

HUNTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 12TH MARCH 2012 AT HUNTON VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Cllr R Sawtell in the Chair, Cllrs G Thomas, D Heaton, L Leonard, R Porter, T Stanbridge and Mrs S Goodwin, Clerk

IN ATTENDANCE: Borough Cllrs J Wilson and D Collins and four parishioners were in attendance throughout the whole meeting. Two parishioners were in attendance for the open session only. PCSO J Watts was in attendance until Item 7. Mrs A Trought joined the meeting during Item 7.2 and was in attendance until Item 8.5.

In the open session, prior to the start of the meeting, Mr I Pinks and Ms H Larman spoke to Members about the Plot 5, Lughorse Lane appeal. The Planning Inspectorate dismissed the appeal by the applicants, which was considered a great success for residents. However, the residents campaign against the planning application had resulted in a £4,300 bill for the residents involved, most of which relates to legal costs. Members were asked to consider reimbursing residents for costs of £380, relating to the production of the document which was sent to the Planning Inspectorate to fight the appeal. Mr Pinks and Ms Larman also spoke to Members about the field in which Plot 5 is sited, which is broken down into nine strips and one access strip. Although none of these plots are currently for sale, Mr Pinks and Ms Larman are considering approaching the owners of the plots to see if they could be purchased and asked whether the Parish Council would wish to be involved. The Chairman said a decision could not be made on either the reimbursement of the appeal costs or possible purchase of land as the items are not on the agenda, but they could be considered at a future meeting. Mr A Bishop informed Members that there is an Applause event at the Village Hall on 20th March.

1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

2. COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS

There were no councillor declarations.

3. PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCY

The Chairman reported that Moira Walter has resigned as parish councillor, leaving a casual vacancy on the Parish Council. Members agreed that, as it is less than six months before the Hunton parish election, the vacancy would not be advertised at present, but left until the election.

4. MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 9TH JANUARY 2012 AND THE EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 3RD FEBRUARY 2012

The Minutes of the meetings had been previously distributed and were unanimously **Agreed** to be an accurate record. The Chairman signed off the official copy for each meeting.

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

Item 8.4.1 – The Children’s Play Area Survey was completed and submitted to Fair Play for Children.

Item 8.4.2 – The Highways & Transportation Tracker Survey was completed and submitted to KCC.

Item 8.4.3 – The Clerk was not required to get spare sets of keys cut for the notice boards.

Item 9.4 – The Clerk contacted Ringway about the faulty street light on Bensted Close which was subsequently fixed.

Item 9.7 – The Clerk submitted the precept form to MBC.

6. POLICE BUSINESS

PCSO Watts provided the following crime figures:

22/01/12 – Theft of lead from a property on Amsbury Road.

21/02/12 – Burglary with intent to steal at a property on Hunton Hill. The offenders gained entry to the conservatory by damaging windows, but were scared off by the house alarm. Apart from damage, nothing was stolen.

06/03/12 – Theft of earth cabling owned by UKPN, taken from Water Lane.

PCSO Watts had brought police posters to be pinned on the notice boards. PCSO Watts reported that cabling and lead are still being targeted in Kent and recommended that individuals contact her should they wish to change from lead to other materials. An operation is being set up on Teston bridge to monitor traffic.

7. HIGHWAY AND FOOTWAY MATTERS

7.1 Footpath – Bensted Close to Village Hall

The Chairman reported that he had been contacted by David Smith of Kent County Council (KCC), who intends to install the bridges over the next two to three weeks. Once the bridges are in place, the matting can be laid, but Mr Smith will discuss this with the Parish Council first. The Parish Council has permission to cut the hedges, but needs to let Mr Smith know when this will take place. Members agreed that the hedges cannot be cut now and that August will be the best time. The Chairman will inform Mr Smith.

ACTION: CHAIRMAN

7.2 Gateways

The Clerk reported that, according to Richard Dixon of Kent Highway Services (KHS), the work is nearly complete. The Clerk has not received any direct confirmation of this, despite several requests for information.

7.3 West Street Problems

7.3.1 Ditch & Road Verge

The Chairman reported that, following a meeting between members of KHS and the Parish Council, Mr Dixon agreed to talk to the KHS contractor to obtain a price for digging out the ditch and depositing the spoil on the verge. KHS also agreed to put a white line down the road to show where the spoil needs to be laid and to look into painting white lines at the sides of the road and placing wooden timber posts along the verge. Mr Dixon further agreed to ask the KHS drainage team to look at the culvert in front of the village hall and consider putting a metal grill on the entrance of the culvert to prevent debris collecting. The Clerk had contacted Mr Dixon for an update, who said that KHS are working on plans for the road edge/reclamation alongside West Street, including the drainage work, but are unable to give further details at present.

