

HUNTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 16TH MARCH 2020 AT 7:30PM AT HUNTON VILLAGE HALL

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Three members of the public were in attendance from the start of the meeting and one entered during Item 7.2. Borough Cllr Richard Webb was in attendance.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs R Lee and G Thomas.

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 20TH JANUARY 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th January 2020 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 7.6 – The Tregothnan Estate has agreed to expedite the removal of the dead oak tree shedding wood on to Barn Hill.

Item 11.10 – The Parish Precept Requirement 2020/21 form was submitted to MBC. MBC have agreed the precept of £26,338, which will be paid into the Parish Council's bank account in the first week of April.

6. POLICE

6.1 Police

The new PCSO, Nicola Morris, was unable to attend the meeting but provided the following crime report:
08-09/02/20 – George Street – Theft. Number plate stolen.

13/02/20 – East Street – Break-in to garage and attempted break-in to house. Tools stolen.

14/02/20 – Lughorse Lane – Robbery. Money and phone stolen. Phone tracked – investigation ongoing.

14-15/02/20 – Amsbury Road – Burglary. Attempt to steal lawn mower from outbuilding.

In addition, the following was logged on the e-watch website:

26/02/20 – Vicarage Road – Break-in to a commercial yard. Nothing taken.

6.2 Huntonwatch

Steve Wyles reported the following on Huntonwatch:

In January there was anti-social behaviour on Bensted Close. A small silver hatchback was also seen acting suspiciously in January.

There have been an increasing number of new scams – demanding that people 'do something' otherwise they will be prosecuted.

On 2nd February, a car hit a parked car on West Street but did not stop.

There has also been some fly tipping activity.

7. LOCAL COMMUNITY

7.1 King George V Playing Field Committee

The Chairman of the King George V Playing Field Committee, Simon Taylor, was unable to attend the meeting. The following is an update from the Committee meeting held on 11th March 2020:

A working party is meeting on 21st March to do some remedial work on the field.

One health and safety report has been received from MBC. The same comment appears as on previous reports regarding the multiplay equipment; the platform has rough edges delaminating. This will be looked at by the working party.

There is £6,199 in funds remaining.

A grant application for MBC SIPA funding has been successful and £878.04 will be received for an additional picnic table near the play area, a new bin to attach to the play area fencing and matting around the gate to the play area to prevent people slipping. The grant will be paid into the Parish Council's bank account.

The Committee contributed £1,000 towards the new Bowls Club changing rooms.

The trustees' indemnity insurance has been renewed with BHIB Insurance Brokers.

Issues for the Parish Council to consider:

- New barrier – signage needs to be printed, a rota created for opening/closing and keys cut for relevant parties.
- Bins – the Committee feel the best course of action regarding the bins is to replace the missing bin (as agreed by the Parish Council at its last meeting) and move the bin in the corner near the play area to a location in between the cricket and football pitches. There will be a new bin attached to the play area fencing (funded by the MBC SIPA grant). See Item 10.4.
- Turkey Oak tree – the Committee would like the tree to be reduced further and a sign should be printed for the tree (as it is impractical to put a fence around it). See Item 7.6.

Cllr Heaton distributed four keys to the barrier padlock. A rota will be compiled for opening and closing

the barrier. Cllr Heaton will organise the signage.

ACTION: CLLR HEATON

7.2 Hunton Village Hall Committee

The Chairman of Hunton Village Hall Committee, Cllr Trought, reported that the new kitchen has been fitted.

7.3 Hunton Primary School

Cllr Trought did not have anything to report.

7.4 Hunton Village Club

Cllr Trought reported that the following events are due to take place at the Club:

- 25th April – Film Night – ‘Fisherman’s Friend’
- 8th May – Quiz Night
- 6th September – Beer Festival

7.5 Traffic and Road Safety Working Party/Highways

Cllr Goddard reported that the speed monitoring exercise on East Street took place. The average speeds will be available from 17th March, which Cllr Goddard will collate and email.

ACTION: CLLR GODDARD

Cllr Ward commented that it was unfortunate the speed monitoring had taken place when there was roadworks on East Street and also bad weather, both of which would potentially cause people to slow down and therefore affect the results.

7.6 Tree & Pond Warden

The Tree & Pond Warden, Mike Summersgill, provided the following report:

Ponds – there are a few more ponds in existence now due to the wet weather.

