

HUNTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 21ST JANUARY 2019 AT 7:30PM AT HUNTON VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Cllr D Heaton in the Chair, Cllrs A Trought, J Goddard, G Thomas, H Ward and T Stanbridge and Mrs S Goodwin, Clerk.

IN ATTENDANCE: There was no one in attendance.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr R Lee.

2. FILMING AND RECORDING

There were no members of the public to film, record or photograph the meeting.

3. COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS

3.1 Declaration of Interests

Cllr Heaton declared an interest in Item 12.1.3 as it his own planning application.

Cllrs Ward and Stanbridge declared an interest in Item 12.1.2 as the planning application relates to a neighbouring property.

There were no other councillor declarations.

3.2 Dispensations

There were no requests for dispensations.

4. MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 19TH NOVEMBER 2018

The minutes of the meeting held on 19th November 2018 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 10.3 – A letter was written to the KCC Director of Highways, Transportation & Waste about the effect of road closures on the bus service.

Cllr Heaton noted that East Street, West Street and Staplehurst Road were all closed at the same time last week. Very little information was provided in advance and, as some of the work was planned, there should have been better communication. Members **Agreed** that Cllr Stanbridge should write to BT Openreach regarding the lack of information.

ACTION: CLLR STANBRIDGE

6. POLICE

6.1 Police

The following crimes have been logged on the e-watch website since the last Parish Council meeting:

17-19/11/18 – East Street – A farm building was broken into and a portable compressor and a battery cell from a forklift were stolen.

01/01/19 - Shingle Barn Lane - A tractor and trailer were stolen from a yard.

6.2 Huntonwatch

Steve Wyles has provided the following report on Huntonwatch:

There has been an increase in suspicious and criminal activity in the area recently. Buston Manor has been targeted with two thefts that we are aware of. Several reports of people in cars acting suspiciously have been received and the latest (involving a car which according to the DVLA has a SORN and should not be on the road, has no MOT and presumably no insurance) was just a few days ago around Amsbury Farm.

We have a new PCSO (Martin Chivers) who takes over from Jasmine Pay (who is having to move from the area because of child care problems). We have made contact with Martin via email and asked to meet him - we are waiting for him to let us know when he could fit us in. There have been a couple of reports of joy riders driving over fields and newly laid lawns and details have been passed to the police where

appropriate. Finally, we are still receiving details from the police regarding telephone scams - all at some point asking people for their bank details or to transfer cash to a 'special' account - the elderly and insecure are most likely to be taken in by these scams as the callers can be very convincing.

7. LOCAL COMMUNITY

7.1 King George V Playing Field

The Chairman of the King George V Playing Committee, Simon Taylor, was unable to attend the meeting. Cllr Heaton (a Trustee of the Committee) read the following report on the last meeting, held on 16th January:

Roger Sawtell has resigned from the Committee after many years as a Trustee.

One MBC monthly health and safety report has been received – no issues. Craigdene Limited have completed the annual safety inspection of the play area. A working party will action the highlighted issues in spring.

There are funds remaining of £5,536. The grounds maintenance contract with Landscape Services was agreed for 2019. The Committee has asked for the same grant from the Parish Council for 2019/20 as the previous year (£6,000).

Jackson Fencing will be making a site visit to measure up for the new fencing around the play equipment. The mole traps have now been removed from the field.

The Committee agreed that a copper beech tree should be planted on the field in memory of John Scott.

7.2 Hunton Village Hall Committee

The next meeting of the Committee will be held in February, so a report will be made at the next Parish Council meeting.

7.3 Hunton Primary School

Cllr Trought did not have anything to report as she has not been in to the school lately.

7.4 Hunton Village Club

Cllr Trought reported that, following the break in at the Village Club, the police recommended that CCTV should be installed. A local resident kindly offered to pay for the CCTV installation which is now in place and is very good quality equipment. An insurance claim has been made for the damage caused during the break in. Members **Agreed** that a letter of thanks should be written to the resident. ACTION: CLERK The kitchen is nearly complete, incorporating a dishwasher, cooker, storage, handwashing facilities and a hatch. The kitchen is of great benefit for the events held at the Club.

The first Film Club evening, which includes a supper, will be held on 2nd February 2019.

7.5 Traffic and Road Safety Working Party

Cllr Ward reported that the last meeting of the Working Party took place on 6th December 2018.

The main item under discussion was the possibility of a speed limit on East Street. The general feeling was that there should be a 30mph speed limit covering the whole village. Jennie Watson at KCC has been contacted, but no further action has been taken yet. There is a consultation document which states what must be complied with. The next course of action is to get residents involved and lobby the Borough and County councillors. Cllr Ward will include an article in the Hunton Herald and further information will be provided to residents by knocking on doors.

The next T&RSWP meeting will take place on 1st February 2019.

Members of the T&RSWP were trying to organise a meeting with Wares Farm, but since the planning application has been permitted, very little has been heard. This will be postponed for now. Cllr Thomas visited the vast warehouse at Wares Farm during the last Monitoring Committee meeting.

