. Members discussed a suggestion that Medway Valley Countryside Partnership carries out some hedge laying on the boundary of the land adjacent to West Street and it was noted that the latest date this work could be carried out is mid-February and the cost would be £400 + VAT. It was proposed by Cllr Porter, seconded by Cllr Thomas **“that Medway Valley Countryside Partnership carry out the hedge laying at a cost of £470 and the landowners are advised accordingly”**. This was **Agreed** and the Chairman will contact the two landowners to seek their authority for the work to be carried out. ACTION: CLLR SAWTELL

5.2 MBC Road Safety Working Group Report

Members considered the Group's Report “Fit for the Road – Maidstone Road Safety Review” and **Agreed** to the three recommendations of the Regeneration and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee: to refer to incidents as crashes rather than accidents; to contact Highways with a road safety problem rather than a solution to prevent unnecessary delays; to notify the Fire and Rescue Education Team about areas where young people are gathering in cars.

6. RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT MATTERS

6.1 King George's Field Charity

Cllr Eatwell, as Chairman of the Management Committee, reported on the last meeting in December when the play equipment, footpath, Health and Safety issues and the replacement of the netting between the cricket pitch and Bowls Club were discussed. The Committee also discussed the financial situation and agreed to request a donation of £5,800 from the Parish Council for the financial year 2010-11.

6.2 Play Area

Cllr Eatwell reported that the Management Committee had reviewed the revised Play Area Inspection Report together with the monthly report provided by MBC and it was **Agreed** there was no action required at the present time with the items shown as low risk to be monitored.

6.3 **Boundary – Hunton Playing Fields**

Members **Noted** that following receipt of a formal request from Mr Savage for the transfer of a section of land adjacent to the boundary on the Playing Field, the Chairman and Cllr Heaton accompanied by Mr Bishop met with Mr Savage to discuss the boundary line. The original plan of 1937, the Land Registry plan and Mr Savage's plan were compared and discussed and the conclusion is that because the land that Mr Savage is claiming is in Trust to the village, the Council are unable to transfer the land. Therefore if Mr Savage wishes to proceed he should make the necessary legal claim for adverse possession.

6.4 **Annual Civic Service**

Members considered an invitation received from the Lord Lieutenant of Kent to the Annual Civic Service at All Saints Church, Maidstone on Thursday 22nd April commencing at 11.00 am and Cllrs Porter and Sawtell will attend.

ACTION: CLLRS PORTER/SAWTELL

6.5 **KALC Learning and Development Survey**

Members considered and completed the KALC Survey on Learning and Development.

7. **MATTERS OF REPORT**

Reports were received from:

7.1 **County and Borough Councillors**

County Cllr Stockell and Borough Cllrs Mortimer and Parr were unable to be present.

Borough Cllr J Wilson reported on the Freight Transport Strategy that was mentioned briefly in KCC's report "Growth without Gridlock" and advised that at a recent meeting with Geoff Mee, Director of KCC's Transportation Department, Mr Mee had promised action on this long-standing problem.

7.2 **Chairman**

The Chairman reported meeting with Mr Bourner of Highways, together with Cllr Mortimer and a resident, to discuss the state of the roads. The meeting commenced at the bottom of Hunton Hill and continued into West Street, Bishops Lane and East Street where a number of potholes and areas of road surfacing that are breaking up were identified. Mr Bourner promised action by Highways to resolve these problems in the new financial year that commences in April.

7.3 **Individual Councillors**

Cllr Thomas reported on the danger for walkers on the Greensand Way footpath who, in order to follow the path, are required to descend steps onto Hunton Hill.

Cllr Heaton reported on two signs missing at the bottom of Barn Hill. It was also reported that the road on East Street by the entrance to Amsbury Farm is breaking up and a salt bin is required on Barn Hill.

7.4 **Clerk**

7.4.1 **Vacation**

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

8. **FINANCE**

8.1 **Budget Monitoring Report**

The Budget Monitoring Report to 31st December 2009 was **Noted**.

8.2 **Income received since the last meeting**

Cllr Eatwell perused the records and was satisfied that the balances in hand agreed with the Clerk's records. Actual payments received since the last meeting were:-

NW Capital Deposit Account Interest	£0.30
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8.3 **Confirmation of payments already made**

It was proposed by Cllr Thomas, seconded by Cllr Heaton "that the following payments made since the last Meeting are approved". This was **Agreed**.

S/O & 891- Mrs V Stancombe – Net salary & Office Allowance for November	£390.31
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892 – EDF – Streetlighting	£6.89
894 – KTCP – Power of Well Being Training x 4	£80.00
895 – KALC – Chairmanship Day x 1	£70.50
896 – HMRC – PAYE	£232.52
897 – A Blackledge-Smith – Noticeboard Repair	£80.22

8.4 Cheques for signature

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

898 – V Stancombe – Reimbursement of Expenses	£29.16
899 – Fields in Trust – Annual Membership Fee (KGF)	£35.00
900 – MBC – Litterpicking (KGF)	£120.90
901 – KCC Landscape Services – Second half Grounds Maintenance (KGF)	£504.48

8.5 2010/11 Budget and Parish Precept

Members **Noted** that the Concurrent Functions Grant for 2010/11 will be £5,381 and discussed the budget paper produced by the Clerk. It was proposed by Cllr Thomas, seconded by Cllr Porter “**that the Budget is accepted and the Precept is set at £14,000 for the forthcoming year, an increase of £0.79 per year for a Band D property**”. This was **Agreed**. It was further proposed by Cllr Porter, seconded by Cllr Thomas “**that £6,000 is transferred from General Funds to the Footpath Reserve**”. This was **Agreed**.

8.6 Grounds Maintenance

Members considered the quotations received for the maintenance of the Field for 2010/11 and it was proposed by Cllr Porter, seconded by Cllr Leonard “**to accept the quotation from Landscape Services at £894.89 for 21 cuts**”. This was **Agreed**.

9. PLANNING APPLICATION

Members considered the following application and made a recommendation:

9.1 Grafton, East Street – MA/09/2327

New roof with additional first floor accommodation and two storey rear extension. Recommendation: No objection.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next full Council Meeting is on Thursday 11th March 2010 at 8.00 pm at Hunton Parish Hall.

There being no further matters to be discussed the meeting closed at 9.20 pm.