

**MINUTES of the HUNTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING  
held on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2010 at Hunton Village Hall**

**PRESENT:** Mr Roger Sawtell as Chairman and five Members of the Parish Council, together with at least 11 parishioners and Mrs V Stancombe, Clerk to the Parish Council.

They were joined by Borough Councillor John Wilson, Mrs Liz Oliver, KM Correspondent. PC Gary Shaw and PCSO Joanna Watts were in attendance until Item 6.

**1. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME**

The Chairman welcomed all those present and explained the importance of the meeting for village networking purposes.

**2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Were received from Parish Councillor L Leonard, County Cllr Stockell, Borough Cllrs Mortimer and Parr, Rev'd Peter Walker and Ms Alison Ellman-Brown.

**3. POLICE REPORT**

PC Gary Shaw, assisted by PCSO Joanna Watts, gave an overview of his career since joining the Police in 1980 including displaying the original uniform with collar number and a range of truncheons and batons that were used and also showed the current uniform and accessories for a PC. PC Shaw circulated a plethora of newspaper articles that had been printed and photographs that had been taken of him throughout his career and gave an insight into changes that have occurred in the Police over the years. Thanks were given to PC Shaw who is due to retire at the end of 2010.

**4. COUNTY COUNCILLOR – PAULINA STOCKELL**

Cllr Stockell was unable to be present but had prepared a report of the year's events that was distributed.

**5. BOROUGH COUNCILLOR – JOHN WILSON**

Cllr Wilson reported that the last year had been challenging for MBC as will be the forthcoming year but the Council continues to strive to make Maidstone a better place. Cllr Wilson further reported that Cllr Mortimer had been re-elected in the recent local elections and will be Deputy Mayor for the coming year. Cllr Wilson gave an update on the current situation regarding the restriction of HGVs within the Borough and will continue to press KCC to get a freight strategy adopted.

**6. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON 14<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2009**

The Minutes of the meeting had been circulated and it was proposed by Mr Heaton, 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**

**(a) Mrs Sue Wood and two pupils for Hunton Primary School**

A very successful year with 80% of Year Six children achieving above the national average in English and Maths and all children exceeded their expected targets. 30% of children went to grammar school. The partnership between School and parish continues with involvement in the Parish Plan and members of the local community providing hockey tuition, reading partners and French conversation. The pupils reported on the new extension that was completed in June that has meant more children can be taken into Reception Class and the latest School Council project to develop the grounds including refurbishment of the pond and more bird, bat and insect boxes being erected to attract wildlife.

**(b) Ms Tansy Watts for Hunton & Linton Pre-School**

The Pre-School, that is doing very well with 30 children attending daily, is run by a committee of parents that ensures all adults work together in the interests of the children. The garden and outside areas are a very attractive feature and a substantial amount of time is spent utilising the facility. Events are held throughout the year including Sports Day, Easter Egg Hunt and Christmas Bazaar.

