

HUNTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 18TH MARCH 2019 AT 7:30PM AT HUNTON VILLAGE HALL

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Two members of the public were in attendance, one of whom entered during Item 7.1.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr R Lee.
Borough Cllrs L Parfitt-Reid and R Webb had also sent their apologies.

2. FILMING AND RECORDING

The members of the public did not wish to film, record or photograph the meeting.

3. COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS

3.1 Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interests.

3.2 Dispensations

There were no requests for dispensations.

4. MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 21ST JANUARY 2019

The minutes of the meeting held on 21st January 2019 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 7.4 – A letter of thanks was written to the resident who kindly paid for the CCTV at the Village Club.
Item 9.2.2 – Robert Cox has been awarded the contract for maintenance of the hedge and verges near the permissive footpath.

Item 10.4 – The quote for an additional CCTV camera near the Village Hall has been accepted. Installation will take place during the Easter holidays.

Item 11.8 – The MBC Precept Requirement Form 2019/20 was sent to MBC.

6. POLICE

6.1 Police

The following crimes have been logged on the e-watch website since the last Parish Council meeting:
09-13/02/19 – Bishops Lane – A shed at a residential property was broken into. A ride on John Deere mower and a Honda rotary mower were stolen.

14-17/02/19 – Redwall Lane – Person(s) cut a lock on a gate to gain access into a yard. They then gained access into various buildings. Still awaiting a list of stolen property.

20-21/02/19 – West Street – A white Ford Transit van was stolen from the road and later recovered.

25/02/19 – Redwall Lane – A gate was damaged at a residential property. Not known whether anything has been stolen.

Cllr Ward added that there had been another crime which was not on the e-watch list. A 4x4 vehicle was stolen and found burnt out in Yalding.

Members asked the Clerk to request that PCSO Chivers attends the next Parish Council meeting if possible as they have not met him yet. ACTION: CLERK

6.2 **Huntonwatch**

Steve Wyles has provided the following update on Huntonwatch:

Only one thing to report this time - but a worrying one. We have been made aware of activities in the hall car park and in the Bensted Close area of the village that may be related to the sale, distribution and use of drugs. Reports from the pre-school suggest this might be going on during daylight hours and out of sight of the CCTV cameras currently installed. Reports from residents in the area also suggest Bensted Close may be another 'hot spot' although this seems to be limited to the hours of darkness. We have notified the police and have asked, via email and Facebook, to be made aware of any 'suspicious' activities. So far, we have heard no more.

7. **LOCAL COMMUNITY**

7.1 **King George V Playing Field**

The Chairman of the King George V Playing Field Committee, Simon Taylor, reported on the last meeting, held on 13th March:

David Heaton has installed a section of stock fencing between the recreation ground and West Street.

Jacksons Fencing will be installing the new fencing around the play equipment in the week commencing 8th April.

The MBC monthly health and safety reports have noted that one of the toddler swings is damaged. A price will be obtained for a new seat. Simon Taylor and Steve Jones will address a few issues arising from last year's boundary walk and the annual safety inspection once the fencing has been installed.

There are funds remaining of £5,248.

The insurance has been renewed and the Annual Return has been submitted to the Charity Commission. Permission has been given to a West Farleigh boys' football team to practice on the recreation ground on Wednesday evenings.

There has been no representation from Hunton Football Club at the last few meetings.

The Committee was saddened to hear that former trustee Brian Maytum had passed away.

7.2 **Hunton Village Hall Committee**

The Chairman of Hunton Village Hall Committee, Cllr Trought, reported on the last meeting, held on 19th February:

A replacement caretaker has been found – Mick Brooker. He is obtaining three quotes for the external painting of the Village Hall.

The Village Hall is to have a new sign.

Drugs activity has been noted outside the hall.

Enquiries have been received from the Bubble Club about putting on an event. The Committee would also like to put some Applause events on.

Bookings of weddings and parties have increased.

7.3 **Hunton Primary School**

Cllr Trought reported that the school is taking the wickerwork gazebo away from the grounds which will create more parking for staff. The school may approach the Parish Council for a grant to cover some of the cost.

7.4 **Hunton Village Club**

Cllr Trought reported that the previous organiser of the Beer Festival has stepped down, but other are taking it on.

