

HUNTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 10TH MARCH 2011 AT HUNTON PARISH HALL

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Three parishioners were in attendance throughout the meeting. Borough Cllr J Wilson was in attendance from 8:40pm and PCSO R Chainey and PCSO D Rowley were in attendance for Item 4.

Prior to the start of the meeting, Mr A Bishop drew attention to the Applause Concert in Hunton on 20th March, featuring folk singers from Estonia. There has been a lack of interest in the event, despite advertisement in the Hunton Herald. Members were asked to encourage parishioners to attend where possible.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Leonard, Porter and Thomas and County Cllr Stockell.

2. COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS

Cllr Eatwell for Item 6.1, being Chairman of the King George V Playing Field Management Committee and also involvement in the Football Club. Cllr Heaton for Item 8.6 as he has been approached by the Fete Committee regarding funding.

3. MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 13TH JANUARY 2011

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 provided the following crime report:

07/01/11 – Criminal damage at Amsbury Road.

10/01/11 – Burglary at Smithfield House.

05/02/11 – Burglary at Bensted Close.

10/02/11 – Theft from a motor vehicle at Keepers Cottage.

10/02/11 – Theft from Bensted Close.

18/02/11 – Burglary at Smithfield House.

21/02/11 – Theft from Amsbury Farm.

PCSO Chainey reported that two men have been arrested for oil thefts at East Farleigh and the theft of oil has now ceased completely. Two men have also been arrested for rural arson attacks. PCSOs Chainey and Rowley warned of thefts for scrap metal, warning residents to ensure outbuildings are secure. The use of SmartWater was recommended, which is a bottle of liquid with unique DNA, registered to the owner, which can be painted on to household items. Any stolen items which are recovered will then be returned to the owner. Just having signage indicating that SmartWater is being used is an excellent deterrent to thieves. Bottles of SmartWater can be obtained through Neighbourhood Watch for £20.

At the request of Cllr Eatwell, the PCSOs agreed to attend the Hunton Village Fete on 25th June to put on a display and talk to residents.

5. HIGHWAY AND FOOTWAY MATTERS

5.1 Footpath – Bensted Close to Village Hall

The Chairman reported that he had met with David Smith of KCC earlier in the week to review the progress of the agreements and the work carried out to date on the hedge. The two agreements with the landowners are progressing. David Hubble has made significant changes to the agreement, which are with KCC Legal Department. The Tregothnan Estate is happy with the draft agreement. Once the agreements are in place the second section of hedging work can be carried out. It is hoped that by 25th June, the date of the Hunton Village Fete, the bridges will be in place and a strip will have been mown for the path. It was agreed that not all of the hedge work would be carried out this year due to birds nesting.

5.2 Gateways

The Clerk reported that the Gateways project has been signed off by the KCC Cabinet Member and Hunton Parish Council has asked Kent Highway Services (KHS) to commence work. Following a short lead in time to order materials, construction will start soon according to KHS.

5.3 TRAMP

The Clerk reported that, at a TRAMP meeting on 2nd March, a decision was made to wind up TRAMP and distribute the funds evenly to all parishes affiliated to TRAMP. Members expressed their thanks to Cllr Thomas and Cllr Walter for their hard work on TRAMP.

5.4 New Salt Bin on Barn Hill

The Clerk reported that County Cllr Stockell has requested the new salt bin on Barn Hill and signed off the grant form. KHS have given assurances that the salt bin will be delivered in the near future, but most resources are currently focused on pothole repairs.

