

**Management Committee of the King George V Playing Field, Hunton**  
**Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 15th September 2021 at 8:15pm**  
**at Hunton Village Club, West Street, Hunton**  
Charity number 1084141

Present:                    Mr Steve Jones                    Hunton Cricket Club  
                                 Mr Simon Taylor                    Hunton Cricket Club  
                                 Mr Danny Peacock                    Hunton Football Club  
                                 Mr Colin Slattery                    Hunton Bowls Club  
                                 Mrs Angela Baptie                    Hunton Bowls Club  
                                 Mr Tony Stanbridge                    Hunton Parish Council

Secretary:                    Mrs Sharon Goodwin

In attendance:                    Robson and Matthew from Hunton Football Club

Apologies:                    Mr David Heaton                    Hunton Parish Council

**1. Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, including Robson and Matthew from Hunton Football Club, who were attending the meeting to establish whether they would like to become trustees.

**2. Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2021. Copies had been distributed to all Trustees and Parish Councillors and were as usual available on request.

**3. Matters arising**

- The holes in the car park are getting worse and need filling before winter. SJ will discuss it with DH, who is planning to fill the holes and remove the sandbag when he has time.
- CS attempted to drill through the metal stay near the last loose wooden post near the Bowls Club, so it could be bolted to the post, but the drill broke. CS has a new electric drill, so he will try again on the coming weekend.
- A date needs to be arranged to sand, cure and repaint the box frame on the multiplay and paint the play equipment, likely to be in spring.
- CS fitted the board to replace half of the multiplay platform, but it was not big enough. It is not possible to order another single piece from GB Sport & Leisure, so SJ has found another supplier and CS will purchase the board and be refunded by cheque. SJ will help CS fit the second board for the platform and paint the boxwork at the same time.
- The area where the old cricket pavilion stood is unsafe and unsightly. It cannot be left as it is and it is unlikely that it could be landscaped. A possibility is to concrete it over and use it as a terrace for the Cricket Club or for practise nets. SJ will obtain quotes and bring them back to the Committee, with a view to the work being done in

spring/summer 2022. The Cricket Club may be able to supply the labour.

- SJ has reinstalled the second cradle swing.
- Shannon Matthews has resigned as Trustee.
- ST obtained a quote for 6-foot palisade fencing for the north-west corner of the field. The cost of the fencing alone would be £6,000 and to have it installed also, the total cost would be £12k to £15k (it will be discussed at the Parish Council meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> September). It is very expensive for fencing which is not entirely secure. ST will obtain a quote for a higher specification fence, but the cost is likely to be prohibitive. An alternative could be to consider a netted goal for the children to play with.
- The Football Club have mentioned that the grass is high on the goal lines. SJ has advised that the gang mowers cannot fit under the goal posts so they will need to mow it themselves.
- SJ has not noticed the sewage smell to the north of the field lately. To be monitored.
- Robert Cox has removed the ivy from the Football Club changing rooms. SG will check that it has all been removed, as the ivy at the back and Bowls Club side needs to be removed.

#### 4. Health & safety

- Two MBC monthly reports have been received on the children's play area since the last meeting. Both reports have the usual comment for the multiplay - 'platform has rough edges delaminating' (low risk/satisfactory) which is the same as previous reports.
- Outstanding actions from a previous monthly report from The Play Inspection Company Ltd (via MBC):
  - Picnic table - a number of fixings have worked loose. Secure all loose fixings. Low risk.  
Action: When the play equipment is painted in the spring, screws will be inserted underneath. Ongoing.
  - Cradle swings - The surface is lifting at the edges and creating trip points. Repair perimeter of surfacing to remove trip points.  
Action: The new wet pour surfacing is being poured on 16/09/21.
  - Multiplay - The plywood has delaminated in some places. Remove all rough or splintered edges. Low risk.  
Action: CS has replaced half of the board. Another board will be ordered to replace the other half.
  - Multiplay - The paintwork on this item has been damaged or worn exposing the metal underneath which is rusting - Treat any rusting components and repaint. Low risk.  
Action: The multiplay will be repainted. Ongoing.
- Outstanding actions to take from the annual play area inspection report:
  - Timber on the platform - as above - CS to replace the second half.
  - The safety surface under the cradle swings needs attention - as above - the new surface is being laid in September.
- Mike Summersgill has commented on the poplar trees in the north-east corner of the field. They were not mentioned in the October 2020 Visual Tree Assessment (VTA) other than the tree with the split trunk. However, the assessor did feel that the many tall thin trees near the highway were a potential future problem and might be considered for pollarding, which would maybe need a road closure for a cherry picker. The next VTA is in April 2022; Mike will inform the Committee of any recommended action.

