

HUNTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 19TH JANUARY 2016 AT 7:30PM AT HUNTON VILLAGE HALL

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

IN ATTENDANCE: One member of the public was in attendance until Item 8. PCSO Judges entered during Item 4 and left after Item 10.1.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr G Thomas. Borough Cllrs J Wilson and R Webb had also sent apologies.

2. FILMING AND RECORDING

The member of the public did not express a wish to film, record or photograph the meeting.

3. COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS

3.1 Declaration of Interests

Cllr Heaton declared an interest in the planning application to be discussed in Item 13.1.1 due to a family connection to the applicant.

3.2 Dispensations

There were no requests for dispensations.

4. MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 17TH NOVEMBER 2015 & EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 1ST DECEMBER 2015

The minutes of the meetings on 17th November 2015 and 1st December 2015 had been previously distributed. The Chairman signed off the official copy of the minutes.

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

Item 12.6 – The Landscape Services grounds maintenance quotation was accepted.

6. POLICE BUSINESS

PCSO Judges reported that there had been two thefts since the last meeting:

07/12/15 – Lughorse Lane – Theft of two turkeys and two peacocks

15/12/15 – Lughorse Lane – Theft of tools

Both crimes have been filed. Cllr Wyles reported that a crime had taken place the previous day when scalpings were stolen from the Village Hall car park. The number plate of the vehicle used in the theft was provided to PCSO Judges, who also offered to help review the footage from the Village Hall CCTV cameras.

7. LOCAL COMMUNITY

7.1 King George V Playing Field

The Chairman of the King George V Playing Field Management Committee, Danny Peacock, reported on the last meeting held on 13th November.

The drain in the car park is working well as there has been little surface water despite recent heavy rainfall. Should any holes appear in the car park surface, there is spare material to resurface it.

No action will be taken regarding the moles on the field until spring as it is too wet. Four treated steps have been fitted to the slide. The Committee agreed to accept a quote of £379 from Melvin Ward to replace the slide platform. A working party will deal with the annual safety inspection issues in spring as nothing requires immediate attention. The litter bins and new green bin are being emptied by MBC.

There is £3,442 remaining in funds. A new gate and fencing has been fitted. The Committee is to consider replacing the old pedestrian gate. The drainage from the cricket pavilion will be flushed though before the season starts. The outfield will be dragged by the end of March, when it is drier, but does not need seeding.

HWCC has applied to the ECB for a grant for covers. An agreement between HWCC and the Bowls Club on how electricity costs will be calculated and apportioned between the two clubs will be signed at the next Bowls Club meeting. The Committee discussed use of the new pavilion as a community building – it is not practical to use it in winter as it has no heating. It could be used in the summer when HWCC are not using it (they use it every Saturday and every 2-3 Sundays). A Pop-up Shop may be held there later in the year.

The Pre-school has obtained a quote from an electrician to install the defibrillator. The electrician suggested that the best position would be by the side of the entrance to the Village Hall. Members agreed with the suggested location and emphasised that everyone needs to be informed of the defibrillator location when it has been installed.

7.2 New Cricket Pavilion

Progress and budget reports for the new cricket pavilion were provided to Members which show that, since the last update, the following have been completed: final painting and decorating of the toilets; final fit of kitchen units' doors and handles; final fit of water heater and plumbing for sink and dishwasher; installation of white goods; and installation of furniture and shelving. The remaining work to be finished comprises of the signage installation, changing room fittings installation (prior to the start of the 2016 cricket season); and decking installation (prior to the start of the 2016 cricket season).

7.3 Hunton Village Hall Committee

Cllr Trought reported that a meeting is to take place later in the week between members of the Village Hall Committee and the Parish Council to discuss new terms of reference for the Village Hall Committee and address the issue of charges for village groups using the hall. Consideration will need to be given as to how the costs of the hall will be covered, perhaps through the provision of a Parish Council grant.

