

HUNTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 14TH JULY 2011 AT HUNTON VILLAGE HALL

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Two parishioners and Borough Cllr D Collins were in attendance throughout the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Heaton and Borough Cllrs B Mortimer and J Wilson.

2. COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS

There were no councillor declarations.

3. PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCY

Following Cllr Keith Eatwell's resignation, a Notice of Casual Vacancy was placed on the notice boards on 29th June. An election will be held to fill the vacancy if a request is made in writing and received by the Returning Officer at MBC for an election within fourteen working days after the date of first display of the notice. The request must be signed by ten or more local government electors for the Parish. In the absence of such a request, the Parish Council can proceed to fill the vacancy by co-option. Danny Peacock has been elected as Chairman of the King George V Playing Field Management Committee and has been asked if he would consider becoming a parish councillor. Members agreed that once the results of placing the Notice of Casual Vacancy are known action can proceed to fill the position.

4. MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 12TH MAY 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.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES NOT INCLUDED IN THE AGENDA

Item 6.2 – Danny Peacock has been elected as Chairman of the King George V Playing Field Management Committee. Members **Agreed** that the Clerk should check how Mr Peacock becomes the Custodial Trustee.

ACTION: CLERK

Item 6.2 – Cllr Porter has agreed to be the representative for the Parish Council at Hunton Primary School.

6. POLICE BUSINESS

PC Tom Mepstead was not able to attend the meeting due to a spate of car break ins in Yalding which are getting closer to Hunton. PCSO Richard Chainey was also unable to attend the meeting, but the following crime figures were received:

02/05/11 – Burglary from Hillside

08/06/11 – Theft from Smiths Farm

7. HIGHWAY AND FOOTWAY MATTERS

7.1 Footpath – Bensted Close to Village Hall

The Chairman reported that the Tregothnan Estate is happy with the legal agreement, but David Hubble had asked for changes to be made, which are now with KCC Legal Department. David Smith of KCC informed the Chairman that he had no influence on the Legal Department, so it is a case of waiting. David Hubble has agreed that the Parish Council can keep the weeds down on his land without the agreement being in place. The Chairman has asked whether the Tregothnan Estate is also happy for the Parish Council to keep the weeds down on their land as they are happy with the agreement, but has not heard back from David Smith.

7.2 Gateways

The Clerk has been unable to get in contact with Michael Heath of KHS for an update on when the Gateways work is likely to start. This could be due to the changes which have taken place within KHS.

7.3 **New Salt Bin on Barn Hill**

Cllr Thomas reported that the KHS engineer has not been in contact with him regarding the location of the new salt bin. Members **Agreed** that the Clerk should contact KHS to request that action is taken. ACTION: CLERK

7.4 **West Street Problems**

The Chairman reported that Jamie Finch of KHS had called him to say that there has been no progress with BT with regard to the water leaking from the BT inspection cover, who refuse to acknowledge any responsibility. KHS is to put together a plan to rectify the drainage problem from Lughorse Lane to the playing field and then put it before the Parish Council. Members **Agreed** that the Clerk should follow this up with Richard Dixon of KHS. ACTION: CLERK

There is a dangerous pothole beneath the BT cover which KHS have made a priority action, but nothing has been done as yet. The Chairman stated that this was probably dependent on the plans for drainage, but there are now two holes in that area, not one. Cllr Porter added that there are two bad potholes on Hunton Hill and more are appearing on West Street which should be brought to the attention of KHS. ACTION: CLERK

The Chairman reported that Borough Cllr Wilson is pushing for the 20mph speed limit outside Hunton Primary School, but there is still no progress in the use of Hunton in the pilot scheme. There has recently been some publicity in the Downs Mail.

8. **RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT MATTERS**

8.1 **King George V Playing Field**

The Chairman reported that there was no update on the activities of the King George V Playing Field Management Committee as it had not been possible to get in contact with the new Chairman, Danny Peacock. The Chairman reported that the Committee had recently held their AGM.

8.2 **Hunton Parish Plan**

Barbara Wright, Secretary of the Hunton Parish Plan Steering Committee, was in attendance and provided an update on the Hunton Parish Plan. The Parish Plan has been launched and sent out to all residents in the parish. In addition, it has been sent to councillors, borough councillors, county councillors, the police and anyone included in the Plan. The next step is to form small groups to look at the items in the Plan and carry them forward. The Committee would like to obtain advice from Hunton Parish Council and Carl Adams of ACRK before the items are actioned. The next Hunton Parish Plan Steering Committee meeting is on 20th July, which the Chairman is to attend and asked whether anyone else could attend the Police Forum meeting on the same night. Cllr Porter commented that the Parish Plan is a very professional document, which was agreed by all Members. The Chairman gave his congratulations to the Committee on producing the Plan and for having met the proposed time frame.

8.3 **Notice Board & Village Sign**

The new notice board outside the Village Club is now in place. At the last Parish Council meeting Members considered the action to be taken, if any, to repair the East Street notice board and the village sign. Quotations received from Alan Blackledge-Smith were as follows:

- East Street notice board. Option 1: Clean and recoat - £35. Option 2: Option 1, including glass replacement - £99. Barbara Wright offered to try and clean the notice board and let the Parish Council know the result.
- Village sign. Option 1: Cut out rotten timber, insert new sections, fill minor cracks, paint - £150. Option 2: Make a new outer frame, stain and preserve treat to gain a close match to existing timber - £225. Members **Agreed** that the Clerk should ask Alan Blackledge-Smith to go ahead with Option 2. ACTION: CLERK

8.4 **Village Hall**

The Chairman had been provided with an estimate for £15,768 from Solar Advance Systems for fixing a 3.87kW solar panel system on the Village Hall roof with a view to receiving an income from the solar power. Solar Advance Systems has recommended that the Parish Council asks a structural engineer to see if any strengthening work is required to the roof. Cllr Thomas stated that anything above 50kW stops the feed-in tariff and also that more than one company should be asked to provide an estimate. Members agreed that the estimate seems high. Cllr Porter added that the school is looking at solar panels and it could be beneficial to coordinate with the school and share information.

