

**MINUTES OF THE HUNTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 23RD MAY 2022
AT HUNTON VILLAGE HALL**

PRESENT: Cllr D Heaton as Chairman, Cllrs A Trought, T Stanbridge, J Goddard, M Summersgill, I Simmons and J Fuller, and Mrs S Goodwin, Clerk. They were joined by at least 23 members of the public.

1. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed all those present at the meeting.

2. PRESENTATION BY RAY MORRIS, MARDEN WILDLIFE

Ray Morris gave an informative presentation and provided a written report on the work of Marden Wildlife.

Questions and answers from those present:

- We are considering what to do to improve the playing field, including enhancing the wildlife. There used to be Little Owl box at the field and Little Owls were seen regularly. We have discussed replacing the nesting box and installing more nesting boxes on the site. I would like to speak to you about it. *RM – I would be happy to discuss it.*
- I was intrigued to hear about the Cucumber Spider and the Cricket Bat Spider. Are these indigenous species? *RM – yes, they are native.*
- Are you aware that there are turtle doves in Linton? *RM – no, but I would like to pinpoint where they are located.*
- Two turtle doves were spotted in our meadow by another resident. How do I go about seeing them? When is the best time to see them? *RM – first thing in the morning, before 9am, according to the RSPB. However, the Marden group have not seen them that early, more from 9am to later in the day. We are learning about them all the time. They like tall, scrubby hedgerows, feed on the ground on bare patches of soil and need water as they only eat seeds, so can often be found around ponds.*
- County/Borough Cllr Webb advised that he would match the funding provided by Cllr Parfitt-Reid if Marden Wildlife could do some work in Hunton, East Farleigh and West Farleigh.
- Cllr Simmons advised that he has been on a tour around Clock House Farm – Ray Morris has been working with the farm for 20 years, so his work is having an influence further afield.

Cllr Heaton thanked Mr Morris for his presentation.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

4. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 20TH MAY 2019

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

5. POLICE REPORT

PCSO Nicola Morris was unable to attend the meeting.

6. OPEN SESSION

The Chairman invited residents to ask questions, suggest ideas and give views.

Speeding traffic is causing the verge to erode on West Street from the school to Bishops Lane.

The installation of kerb stones is covered in my highways report. (Cllr Goddard)

What is happening about Little Clock House on George Street?

Sue King of MBC Planning Enforcement recently replied to the Parish Council complaint about breach of conditions, stating that the case has been closed. She advised that, although Olive Lee has been ill and is staying with other family, according to Wayne Lee (grandson) she does technically still live on the site and her belongings are still there. Although John Lee (Wayne's brother) also occupies the site and it should only be occupied by Wayne and Olive Lee, Sue King does not want to take any formal enforcement action and stated that if the site is sold on it will never be cleared to that of a field as it was in the 1970s. The Clerk will forward the email from Sue King to Borough Cllr S Webb as requested. (Clerk)

Vehicles with French number plates have been seen on the site. (Cllr Heaton)

What are the stipulations for Olive Lee, and now her grandson? There are a lot of vans on site – it looks as though a business is being run from there.

They did apply to run a business from there but the Planning Inspector ruled against it. They are just allowed to stay on the site as residents. (Cllr Heaton)

Who owns the site?

The Lee family. (Cllr Heaton)

I noticed the Welcome Pack is dated 2016 and would like to update it. I need to ask everyone what has changed. There will be a call for help through Facebook to help with the update. (Cllr Summersgill)

Thanks to Oli Pascall from Clock House Farm for helping to get the litter picking going again. There is a litter pick on 2nd June and others will be planned. Clock House Farm are picking up the collected rubbish and disposing of it.

If funding is needed for litter picking equipment the Parish Council could provide it. (Cllr Heaton)

The Chairman thanked everyone for their questions and comments.

7. REPORTS FROM LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

Twenty local organisations reported on their activities over the last year. The written reports provided to the Clerk are published as a separate document.

8. REPORT FROM THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

County Cllr S Webb had provided a written report, distributed at the meeting. Cllr Webb reported that he has been in post for a year now; one of 81 county councillors. He sits on four cabinet committees. Cllr Webb has been allocated a £10,000 Members' grant, but in his first year he has barely given half of it to three causes (one being East Farleigh Primary School). He would like to help vulnerable children and adults.

Cllr Webb has been visiting local primary schools. Hunton CEP School is one of the best schools he has visited in a long time – the new headteacher has made a huge difference. Cllr Webb will be giving a cheque for £2,500 to the school for the garden.

Administration around homing Ukrainians has been difficult.

9. REPORTS FROM BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

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

Borough Cllr S Webb reported that Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) have made a major change, moving away from a committee to cabinet structure, so that decisions can be made much quicker.

A boundary review is being undertaken, which will reduce the number of borough councillors from 55 to 48. Hunton is likely to be linked with Yalding, Marden and Linton.

The Local Plan review means an additional 6,000 houses need to be built. The Conservatives do not want them to be in villages and have pledged to include 1,000 affordable houses in the overall total.

Maidstone town centre is being developed.

More officers have been appointed to stop fly tipping.

The MBC Planning department has been poor; two more officers are being recruited to make it more effective.

10. REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council has prepared a summary report, including the receipts and payments figures for 2021/22, 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 the trustees of the Village Hall Committee and Playing Field Committee.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9:56pm.