7.4 Hunton Primary School

The Chair of Governors, Herschel Santineer, was unable to attend the meeting. Cllr Wyles has not been able to arrange a meeting with Mr Santineer, but would like to discuss the following issues when a meeting is arranged:

- Organise representatives of the School Council (pupils) to attend a Parish Council meeting and members of the Parish Council to answer pupils' questions at the school.
- Bill Axell of MBC has carried out a dye test which has proved conclusively that the water flooding Bishops Lane is not surface water from the fields or ramps, but is either from the soakaway which is not fit for purpose or a natural new water course. Mr Axell has handed the issue to Kent Highways and written to the head teacher of the school.
- The school applied for retrospective planning permission for two signs, which was discussed at MBC Planning Committee on 14th January. The MBC Case Officer's report contained a number of factual errors, such as the height of the signs. Cllr Wyles and a resident affected by one of the signs spoke in opposition and County Cllr Stockell spoke on behalf of the Parish Council. No decision was made by the Committee and it was referred to KCC Education to replace or move the signs. Cllr Wyles would like to liaise with the school on behalf of the Parish Council to discuss the location of the signs.

Cllr Trought would like to join Cllr Wyles to discuss the issues. The road outside the school exit

is dangerous for car drivers and the residents of the Peace Cottages when the water on the road freezes. A new salt bin is required on Bishops Lane as the current one has been crushed; Members **Agreed** that the Clerk should contact County Cllr Stockell. ACTION: CLERK

8. COUNTY & BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

8.1 County Councillor

County Cllr Stockell was unable to attend the meeting.

8.2 Borough Councillors

Borough Cllrs Wilson, Mortimer and Webb were unable to attend the meeting. Prior to the meeting Cllr Webb had notified the Parish Council that an extraordinary meeting of full council will be held at MBC on 25th January to pass the Local Plan on to the Regulation 19 stage. If passed, the Regulation 19 consultation will last for six weeks from 5th February to 18th March.

9. PARISH COUNCILLORS

9.1 Liaison with External Bodies

Cllr Sawtell had been involved in some discussion with Geraldine Brown, Chair of Yalding Parish Council, about flooding. The West Farleigh Parish Council Chairman used to work alongside Neil Gunn, the Parish Council contact at the Environment Agency, and has been trying to find out more information about which land may be used as a flood storage area.

9.2 Footpaths and Ditches

Cllr Heaton reported that two puddles are forming near the Bensted Close end of the permissive footpath. Cllr Heaton **Agreed** to obtain chippings to fill the holes and spray off.

ACTION: CLLR HEATON

The ditch further along West Street is now in good condition and Bill Axell will be rodding the culvert soon. Landowners need to take ownership for the ditches which border their properties to ensure they remain clear. Cllr Porter **Agreed** to put an article in the Hunton Herald to encourage people to clear the ditches on their land. ACTION: CLLR PORTER

Members discussed the concept of extending the permissive footpath from the Village Hall to Lughorse Lane. The owner of the land between the recreation ground and Lughorse Lane would need to be contacted to ask for right of way for the footpath. There are three options: permanent right of way is provided over the land; the footpath is permissive; or a strip of land is purchased by the Parish Council. Cllr Heaton **Agreed** to obtain the landowner's address for the Clerk to write to her.

ACTION: CLLR HEATON/CLERK

9.3 Highways

Cllr Porter reported that the bus stop at the junction of West Street and East Street has now been located to the green a few metres further along, but is not yet fully operational. Members thanked Cllr Porter for pursuing this and acknowledged the help given by County Cllr Stockell and Clare Ellen of KCC.

The Parish Council would like the 20mph advisory speed limit outside the school to be made permanent, but this is not likely to happen at the current time.

Potholes and erosion of the road outside the school have been reported to Kent Highways through the parish portal.

