

HUNTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

IN ATTENDANCE: One member of the public was in attendance until Item 8. Borough Cllr J Wilson joined the meeting during Item 9.6 and was in attendance until Item 10.

In the open session, prior to the start of the meeting, Mr Alan Bishop handed out leaflets for the 52 Skidoo event at Hunton Village Hall on 23rd November 2012.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr R Sawtell, Borough Cllr D Collins and County Cllr P Stockell.

2. COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS

There were no councillor declarations.

3. MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 10TH SEPTEMBER 2012

The minutes of the meeting on 10th September 2012 had been previously distributed. The Clerk pointed out two changes to these minutes:

Page 5 Item 11.3 The amount against cheque number 1073 was corrected to £449.28, from £299.52.

Page 6 Item 11.8 Cheque number 1080 was added.

The Chairman signed off the correct official copy of the minutes for the meeting on 10th September 2012.

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

Item 5 – PCSO Watts had offered to contact other parishes to see if they would like to work with Hunton in setting up a Community Emergency Response Team, but has not done this yet. Cllr Heaton agreed to report back to the Hunton Parish Plan Steering Committee, but has not done this yet. To carry forward to the next meeting.

Item 9.3.1 – a response was sent to MBC on the Core Strategy Strategic Site Allocations and Integrated Transport Strategy consultation.

5. POLICE BUSINESS

PCSO Watts was unable to attend the meeting, but had provided the following crime report:

13/09/12 – West Street, Hunton – Theft of a motor vehicle. The vehicle was located in Kingswood, forensics found a small amount of blood on the vehicle which was matched to a suspect. The person was subsequently arrested and charged with the offence and has been summoned to the Courts.

18/09/12 – West Street, Hunton – Theft of a horse box from stables.

20/09/12 – East Street, Hunton – Criminal damage. Individuals had tried to drive into a field with a white pickup 4x4 and had cut the fence in trying to do so. The owner shouted at the suspects who then drove off.

23/10/12 – The White House public house – Criminal damage. Window smashed.

02/11/12 – Hilltop, Hunton – Criminal damage. Dent in the side of a vehicle parked in the driveway.

03/11/12 – Bishops Lane, Hunton – Theft of 200 litres of oil from a garden.

6. HIGHWAY AND FOOTWAY MATTERS

6.1 Footpath – Bensted Close to Village Hall

The Chairman reported that the contractors will commence work on the footpath this week, ie week commencing 12th November, with the hedge cutting to be carried out first. David Smith of KCC will also be on site.

6.2 Gateways

The Chairman reported that there has been no progress since the last meeting, other than the vegetation being trimmed back. The East Street Gateway is complete, but the following elements of the Gateways on West Street are outstanding:

- There is no 'Hunton' nameplate on the new 30mph Gateway posts at either end.
- Two 30mph roundels need to be added to the carriageway.

The Clerk reported that, despite several requests, no response has been received from Kent Highways.

Members asked the Clerk to contact Kent Highways again.

ACTION: CLERK

6.3 West Street Problems

6.3.1 Ditch & Road Verge

The Clerk had spoken to Richard Dixon of Kent Highways regarding several issues and reported the following:

Members had previously commented that, where the ditch had been re-dug on West Street, the road seemed to be wider than it should be and the repainted white lines are not straight. The response from Mr Dixon was that the road may look wider because the old road edge nettles and vegetation have been cleared. The white lines were painted by hand, not helped by the undulating road surface. The mechanical digger was working from the road side, making it difficult for the operative to see how much could be dug out as the hedge was in the way. The excavated material was transferred to the roadside, but in some areas there was little recovered. The operative was also careful not to disturb the hedge. Members asked the Clerk to contact Mr Dixon to request that the white line is extended down West Street to Bensted Close.

ACTION: CLERK

Mr Dixon has raised an order for Kent Highways to rod the blocked culvert in front of the Village Hall. A trash gate will not be inserted, but a couple of road pins will be put in place to ensure that rubbish items are not caught in the culvert.

Members had previously commented that the soakaways near the school on West Street are blocked. Mr Dixon stated that the Kent Highways stance on this is that, unless overflowing water is at risk of getting into properties, then soakaways will not be cleared until the next schedule of cleansing. Mr Dixon clears three gullies in East Street and one near Church Cottage himself and has asked Drainage to put these on the 'regularly cleared' schedule. Mr Dixon has asked the Clerk to provide an exact location of the blocked soakaways to raise an enquiry.

