

**MINUTES OF THE HUNTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 21ST MAY 2018
AT HUNTON VILLAGE HALL**

PRESENT: Cllr D Heaton as Chairman, Cllrs T Stanbridge, J Goddard, A Trought, R Lee and H Ward and Mrs S Goodwin, Clerk. They were joined by at least 26 members of the public.

1. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed all those present at the meeting, thanked them for attending and introduced himself as the Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council.

2. PRESENTATION ON LITTLE OWLS

The Chairman introduced Charlie Russell, from the University of Kent, who gave a presentation on Little Owls.

Charlie is passionate about birds of prey and started applying to volunteer with them when he was just 12 years old. He was finally able to do so when he was 15, volunteering in the school holidays at birds of prey centres.

This led on to a course in wildlife conservation at the University of Kent. Charlie's experience has built up from his volunteer work and his project on Little Owls will lead to a dissertation in the third year of his course.

Little Owls need support as their numbers have decreased by 65% in the last 10 years. There are now only 400 left in Kent.

The Little Owl is a non-indigenous species but is widely loved by many people. They can take prey much smaller than themselves and thrive well in meadows, orchards and on cliffs.

No one knows specifically why numbers have declined, although it is likely to be due to the lack of suitable nesting habitats, changing agricultural practices and the owls not reaching mature breeding age.

Charlie's project in Kent is designed to address the issues by starting a nest box scheme. So far, 17 nest boxes have been introduced, with a further 20 to be added next year. The biodiversity of the different sites will be researched, and chicks will be ringed and monitored. There are three nest boxes in Hunton. There has been one successful nest box in Hunton so far, with 4 one-week old chicks, perhaps 5, which is very exciting.

The nest boxes are made through donations. On 17th July, Charlie is going back to his old school to run a 3-day workshop, where 150 Year 7s will be making nest boxes.

The aim for the summer is make more boxes and do surveying work with school groups; there is a lot of work to do. There is also promotion of ecology, better land management techniques and making people more aware of Little Owls.

Nest boxes cost £20-£25 to make and are very easy to put together. If anyone would like to volunteer or has land which would provide a good site for a box, please let Charlie know as he would welcome more people being involved. His details can be obtained from Annette Trought and Helen Ward.

The audience then asked Charlie numerous questions about his project.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Thomas, Borough Councillor Richard Webb, Borough Councillor Lottie Parfitt-Reid, PCSO Jasmine Pay, Adam McKinley (Community Warden), Louise Dean (Hunton & Linton Pre-School) and Ann Sawtell (Hunton Walking Group).

4. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 22ND MAY 2017

The minutes of the meeting had been circulated and it was agreed that the minutes be approved as an accurate record. The Chairman signed off the official copy.

5. POLICE REPORT

PCSO Jasmine Pay was unable to attend the meeting but had provided a report, which was distributed at the meeting and is published as a separate document.

The Chairman noted that the police are putting on an operation for a day to specifically target lorries. This is a positive step as the police do not currently take action when HGVs break the 7.5T restrictions.

6. COMMUNITY WARDEN REPORT

Community Warden Adam McKinley was unable to attend the meeting but had provided a written report, which was distributed at the meeting and is published as a separate document.

7. REPORT FROM THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

County Cllr Stockell was unable to attend the meeting and had not submitted a report.

8. REPORTS FROM BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

Borough Cllrs Webb and Parfitt-Reid were unable to attend the meeting.

Borough Cllr Fermor has been helping with individual cases of housing, planning, fly tipping and social services issues. Cllr Fermor urged residents to get in touch if they spot any fly tipping.

Planning is a big issue, specifically with the Wares Farm site and Berry Gardens HGV movements.

Cllr Fermor had spoken with MBC Planning Enforcement about Amsbury Farm. A Planning Contravention Notice was issued three months ago. Planning Enforcement is issuing an ultimatum – either put in a planning application or a certificate of lawful development. The latter option is likely to be chosen and the landowner must take the decision in 28 days.

9. REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council has prepared a summary report, including the receipts and payments figures for 2017/18, which was distributed at the meeting and is published as a separate document. The report was explained briefly by the Chairman.

The Chairman thanked the parish councillors and the Clerk for all their work, as well as all other people who look after the assets in the village, such as the church, playing field and village hall.

The Chairman thanked Steve and Sue Wyles for providing the refreshments

10. OPEN SESSION

The Chairman invited residents to ask questions to the parish councillors and borough councillor:

Q. To Borough Cllr Fermor – regarding Amsbury Farm, the options of putting in a planning application or a certificate of lawful development would both result in the landowner getting what he wants and not forcing him to reverse the development.