Trees – the Turkey Oak on the recreation ground was inspected by the same person who has previously inspected it (Crispin Tregoning). The tree is in the same condition as it was at the last inspection, but he recommends removing 30%. It is not urgent and can be cut in October when the next full tree inspection is also due. Consideration should be given to safeguarding when crowds are around by putting a sign on the tree or bunting around it.

Mr Summersgill also attended a talk on Ash Dieback and will put an article in the Hunton Herald next month.

Members **Agreed** that the Turkey Oak should be cut back by 30% in October 2020 and a sign should be printed and fixed to the tree.

ACTION: ALL CLLRS/CLERK

8. COUNTY & BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

8.1 County Councillor

County Cllr Stockell was unable to attend the meeting.

8.2 Borough Councillors

Borough Cllr Webb reported that Wares Farm is trying to route traffic away from Hunton and is planning to hold another meeting in spring.

Local elections will not take place in 2020.

9. PARISH COUNCILLORS

9.1 Liaison with External Bodies

Cllr Thomas was unable to attend the meeting.

9.2 Footpaths, Ditches and Flooding

Cllr Heaton had received correspondence from a parishioner about the blocked culverts and drains in West Street who was very concerned as flood water washes on to her property when West Street floods, caused by cars driving through. She has also offered to be a Flood Warden. KCC Highways have blasted and cleared the culvert but they would like to put a camera down now. Cllr Heaton has replied with some suggestions to mitigate the flooding and asked her to contact the Parish Council when the road becomes flooded so road signs can be erected to stop cars passing through floods.

Cllr Ward reported flooding on East Street (at the first of the sharp bends) to KCC Highways. Mr Summersgill advised that KCC found a brick-built culvert on East Street and cleared the blockage but found two other chambers, so the culvert seems to cover the whole length of East Street. KCC have no records of it but do seem intent on finding out how the water can be cleared.

The Tree and Pond Warden also noted that there is a Yalding and Collier Street flood group who put flooding signs out, but Cllr Heaton advised that the flooding in West Street occurs before it does in Yalding

9.3 Communication & Events

There was nothing to report.

9.4 Planning Issues and Consultations

Cllr Thomas was unable to attend the meeting.

9.5 Utilities

Cllr Stanbridge will write a letter to South East Water for an update on the East Street water main replacement and will also write to the relevant company regarding the exposed cable to the south side of Redwall Lane.

ACTION: CLLR STANBRIDGE

10. OTHER PARISH MATTERS

10.1 Parish Council Elections

The government has postponed all local elections until 2021 due to the Coronavirus.

Borough Cllr Webb advised that if a parish councillor was not planning to restand in 2020, they will continue in post until next year's election, so will have to resign if they do not wish to continue.

10.2 Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting was due to take place on 18th May 2020. Due to the Coronavirus the meeting will be left in abeyance for now.

10.3 Litter Picking

Cllr Heaton stated that the litter picking team are not allowed to pick litter in Hunton unless there is a

footpath and the road has a 30mph speed limit. According to MBC, their risk assessment does not allow it as it is too dangerous, even though the litter picking team have been picking litter for years. Cllr Heaton asked Borough Cllr Webb if he could pursue this with MBC and also involve Borough Cllr Parfitt-Reid as there is a very keen litter picking group who wish to pick litter in Hunton. Cllr Webb agreed to pursue this with MBC.

10.4 Bins

At the last Parish Council meeting Members agreed to replace the missing bin in the car park and purchase an additional bin. The Playing Field Committee (PFC) subsequently successfully applied for MBC SIPA grant funding for several items, one of which is a bin to attach to the play area fencing. Due to this the PFC has suggested moving one bin from that area further into the field and does not think it necessary to purchase an additional bin.

The Clerk brought details and prices of various types of bins to the meeting but owing to the need to reduce the meeting time due to the Coronavirus, Members **Agreed** that she should email the information round to Members.

ACTION: CLERK

10.5 Clerk's Report

A letter has been received from Hunton Bowls Club, thanking the Parish Council for the contribution of £1,000 towards the Club's new changing rooms.

A letter has been received from The Kent Men of the Trees, inviting the Parish Council to enter their annual 'Trees in the Village Competition'.

