

HUNTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 13TH JULY 2015 AT 7:30PM AT HUNTON VILLAGE HALL

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

IN ATTENDANCE: County Cllr Stockell was in attendance until Item 12.2. Borough Cllr Webb was in attendance. Eight members of the public were in attendance. Two left after the open session and two left after Item 8.4.

OPEN SESSION:

In the open session, prior to the start of the meeting, the Chairman welcomed Neil Gunn from the Environment Agency. Parishioners are concerned about the flood risk to Hunton. Mr Gunn provided the history of flooding in the wider general area from 2000 onwards. Following the Christmas 2013 floods, KCC agreed to assist in funding improvements to reduce flood risk, which has given rise to the River Medway Flood Storage Area project. The project is in the first phase which involves investigating potential options to manage flood risk from the River Medway, River Beult and River Teise. Newsletters will be periodically issued on progress of the project, the first being in June 2015. Members expressed concern that Hunton is not mentioned as an affected area in the newsletter. Mr Gunn was also not aware of the number of properties which have been flooded in Hunton in the past. Members specifically requested that they are involved and provided with information on the project. Mr Gunn agreed that he wants to work with the parishes and asked for details of properties affected by flooding which he was not aware of. If required he is able to find out the flood risk of individual properties. The Chairman thanked Mr Gunn for attending the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr R Sawtell.

2. FILMING AND RECORDING

No members of the public expressed a wish to film, record or photograph the meeting.

3. COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS

3.1 Declaration of Interests

There were no councillor declarations.

3.2 Dispensations

There were no requests for dispensations.

4. MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 11TH MAY 2015

The minutes of the meeting on 11th May 2015 had been previously distributed. The Chairman signed off the official copy of the minutes. The Chairman congratulated those who had organised the village fete and thanked Herschel Santineer for giving the parish councillors a tour of the school.

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

Item 15.3 – The KALC Membership and Training Survey 2015 was completed.

Item 15.4 – Cllr Wyles has read the MBC Economic Development Strategy.

Item 16.5 – The Annual Return for 2014/15 has been sent to PKF Littlejohn.

6. POLICE BUSINESS

PCSO Judges was unable to attend the meeting and a crime report had not been provided. Cllr Wyles reported that there have been no crimes, but a head on traffic collision on Hunton Hill had involved the police.

7. COUNTY & BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

7.1 County Councillor

County Cllr Stockell reported that KCC is undergoing a transformation of services including legal, ICT and the back office from targeted savings of £300m required over three years. Staff levels have been cut considerably. The council tax increase next year is likely to be 2.9%.

Highways are having a blitz on potholes over the summer.

KCC has been supplying water, toilet facilities, etc to drivers affected by Operation Stack, for which no government support has been received.

The Kent & Medway Growth & Infrastructure Framework is just about to launch.

7.2 Borough Councillors

Borough Cllr Webb was elected in May, this being his first Hunton Parish Council meeting.

Cllr Webb hopes that some progress will be made on the Economic Development Strategy at an upcoming MBC full council meeting.

Borough Cllr Brian Mortimer is now back home from hospital and rehabilitating.

Cllr Webb is not on the MBC Planning Committee. Members agreed that MBC Planning is detrimental to the borough. Parish neighbourhood plans are being largely ignored by MBC Planning according to Cllr Stockell.

8. LOCAL COMMUNITY

8.1 King George V Playing Field

The Chairman of the King George V Playing Field Management Committee, Danny Peacock, reported that the following was discussed at the last Committee meeting:

- The annual walk of the boundary took place before the meeting. A number of issues, including the waste area in the corner of the field, were discussed.
- Car park – there has been no further damage to the surface and the drain is working well.
- Signage – the second sign has now been put in place.
- Health and safety – the bottom four steps up to the slide platform are to be replaced. Robert Cox will be cutting back the hedge to wall height for the length of the car park. Quotes have been requested to remove a broken branch from an oak tree on the field. The poplar trees have been topped. MBC will be contacted about the overflowing bins and a possible alternative to MBC may be sought for the bin emptying. A garden bin is to be purchased by the Committee from MBC.
- Finance – approximately £7,745 remains in funds. The Committee is paying £200 towards the cost of the Village Hall drainage and treatment plant costs and has also agreed to make a contribution for an outside cabinet to house the defibrillator purchased by the Pre-school.
- Other – the rubbish between the Village Hall and Bowls Club has been cleared. Robert Cox will be cutting the hedge down the field side of the Bowls Club and along the road to Hunton Engineering. Requests have been received from other football clubs to use the Hunton football pitch, but the pitch would not withstand further usage.

The AGM had also been held. All planned meetings had been held during the year. The Committee is running smoothly and keeping the field well maintained thanks to the annual contribution from the Parish Council. As well as the routine maintenance the Committee has funded the resurfacing of the car park, repairs to the Football Club changing rooms roof and the topping of the poplar trees in the last year. The trustees, Chairman and Secretary were elected without change.

Simon Taylor noted that there is an issue with parking when events are being held at the Village

Hall at the same time as the sports clubs have matches. Cllr Trought agreed that this would be discussed at the next Village Hall Committee meeting. There are concerns about the overflowing rubbish bins, which Cllr Trought has had to empty in addition to the MBC collections. The Clerk will contact MBC to establish the ownership of the blue bin in the car park. ACTION: CLERK

8.2 New Cricket Pavilion

The Chairman of Hunton Wanderers Cricket Club, Simon Taylor, handed out a financial report to Members and reported on the progress of the new cricket pavilion. The internal decorating is nearly complete, the second electrical fix is complete and the plumber will be starting soon. The trenching is booked for 27th July, after which the cable can be laid and the trench back filled. The pavilion will be near to completion by the end of August/beginning of September. The Sport England grant has to be spent by 25th September.

8.3 Hunton Village Hall Committee

The Treasurer of the Village Hall Committee, Mike Summersgill, reported the following:

- The AGM was held on 12th May. Cllr Trought is the new Chair, but Christina Harrison will continue to assist in the background.
- The annual electrical inspection, last carried out two years ago, is complete. Aside from several queries, the Hall passed. Some immediate works have already been done.
- The insurance cost has halved this year after finding an alternative insurer.
- There has been another failure in the drainage system – a fuse. The system was dredged. There were blockages of wet wipes and sticks thrown into the drainage cover.
- The blue bin is being monitored.

8.4 Hunton Primary School

The Chair of Governors, Herschel Santineer, thanked Members for visiting the school and reiterated how proud he is of the teachers and the school.

The SATS results had been very good. Nationally 75% reach level 4 or more, but at Hunton, apart from spelling, punctuation and grammar, the rate was 87%. The school budget was submitted in credit at the end of June due to an increase in the number of children attending the school. The school has over 100 pupils for the first time ever. A message was placed in the school newsletter asking parents to stop parking inconsiderately as it is dangerous and annoying to residents. MBC and the police have been contacted, but it is not illegal to park opposite the school entrance. The PCSO will be contacted to see if he can monitor parking. Members agreed that the parking issue is a longstanding problem. Few parents are using the footpath to walk their children to school from the Village Hall, despite Mr Santineer asking them to use it. Mr Santineer is keen to hear of any ways in which the Parish Council can be involved with the school.

9. PARISH COUNCILLORS

9.1 Liaison with External Bodies

The Chairman had attended the last KALC Maidstone Area Committee meeting.

9.2 Footpaths and Ditches

Cllr Heaton reported that a tree has been removed from the footpath at the bottom of Barn Hill.

9.3 Highways

Cllr Porter reported that road closures for forthcoming highways works are detailed on the Hunton website. West Street will be closed for five days from 3rd August for the installation of kerbing and East Street will also be closed soon after.