9. **MATTERS OF REPORT**

9.1 **County and Borough Councillors**

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

The Chairman expressed his thanks to Cllr Stockell for opening the Village Fete. Cllr Stockell had said how

much she had enjoyed the fete and provided some photos of the day. The Chairman asked that the Clerk write a letter of thanks to Cllr Stockell. ACTION: CLERK

Borough Cllr Collins advised that the Plot 5 at Lughorse Lane planning application for a gypsy site is to go before the MBC Planning Committee on 21st July. The recommendation from the Planning Officer is that the application is granted planning permission for a limited period of three years. Cllr Collins pointed out that there are a lot of conditions attached and a temporary placement is probably the best that can be hoped for. Cllr Thomas stated that once on site, it is highly likely that the conditions would be ignored and the applicants will stay there. Cllr Collins said that after three years MBC will find a new site, but Members maintained that it would be difficult to remove the applicants. The Chairman showed Members two letters from Peter Court Associates, who did some work for some Amsbury Road residents at Coxheath. He came up with a number of recommendations regarding a similar application, which involved having the MBC Planning Committee decision reviewed by a barrister as the reasoning was considered to be flawed. Members **Agreed** that it would be useful to send a copy of the letters to the Barn Hill action group and also to Cllr Collins and Mike Stevens at Linton Parish Council. ACTION: CLERK

Cllr Thomas said that there was a lot of anger building up about this application and if the MBC approach is flawed, it would be advisable to act as soon as possible and send a letter to MBC advising that the Parish Council has reviewed the Planning Officer's report and ask that the decision is deferred until the Core Strategy has been agreed, and that the Parish Council will take further action regarding a barrister. Members **Agreed** that the Clerk should write a letter to MBC Planning, to be agreed by Cllr Thomas. ACTION: CLERK/CLLR THOMAS

Cllr Collins advised that there should be some information regarding Concurrent Functions from Borough Cllr Wilson in several weeks time, but advised that the Chairman calls Cllr Wilson directly. ACTION: CHAIRMAN
Cllr Collins said that he had enjoyed a good day at the Village Fete.

9.2 Chairman

The Chairman did not have anything to report other than that already covered elsewhere in the meeting.

9.3 Individual Councillors

The councillors did not have anything to report other than that already covered elsewhere in the meeting.

9.4 Clerk

9.4.1 Notices regarding the Review of Polling Districts and Places.

Notices have been provided by MBC regarding a review of polling districts and places. These need to be placed on the notice boards until 9th September. ACTION: CLERK

10. FINANCE

10.1 Budget Monitoring Report

The Budget Monitoring Report to 30th June 2011 was **Noted**.

Cllr Thomas asked who was responsible for paying for the solar panels on the Village Hall roof, should a decision be made to install the panels. The Chairman thought there were grants available, but it would be best to ask Alan Bishop. Cllr Thomas thought that the grants were stopped when the feed-in tariff was introduced. If the Parish Council is to pay for the solar panels, there would need to be a return on the cost. Members **Agreed** to ask Alan Bishop to put together a plan, obtain other estimates for the work, liaise with the school and provide the information for discussion at the next meeting. ACTION: CLERK

10.2 Income received since the last meeting

Income received since the last meeting is as follows:

MBC – Concurrent Functions Grant – 1 st Half	£1,955.00
NatWest – Business Reserve Account Interest	£0.30
Tovil Parish Council – Refund from TRAMP Grant from MBC	£1,059.40

10.3 Confirmation of payments already made

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

1012 – Came & Co Ltd – Insurance	£1,950.53
1013 – KALC – Clerks Conference	£72.00
SO – S Goodwin – Salary & Office Allowance – May	£368.53
SO – S Goodwin – Salary & Office Allowance – June	£368.53
1014 – S W Yorke & Sons – Fencing Work (KGF)	£1,302.00
1015 – Alan Blackledge-Smith – New Notice Board	£102.02

10.4 Cheques for signature

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

1016 – SLCC – Membership	£82.00
1017 – Ringway – Streetlighting Maintenance	£58.84
1018 – NALC – LCR Subscription	£15.50
1019 – Robert Cox – Work on King George V Field for Village Fete (KGF)	£210.00
1020 – KALC – Councillors Conference	£144.00
1021 – ACRK – Membership	£35.00
1022 – E.ON – Streetlighting	£13.88
1023 – MBC – Litterpicking for May, June & July (KGF)	£187.20
1024 – South East Water – Cricket Field Water Charges (KGF)	£290.87

A request has been made for a contribution towards the Village Hall insurance premium. Members **Agreed** that the Clerk should calculate the proportion paid last year and apply it to this year’s premium. ACTION: CLERK

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next full Council Meeting is on Thursday 8th September 2011 at 8:00pm at Hunton Village Hall.

Prior to the closure of the meeting, Mr Clive Baxter invited Members to visit the Amsbury Farm facility. The cherry grader is the first of its kind in the UK and the farm has one of the first pear ripening rooms, which has led to Sainsbury’s giving all their pear ripening work for the UK to Amsbury Farm. The work force has risen to 65 full time staff. Members accepted the invitation to visit the facility.

There being no further matters to be discussed the meeting closed at 9:15pm.