5.5 West Street Problems

The Chairman reported that he had recently invited Richard Dixon and Michael Heath of KHS to Hunton to consider the highways issues affecting West Street, namely: the hedge dipping into the ditch, lack of white lines at the sides of the road and a lack of a 20mph speed limit outside the school. Mr Heath stated that due to erosion the road was wider than it should be and he would send an engineer out to measure what width the road should be and how far it has encroached on to the land. Mr Heath noted that the gully was blocked and should be dug out. The Chairman has subsequently dug out the gully and water is now flowing. Mr Heath stated that he did not wish to paint white lines over potholes. Members **Agreed** that the Clerk make a recommendation to Richard Dixon and Michael Heath to dig a new ditch alongside the old one and put the spoil back on top of the line of the hedge and the original road edge, with the insertion of a support membrane to stop future edge erosion. This will re-establish the original road width. The Clerk to also ask about financial support from KHS for this project. The 20mph limit outside the school has not been resolved. The Director of KHS, John Burr, is against these speed limits.

The majority of potholes in the village have been filled, except the BT box which has water coming out of it. KHS are trying to sort this out with BT, who do not agree it is their responsibility. ACTION: CLERK

5.6 Volume of HGV Traffic on Hunton Hill

The Clerk reported that residents living on Hunton Hill had written to the Parish Council regarding the volume of HGV traffic on Hunton Hill travelling to and from Amsbury Farm. The issue has already been reported to KHS, who are not able to take any action. Another resident has complained about the floodlights at Amsbury Farm being on at night. The residents have taken up the issue of the increased volume of HGV traffic on Hunton Hill and the floodlighting at Amsbury Farm with Clive Baxter direct. Members discussed the issues and agreed that the Clerk should review the original planning application for any restrictions recommended regarding lighting.

ACTION:CLERK

5.7 Hunton Parish Highways Report

The Clerk provided a report of all Hunton highways issues reported to KHS for Members to review.

6. RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT MATTERS

6.1 King George's V Playing Field

Cllr Eatwell reported on the last meeting of the Committee on 16th February 2011:

Items discussed at the meeting included the footpath, hedging, health and safety issues and the expenditure account for the field.

A letter has been written to Borough Cllr Mortimer with regard to obtaining professional advice about the car park.

The Committee also discussed the Parish Plan and linking committees and the fete.

The overflowing litter bins are still an issue. The December invoice from MBC has been cancelled as the litter bins were not emptied in December due to the snow. However, the MBC play area inspection sheet in January states that the bins are full and overflowing, despite assurances from MBC Environmental Services that the bins are being emptied at the beginning of the month. Cllr Eatwell suggested approaching someone at the Cricket Club to take over the emptying of the bins.

ACTION: CLLR EATWELL

6.2 Land at West Street

The Chairman read out a letter sent by David Hubble, outlining possible uses of his land at West Street, such as affordable housing. Mr Hubble has applied to MBC for planning permission a number of times and been turned down. It was agreed that nothing should be done until the Parish Plan has been launched. The Chairman agreed

to take advice over whether to be involved. The Chairman has received a cheque for £75 from Mr Hubble to go towards paying for some of the hedging plants. The Clerk was asked to write a letter of thanks to Mr Hubble.

ACTION: CLLR SAWTELL/CLERK

6.3 Annual Parish Meeting

Members were reminded that the Annual Parish Meeting is to be held at 8:00pm following the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council on 12th May and **Agreed** the invitation list. The Chairman stated that the meeting would keep to the previous format to ensure the whole of the village is involved.

7. MATTERS OF REPORT

7.1 County and Borough Councillors

Borough Cllrs Mortimer and Parr and County Cllr Stockell were unable to attend the meeting.

Borough Cllr Wilson reported that the MBC budget has gone through, with a £1.9m cut from a £23m revenue budget. Funding has been found for the museum extension, improvements to Mote Park and the High Street improvement project.

Cllr Wilson has had a meeting with John Burr, Director of KHS, who he found to be forward thinking. The speed review has been stopped. John Burr would like to take notice of local views, so now is a good time to put forward any speed issues. Unfortunately, due to large budget cuts many local schemes have been cut. Cllr Heaton asked whether Mr Burr is still against the 20mph limit outside schools. Cllr Wilson replied that if there have been no accidents, the 20mph limit will not be put in place.

Cllr Wilson commented on the demise of TRAMP, expressing his disappointment. He has offered to take TRAMP over as a latent organisation, meeting every six months.