ACTION: CLERK

Mr Dixon also informed the Clerk that the following work has been carried out in Hunton: patching work on East Street; a new signpost erected at the junction of East Street, West Street and Lughorse Lane; refreshed 'Give Way' lining at the junction of East Street and West Street; school zig zags repainted; barrier in front of the Beast House renewed; and jetpatching along Lughorse Lane and East Street.

6.3.2 20mph Speed Limit Outside Hunton School

The Chairman reported that there has been no progress since the last meeting, with the following elements of the 20mph limit signage being outstanding:

- The existing 'keep clear' markings on the road have not been renewed.
- There is no signage at all on West Street near Bensted Close.
- There is a sign missing on one side of the road near Grove Lane.

Members asked the Clerk to contact Kent Highways again.

ACTION: CLERK

Cllr Porter advised that Hunton Primary School is getting up a petition to obtain a compulsory, rather than advisory, 20mph speed limit.

6.4 KCC Highways & Transportation Survey 2012

The Chairman suggested that the survey is included on the agenda for the next Planning Meeting. Members agreed.

7. RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT MATTERS

7.1 King George V Playing Field

The Chairman and Secretary of the King George V Playing Field Management Committee were both unable to attend the meeting. Cllr Heaton reported that there has been no response from KCC yet with regard to the application for grant funding for new play equipment. Cllr Heaton was asked about progress on the community orchard. A survey about the community orchard has been included with the Hunton Herald, the responses will be collated and hopefully grant funding will subsequently be obtained.

Mr Alan Bishop asked to speak about the hedge along the playing field. He stated that the hedge was in a poor state of repair and he would see if the Medway Valley Partnership could help. Mr Bishop estimated a cost of £300 labour and £120 for the plants, but hoped that a team in the village could be raised to do the work. The Chairman asked Mr Bishop to draw up a scheme for the next Parish Council meeting.

7.2 Hunton Parish Plan

The Chair of the Hunton Parish Plan Steering Committee was unable to attend the meeting. Cllr Heaton and Cllr Stanbridge had both attended the last meeting of the Hunton Parish Plan Steering Committee. The main items discussed were the community orchard (see Item 7.1 above), the Christmas lights and fair and the village shop.

7.3 SpeedWatch

The Chairman reported that the Parish Council had submitted an application for a KCC grant for SpeedWatch equipment, following a request from the Hunton Parish Plan Steering Committee. At the Maidstone KCC Members Grants meeting, Members awarded the full £1,800 cost for the SpeedWatch equipment. This was advised by Cllr Stockell, an 'official' letter has not been received as yet. Members asked the Clerk to contact Abi Jessop, Community Engagement Officer at KCC, to establish when the grant money would be received. ACTION: CLERK

Cllr Porter informed Members that Mr Guy Oliver would like to purchase the SpeedWatch equipment as soon as possible. At the present time the only authorised site for the use of SpeedWatch is in front of the Village Hall. Mr Oliver would like to apply to stand outside the Village Club also.

7.4 KALC Questionnaire – Progress on Localism

Members completed the questionnaire.

8. MATTERS OF REPORT

8.1 County and Borough Councillors

8.1.1 County Councillor

County Cllr Stockell was not present at the meeting.

8.1.2 Borough Councillors

Borough Cllr Wilson asked how the 20mph speed limit was working in Hunton, advising that in Leeds village vehicles were travelling faster rather than slower. Cllr Porter said that the school want to make the speed limit permanent.

Cllr Wilson advised that a Lorry Watch pilot scheme starts in Leeds village on 14th November 2012. In an area where lorries are not supposed to travel volunteers can stop the lorries and get the police involved. The Freight Trade Association is on board and will also have someone in attendance. Hopefully the scheme will eventually become Kent-wide. The criteria for the lorries is weight, Cllr Wilson agreed to send out some information on lorry sizes and weights.

Cllr Wilson expressed his disappointment that the Parish Services Scheme has overshadowed the work being done by KALC to promote parish councils. The KALC AGM had been a good day.

8.2 Chairman

The Chairman did not have anything to report.

8.3 Individual Councillors

The Councillors did not have anything to report.