- Mike has lopped the overhanging oak tree branches.
- Robert Cox has removed the willow branches near the trim trail.
- There is a gap in the hedgerow near the road which needs populating, and the wire also needs replacing.
- SG will check whether Robert Cox usually cuts the roadside hedge and ask him to cut it if so.

## 5. Finance

- The Income & Expenditure report to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021 was noted. After six invoices have been paid at the meeting, there will be £6,666 in funds remaining.
- Payments made since the last meeting are:  
DD - Castle Water x 2 (water charges - July/August) - £277.60  
Cheque 300107 - Robert Cox (tidying play area and car park/cutting back/strimming) - £180.00
- The following payments were approved:

300108 - Maidstone Borough Council - Bin emptying (July/August)	£150.00
300109 - Robert Cox - Tidying the play area and car park	£105.00
300110 - Commercial Services Trading Ltd - Grounds maintenance (April-June)	£893.40
300111 - Outdoorsy Living Ltd - Replacement of wet pour surface under cradle swings	£2,587.20
300112 - Gwen Nabbs - Removal of moles	£130.00
300113 - Robert Cox - Cutting willow branches/removal of ivy from FC changing rooms/cutting the hedge to Hunton Engineering	£370.00

The cheques were signed by SJ and ST.

## 6. Administration

- There is currently one representative for Hunton Football Club on the Committee. Robson and Matthew attended the meeting, so one of them may wish to become a Trustee in future.

## 7. Other parish news

- There has been a flooding issue on West Street. The Parish Council wants to speak to Betts about crop management of their fields.
- A six-dwelling development at Burford Farm, on the parish boundary, is in the pipeline. It appears to be a sympathetic and responsible development.

## 8. Any other matters

- AB advised that Gwen Nabbs had visited today. There is no mole activity, but Gwen recommended that the grass should be kept cut back along the boundary fence, so she can see where the moles are coming through. SJ advised that the Community Orchard Group cut the grass here, so they will need to be contacted. Some of the grass is left to grow as meadow, but DH cuts paths around the picnic tables, so he may be able to cut a path along the boundary.
- SG will ask Robert Cox to cut both sides and the top of the beech hedge towards the end of October. The Bowls Club will provide access so he can cut their side.
- CS noted that there is a hole under the container, caused by rabbits, which he will block up with bricks. SJ advised that there are also rabbits under the deck of the new pavilion.

- DP remarked that the door to the Football Club changing rooms needs to be repaired. Dave Elliott is also getting three quotes for the electrics, water, redecoration, etc of the changing rooms. SJ advised that it could be difficult to get quotes to do all of the work and it may be better to split the work into chunks, so there is a programme of works, in order of priority. SJ also mentioned that grant funding is available from the FA, Kent FA, MBC, KCC, etc.
- SJ advised that the Bowls Club have put in a request for funding for a new mower. CS stated that the existing mower is falling to pieces. If a new one is not purchased, the parts will need to be repaired or replaced which is expensive. The cost is £5,722 for a new mower. The Hunton Herald is contributing up to £1,000 and the Bowls Club have applied for a KCC Members Grant, which is likely to be around £500 if successful (they will find out in October). An application has been submitted to the National Lottery for £3,000, but there is a 12 week wait for a decision. The Bowls Club could commit some funds towards it, perhaps £1,000. It was agreed that if all the funding bids are successful, the Bowls Club would receive approximately £5,500, so it would be preferable to wait for the results of the bids before asking the Committee or Parish Council for funding. ST asked whether second-hand equipment had been considered. CS advised that this would still cost around £3,000 and would need to be relatively new equipment. TS asked how secure the mower would be. It is secure at the Bowls Club during the bowls season and moved off site in winter. SJ asked whether the mower is insured, which AB confirmed.
- Kathy Reid, Secretary of the Village Hall Committee, has sent an email about parking. DP felt that hirers of the Village Hall believe they have priority over the car park, which is not correct as SJ pointed out, as it is in the terms and conditions of hire that the car park is not for sole use of Village Hall occupants. Kathy has stated that the sports clubs should refer to the hall bookings calendar to see if there are events on the same day that sports matches are taking place, but it is not clear from the calendar what the events are. When ST spoke to Kathy several years ago about the parking, he asked that she let the hirers know that they can contact the clubs if a lot of parking is required. This did happen and worked well. The issue is that the car park is always referred to as the Village Hall car park, which it is not. It is not incumbent on the sports clubs to find out when bookings have been made; it should be made clear to hirers that there is limited parking. SJ suggested that Kathy is invited to the next Committee meeting to discuss it in person.

**Date of next meeting: Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2021 at 8:15pm at Hunton Village Club**

The meeting ended at 10:09pm.