

## HUNTON PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2010 AT HUNTON PARISH HALL

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Borough Cllrs B Mortimer and C Parr and two parishioners were in attendance throughout the meeting. Nine parishioners were in attendance until the end of the open session only.

Prior to the start of the meeting the attending parishioners voiced their objection to plans to change the use of land on Plot 5, Lughorse Lane to provide two plots for gypsy travellers (item 9.1.1 on the agenda) and asked for guidance from the Council. Cllr Mortimer agreed to meet with the parishioners separately to discuss any action which could be taken.

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received and accepted from Borough Cllr J Wilson.

**2. COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS**

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

**3. MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 9<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2010**

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**

PCSO Joanna Watts was unable to attend the meeting, but had provided a crime report in advance:

14/09/10 – Theft of two disc cutters from the building site at Amsbury Farm while workers were at lunch.

13/10/10 – Criminal damage to a tree in the orchard at Amsbury Farm in an attempt to steal a mini digger.

25/10/10 – Criminal damage at North Park Farm, where five geese were killed and one injured. Six males were arrested and are on police bail. The RSPCA is to pursue charges on the back of the police investigation.

**5. HIGHWAY AND FOOTWAY MATTERS**

**5.1 Footpath – Bensted Close to Village Hall**

The Chairman reported that David Smith of KCC has draft agreements in place with David Hubble and Tregothnan Estates. Following ratification of the agreements, progress can commence on the footpath.

**5.2 Gateways**

The Clerk reported that Michael Heath of KCC had received an estimate for the Gateways, but no drawings as yet. When these have been provided the cost can be signed off by the Cabinet Member. Members **Noted** that Cllr Stockell had previously stated that the funds were available and it was **Agreed** that Cllr Stockell be contacted again to confirm that the funds are available for the gates. ACTION: CLERK

**5.3 TRAMP**

Members **Noted** that TRAMP has asked the Council to identify which footpaths, bridlepaths and potential quiet lanes could be coordinated into a linked network. Members **Noted** that the map of the parish had not yet been received from TRAMP to allow this to be considered and it was **Agreed** that the relevant person at TRAMP be contacted. ACTION: CLLR THOMAS

**5.4 Salt Bins**

Members **Noted** that MBC Environmental Services has asked whether the Council would like the salt bins in the parish filled with salt at a cost of £40 per bin. Members identified the location of the salt bins in the parish as being a mobile bin on Barn Hill, a static bin on Redwall Lane/George Street and a static bin at the bottom of Bishops Lane. Members **Noted** that KHS had agreed to fill the bin on Redwall Lane/George Street. The Clerk was asked to contact KHS to establish whether they will fill all the salt bins free of charge. ACTION: CLERK

## 5.5 **West Street Traffic Problems**

Members **Noted** that a parishioner has contacted the Council with regard to the speed and volume of traffic in West Street, asking for support in terms of contacting KCC Highways and supporting a petition. **Members** agreed that the speed of traffic in West Street is a problem. A speed check was undertaken on West Street several weeks ago, but the results are as yet unknown. Cllr Porter suggested that a link with neighbouring Yalding and Linton parish councils would provide additional support. Cllr Mortimer stated that KCC are carrying out a review of all A and B roads in the county up to 2014. **Members Agreed** that it would be beneficial to obtain an expert opinion to establish what needs to be done and Cllrs Mortimer and Parr offered to contact KHS to request a study of the issues. The Clerk was asked to write a letter to the parishioner regarding the possible solutions to the problem. ACTION: CLERK

## 6. **RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT MATTERS**

### 6.1 **King George's Field Charity**

Cllr Eatwell reported on the last meeting of the Committee on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2010. The emptying of the bins on the field continues to be a problem and a member of the Cricket Club has had to empty the bins on occasion, despite assurances from MBC that the bins are being emptied. The Clerk was asked to contact MBC again to rectify the situation. Cllr Eatwell also reported on the poor state of the village hall car park. **Members Agreed** that professional advice should be obtained to find solutions to the problem. Cllr Mortimer agreed to contact Darren Rouse at MBC and keep Cllr Eatwell informed. Cllr Parr agreed to speak to David Terry at MBC with regard to funding. The organisation of the Hunton Spring Fete 2011 will be a joint effort between the King George's Field Management Committee, the Hunton Parish Plan Steering Committee and the Friends of St Mary's. ACTION: CLERK