9.4 Speedwatch

Cllr Wyles reported that a Speedwatch exercise is due to take place on 20th January and then weekly to the end of February, with each exercise planned on a rolling month in advance. Hunton Speedwatch took part in the county wide Speedwatch event, although not for as many days as hoped due to poor weather and availability of some members. Some cars are being reported more than once through Speedwatch. If the cars are travelling at

50% more than the speed limit, the driver will receive a letter. If travelling at less than that, but the same car has been seen more than once, a variation on the educational letter will be sent out.

9.5 Huntonwatch

Cllr Wyles noted that Huntonwatch has received several new members recently. Current scams include one on council tax and another on PPI which both involve asking for bank details.

9.6 Hunton Parish Plan

Cllr Trought had nothing to report, to be covered under Item 9.7.

9.7 Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Trought reported that the Neighbourhood Plan is at the point the team (Cllr Trought, Cllr Porter and Cllr Wyles) would like it to be at this time. Cllr Wyles and Cllr Porter are unable to continue with the work necessary to take the Neighbourhood Plan to the second stage, which will involve holding a couple of events to ask parishioners for more detail on the key areas highlighted in the first stage. The major projects which the Parish Plan Steering Committee has undertaken have all been embedded over the last 5-6 years. Cllr Trought suggested that it might be appropriate to close this Committee down and concentrate on recruiting more members for the Neighbourhood Plan team, as considerable people resource will be needed to continue the process. After some in depth debate, Members **Agreed** that the Parish Plan Steering Committee should evolve into a Neighbourhood Plan Committee and the current team should make a presentation at the next Parish Council meeting on progress to date and to consider the way forward.

ACTION: CLLRS TROUGHT, PORTER AND WYLES

Cllr Porter **Agreed** to contact some residents of the village to see if they would be interested in joining the team.

ACTION: CLLR PORTER

9.8 Communication & Events

Cllr Trought reported that the Village Fete will take place on 18th June. Helpers are needed for car parking.

There will be three more Pop-up Shops – 26th March outside the church; 10th July combined with an open garden event; and 24th September in the orchard/new cricket pavilion.

There needs to be a recap of the ‘I Remember’ day for the Community Orchard, probably linked in to the lunches held at the Village Club.

9.9 Planning Issues and Consultations

Cllr Thomas was not at the meeting.

9.10 Utilities

Cllr Stanbridge reported that the drainage is still an issue on East Street between Hunton Hill and Amsbury Farm as the drains fill with silt when it is raining and the road becomes flooded. It would be preferable if more proactive action could be taken to clear it, rather than waiting until it floods. Cllr Porter **Agreed** to follow this up.

ACTION: CLLR PORTER

10. OTHER PARISH MATTERS

10.1 Flooding

Neil Gunn, from the Environment Agency (EA), has visited Cllr Wyles to find out how he was affected by the flooding in 2013. They walked along Bishops Lane and the River Beult with Cllr Thomas and Cllr Porter. The EA is aware through their model of what would happen, given certain rainfall situations, but needs information from people when flooding events occur. Hunton is never mentioned in the EA reports. Mr Gunn reassured the Members that any EA scheme put forward would include all villages along the water course. He indicated that there will be a flood storage area on the River Beult and the Leigh barrier will be raised by one metre.

If funding is not available due to issues elsewhere in the country, such as Cumbria, then it may not happen which will mean that flooding will occur as it has previously.
Cllr Porter has informally met a flood group in Yalding (not parish councillors) and suggested that, rather than have a Hunton flood group, selected representatives join the Yalding group so all areas under threat, such as Hunton, Collier Street and Laddingford are included. This group will carry more weight in its communications with the EA, including provision of information on local flood events. Flood warden services are being organised and it would be possible to have one or two flood wardens in Hunton. Members **Agreed** that Hunton should join the Yalding flood group, with flood wardens in Hunton being the second phase.
Cllr Stanbridge commended the use of flood sacks during flooding events, rather than traditional sand bags, as they are inexpensive and easy to store. Cllr Stanbridge **Agreed** to explore the use of flood bags further.
ACTION: CLLR STANBRIDGE

10.2 **St Mary's Church Redecoration**

Cllr Porter reported that the redecoration of St Mary's is underway and will be finished by Easter. The Friends of St Mary's hope to hold a concert when the work is complete.