8. COUNTY & BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

8.1 County Councillor

County Cllr Stockell was unable to attend the meeting.

8.2 Borough Councillors

None of the Borough Councillors were able to attend the meeting.

9. PARISH COUNCILLORS

9.1 Liaison with External Bodies

Cllr Thomas is meeting with councillors from other parishes on 6th February 2019 to look at the Local Plan update.

9.2 Footpaths and Ditches

9.2.1 Update

Cllr Heaton will spray the permissive footpath again before spring.
The problems with the ditch in Water Lane have been resolved.
Hunton Court have dug out the ditch on Water Lane.

ACTION: CLLR HEATON

9.2.2 Permissive Footpath on West Street – Hedge and Verges Maintenance Contract

The specification for the two-year contract for the maintenance of the hedge and verges near the permissive path on West Street was sent to Robert Cox, Tregoning's Trees and Lawrence J Betts. Robert Cox returned a quote before the deadline. Tregoning's Trees did not respond, and Lawrence J Betts did not wish to provide a quote.

Members **Agreed** that Robert Cox should be awarded the contract.

ACTION: CLERK

9.3 Highways

Cllr Goddard reported that the 'Road narrows' sign will be erected on the West Street northern approach to Hunton Hill within three months of the order being raised.

9.4 Communication & Events

Cllr Ward reported the following forthcoming events:

- Every Thursday from 31st January to 7th March – Winter Warmer Lunches
- 2nd February - Movie Night
- 16th February – Gardening Club meeting.

Cllr Ward has received no further volunteers to take over from her as Editor of the Hunton Herald, so there will be a team of people working on it after her last edition. As there is no pantomime this year, Sue Pinks has kindly agreed to continue with the advertising role for one more year. There have been no volunteers to administer Facebook.

Steve Wyles has provided a report on the Christmas Fair:

Despite the inclement weather, the money raised at the Christmas Fair was more than we achieved in 2017. We were able to make a donation of £434.20 to St Mary's Church (compared to £380.40 in 2017), the Friends of St Mary's made £275 (the 2017 total was £233) and we have carried forward £201.90 to underwrite the 2019 event. We must thank the PCC for making the church and churchyard available to us and the Parish Council for the funding it puts towards the use of the hall. Plans are already underway for both the Summer Fete and the next Christmas Fair.

Cllr Trought noted that the Summer Fete will be held on 22nd June this year.

9.5 Planning Issues and Consultations

Cllr Thomas and Cllr Heaton visited the owner of Durrants Farm to discuss the planning application for the site. Maidstone Borough Council had advised the applicant to build eight 'barrack-style' houses on the site. Cllr Thomas thought consideration should be given to writing to MBC Planning as Durrants Farm and Wilsons Yard (George Street) are sites in similar circumstances, but conflicting advice was given by the planners. Five houses were disallowed at Wilsons Yard as the planners wished to retain industrial use, yet they have suggested eight houses at Durrants Farm. Cllr Thomas suggested that the Planning Department should be contacted to arrange a meeting with parish councillors to discuss the Durrants Farm application.

ACTION: CLERK

Cllr Ward updated Members on the enforcement action at Amsbury Farm. The Enforcement Officer has said that a planning application needs to be submitted for change of use or there needs to be a declaration of deemed consent. Neither have been done. The Enforcement Officer has arranged a meeting with various parties in the week commencing 28th January.

9.6 Utilities

Cllr Stanbridge will write to BT Openreach about the road closures and the water coming out of the manhole cover on East Street.

ACTION: CLLR STANBRIDGE

10. OTHER PARISH MATTERS

10.1 Flooding

Cllr Thomas advised that there is nothing to report on the Joint Parishes Flood Group. No major work will be carried out on flood prevention, just protection for individual houses.

Cllr Heaton could not foresee any flooding in Hunton as arable crops have been planted and additional drainage has been installed near Hunton Engineering.

10.2 Traffic Calming Measures on West Street

Cllr Heaton advised that speed humps on West Street would be unsuitable as a form of traffic calming as additional lighting would need to be installed. Calming measures which may be suitable are coloured tarmac, cobbled sets, road narrowing, priority signage and ramps (although ramps also require lighting).

KCC may pay for any work or the Parish Council could consider paying for it. Cllr Goddard **Agreed** to discuss it with Jennie Watson at KCC Highways.

ACTION: CLLR GODDARD

10.3 Village Telephone Box

Nothing further has happened regarding the purchase of the telephone box to use as a notice board.

There was some discussion about the location of the seat outside the Village Club being some distance away from the bus stop, but it was agreed that the bus stop could not be moved as it would prevent cars from parking near the Club and there is insufficient space to relocate the seat near the bus stop.

10.4 Additional CCTV

A quote has been received from Q-Tec Solutions Limited to add another CTV camera to the existing camera pole to cover areas of the car park not reached by the existing cameras. Members **Agreed** to accept the quote.

