

HUNTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 13TH JANUARY 2011 AT HUNTON PARISH HALL

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

IN ATTENDANCE: County Cllr P Stockell was in attendance throughout the meeting. Mr A Bishop and Mrs M Carpenter were in attendance until Item 9. Mrs S Wood and Mrs J White were in attendance until Item 6.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Leonard and Walter and Borough Cllrs Mortimer, Parr and Wilson.

2. COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS

Cllr Eatwell for Item 6.1 being Chairman of the King George's Field Management Committee and also involvement in the Football Club and Village Hall. Cllrs Heaton and Sawtell also declared interest in the Village Hall.

3. MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 11TH NOVEMBER 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 Richard Chainey and PC Tom Mepstead were unable to attend the meeting. PCSO Chainey provided a crime report in advance:

04/12/10 – Burglary at Keepers Cottage, Upper Barn Hill.

21/12/10 – Theft from driveway at Terrace House, Redwall Lane.

28/12/10 – Burglary at Smithfield House, West Street.

03/01/11 – Theft from a motor vehicle on the track outside the square, West Street.

Members **Noted** that there had not been a police presence at the Parish Council meetings for some time and asked the Clerk to request that PC Tom Mepstead and PCSO Richard Chainey attend the next meeting if possible.

ACTION: CLERK

5. HIGHWAY AND FOOTWAY MATTERS

5.1 Footpath – Bensted Close to Village Hall

The Chairman reported that David Hubble had provided David Smith of KCC with minor amendments to the agreement, following a review by his solicitor. Mr Hubble is now awaiting the final agreement from David Smith, following which it can be signed and the works commence. Cllr Sawtell agreed to contact David Smith to ensure the contract is put in place as soon as possible. Members also discussed the hedge work required, which is urgent due to bird nesting time being 4-6 weeks away. Mr A Bishop agreed to contact the Medway Valley Partnership to obtain a proposal on the necessary work, the timeline and cost, following which a decision would be made by Members on the best course of action.

ACTION: CLLR SAWTELL

5.2 Gateways

The Clerk reported that County Cllr Stockell, who is funding the gateways, has signed off the project. The drawings have been produced and, following agreement of the detail by Members, the next step is to obtain final sign off by KCC Cabinet Member Nick Chard before construction can begin. Members perused the drawings of the gateways provided by Cllr Stockell. Cllr Heaton noted that the gateway on the Yalding side of the village is to be positioned where the current 30mph limit sign is situated and it would be preferable to move the gateway further down, to the other side of the Beast House, thereby providing a 30mph limit at the entrance to the village, taking into account all dwellings. Members **Agreed** that this amendment should be made, providing it does not hold up the project. Cllr Stockell advised that it should not hinder the process and agreed to arrange for someone from KHS to visit the site.

5.3 TRAMP

Cllr Thomas reported that there had been no further TRAMP meetings since the last Parish Council meeting, but that consideration needs to be given to which footpaths, bridle paths and potential quiet lanes need to be included in the linked network which TRAMP is coordinating. Cllr Thomas agreed to discuss the issues at the next TRAMP meeting.

ACTION: CLLR THOMAS

5.4 Salt Bins

The Clerk reported that KHS fills the salt bins in Hunton and also bears this cost. The offer by MBC to fill salt bins at a cost of £40 each relates to salt bins that are situated off the highway, for example at village hall car parks, and therefore not filled by KHS. Cllr Sawtell asked whether a request could be placed for a further salt bin half way down Barn Hill and County Cllr Stockell agreed to apply for and fund the additional bin, which would be filled three times a year.

5.5 West Street Traffic Problems

Borough Cllrs Mortimer and Parr could not attend the meeting, so it was not possible to establish what progress had been made in terms of contacting KHS to request that they carry out a study of the West Street traffic problems. Members **Agreed** that the Clerk should contact Cllrs Mortimer and Parr for an update on the situation. County Cllr Stockell suggested contacting Richard Dixon of KHS and stated that the 20mph limit is still being pushed for outside the school. Members **Agreed** that a physical measure, such as road narrowing, is required on the road to slow cars down. Members **Noted** that there are no white lines on either side of the road at all on West Street. The Clerk was asked to write a letter to Richard Dixon of KHS for Cllr Sawtell, regarding the lack of white lines on West Street, the installation of a 20mph limit outside the school and road narrowing.

