

HUNTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 9TH JUNE 2014 AT HUNTON VILLAGE HALL

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Borough Cllrs B Mortimer and D Collins were in attendance until part way through Item 5. Nine members of the public were in attendance - five left after Item 5, two left during Item 7 and two were present throughout the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

2. COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS

2.1 Declaration of Interests

There were no councillor declarations. All Members declared that they had been lobbied regarding Item 5.

2.2 Dispensations

There were no requests for dispensations.

3. PLANNING APPEAL – LITTLE CLOCK HOUSE

The Planning Inspectorate hearing into the appeal will take place on 15th July from 10am. The Chairman stated that he had been to one hearing previously. The Planning Inspector looked at the site, spoke to local people and the Parish Council was able to provide its views. The Planning Inspector will hear the views of the applicant and those of MBC Planning, who have to substantiate why the appeal should be dismissed. The Planning Inspector can then decide who else is allowed to speak.

Many local residents have sent in their objections. One person will speak on behalf of the residents, but there needs to be a strategy to put forward the right points.

Borough Cllr Mortimer will be at the hearing and will mention highway issues if he is allowed to speak.

Members **Agreed** that it would be useful to hold a separate meeting a few weeks prior to the hearing to discuss the strategy.

4. HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY

A Housing Needs Survey has recently been launched in the village by Action for Communities in Rural Kent (ACRK) on behalf of a private developer, not on behalf of the Parish Council. The Parish Council has previously agreed to carry out a Housing Needs Survey, which the Hunton Parish Plan Steering Committee (HPPSC) would take the lead on. Members agreed that the terms of reference for the Parish Council's survey would need to be very clear to ensure that residents are not confused, bearing in mind the other survey being undertaken.

Members **Agreed** that Cllr Wyles and Annette Trought, Chair of the HPPSC, should meet to discuss the terms of reference. Members are to provide any thoughts to them by the end of the week. The terms of reference will be brought to a later Parish Council meeting for formal agreement.

5. MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL CALL FOR SITES

Two sites have been put forward in MBC's call for sites. The proposed development for both sites is housing, but the proposed number of dwellings is not specified, just that the land is available for development.

Within the MBC Draft Local Plan there is also an allocation of four pitches at The Chances at Lughorse Lane, where there is currently only one pitch. Borough Cllr Collins did not believe MBC Planning Committee was aware of the previous appeals on this site, but has now brought it to their attention.

Members **Agreed** to monitor the situation.

6. PLAY AREA FURNITURE

Members **Agreed** to fund the purchase a picnic table at a cost of £875 and a park bench at a cost of £740 from Sustainable Furniture UK Limited. The costings for both include delivery, assembly and anchoring.

The bench is in memory of Vikki Stancombe, the previous Clerk. The Chairman will speak with Vikki's husband to agree the engraving on the bench.

7. FOOTPATH AND HEDGE

The hedge and vegetation alongside the permissive footpath has grown. KCC will not maintain the hedge, so it is necessary for the Parish Council to either purchase a strimmer and maintain the hedge itself or have a maintenance contract. The hedge cannot be cut back until September due to birds nesting.

Members **Agreed** that Tregoning's Trees should be approached for a quotation, and other contractors if necessary.

There being no further matters to discuss, the meeting closed at 9:30pm.