The new kitchen at the Club is now complete. The Village Club Committee is hoping to have an official opening, publicised in the Kent Messenger. Members **Agreed** that the Clerk should write to Roger Ward to thank him for all his hard work on the kitchen.

ACTION: CLERK

Cllr Trought asked whether there was an economic way to have a card machine in the Club. Cllr Heaton advised that there are small readers available.

Forthcoming events are:

- 7th April – Village Walk & Lunch
- 22nd April – a new Committee member is organising an Easter-themed event
- 4th May – Film Night & Supper
- 8th June – Quiz Night

- 22nd June – Village Fete
- 13th July – Wine Tasting & Supper
- 7th September – Beer Festival

7.5 **Traffic and Road Safety Working Party**

Cllr Ward reported that the T&RSWP has not met since the last Parish Council meeting as the planned February meeting had to be cancelled.

Cllr Goddard has received a response from Jennie Watson (KCC Highways) on the proposal to reduce the speed limit to 30mph throughout the village. She does not agree that East Street and West Street are suitable for a 30mph limit as it is usually applied when houses line both sides of the road. This will be discussed at the next T&RSWP meeting and Cllr Goddard will keep pushing for the 30mph limit. Cllr Heaton suggested contacting Borough Cllr Parfitt-Reid and encouraging parishioners to write in to KCC Highways.

Cllr Ward informed Members that HGVs are still being reported on East Street. One haulier was contacted, but no response received. Contact details have also been obtained for Waitrose. Cllr Heaton suggested contacting the Traffic Commission (which grants operator's licences for those operating HGVs) regarding Waitrose. ACTION: CLLR WARD

A record has been kept of traffic incidents in Hunton, but the information has been lost due to a computer issue. Efforts are being made to recover it.

There is to be a road closure on Redwall Lane for 10 days (Morrisons Utilities). Cllr Ward has emailed the company for more information; a response has not been received yet.

7.6 **Tree & Pond Warden**

The Tree & Pond Warden, Mike Summersgill, had nothing to report on ponds.

Mike attended the Kent Tree & Pond Partnership AGM where there had been an update on tree inspections based on recent legal decisions. A tree in the ownership of a parish council fell on to a bus, causing serious injuries to the bus driver. Previously there was no fixed period for tree inspections. The court specified that the inspections should be carried out by someone qualified to do the assessment and it should be a risk-based assessment. In a high-risk area, trees should be inspected every 18 months. Hunton Parish Council had a tree inspection two and a half years ago by a qualified inspector. All recommended remedial work was carried out - a poplar tree was removed, surgery was performed on a Turkey Oak, dead wood was removed from other trees and work was undertaken on the lime trees near the Village Hall.

Mike has obtained a quote of £430 from Silva Arborists, who carried out the previous inspection, and are available to do the inspection within the next few weeks. Members **Agreed** that the quote should be accepted, and the inspection carried out. Members **Agreed** that expenditure should be included in the Parish Council's budget for tree inspection and surgery every 18 months. ACTION: CLERK

Cllr Thomas advised that there is a very big oak tree on the west side of Barn Hill which is dead. Recent winds resulted in branches falling off the tree. Members **Agreed** that the Clerk should write to Tregothnan Estates to suggest action is taken. ACTION: CLERK

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. Borough Cllr Webb advised prior to the meeting that he has chased the MBC Planning Department case officer to arrange another meeting of the Wares Farm monitoring group and will contact the Parish Council when a date has been arranged.

9. **PARISH COUNCILLORS**

9.1 **Liaison with External Bodies**

Cllr Thomas, together with five other parish councillors met with the new MBC Director of Regeneration & Place and other officers to discuss the renewal of the Maidstone Local Plan. The officers stated that MBC has to do what the government directs, which is to build 1,200 houses per year in the borough. This was the first of several meetings; they said they would keep in touch with the parishes. There appears to be little interest in looking after Maidstone as residents and parish councils are largely being ignored.

The MBC Call for Sites has been sent out. MBC councillors have decided they would like single large developments rather than adding to villages – proposals have been made for 1,750 houses near Detling and 2,000 houses on land near Marden.

There is a meeting to present and discuss the Local Plan Review at Yalding next week.

Cllr Ward had heard on the radio that MBC is looking into congestion charging.

Cllr Thomas advised that a complaint is being made to the Local Government Ombudsman concerning the response from MBC to a complaint made by the Parish Council about pre-application advice given to the Spice Lounge applicant and the way the complaint was dealt with.