The NNDR bill for the cricket pavilion has been received from MBC. Due to the Small Business Rate Relief applied the bill is £0.

11. POLICIES

11.1 Standing Orders

The Parish Council last reviewed its Standing Orders on 18th March 2019. The NALC Model Standing Orders, on which the Parish Council's Standing Orders are based, have not changed since that time. Members reviewed the existing Standing Orders and **Agreed** to adopt them with no changes.

11.2 Financial Regulations

The Parish Council last reviewed its Financial Regulations on 18th March 2019. The NALC Model Financial Regulations, on which the Parish Council's Financial Regulations are based, were updated in July 2019. Revised Financial Regulations were drafted by the Clerk and circulated prior to the meeting. Members reviewed the updated Financial Regulations and **Agreed** to adopt them.

12. FINANCE

12.1 Budget Monitoring Report

The Budget Monitoring Report to 29th February 2020 was **Noted**.

12.2 Income Received

The following income has been received since the last meeting:

Zurich Insurance Plc – Insurance claim for cricket pavilion	£955.12
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Cllr Trought 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 – January	£453.30
300329 – Tregoning's Trees – Turkey Oak inspection report	£150.00

12.4 Cheques for Signature

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

300330 – Mike Summersgill – Tree & Pond Warden travel expenses	£26.50
300331 – ACRK – Annual membership subscription	£55.00
300332 – Sharon Goodwin – Travel expenses/Postage	£28.95

12.5 Security Lighting

A quote of £840 plus VAT has been received from Q-Tec Solutions Ltd for the reinstatement of the security lighting following the vandalism of the existing lights.

Members **Agreed** to accept the quotation.

Members **Agreed** that an insurance claim should be made.

Members **Agreed** that the security lights should not be reinstated until the barrier to the car park is being locked overnight.

ACTION: CLLRS/CLERK

13. PLANNING

13.1 Planning Application

13.1.1 Park House, Lughorse Lane – 20/500940/FULL

Replacement of barn granted consent for conversion to a single dwelling under application 17/506543/PNQCLA with a new dwelling. (revised scheme to 19/502113/FULL).

Parish Council recommendation: No objection.

13.2 Planning Appeal

13.2.1 Riverside House, West Street – APP/U2235/C/19/3237423

Without planning permission, the erection of a structure comprising a moveable raised platform/balcony with balustrading to the western side of the first floor holiday let. Appeal against an Enforcement Notice.

Parish Council comments: The structure is not in keeping with the area.

13.3 Planning Enforcement – The Chances, Lughorse Lane

The Parish Council believes there are now five families living at The Chances which may be in breach of planning conditions. They are also lighting bonfires on the site and riding motorbikes up and down the footpath, which are prohibited. If anyone comes across this activity it should be reported to Community Protection, and 101 should be called if the motorbikes are seen on the road. The owner of the land near The Chances is not allowed to put fencing up (prevented by MBC) and has been suffering from the anti-social behaviour.

Members **Agreed** that MBC Planning Enforcement should be contacted to see whether there are breaches of planning conditions.

ACTION: CLERK

Members **Agreed** that a letter of support should be sent to the owner of the land near The Chances.

ACTION: CLERK

13.4 Planning Decisions

The following planning decisions, made by Maidstone Borough Council, were **Noted**:

13.4.1 Mistletoe Cottage, Grove Lane - 19/505867/FULL

Demolition of existing garage and erection of two single storey buildings providing a garden store with glazed link to annexe ancillary to main dwelling.

Parish Council recommendation: No objection.

Maidstone Borough Council decision: Permitted.

13.4.2 Southover, Grove Lane – 20/500030/FULL

Erection of a single storey extension and internal alterations.

Parish Council recommendation: No objection.

Maidstone Borough Council decision: Permitted.

13.4.3 Southover, Grove Lane – 20/500031/LBC

Listed Building Consent for the erection of a single storey extension and internal alterations.

Parish Council recommendation: No objection.

Maidstone Borough Council decision: Permitted.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next full Council Meeting is due to be the Annual Meeting, to be held on **Monday 11th May 2020** at 7:30pm at Hunton Village Hall, but this may be changed in line with government advice on social distancing due to the Coronavirus.

There being no further matters to discuss the meeting closed at 8:10pm.