- (c) **Mr Mike Nichols for Hunton Bowls Club**  
 A progressive year for the Club with completion of an extension to the pavilion and renovations to the old equipment shed to make a new ladies changing room, all financed by the Club's own fund raising activities plus some grant assistance from Borough Cllrs and KCC. The Club had quite a good playing year in 2009 winning around 65% of the friendly matches and in the Weald league the A team got promotion. The ladies won around 75% of their friendly matches and in the Maidstone and District League finished 5<sup>th</sup>. The Chairman, Mr Geddes, has left the Club due to relocation and the new Chairman is Mrs Carpenter. Plans for 75<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration in 2011 and more members would be welcomed with annual fees at £40.
- (d) **Mr Ron Porter for Friends of St Mary's**  
 The Charity was set up over a year ago to raise funds in order to preserve the fabric of the Church. The body of Trustees has two new younger members who bring renewed enthusiasm to the cause. During the past year there has been a quiz night, walks and also a snowdrop event. There are a variety of fund raising events coming up including a Barn Dance in June and the Sutton Valence Choir coming to the Church just before Christmas. The Church has become a very popular visitors destination. More members would be welcome at just £10 to join the registered charity.
- (e) **Mrs Liz Oliver for St Mary's Church**  
 St Mary's has been devastated by the sudden death of organist Philip Moore who has played in the Church for the last 30 years and every effort is being made to find a replacement. Regular Sunday attendance is small but the Church is full on major events such as Festivals. Due to the efforts of a group of volunteers, led by David Way, who keep the Church and grounds in good order the Church has recently gained a Silver Award from the Kent Wildlife Trust. Thanks to Alison Ellman-Brown who works very hard as the sole Churchwarden.
- (f) **Mr Keith Eatwell for King George V Playing Field**  
 The Management Committee meets regularly to discuss and resolve issues relating to the field and the facilities. Last year various improvements were made including a new roof for the football changing rooms, a safety net to stop cricket balls entering the bowls green and improved hedging to the boundary of the bowls club. It is planned to arrange another Village Fete in 2011. The Committee is assisting the Parish Plan Committee with the formation of the Plan. The AGM is to be held on 1<sup>st</sup> July and all are welcome. Thanks to everyone involved for their support and in particular the Secretary of the Committee for all her effort in arranging meetings and dealing with the paperwork.
- (g) **Mr Simon Taylor for Hunton Cricket Club**  
 A year of mixed fortunes, with disappointing results but with more 50's and 100's last season that can be remembered. One of the Club's longest serving members who took is 1000<sup>th</sup> wicket for the Club in 2008 is unlikely to be playing much longer due to rheumatoid arthritis. The Club remains financially solvent and has just replaced the wicket roller. This year's committee is promising with a new secretary who deals with all the administrative matters. Membership is starting to fall and the priority is to attract new players.
- (h) **Mr Keith Eatwell for Hunton Football Club**  
 A disappointing year for obtaining silverware with the first team finishing second from bottom in the Premiership and the reserves finished mid-table in Division Two. A difficult season for arranging matches due to the bad weather that has extended the season into May. The season has ended with 63 players signed for the Club. There are 11 regular committee members who give their time voluntarily. Next year will be the 113<sup>th</sup> season of Hunton Football team in the Maidstone League. Thanks to the Field Committee and Parish Council for maintaining the facilities.
- (i) **Mr Alan Bishop for Hunton Parish Hall Committee**  
 The Hall, while unassuming, is an important asset to the Village and hosts many events during the year including dances, wedding receptions, the daily Pre-School, Parish Council meetings and most recently being the Polling Station for the Village. Last year over £5,000 has been spent on projects such as electrical work and a new kitchen facility. The Pre-School has obtained a grant for flooring and one of the hirers has offered to paint the Hall. Thanks to the small and hardworking Committee that help with the running of the facility. The Centenary is in 2026.

**(j) Mr David Heaton for Hunton Herald**

The Herald continues to thrive with a full issue every month. Most clubs, societies and organisations use it to advertise events and report on their progress, although more articles are always welcomed. This year the Herald will become the principal method of reporting on the progress of the Parish Plan. Thanks to everyone who contributes their time and effort and in particular to Dudley Farman (printing), Dawn Dixon (design and typesetting), James Forster (proof reading, advertising, treasurer) and Christine McSweeney (deliveries). Parishioners to get in contact if they would like something to appear in the Herald.

**(k) Mrs Sue Heaton for Hunton Parish Plan**

The Committee, comprising of 9 members, was set up in December 2009 by a group of Hunton residents to establish a Parish Plan. The Plan aims to will capture the opinions of the residents and this is usually done via a questionnaire in order that the views are representative of the village. The first public event will be 20<sup>th</sup> May to obtain views of residents of Hunton followed by an event on 18<sup>th</sup> September to launch the questionnaire. Regular updates will be provided via the Hunton Herald and local events will be used to publicize the Plan. There is a Parish Plan section on the website with some useful information. The Plan is scheduled for completion in June 2011.

**(l) Mr Ron Porter for Peace Cottages Charity**

There are five almshouses that have been fully occupied for some years. The Trustees have had the required 5-year inspection on the properties that has highlighted some work needed to gutters and downpipes. An extensive programme of kitchen refurbishment has commenced with one completed and the remainder being completed when the weather becomes warmer. It is hoped the problems with parking and running water will be eased when the Footpath is established.

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 the receipts and payments figures for 2009/10, which was distributed at the meeting.

The Chairman gave an update on the Footpath Project and was pleased to report that contact with the landowners had proved positive with permission obtained for installing a Permissive footpath on their land. KCC has now taken on the project and plans to finalise the agreements and carry out the work to install the path including the bridges required. Once the path is installed the Parish Council will be required to maintain the path and hedges.

The Chairman thanked the Parish Councillors for their hard work during the year and thanked the Clerk for keeping the Council well informed.

**9. Other Business**

There were no other issues raised.

**There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.15 pm.**