8.4 Clerk

The Clerk asked Members to consider the following suggested meeting dates for 2013:

Monday 14th January 2013

Monday 11th March 2013

Monday 13th May 2013 (Annual Meeting)

Monday 20th May 2013 (Annual Parish Meeting)

Monday 8th July 2013

Monday 9th September 2013

Monday 11th November 2013

Members all agreed to the meeting dates as set out.

9. FINANCE

9.1 Budget Monitoring Report

The Budget Monitoring Report to 31st October 2012 was noted.

Members discussed the income to be received from the solar panels on the Village Hall roof through the FIT Scheme. Cllr Heaton advised that the income takes several months to be received. The name on the bill is the Treasurer of the Village Hall Management Committee, so FIT payments will not be received direct by the Parish Council. The solar panels were paid for by the Parish Council with the agreement that the Village Hall Management Committee would benefit from a reduction in its energy bills, but the Parish Council would receive the FIT payments. Members agreed that a letter should be sent to the Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee, copied to the Treasurer, stating that the FIT payments must be passed on to the Parish Council. ACTION: CLERK

9.2 Income Received

The following income has been received since the last meeting:

MBC – Concurrent Functions (Second Half)	£1,945.00
NatWest – Bank Interest	£0.60

The Chairman reviewed and signed the bank reconciliation.

Members discussed the amount of money in the Parish Council's bank accounts and agreed that the bank accounts should be discussed at the next meeting to determine whether some funds should be moved to the Business Reserve account from the Current Account or even whether the Parish Council should change banks.

9.3 Payments Made

Members approved the following payments made since the last meeting:

SO – S Goodwin – Salary & Office Allowance – September	£380.80
SO – S Goodwin – Salary & Office Allowance – October	£380.80

9.4 Cheques for Signature

Members **Agreed** that the following payments be approved and the cheques were signed:

1081 – Audit Commission – Audit	£342.00
1082 – Robert Cox – Car Park Maintenance/Tidying/Tree Work (KGF)	£330.00
1083 – E.ON – Street Light Electricity	£6.99
1084 – KALC – Localism Conference	£72.00
1085 – MBC – Bin Emptying – August (KGF)	149.76

9.5 Yalding Parish Playscheme

Members considered a request from Yalding Parish Council for a small donation towards the 2013

Playscheme. Members **Agreed** that a contribution of £120 should be made.

ACTION: CLERK

9.6 Kent Tree & Pond Warden Schemes

This item was discussed before Item 8.

Members considered a request from Kent Tree and Pond Wardens for a contribution towards the Tree and Pond Warden Schemes. Members **Agreed** that a £50 contribution should be made towards the Tree Warden Scheme and a £50 contribution should be made towards the Pond Warden Scheme. ACTION: CLERK

Members **Agreed** that the current Tree and Pond Warden, Anne Bishop, should be contacted to establish

whether she wishes to continue in the role.

ACTION: CLERK

9.7 Parish Services Scheme

The Clerk reported that the Parish Services Scheme initial estimate of £974 had been received from Maidstone Borough Council for Hunton for 2013/14.

The meeting was stopped at 9:40pm for public discussion and restarted at 9:55pm.

10. PLANNING

10.1 Planning Application

The following application was considered and recommendation made:

10.1.1 Wheelwrights, Hunton Hill – MA/12/1310

Conversion of barn to dwelling. Additional information received – a Historic Appraisal Report.

Parish Council recommendation: Do not wish to object/comment, other than some concerns about the access on to Hunton Hill from the site.

10.2 Planning Decisions

The following decision received from Maidstone Borough Council were **Noted**:

10.2.1 The Chances, Lughorse Lane – MA/11/1900

Variation of condition 4 of planning permission MA/10/1336 which currently reads:- 'No more than 2 caravans (of which not more than 1 shall be a static caravan) shall be stationed on the site at any time.' To read:- 'No more than 3 caravans (of which not more than 2 shall be a static caravan) shall be stationed on the site at any time.'

Parish Council recommendation: Refuse, and request the application is reported to MBC Planning Committee.

MBC decision: Granted Planning Permission

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next full Council Meeting is on Monday 14th January 2013 at 8:00pm at Hunton Village Hall.

There being no further matters to be discussed the meeting closed at 10:00pm.