ACTION: CLERK

10.5 KALC Community Awards Scheme 2019

Members **Agreed** not to adopt the KALC Community Awards Scheme in Hunton in 2019.

10.6 Clerk's Report

The Clerk has received a letter from a representative of Consilium Town Planning Services Limited, who is willing to meet with members of the Parish Council together with the owner of the Wilsons Yard site.

Cllrs Thomas and Heaton **Agreed** that they would like to attend.

ACTION: CLERK

E.ON have increased their energy prices from 17.9p per kWh to 22.1p per kWh (street light electricity).

11. FINANCE

11.1 Budget Monitoring Report

The Budget Monitoring Report to 31st December 2018 was **Noted**.

11.2 Income Received

The following income has been received since the last meeting:

Maidstone Borough Council – SIPA grant for play area fencing	£7,585.00
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Cllr Trought reviewed and signed the bank reconciliation.

11.3 Payments Made

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

SO – Sharon Goodwin – Salary & office allowance – November	£443.44
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Unity Trust Bank – Service charge	£18.00

11.4 Cheques for Signature

Members **Agreed** that the following payments be approved, and the cheques were signed by Cllrs Stanbridge and Ward:

300270 – Hunton Village Club – Chairman’s Allowance (Christmas drinks)	£92.00
300271 – KALC – Chairmanship Conference	£72.00
300272 – E.ON – Street light electricity	£11.93
300273 – James Forster – Reimbursement for sign writing costs	£75.00
300274 – David Heaton – Reimbursement for cost of a padlock	£16.50
300275 – Sharon Goodwin – Travel expenses/Stationery/Chairman’s Allowance (food)	£149.60

11.5 Remembrance Booklets

Members **Agreed** that a grant of £282 should be provided to the Hunton Herald under s137 expenditure for additional copies of the Remembrance booklets. The Clerk wrote cheque 300276 for this amount, signed by Cllrs Stanbridge and Trought.

11.6 Citizens Advice Bureau

Members **Agreed** that a contribution would not be made to the Citizens Advice Bureau.

11.7 Lost Words Kent Campaign for Books

Members **Agreed** that a contribution would not be made towards the crowd funding campaign, but Cllr Trought would mention the book to the school. ACTION: CLLR TROUGHT

11.8 2019/20 Budget and Parish Precept

Members had received the budget papers produced by the Clerk prior to the meeting. Members **Agreed** the budget for 2019/20.

Members **Agreed** that the Precept should be set at £26,338, which creates a tax of £82.67 per property, remaining the same as last year and with no increase in payments for residents. The Chairman and Clerk signed the MBC Parish Precept Requirement 2019/20 form for submission to MBC. ACTION: CLERK

12. PLANNING

12.1 Planning Applications

12.1.1 The Rookery, Lughorse Lane – 18/506683/FULL

Proposed garage and utility room.
Parish Council recommendation: No objection.

12.1.2 Old Savage Farmhouse, East Street – 18/506674/AGRIC

Cllrs Ward and Stanbridge did not take part in the discussion of this item.

Prior Notification for a proposed agricultural building for office and staff facilities and storage of orchard equipment. For its prior approval to siting, design and external appearance.

Parish Council recommendation: Make the following points/ask for clarification:

- The maps are inaccurate as they do not show the footpath correctly.
- There is no linear scale on the drawings.
- If the building is to be used for offices/training rooms, where is the provision for parking? No parking is shown on the drawings.
- What will happen to the other half of the building? Will it be demolished?
- Where are the operations proposed to be carried out in the new building taking place currently?

12.1.3 Land at Water Lane – 18/506698/FULL

Cllr Heaton did not take part in the discussion of this item.

Erection of 3 bay mono pitch agricultural lambing building.

Parish Council recommendation: No objection.

12.1.4 Durrants House, West Street – 19/500102/FULL

Erection of a single storey rear extension.

Parish Council recommendation: No objection.

12.1.5 Durrants House, West Street – 19/500103/LBC

Listed Building Consent for erection of a single storey rear extension.

Parish Council recommendation: No objection.

12.2 Planning Decisions

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

12.2.1 Mansanas, Cheveney Farm, Vicarage Road, Yalding – 18/505002/FULL

Change of use from garage to separate dwelling.

Parish Council recommendation: Refuse

Maidstone Borough Council decision: Refused

12.2.2 The Forge, Hunton Hill – 18/505829/FULL

Installation of 13 no. black solar panels on south facing dark grey tiled roof.

Parish Council recommendation: No objection

Maidstone Borough Council decision: Permitted

12.2.3 The Forge, Hunton Hill – 18/505830/LBC

Listed Building Consent for the installation of 13 no. black solar panels on south facing dark grey tiled roof.

Parish Council recommendation: No objection

Maidstone Borough Council decision: Permitted

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next full Council Meeting will be held on **Monday 18th March 2019** at Hunton Village Hall.

There being no further matters to discuss the meeting closed at 10:42pm.