A. With the certificate, the landowner has to prove that the site has not changed in the last 10 years. (Borough Cllr Fermor)

Q. How will I, as a resident, find out what happens?

A. You can check the MBC website or speak to the borough or parish councillors. Sue King from Planning Enforcement has offered to come to the next Parish Council meeting. (Borough Cllr Fermor)

Q. They have wrecked the roads. The council needs to sort it out.

A. KCC are responsible for roads. (Borough Cllr Fermor)

Q. Those wrecking the roads should be paying for the repairs, for example the developers at Vicarage Road.

A. I will speak to the Planning Enforcement team and raise the issue. (Borough Cllr Fermor)

A. The Parish Council is to have a meeting with KCC Highways to discuss these types of issues. (Cllr Heaton)

Q. Aren't there regular meetings between MBC and KCC to discuss issues raised in parishes?

A. It is an issue at the moment as County Cllr Stockell has not been around lately. (Cllr Heaton)

Q. Regarding the police operation to target HGVs, whenever I stop HGVs the drivers say the police have said they can drive there. Also, the traffic from the Vicarage Road development is routed through Hunton. Can't we get huge lorries blocked?

A. If a lorry is over the normal weight or width, there are various levels of routing and some will need escorts. Oversized loads are controlled. (Cllr Heaton)

A. I have spoken to Terry Drury from KCC, who has said he will visit to see it for himself and discuss the routing. (Cllr Goddard)

Q. Can we scale back the size of the lorries?

A. No. (Cllr Heaton)

Q. There was an item on Facebook to say the developers are changing their statement to route construction traffic up Yalding Hill.

A. The traffic is still coming through Hunton at the moment. Representatives from South East Water did visit the Vicarage Road developers to discuss the Hunton Hill closure. (Cllr Heaton)

Q. Are Amsbury Farm routing their traffic through Hunton?

A. They are trying to avoid two HGVs meeting by putting in place a one-way system during the road closure, but they will not do that unless KCC allow them to break the 7.5T restriction. (Cllr Heaton)

Q. And Berry Gardens?

A. Their method statement states the traffic will go down Hunton Hill. A meeting is being set up to discuss this. All we can do is make a record and pass the information on to KCC Highways (Cllr Heaton)

A. The official diversion route for the Hunton Hill closure is Yalding Hill. A meeting has been requested with KCC Highways to see if they can authorise the one-way system for HGVs to help the situation. (Cllr Goddard)

Q. Is the meeting with KCC Highways an open meeting?

No. A meeting was held with South East Water and now the Parish Council needs to speak to Highways as South East Water are not responsible for the diversion. (Cllr Heaton)

Q. A consequence of lorry movements is the erosion of verges which are not being reinstated but there is not much we can do if the roads are not kerbed as it is difficult trying to pass each other.

A. If you meet an HGV flouting restrictions, you can stop on the edge of the road and not move. If the HGV gets stuck, something will have to be done eventually. (Cllr Heaton)

Q. I am worried about the cars and vans which will come down Barn Hill when Hunton Hill is closed.

A. We can't do anything about that. Signs will be located at the top to say it is not suitable for HGVs, but it is not illegal to use Barn Hill. (Cllr Heaton)

Q. Is there any progress on the plans for 8 houses at Durrants Farm?

A. No, we have not heard anything further. (Cllr Heaton)

The Chairman thanked everyone for their questions.

11. PRESENTATION OF THE KALC COMMUNITY AWARD

In October 2017, Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC) launched the 2018 KALC Community Awards Scheme, the aim of which is to acknowledge and give recognition to those that have made a

significant contribution to their local community.

Hunton Parish Council agreed that the Award should be given to Philip Nichols for being the Chairman of Hunton Village Club for many years and steering the Club through some very difficult times, which has allowed the village to retain a community hub.

The Chairman thanked Mr Nichols for his significant contribution over many years, for organising many fundraising events and keeping the Club functioning. He then presented a framed certificate to Mr Nichols.

Mr Nichols was very flattered to receive the award and paid tribute to his wife, Tricia, for all her support. When Mr Nichols moved to the village 26 years ago, a friend had told him to get involved in village life, so he took that advice. Mr Nichols will continue to support the Club.

12. REPORTS FROM LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

Twenty local organisations reported on their activities over the last year (including the two who could not attend who provided reports prior to the meeting). The reports, either written reports provided by members of the organisations, or verbal reports summarised by the Clerk, are published as a separate document.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Trought advised that Jenny Boatwright would be trialling a watercolour class from 7-9pm on 30th May and invited people to come along if interested.

Jane Langdon thoroughly recommended the WI meetings.

Cllr Heaton noted that the Hunton Fete will be on 16th June from 2-5pm and asked people to come along or to contact himself, Cllr Trought or Lisa Halliday if they wanted to help.

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and all those who contributed.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9:10pm.