Cllr Thomas would like to ask Rob Jarman (MBC Planning) why the Wilsons Yard and Durrants Farm sites are being treated differently as they have similar characteristics. To be considered further after the meeting with Graham Parkinson (MBC Planning) regarding Durrants Farm.

9.2 Footpaths and Ditches

Cllr Heaton will spray herbicide on the permissive footpath when conditions are appropriate.

Cllr Heaton has been in communication with a landowner who has dug out all the ditches on his land, but the blocked culvert under Lughorse Lane is causing some ditches to flood and then erode his land.

Members **Agreed** that the Clerk should log the issue on the Kent Highways portal. ACTION: CLERK

Cllr Goddard asked whether it was possible for anything to be done about the pipe under the road near the Gudgeon. Cllr Heaton stated that it was the responsibility of KCC.

The gullies have been cleared on East Street, but water is still coming out of the BT manholes.

9.3 Highways

Cllr Goddard has been asked by a parishioner to look at Elm Corner as cars from Redwall Lane travel far too fast around the bend. Cllr Goddard has added it to the list to speak to Jennie Watson about. Possible remedies could include: double chevrons; black and white bollards with red reflectors; SLOW markings on the road; and a speed limit on the road.

Cllr Heaton has been contacted about branches overhanging Amsbury Road. This has been brought to the Parish Council's attention before and the resident was advised that Coxheath Parish Council had been contacted as it falls within Coxheath parish, not Hunton.

9.4 Communication & Events

Cllr Ward reported that the editing of the Hunton Herald has now been taken over by a team of people. Rotating pairs will edit the Herald each month.

Cllr Ward has resigned as Hunton correspondent for the Kent Messenger and will advertise the post.

On 18th May there will be a Huntones concert at the church to celebrate their 9-year anniversary.

The village lunches at the Club raised over £500 and will start again in October.

9.5 Planning Issues and Consultations

Cllr Thomas covered all planning issues under Item 9.1.

9.6 Utilities

Cllr Stanbridge has entered a comment on the BT Openreach website concerning their performance. The chamber on East Street, which is still leaking, has also been reported.

Cllr Heaton stated that a resident had asked him about internet connection in the village and he had advised that Cllr Stanbridge be contacted.

10. OTHER PARISH MATTERS

10.1 Flooding

Cllr Thomas noted that the Environment Agency provide monthly reports on the protection of houses.

Members **Agreed** that the 'Flooding' item on the agenda should be combined with the 'Footpaths and Ditches' item in future. ACTION: CLERK

10.2 Brexit

Members considered how a 'no deal' Brexit could affect Hunton. One possible concern could be an increase in traffic in the village if the motorways (M20 and M26) are adversely affected by stacked traffic, although it is unlikely to be particularly pertinent to Hunton.

10.3 Traffic Calming Measures on West Street

Cllr Trought advised that several parish councillors had met with the Chairman of East Farleigh Parish Council to discuss the East Farleigh traffic calming plans. These consist of traffic calming over more than one mile of road: coloured tarmac at The Bull pub with ‘dragons’ teeth’ to the approach; reinforcement of the existing 30mph road markings; and addition of new road markings. The scheme is very expensive and there would be an additional maintenance cost every 7-8 years for the same amount.

Cllr Heaton suggested that an argument could be made for funding from the Vicarage Road development towards traffic calming, due to the increase in traffic along West Street.

Members **Agreed** that the Clerk should enquire about the traffic calming on the Malling Road between Teston village and the North Pole pub.

ACTION: CLERK

Cllr Goddard **Agreed** to contact KCC Highways to ask for the white gates on West Street to be cleaned.

ACTION: CLLR GODDARD

10.4 Clerk’s Report

The Clerk has received a letter from The Kent Men of the Trees, inviting the Parish Council to enter their annual ‘Trees in The Village Competition’.

Members agreed not to enter the competition.

11. POLICIES

11.1 Standing Orders

The Parish Council last reviewed its Standing Orders (which are based on the NALC Model Standing Orders) on 26th March 2018. Revised Standing Orders, taking into account updates to the NALC Model Standing Orders, were drafted by the Clerk and circulated prior to the meeting.

Members reviewed the new Standing Orders and **Agreed** to adopt them.