ACTION: CLERK/CLLR SAWTELL

5.6 Traffic Parking outside the School

Members **Noted** that a resident had experienced 'road rage', involving parents picking up their children from the school. The response from PCSO Richard Chainey was that MBC would need to be contacted to see if parking wardens could be sent to Hunton to show a presence and that PCSO powers only extend as far as giving parking notices to drivers parking inconsiderately. Mrs S Wood, the Head teacher of Hunton CE Primary School, stated that she had asked parents about the incident at the time and had spoken to the resident. Mrs Wood said that she was open to any ideas on how to resolve the parking issues. Members agreed that the situation would be improved with the installation of the footpath.

6. RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT MATTERS

6.1 King George's Field Charity

Cllr Eatwell reported on the last meeting of the Committee on 8th December 2010:

MBC has carried out a health and safety inspection of the swings and all points raised were of a low risk level. The car park surface is in a poor state of repair. Borough Cllrs Mortimer and Parr have agreed to obtain professional advice.

A young member of the village has made an application for better play equipment. As the footpath will be funded by KHS, the King George's Field Committee can fund this and it will be the next major project.

There is a meeting in two weeks time with the Hunton Parish Plan Steering Committee to discuss the village fete. The Clerk reported that several attempts have been made to contact MBC regarding the overflowing litter bins on the playing field. MBC is now investigating the situation and the Clerk will email all Members with an update.

ACTION: CLERK

7. MATTERS OF REPORT

7.1 County and Borough Councillors

Borough Cllrs Mortimer, Parr and Wilson were unable to attend the meeting.

County Cllr Stockell reported that there are significant cutbacks at KCC, with £95million savings required in 2011/12 and £65million in 2012/13. It has been a busy winter for Kent Highways, with extra expense incurred, which has been managed well.

Members asked Cllr Stockell whose responsibility it is to manage the verge at the edge of the field up to the chicane in Hunton, as the road is being pushed into the ditch, causing the hedge to be pushed down. Cllr Stockell replied that it should be the responsibility of KHS and suggested a number of individuals who could be contacted for assistance. The Chairman agreed to write to John Burr.

Cllr Thomas stated that, at the foot of Barn Hill, where the verge has been re-laid, tree trunks have been placed to stop people going on the verge, but they are invisible in the snow and are too close to the edge and need moving back half a metre. The Clerk was asked to write to Richard Dixon at KHS to ask him to take a look.

ACTION: CLLR SAWTELL/CLERK

7.2 Chairman

The Chairman agreed to write a letter to Borough Cllr John Wilson with regard to Concurrent Functions, similar to that sent by Boxley Parish Council. ACTION: CLLR SAWTELL

7.3 Individual Councillors

Cllr Heaton reported on the progress of the Hunton Parish Plan. The questionnaires are currently being reviewed and the results should be available for the Open Day on 12th February 2011. The Committee may request additional funding from the Parish Council for the cost of printing the Parish Plan. The Clerk was asked to enter this as an item on the March agenda. ACTION: CLERK

7.4 Clerk

7.4.1 Meeting Dates 2011

Members **Agreed** to the following meeting dates for 2011:

Thursday 10th March

Thursday 12th May (Annual Meeting and Annual Parish Meeting)

Thursday 14th July

Thursday 8th September

Thursday 10th November

7.4.2 Opening of Hunton Village Fete

The Clerk reported that the Mayor Elect, Cllr Brian Mortimer, was unlikely to be available to open the village fete on 25th June 2011 due to another engagement. Members **Agreed** to discuss who to invite to open the fete at the next fete meeting on 26th January.

7.4.3 Neighbourhood Forum

Members were advised that the next two Rural West & South Neighbourhood Forum meetings are on 26th January at Coxheath and 24th March at Staplehurst. The Clerk agreed to provide the posters advertising the Neighbourhood Forums to Dudley Farman, to be placed on the Hunton website.

The Chairman mentioned that he had been to the last Neighbourhood Forum meeting, but had not found it useful. Following that meeting, the Chairman had contacted Janet Barnes at MBC to request a 20mph limit outside the school in Hunton, but has not heard anything further as yet. The Clerk was asked to follow this up.