### 6.2 **Additional Equipment for the Recreation Ground**

Cllr Mortimer had received a request from a young parishioner asking for more play equipment and a basketball hoop at the recreation ground. Cllr Eatwell stated that when the King George's Field Management Committee was formed, the intention was to improve the play equipment, but this had been postponed until the Bensted Close to Village Hall footpath had been put in place. Now this is in progress, funds from the village fete could be used to provide new play equipment. Cllr Mortimer agreed to contact the parishioner with this information.

## 7. **MATTERS OF REPORT**

### 7.1 **County and Borough Councillors**

County Cllr Stockell and Borough Cllr Wilson were unable to attend. Borough Cllrs Mortimer and Parr reported attendance at the recent MBC meeting on Concurrent Functions. The position is that no decision will be made on the precise reduction to Concurrent Functions until the relevant Cabinet Member, Leader of the Council, senior officers and representatives of KALC Maidstone meet later this month, following which the decision will be communicated to parish councils for consultation. Cllr Mortimer reported that devolved budgets are to be discontinued and offered £200 to Hunton Parish Council, as did Cllr Parr. Cllr Parr reported on the status of 'the gorge' at the bottom of Hunton Hill. A meeting should have taken place between drainage, South Eastern Water and KHS, but has not happened. Cllr Parr has spoken to a senior person in KHS who is to follow this up and hopes to receive an update shortly. If there is no progress, Cllr Parr suggested that the Council ask senior KHS personnel to visit the site. Cllr Parr reported attendance at the Neighbourhood Forum meeting which had been disappointing, with very little focus on the agenda.

### 7.2 **Chairman**

The Chairman reported attendance at the Neighbourhood Forum and agreed with Cllr Parr that it had been disappointing. The Chairman had also attended the Parish Conference on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2010.

### 7.3 **Individual Councillors**

Cllr Walter reported attendance at an extraordinary KALC meeting where it was agreed to petition MBC to rescind the abolition of Concurrent Functions. Parish councils have been asked for at least 60 signatures each. Cllr Heaton reported attendance at a KHS seminar where the new director had outlined his views and stated that the budget needs to be reduced by 25% over the next four years. There will be a new contractor from the end of November as Ringway has not been shortlisted to tender. Other items discussed at the meeting included 20mph limits near schools and the repair of potholes, which will be carried out on roads in best repair first. Concern was expressed about West Street which is in a poor state of repair. Cllr Heaton also reported attendance at the Hunton

Parish Plan Steering Committee meeting. Questionnaires are being collated, with 160-170 of 300 sent out being returned. On 12<sup>th</sup> February 2011 the results from the analysis of the questionnaires will be presented at the village hall. The Parish Plan is to be launched on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2011, to coordinate with the village fete. Cllr Heaton confirmed that the Committee would like involvement in organising the fete.

Cllr Thomas asked that a letter of congratulations be written to the organisers of the Hunton Calling! event.

ACTION: CLLR SAWTELL/CLERK

#### 7.4 Clerk

##### 7.4.1 CPRE Protect Kent AGM

Cllr Thomas **Agreed** to attend the CPRE Protect Kent AGM on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2010.

##### 7.4.2 Coxheath & Hunton Ward Business Forum Launch

Members were informed that everyone in the Hunton parish would be invited to the launch of the Coxheath & Hunton Ward Business Forum.

##### 7.4.3 MBC Food Waste Collections

Members were informed that MBC is introducing separate food waste collections to all households from 31<sup>st</sup> January 2011, from which time the grey wheelie bins will only be collected fortnightly.