Cllr Porter has been liaising with Yalding Parish Council as they want a 20mph speed limit. Hunton would like a permanent, rather than the current temporary, 20mph limit outside the

school. KCC has suggested that Hunton does not have a speeding problem from the measurements they have carried out.
There has been no progress on moving the bus stop at the junction of West Street and East Street. Cllr Stockell agreed to follow this up.
Mike Summersgill mentioned that the 7.5T signs have disappeared from George Street.

9.4 Speedwatch

Cllr Wyles reported that there are three new recruits to Speedwatch who will undertake the necessary training, taking the team up to nine people. A meeting is to be held on 23rd July to discuss strategy and put dates in the diary for Speedwatch activity. The team has been talking with Yalding to combine the cover. Cllr Porter noted that the Speedwatch findings do not support the KCC results on speeding; there is an issue with speeding in Hunton.

9.5 Huntonwatch

Cllr Wyles reported that there have been no incidents. There have been reports of burglary and jewellery thefts in the surrounding villages. Huntonwatch had a static stand at the village fete.

9.6 Hunton Parish Plan

Cllr Trought reported that there was nothing significant to report as recently most of the time has been spent organising the village fete and the Neighbourhood Plan work.

9.7 Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Trought reported that Cllrs Trought, Porter and Wyles have picked up the Neighbourhood Plan work following the village fete. The first phase is complete. Meaningful statistics will be consolidated for reporting at the end of September/October.

Cllr Wyles reported that comments have been received from 20% of residents. Feedback has also been obtained from the Pre-school and parents at the school through use of a graffiti wall. Five questions were asked, the data is now being collated. There are no real surprises in the responses - main issues include: road conditions, traffic, speeding, lorries and parking.

9.8 Communication & Events

Cllr Trought had nothing to report.

9.9 Planning Issues and Consultations

Cllr Thomas had nothing to report.

9.10 Utilities

Cllr Stanbridge had nothing to report.

10. OTHER PARISH MATTERS

10.1 Clerk's Conference

The Clerk reported that at the Clerks' Conference attended in June; Kent Fire & Rescue Service (KFRS) asked parishes whether they would consider allowing firemen to use village halls as a rest stop in the event of a large fire. Cllr Trought agreed that this would be discussed at the next Village Hall Committee meeting.

10.2 Clerk's Report

Members noted that the Clerk will be on leave from 6th to 18th August 2015.

11. CONSULTATIONS

11.1 KCC – Draft Drainage and Local Flood Risk Policy Statement Consultation

KCC has published a draft Drainage and Local Flood Risk Policy Statement as an annexe of

their Local Flood Risk Management Plan to clarify how KCC will review drainage strategies and surface water management provisions associated with major development.

Members **Agreed** that they were happy with the document and asked the Clerk to respond accordingly.

ACTION: CLERK

11.2 **MBC – Draft Statement of Licensing Policy Consultation**

Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) has reviewed its existing Statement of Licensing Policy which is used to guide the Licensing Authority when considering licence applications and the control of licensed premises as required by the Licensing Act 2003. Members **Agreed** that they were happy with the policy and asked the Clerk to respond accordingly.

ACTION: CLERK

11.3 **KALC Maidstone Area Committee – Parish Motion**

KALC representatives have issued the following motion to all parishes to consider formally voting in agreement: This Council does not believe that 18,560 is a reasonable figure for Objectively Assessed Housing Need and that, if flexibilities in the NPPF/NPPG methodology were properly utilised, a defensible figure would be significantly lower. It could be around 10,000, including windfalls. This would allow a more balanced level of housing and employment growth, reduce adverse impact on infrastructure and green field sites, and allow the Borough to regain control over planning for new housing development by having a five years supply.

Members **Agreed** to the motion and asked the Clerk to respond to KALC. In addition, in the event that KALC looks towards judicial review, Members **Agreed** that the Parish Council would contribute a maximum of £1,000 towards the cost.

ACTION: CLERK

12. **FINANCE**

12.1 **Budget Monitoring Report**

The Budget Monitoring Report to 30th June 2015 was **Noted**.