10.3 **Councillor Elections**

The Parish Council election will take place in May 2016. Members discussed the election process and agreed that the election should be publicised to obtain interest from the village. Cllrs Wyles and Trought **Agreed** to draft a piece for the February Hunton Herald.

ACTION: CLLRS WYLES & TROUGHT

Cllr Porter advised that he would not be standing for election.

10.4 **Clerk's Report**

10.4.1 **Referendum Principles**

The Clerk advised that the DCLG has produced a report on referendum principles relating to council tax increases for 2016/17. The referendum principles do not apply to parish councils for 2016/17, but the DCLG has stated separately that they could do in future.

10.4.2 **Oakwood Park Grammar School – Community Volunteering Initiative**

A letter has been received from the school regarding a volunteering initiative on 3rd March.

11. **CONSULTATIONS**

11.1 **DCLG – National Planning Policy Consultation on Proposed Changes**

The consultation is proposing changes to broaden the definition of affordable housing; increase residential density around commuter hubs; support sustainable new settlements, development on brownfield land and small sites, and delivery of housing allocated in plans; and support delivery of starter homes.

Members **Agreed** that a response would not be provided.

11.2 **MBC – Maidstone Town Centre Public Spaces Protection Order Consultation**

MBC is considering a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) for Maidstone town centre and has issued a consultation asking residents for their views. KALC Maidstone Area Committee is concerned that the PSPO only considers the town centre and not suburban and rural parished locations.

Members **Agreed** that a response would not be provided to the consultation.

12. **FINANCE**

12.1 **Budget Monitoring Report**

The Budget Monitoring Report to 31st December 2015 was **Noted**.

12.2 **Income Received**

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

Sport England – Grant for new cricket pavilion	£2,504.00
UTB – Bank interest	£5.41

Cllr Porter reviewed and signed the bank reconciliation.

12.3 **Payments Made**

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

SO – Sharon Goodwin – Salary & office allowance – November	£427.73
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12.4 **Cheques for Signature**

Members **Agreed** that the following payments be approved and the cheques were signed by Cllrs Wyles and Trought:

300116 – One 2 One Deco Ltd – Repair of Village Hall porch	£990.00
300117 – Fields In Trust – Annual membership subscription	£50.00
300118 – South East Water – Cricket field water charges (KGV)	£206.64
300119 – E.ON – Street lighting	£8.26
300120 – Commercial Services Trading Ltd – Second half grounds maintenance (KGV)	£469.60
300121 – MBC – Bin emptying (KGV)	£224.64
300122 – Tate Fencing Ltd – New gate and fencing (KGV)	£1,216.80
300123 – Sharon Goodwin – Travel expenses/postage/stationery	£45.91

12.5 **2016/17 Budget and Parish Precept**

Members had received the budget papers produced by the Clerk prior to the meeting. Members **Agreed** the budget for 2016/17. Members **Agreed** that the Precept should be set at £25,000, which creates a tax of £80.13 per property. The Chairman and Clerk signed the MBC Parish Precept Requirement 2016/17 form for submission to MBC. **ACTION: CLERK**

13. **PLANNING**

13.1 **Planning Application**

The following planning application was considered and recommendation made:

13.1.1 **24 Bensted Close – 15/510506/FULL**

Erection of a single storey front extension to existing garage and conversion of garage to annexe. Parish Council recommendation: No objection.

13.2 **Planning Decisions**

No planning decisions have been reported since the last Planning meeting.

Retrospective planning application 14/504109/ADV for two signs at Hunton Primary School was not approved, but deferred at the MBC Planning Committee meeting on 14th January.

14. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next full Council Meeting is on **Tuesday 15th March 2016** at Hunton Village Hall.

There being no further matters to be discussed the meeting closed at 10:05pm.