##### 7.4.4 Planning Application Validation Process

The Clerk advised that a letter had been received from the KCC Head of Planning Applications Group regarding proposed changes to the planning application validation process. Members can visit the website and make any comments by 13<sup>th</sup> December 2010.

##### 7.4.5 Letter from Clive Baxter

The Clerk advised that a letter had been received from Clive Baxter of J L Baxter & Son to enquire whether Members have received any complaints about the volume of HGVs, following the erection of signage on East Street. Cllr Heaton **Noted** that there is still a high volume of HGVs. Complaints have been received by Members and it was requested that the Clerk writes back to Mr Baxter.

ACTION: CLERK

## 8. FINANCE

### 8.1 Budget Monitoring Report

The Clerk advised that the Budget Monitoring Report had not been produced in full at this time and a further understanding of elements of the report was being sought. Members **Agreed** that the Clerk further review the Budget Monitoring Report and provide the report to Members by email upon completion.

ACTION: CLERK

### 8.2 Income received since the last meeting

Actual payments received since the last meeting were:

NatWest Capital Deposit Account Interest	£0.30
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### 8.3 Confirmation of payments already made

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

S/O - Mrs V Stancombe – Net Salary & Office Allowance for September	£390.31
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### 8.4 Cheques for signature

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

982 – E.ON - Streetlighting	£6.94
984 – S Goodwin – Salary & Office Allowance for October	£362.19
985 – S Goodwin – Salary & Office Allowance for November	£362.19

Members **Agreed** that the following cheques be withheld until MBC has been contacted about the unsatisfactory emptying of bins on the playing field.

981 – MBC – Litterpicking (KGF)	£61.10
983 – MBC – Litterpicking (KGF)	£61.10

**8.5 BTCV – Tree & Pond Warden Scheme**

The Council considered the request to make a contribution to the running costs of both Schemes. It was **Agreed** to further defer this item to the next meeting to allow the Chairman to make enquiries as to whether the Tree & Pond Warden is to continue in the role. ACTION: CLLR SAWTELL

**8.6 Yalding Parish Playscheme**

The Council received a request to make a small grant for the 2011 scheme. Members **Agreed** not to make a contribution.

**8.7 Concurrent Functions**

Members considered a request from the Area Committee of KALC to obtain at least 60 signatures on a petition to be sent to MBC requesting that the abolition of the Concurrent Functions Grant be rescinded, to be returned by 26<sup>th</sup> November 2010. Members **Agreed** to obtain signatures for the petition. ACTION: COUNCILLORS

**8.8 Letters to NatWest Bank**

The Clerk requested that two letters to NatWest Bank be signed – one to stop the standing order for V Stancombe’s salary and office allowance and one to change the address for correspondence to that of S Goodwin. The letters were signed by two Members at the meeting.

**9. PLANNING**

**9.1 Planning Applications**

The following application was considered and recommendation made:

**9.1.1 Plot 5 Land, Lughorse Lane, Hunton – MA/10/1542**

Change of use of land to provide two plots for gypsy travellers. Council recommendation: Refuse.

**9.2 Planning Decisions**

**9.2.1 Cock House, Lughorse Lane, Yalding – MA/10/0961**

Extension of time limit for permission MA/07/1255. Council recommendation: Approve. MBC: Granted Planning Permission.

**9.2.2 The Beast House, West Street, Hunton – MA/10/0376**

Change of use and conversion of former agricultural building to live-work. Council recommendation: Approve. MBC: Refused Planning Permission.

**9.2.3 Wealden Hall House, East Street, Hunton – MA/10/1564**

Listed Building Consent for the installation of four replacement internal doors. Council recommendation: Approve. MBC: Granted Listed Building Consent.

**9.3 Minutes of the Planning Meetings held on 19<sup>th</sup> August 2010 and 14<sup>th</sup> October 2010**

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

**10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next full Council Meeting is on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2011 at 8.00pm at Hunton Parish Hall.

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