ACTION: CLERK

7.4.4 Mayor of Maidstone's Murder Mystery 'Valentine's Day Massacre'

The Clerk reported that an invitation had been received to the Mayor's Mystery Evening 'Valentine's Day Massacre' at the Hazlitt Theatre on 11th February.

8. FINANCE

8.1 Budget Monitoring Report

The Clerk advised that a Budget Monitoring Report was not available for 31st December 2010, as the bank statements have not been received for the Current Account for November and December. The Budget Monitoring Report for 31st October 2010 was provided to Members. Members **Agreed** that the Clerk should email the Budget Monitoring Report as at 31st December to Members once the bank statements have been received and the report completed. ACTION: CLERK

8.2 Income received since the last meeting

Actual payments received since the last meeting were:

MBC – 2 nd Half Concurrent Functions Grant	£2,690.50
NatWest - Capital Deposit Account Interest	£0.30

8.3 Confirmation of payments already made

Members **Agreed** "that the following payments made since the last Meeting are approved":

S/O Mrs V Stancombe – Net Salary & Office Allowance for October	£390.31
986 S Goodwin – Salary & Office Allowance for December	£362.19
987 HMRC – PAYE	£85.08

8.4 Cheques for signature

Members **Agreed** that “**that the Council approve the following payments**” and the cheques were signed:

989	S Goodwin – Salary & Office Allowance for January	£362.19
990	S Goodwin – Salary & Office Allowance for February	£362.19
992	Robert Cox – Removal of dangerous tree boughs (KGF)	£50.00
993	Colin Langridge – Hedge Cutting (KGF)	£56.40

Members **Agreed** that the following cheques be withheld until MBC has provided a response concerning the unsatisfactory emptying of bins on the playing field:

981	MBC – Litterpicking (KGF)	£61.10
983	MBC – Litterpicking (KGF)	£61.10
988	MBC – Litterpicking (KGF)	£61.10
991	MBC – Litterpicking (KGF)	£62.40

8.5 BTCV – Tree & Pond Warden Scheme

Members **Agreed** to contribute £100 to each scheme (£200 total), with a proviso that the Tree & Pond Warden reports on the work of the schemes in the Hunton Herald on at least an annual basis and, if possible, produces a plan of trees in the village.

ACTION: CLERK

8.6 Jubilee People’s Millions

Members considered whether an application could be made for funding from the Jubilee People’s Millions to improve the car park, church entrance and the play equipment. As the application must be made by a community group, rather than the Parish Council, Cllr Heaton agreed to ask the Parish Plan Committee.

ACTION: CLLR HEATON

8.7 Concurrent Functions

The Chairman drew attention to a useful article in the Downs Mail on Concurrent Functions.

8.8 2011/12 Concurrent Functions, Budget and Parish Precept

Members **Noted** that the Concurrent Functions Grant for 2011/12 will be £3,766 and discussed the budget paper produced by the Clerk. Members **Agreed** “**that the Budget is accepted and the Precept is set at £15,000 for the forthcoming year, an increase of £3.40 per year for a Band D property**”. The Clerk will provide the Precept figure to MBC.

ACTION: CLERK

9. PLANNING

9.1 Planning Decisions

To note the following decisions received from MBC:

9.1.1 Court Lodge, East Street, Hunton – MA/10/1928

Erection of single storey extension (orangery) and introduction of 4 no. dormers to rear (south) elevation, and first floor side extension to west elevation. Council recommendation: Approve. MBC: Granted Planning Permission.

9.1.2 The Bishops Cottage, Bishops Lane - MA/10/1553

Erection of a wooden summerhouse and wooden greenhouse. Council recommendation: Approve. MBC: Granted Planning Permission.

9.2 Planning Application

The following application was considered and recommendation made:

9.2.1 Shepherds Cottages, Water Lane – MA/10/1430

Retrospective application for change of use of land to form access and hard surfacing for storage of agricultural machinery (amended plan/additional details/landscaping). Recommendation: Refuse.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next full Council Meeting is on Thursday 10th March 2011 at 8.00pm at Hunton Parish Hall.

There being no further matters to be discussed the meeting closed at 10:30pm.