The Chairman asked whose responsibility it was to establish the side of the road on West Street where it has been eroded. Cllr Wilson stated that the responsibility lies with KHS.

7.2 Chairman

The Chairman stated that all issues he wished to raise had been covered elsewhere on the agenda.

7.3 Individual Councillors

Cllr Heaton reported that a resident of Hunton had made a complaint to County Cllr Stockell about the mess made by MBC operatives when collecting food waste. Cllr Stockell has forwarded the complaint to the relevant people. Cllr Heaton mentioned that the Kent Countryside Management Partnership is offering free trees, which could be used for the hedge on West Street.

Cllr Heaton agreed to forward to Members an interesting article about a wind turbine in East Farleigh, which also mentioned the use of solar panels in Lenham.

7.4 Clerk

The Clerk highlighted an email received concerning the 'Parents for Playgrounds' campaign, a national programme that will give five local play areas the chance to win a renovation bursary of £15,000. Members **Agreed** that the Hunton playground should be nominated.

ACTION: CLERK

8. FINANCE

8.1 Budget Monitoring Report

The Clerk advised that a Budget Monitoring Report was not available for 28th February 2011, as the bank statements had not been received by the date of the meeting. The Budget Monitoring Report for 31st January 2011 was provided to Members. Members **Agreed** that the Clerk should email the Budget Monitoring Report as at 28th February to Members once the bank statements have been received and the report completed.

ACTION: CLERK

8.2 Income received since the last meeting

No income has been received since the last meeting.

8.3 Confirmation of payments already made

Members **Agreed** "that the following payment made since the last Meeting is approved":

994 AON Ltd – Insurance (KGF)

£152.80

8.4 Cheques for signature

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

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|------|--|---------|
| 981 | MBC – Litterpicking for October (KGF) | £61.10 |
| 983 | MBC – Litterpicking for November (KGF) | £61.10 |
| 996 | R Sawtell – Reimbursement for expenditure on key cutting | £6.60 |
| 997 | South East Water – Cricket Field Water Charges (KGF) | £207.27 |
| 998 | KCC – 2nd Half Grounds Maintenance (KGF) | £475.68 |
| 999 | Sevenoaks DC – Lottery Permit (KGF) | £20.00 |
| 1000 | S Goodwin – Salary & Office Allowance for March | £362.19 |
| 1001 | S Goodwin – Salary & Office Allowance for April | £368.53 |
| 1002 | BTCV – Tree & Pond Warden Scheme | £200.00 |
| 1003 | D Heaton – Reimbursement for hedge plants and guards | £131.25 |

Members **Agreed** that the following cheques be withheld due to the unsatisfactory emptying of bins on the playing field:

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|-----|--|---------|
| 991 | – MBC – Litterpicking for January (KGF) | £62.40 |
| 995 | – MBC – Litterpicking for February and March (KGF) | £124.80 |

8.5 Jubilee People’s Millions

At the last meeting Cllr Heaton agreed to ask the Parish Plan Committee whether it could make an application for funding from the Jubilee People’s Millions. The Committee felt that it was not appropriate to put in an application at this time.

Cllr Heaton stated that there was enough money to fund the illustration and production of the Parish Plan, but would like to put the funding of the Plan on the Parish Council agenda on a meeting by meeting basis in case additional funding is required. The proof of the Parish Plan may be ready for the Annual Parish Meeting on 12th May.

8.6 Hunton Village Fete

Cllr Heaton asked, on behalf of the Fete Committee, for a £1,000 loan from the Parish Council to the Fete Committee to act as a float, repayable to the Parish Council from the proceeds of the fete. Members **Agreed** that the float should be provided and asked the Clerk to contact Lisa Halliday to arrange the payment.

ACTION: CLERK

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next full Council Meeting is on Thursday 12th May 2011 at 7:00pm at Hunton Parish Hall, followed by the Annual Parish Meeting at 8:00pm.

There being no further matters to be discussed the meeting closed at 9:45pm.