11.2 Financial Regulations

The Parish Council last reviewed its Financial Regulations (which are based on the NALC Model Financial Regulations) on 26th March 2018. These have not changed.

Members reviewed the existing Financial Regulations and **Agreed** to adopt them with no changes.

12. FINANCE

12.1 Budget Monitoring Report

The Budget Monitoring Report to 28th February 2019 was **Noted**.

12.2 Income Received

The following income has been received since the last meeting:

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| Hunton Parish Hall Committee – FIT receipt | £527.54 |
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Cllr Stanbridge reviewed and signed the bank reconciliation.

12.3 Payments Made

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

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| SO – Sharon Goodwin – Salary & office allowance – January | £443.44 |
| SO – Sharon Goodwin – Salary & office allowance – February | £443.44 |

12.4 Cheques for Signature

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

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|--|--------|
| 300277 – ACRK – Annual membership subscription | £52.00 |
| 300278 – Sharon Goodwin – Travel expenses/Postage | £32.31 |
| 300280 – Mike Summersgill – Tree & Pond Warden training expenses | £12.60 |

Cheque 300279 for £6,000 was also signed and dated 1st April 2019, for the contribution to the King George V Playing Field Committee for 2019/20.

12.5 Yalding Parish Playscheme 2019

The Parish Council has been asked to make a small donation for the 2019 Playscheme. The Parish Council contributed £100 last year under s137 expenditure. Four children from Hunton attended the 2018 Playscheme.

Members **Agreed** to contribute £100 to the Playscheme again under s137 expenditure. Cheque 300281 was signed by Cllrs Goddard and Thomas.

12.6 Review of Clerk's Salary

The National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) agreed new pay scales for 2019-20 to be implemented from 1st April 2019. A new pay spine has been introduced, resulting in the Clerk's old SCP (spinal column point) of 22 being converted to new SCP 12.

Members **Agreed** to approve the increase in the Clerk's salary in line with the NJC pay scales 2019-20. Cllrs Goddard and Thomas signed the standing order mandate to increase the Clerk's monthly salary payment.

13. PLANNING

13.1 Maidstone Local Plan Review – Call for Sites

Maidstone Borough Council is starting its Local Plan Review, following the adoption of the Maidstone Borough Local Plan in 2017. An early step in the process is the 'Call for Sites', which is an open request for information about land and sites which may have development potential in the future, particularly aimed at landowners, developers and their agents but it is open to anyone to submit a site.

Members discussed the proposal for the 2,000-house garden community at Marden. Cllr Ward stated that a residents' objection group has been formed as the development would ruin Marden. The group has offered to come and speak to parish councils.

Cllr Ward asked whether parish councils would be consulted in the Call for Sites process. There is some uncertainty to the process; the Parish Council will continue to monitor.

13.2 Greensand Ridge

At the MBC Strategic Planning, Sustainability and Transportation Committee on 6th November 2018 it was agreed that a representation should be made to the government review of National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) to seek to secure AONB protection for the Greensand Ridge.

Cllr Heaton was aware that some of the Greensand Ridge towards Plaxtol already has AONB designation. He suggested that the whole of the village could be considered for AONB status.

Members **Agreed** that the Parish Council should support AONB protection of the Greensand Ridge.

13.3 Planning Decisions

Members to note the following planning decisions received from Maidstone Borough Council since the last Planning Committee meeting:

13.3.1 Buildings At Burford Farm, Redwall Lane, Linton - 18/505786/FULL

Conversion of a redundant Threshing Barn and Granary Building to create 2.no residential dwellings with associated access, parking and amenity space.

Parish Council recommendation: No objection.

Maidstone Borough Council decision: Permitted

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

Erection of a single storey rear extension.

Parish Council recommendation: No objection.

Maidstone Borough Council decision: Application withdrawn

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

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

Parish Council recommendation: No objection.

Maidstone Borough Council decision: Application withdrawn

13.3.4 Land at Water Lane – 18/506698/FULL

Erection of 3 bay mono pitch agricultural lambing building.

Parish Council recommendation: No objection.

Maidstone Borough Council decision: Permitted

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next full Council Meeting will be the Annual Meeting to be held on **Monday 13th May 2019** at 7:30pm at Hunton Village Hall.

There being no further matters to discuss the meeting closed at 9:40pm.