7.3.2 20mph Speed Limit Outside Hunton School

The Chairman reported that the 20mph limit will be implemented in the six pilot areas, including Hunton, at the end of April 2012.

8. RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT MATTERS

8.1 King George V Playing Field

Alan Bishop provided a report on behalf of the King George V Playing Field Committee, outlining the following issues discussed at the last meeting on 7th March 2012:

- Laminated copies of the bye-laws have been produced and will be displayed at several points around the playing field.
- Work to be done on the car park is dependent on how the water is affected when the drainage and ditch work is sorted out.
- There are two small jobs to be carried out on the multi play equipment.

Mr Bishop also requested confirmation that the Parish Council had awarded the grant to the Committee for 2012/13. The Clerk confirmed that a grant of £5,800 had been agreed.

8.2 Hunton Parish Plan

Annette Trought, Chair of the Hunton Parish Plan Steering Committee, was invited to provide the following update:

- There was a meeting of the Committee in February.
- Most of the working groups, such as litter picking and the fete, are progressing well with the allocated tasks.
- Six people are now in place to take part in Speedwatch. The equipment may be borrowed from East Farleigh Parish Council.
- So far, the Committee has moved forward with quick wins, but needs to now look at the bigger tasks, for example, a shop and a hub for the village. A feasibility project will be carried out this year into a

mobile shop. The Committee has been working with Carl Adams, who attends all the meetings.

- The community orchard needs a lot of planning. Funding needs to be thought about.

The Chairman stated that the Parish Council has been approached for a contribution to and support of the Village Club Jubilee event and asked that this be discussed now, rather than at Item 8.6. The Chairman asked Mrs Trought whether the Parish Plan Steering Committee had been approached by the Village Club about the event. Mrs Trought said that the Committee had not been approached, but the event fits in with the community organisations sub-group of the Committee. Members **Agreed** that the Jubilee event should be supported in principle, but would need to establish the level of grant that the Village Club requires. The Clerk was also asked to check whether the Parish Council could contribute to licensed premises.

ACTION: CLERK

8.3 Notice Board & Village Sign

The Chairman reported that Alan Blackledge-Smith has replaced the old village sign with a new one. The East Street notice board will be sanded and treated as soon as there are a few days of drying weather.

8.4 Village Hall

Alan Bishop reported that the solar panels have been installed on the roof of the village hall and the service provided by the installer, Protec, was first class. The application pack was sent to E.ON just in time for the 3rd March deadline to receive a 43.3p Feed-in Tariff (FIT), provided the courts do not rule in favour of the Government for a reduction. If they do, a 21p FIT will be obtained, which is still a good return. The Chairman thanked Mr Bishop for all his hard work and said that the installation is good for the village.

8.5 Annual Parish Meeting

Members discussed the invitation list for the Annual Parish Meeting, to be held at 8:00pm following the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council on 12th May. Members made some amendments, due to known absences on the date of the meeting.

8.6 Village Hall Jubilee Celebration

Item discussed as part of Item 8.2.

8.7 Broadband Update

The Chairman reported that, should anyone be interested in obtaining high speed broadband, he has a data sheet, price list and order form. Prices range from £8.99 to £22.99 a month, depending on the service provided.

8.8 Consultation: Kent County Council Development and Infrastructure

The Chairman asked Borough Cllr Wilson about the consultation, who could not give any specific advice on it. Members **Agreed** to look at the consultation document and provide any responses to the Clerk by 24th April 2012.

ACTION: ALL MEMBERS

8.9 Consultation: Maidstone Borough Council Community Development Strategy

Members questioned how the Strategy would affect Hunton as it is a rural area and not part of Maidstone town, although it was agreed that there are many good points in the Strategy. Borough Cllr Wilson said that Hunton Parish Council would be a statutory consultee. Members **Agreed** that they had no comments to make other than the Strategy contained good aspirations.

9. MATTERS OF REPORT

9.1 County and Borough Councillors

9.1.1 County Councillor

County Cllr Stockell was not able to attend the meeting.

9.1.2 Borough Councillors

Borough Cllr Wilson did not have any matters to report.

Borough Cllr Collins reported on the following issues relating to planning:

- Cllr Collins does not generally attend Hunton Parish Council planning meetings as he is on the Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) Planning Committee.
- 70% of planning work at MBC is currently based around gypsies.
- Until gypsy sites are identified, many planning permissions given to gypsies are on a temporary rather

than permanent basis.