12.2 **Income Received**

Members **Noted** the following income received since the last meeting:

ESC Sport England – Grant for new cricket pavilion	£15,283.00
MBC – Parish Services Scheme grant (first half)	£937.00
UTB – Bank interest	£15.76

Cllr Porter reviewed and signed the bank reconciliation.

12.3 **Payments Made**

Members **Approved** the following payments made since the last meeting:

1176 – Passmores – New cricket pavilion	£13,648.70
1177 – Hunton Parish Plan Steering Committee – Excess Community Orchard grant	£50.00
SO – S Goodwin – Salary & office allowance – May	£427.73
300058 – Tregoning’s Trees – Topping of poplar trees (KGF)	£2,635.00
300059 – Robert Cox – Maintenance (KGF)	£105.00
300060 – South East Water – Cricket field water charges (KGF)	£70.48
SO – S Goodwin – Salary & office allowance – June	£427.73

12.4 **Cheques for Signature**

Members **Agreed** that the following payments be approved and the cheques were signed by Cllrs Wyles and Trought (Cllr Thomas signed Cllr Trought’s cheque):

300061 – Safeguard – Mole removal (KGF)	£300.00
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300062 – KALC – Councillor induction training / Clerks Conference	£97.00
300063 – CANCELLED	
300064 – MBC – Bin emptying (KGF)	£149.76
300065 – SLCC – Annual membership subscription	£103.00
300066 – Hunton Parish Hall Cttee – Contribution to drainage/treatment plant (KGF)	£200.00
300067 – M Summersgill – Reimbursement of Pond & Tree Warden courses expenses	£31.50
300068 – Icon – Sport England sign for new cricket pavilion	£146.10
300069 – HWCC – Reimbursement of building regs fees for new cricket pavilion	£664.00
300070 – Annette Trought – Reimbursement of Hunton Parish Plan expenses	£107.51

12.5 Village Hall Insurance

A request has been received from the Village Hall Committee to contribute towards the Village Hall insurance premium. Last year the Council paid an 80% contribution. The premium this year is £1,369.42 (2014: £2,421.27), so an 80% contribution calculates as £1,096 (2014: £1,937). Members **Agreed** to contribute £1,096 and cheque 300071 was signed by Cllrs Wyles and Trought.

12.6 Outside Cabinet for Defibrillator

Hunton & Linton Pre-school has raised funds for a defibrillator which will be placed outside the Village Hall. The Pre-school has requested a contribution towards the cost of an outdoor digital heated cabinet to house the defibrillator. The cost is £395 plus VAT, as well as the cost (unknown at present) of a qualified electrician to fit the unit. The Hunton Herald is contributing £100 towards the cost of the unit and the King George V Playing Field Committee has agreed to contribute a proportion. Members **Agreed** that if the Playing Field Committee also contributes £100 the Parish Council will pay the remaining cost.

13. PLANNING

13.1 Planning Applications

The following planning applications were considered and recommendations made:

13.1.1 3 Brickyard Cottages, Redwall Lane – 15/504578/FULL

Part retrospective application for Kentish barn style garden store/recreational building.
Parish Council recommendation: No objection.

13.1.2 Amroth, West Street – 15/505258/FULL

Removal of existing conservatory and construction of a sunroom.
Parish Council recommendation: No objection. Note: Cllr Porter did not comment on this application as the applicant is a neighbour.

13.2 Planning Decisions

The following planning decisions received from MBC were noted:

13.2.1 The Woodyard, East Street – 15/504192/FULL

Minor material amendment to 14/0635 (an application for minor material amendments to application MA/13/0170) amendment to approved garage.
Parish Council recommendation: Approve, with recommendation to plant trees to provide screening.
Maidstone Borough Council decision: Granted planning permission.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next full Council Meeting is on **Monday 14th September 2015** at Hunton Village Hall.

There being no further matters to be discussed the meeting closed at 10:45pm.