

# Hunton Parish Council

## Report for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015

### Parish Councillors

This was the third year of the four year term of the Parish Council, following elections in 2012. At the Annual Meeting in May 2014 the Council re-elected Cllr Roger Sawtell as Chairman and Cllr Gary Thomas as Vice-chairman. Cllrs Sawtell and Thomas swapped roles at the most recent Annual Meeting in May 2015, with Cllr Thomas being elected as Chairman and Cllr Sawtell as Vice-chairman.

All of the Parish Councillors and the Clerk were greatly saddened by the passing of Les Leonard, who had served on the Parish Council for many years up to November 2014. The Parish Council co-opted Annette Troughton to the Council in January 2015.

Hunton parish councillors have all undertaken to act in accordance with a Code of Conduct and there have been no complaints to the local monitoring officer about their individual or collective activities.

### Income

The Council was mainly financed by a precept of £17,000 which was raised on local householders, collected with the council tax. This amounted to £57.10 for a Band "D" property. Maidstone Borough Council also passed on funding from local council tax support of £1,061 and provided Parish Services Scheme funding of £1,874 to assist with maintenance of the recreation ground and play area and street lighting. The Council has also received £2,624 in Feed-in Tariffs (FITs) from the Village Hall's energy supplier, following the investment in solar panels on the Village Hall roof in 2012. The Village Hall benefits from reduced energy bills.

Thanks to the hard work of Hunton Wanderers Cricket Club, funding of £26,563 has been received so far from Sport England towards the construction of the new cricket pavilion.

### Expenditure

The majority of the Council's expenditure was a donation of £5,800 to the King George V Playing Field Committee for the maintenance of the playing field. The Council also assisted the Village Hall with a contribution of £1,937 towards the insurance costs and £4,000 towards the repair and refurbishment of the Hall. The Council funded repairs of the car park near the Village Hall at a cost of £1,637.

The income and expenditure figures for 2014/15 are shown on the back page. Copies of audited annual returns are available under the Publication Scheme.

### Activities

The footpath between Bensted Close and the Village Hall is now regularly used by parishioners. The Council has put in place a maintenance contract to ensure the hedge running alongside the footpath and the path verges are kept tidy. Large puddles developed on the path during the winter, but the Council took action to fill the holes as KCC did not have the funding available at the time.

The construction of the new cricket pavilion is well under way. The building is in place and waterproof, with further works such as electrics, plumbing work and internal fittings still to be done. The building will predominantly be used by the cricket club, but will also be available for use as a community asset.

The Council has been working with KCC to ensure action is taken on a number of local highways issues, such as potholes; the dangerous location of the bus stop at the junction of East Street and West Street; provision of an anti skid surface at the bottom of Hunton Hill; traffic calming on West Street; and lower speed limits. These issues are ongoing, but pressure is being maintained to ensure progress is made. In July kerbing will be

installed along West Street from the Village Hall towards Lughorse Lane, followed by the resurfacing of the bottom part of East Street. The Council is contributing half of the £25,000 cost of the kerbing work.

Considerable repair and refurbishment work has taken place in the Village Hall to improve the flooring and decor. The Council provided a contribution of £4,000.

The car park near the Village Hall has been in need of repair for some time. The Council funded the repairs using scalplings and installed a French drain. Cllr Heaton was instrumental in organising the work and hire of plant, and the labour was carried out by volunteers which kept costs down.

A system of CCTV cameras and a number plate recognition camera were recently installed in the car park and at points around the outside of the Village Hall to improve security.

A memorial bench for the previous Clerk, Vikki Stancombe, and a picnic table were installed on the playing field last year, to give the adults somewhere to sit while the children are using the play area and field.

The Council provided a loan to the Orchard Group to fund the purchase of trees for the Community Orchard, subsequently repaid through grants obtained by the Orchard Group. The Council also provides funding support for the Hunton Parish Plan Steering Committee towards communications with parishioners.

The Speedwatch equipment bought by the Council in 2013 is being used regularly by the Hunton Speedwatch team, with reports being made to the police where necessary.

Earlier this year the parish councillors agreed to take responsibility for specific parish matters to ensure that more focus is given to these areas and provide a better service to parishioners. These roles have been outlined in the Hunton Herald.

## **Planning**

The Council was consulted on 19 planning applications during the year. The Council meets when required to consider new planning applications and details of these meetings can be found on the notice boards and website or by contacting the Clerk. In considering its views on planning applications, the Council continues to put forward recommendations that it feels best represent the interests of local parishioners.

## **Meetings**

The Council meets bi-monthly at the Village Hall, usually on the second Monday of January, March, May, July, September and November and parishioners are welcome to attend. Parishioners are given an opportunity to raise matters at the start of every meeting.

Extracts of minutes of meetings are reported in the Hunton Herald and can be viewed in full on the website at [www.hunton.org.uk](http://www.hunton.org.uk). The Council also has a Publication Scheme required under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, whereby copies of particular Council documentation are available upon request.

## **Contacts**

Councillors or the Clerk can be contacted directly when more urgent issues arise. Their contact details appear on the village notice boards, in the Hunton Herald and on the website at [www.hunton.org.uk](http://www.hunton.org.uk).

Councillors:	Cllr Gary Thomas (Chairman)	01622 820691
	Cllr Roger Sawtell (Vice Chairman)	01622 820731
	Cllr David Heaton	01622 820678
	Cllr Ron Porter	01622 820220
	Cllr Tony Stanbridge	01622 820761
	Cllr Steve Wyles	01622 820403
	Cllr Annette Trought	01622 820448
Clerk:	Mrs Sharon Goodwin	01622 681238

## Hunton Parish Council

### Summary of Receipts and Payments 2014/15

The receipts and payments account summarises the incomings and outgoings for the Parish Council during the course of the financial year and shows the comparative figures for 2013/14

<b>2013/14</b>	<b>Receipts</b>	<b>2014/15</b>
<b>£</b>		<b>£</b>
17,000	Parish Precept	17,000
1,315	Local Council Tax Support	1,061
1,949	Parish Services Scheme funding	1,874
2,234	Solar panels FIT receipts	2,624
2,400	KCC refund of footpath hedge cutting costs	0
577	VAT reimbursement from HMRC	0
1	Bank interest	28
0	Insurance reimbursement for stolen solar panels	4,009
0	Sport England grant for new cricket pavilion	26,563
0	KCC grant for Community Orchard	138
25,476	<b>Total receipts</b>	53,297
<b>2013/14</b>	<b>Payments</b>	<b>2014/15</b>
<b>£</b>		<b>£</b>
	General administration	
	Running expenses	
54	Chairman's Allowance	20
480	Clerk's office allowance	480
248	Clerk's travel expenses	182
35	Data Protection fee	35
147	Postage	129
201	Stationery & office expenses	164
494	Subscriptions	451
2	Telephone	0
1,661	Running expenses total	1,461
4,282	Salaries	4,328
160	Audit fees	275
1,983	Insurance	1,237
2,400	Open spaces	1,527
1,923	Village Hall insurance contribution	1,937
	Parish Services Scheme	
5,800	Recreation ground - donation to KGF	5,800
27	Street lighting	26
120	Training	60
140	s137	140
91	VAT - on payments	2,544
0	New cricket pavilion	26,009
0	Replacement of solar panels	4,055
0	Capital expenditure on Village Hall	4,000
0	Car park repairs	1,637
0	Loan to Community Orchard Group	481
0	Footpath maintenance	583
0	Contribution to Hunton Parish Plan work	45
18,587	<b>Total payments</b>	56,145