9.2 Chairman

The Chairman reported that he had attended the Planning Inspectorate hearing with Alan Bishop for The Beast House to be used as a live/work unit and considered the process to be very thorough and fair. The Chairman had also attended the KALC AGM which had proved to be a very good meeting.

9.3 Individual Councillors

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

9.4 Clerk

9.4.1 ACRK – Rural Community of the Year 2012

The Clerk reported that she has received an application pack from ACRK for Rural Community of the Year, with a closing date for entries being 31st March 2012. It was agreed that, as there is no specific 'centre' to Hunton, it would not be worth entering.

9.4.2 CPRE/ACRK/KALC Neighbourhood Planning Event

The Clerk reported that she attended the Neighbourhood Planning Event on 3rd March and had found it very useful.

10. FINANCE

10.1 Budget Monitoring Report

The Budget Monitoring Report to 29th February 2012 was noted.

10.2 Income received since the last meeting

No income has been received since the last meeting.

10.3 Confirmation of payments already made

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

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| SO – S Goodwin – Salary & Office Allowance – January | £368.53 |
| 1046 – Robert Cox – Hedge Cutting (KGF) | £150.00 |
| 1047 – AON Limited – Insurance (KGF) | £158.31 |
| 1048 – Alan Blackledge-Smith – New Village Sign | £300.00 |
| 1049 – Yalding Parish Council – Contribution to Play Scheme | £120.00 |
| 1050 – JPS Renewable Energy Ltd – 60% Payment for Instal'n of Solar Panels on Village Hal 1 | £5,418.00 |
| SO – S Goodwin – Salary & Office Allowance – February | £368.53 |

10.4 Cheques for signature

It was proposed by Cllr Heaton and seconded by Cllr Leonard that the Council approve the following payments. This was **Agreed** and the cheques were signed.

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| 1051 – Robert Cox – Tree Work (KGF) | £50.00 |
| 1052 – Action with Communities in Rural Kent – Annual Membership Subscription | £35.00 |
| 1053 – MBC – Litter Picking for December and January (KGF) | £149.76 |
| 1054 – JPS Renewable Energy Ltd – 40% Payment for Instal'n of Solar Panels on Village Hall | £3,612.00 |
| 1055 – MBC – Litter Picking for February (KGF) | £74.88 |
| 1056 – S Goodwin – Expenses January to March 2012 | £85.83 |

10.5 Review of Clerk's Salary

It was proposed by Cllr Porter and seconded by Cllr Thomas that the Clerk's salary is increased by one point to Spinal Column Point 19, commencing April 2012, with a review again in March 2013. Two Members signed the standing order instruction for the bank.

10.6 Report of the Parish Independent Remuneration Panel: Allowances for Parish Councils

Members considered a report from the Parish Independent Remuneration Panel on allowances for parish

councils. Members **Agreed** that they do not wish to accept the allowances available to them.

10.7 Street Lighting Maintenance Contract for 2012/13

Members considered the street lighting maintenance proposal from Ringway for 1st April 2012 to 31st March 2013. Members **Agreed** to accept the proposal for an annual cost of £40.30 (an increase of 1.5% on last year).

11. PLANNING

11.1 Planning Application

The following application was considered and recommendation made:

11.1.1 Gudgeon Oast, West Street – MA/12/0209

Application to vary condition 1 of MA/11/0944 to allow the painting of the approved feather boarding in white.

Parish Council recommendation: Do not wish to object/comment.

11.2 Planning Decisions

No recent planning decisions have been received from MBC.

11.3 Land Request: Public Gypsy & Traveller Sites

The Chairman reported that a letter has been received from the Head of Planning at MBC which states that MBC is working with the Town & Country Housing Group to deliver a new public Gypsy site (or sites) in the borough. The letter asks Hunton Parish Council to provide details of any potential sites within Hunton parish. Members **Agreed** that there are no suitable sites in Hunton.

11.4 Neighbourhood Planning

Members discussed Neighbourhood Planning. Mr Bishop said that it was not compulsory to produce a Neighbourhood Plan and that it was an involved process to do so. Borough Cllr Wilson advised that the Hunton Parish Plan should be utilised if a Neighbourhood Plan was to be produced, but at the moment the whole Neighbourhood Planning process is still at a very early stage. Any Neighbourhood Plan should fit in with the MBC Core Strategy, which will not be in place until 2013 and Neighbourhood Plans cannot be put in place until after the Core Strategy is in place. Cllr Collins commented that he had asked for a template to work from in producing a Neighbourhood Plan.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next full Council Meeting is on Monday 14th May 2012 at 7:00pm, followed by the Annual Parish Meeting at 8:00pm, at Hunton Village Hall.

There being no further matters to be discussed the meeting closed at 9:50pm.