

# Hunton Parish Council

## Report for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016

### Parish Councillors

This was the fourth year of the four-year term of the Parish Council. Roger Sawtell and Ron Porter chose not to stand for election in May after many years' service to the Council. The uncontested election in May resulted in 6 of the 7 seats being filled, with the Council now needing to fill the vacancy by co-option.

At the Annual Meeting in May 2016 the Council re-elected Cllr Gary Thomas as Chairman and elected David Heaton as Vice Chairman. The parish councillors again agreed to take responsibility for specific parish matters to ensure that focus is given to these areas and provide a good service to parishioners. These roles will be outlined in the June edition of the Hunton Herald.

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 Parish Council was mainly financed by a precept of £20,000 which was raised on local householders, collected with the council tax. This amounted to £65.04 for a Band "D" property. Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) also passed on funding from local council tax support of £842 and provided Parish Services Scheme funding of £1,874 to assist with maintenance of the recreation ground and play area. The Council has also received £1,909 in Feed-in Tariffs (FITs) from the Village Hall's energy supplier, following the investment in solar panels on the Hall roof in 2012. The Hall benefits from reduced energy bills.

Funding of £50,000 has been received from Sport England over 2014/15 and 2015/16 for the construction of the new cricket pavilion, which will be used as a community asset.

### Expenditure

A large part of the Parish Council's expenditure was on 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 £1,096 towards the insurance costs and £990 was spent on replacing the porch at the front of the Hall. Installation of a new CCTV and number plate recognition system around the Village Hall and car park cost £6,620 and £977 was paid for a new intruder alarm at the Hall, which was reimbursed by the Village Hall Committee. A sum of £788 was contributed towards the work of the Hunton Parish Plan Steering Committee, mainly relating to costs incurred on the Neighbourhood Plan work.

The income and expenditure figures for 2015/16 are shown on the back page. Copies of audited annual returns are available under the Publication Scheme.

### Activities

The Parish Council continues to maintain the permissive footpath between Bensted Close and the Village Hall, through a maintenance contract to ensure the hedge running alongside the footpath and the path verges are kept tidy, and by filling in any holes when they develop. The Council is currently looking at extending the footpath up through the recreation field and the land beyond to Lughorse Lane, to allow parishioners to walk safely between different sides of the village.

Thanks to the hard work and excellent project management of Hunton Wanderers Cricket Club, the construction of the new cricket pavilion is now complete and the grand opening took place on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2016. The building will predominantly be used by the cricket club, but will also be available for use as a community asset. The Council has made a contribution towards the cost of the pavilion.

The Council has been working hard with KCC Highways to ensure action is taken on a number of local highways issues. Kerbing has been installed along West Street from the Village Hall towards Lughorse Lane and the bottom part of East Street has been resurfaced. The bus stop on the East Street/West Street junction has been moved a little further along West Street to the green, which is much safer for the school children and others who use the buses. In addition, pot holes and eroded verges have been reported to KCC Highways when necessary.

Members of the Council have joined the Yalding Flood Group which, as a larger group covering several parishes, is able to add weight to responses to proposals from the Environment Agency (EA) and liaison with the EA in general. The Council has also worked with MBC and the community locally to ensure that ditch clearance and localised flooding of the highways is dealt with appropriately.

The Council agreed to contribute £1,000 towards the running costs of the Village Hall following agreement that certain village events and activities should take place at no charge, and with priority over private hires. The Council also paid for a new porch at the front of the Hall. The Council purchased an outside cabinet to house a defibrillator, which the Pre-School obtained using grant funding. It will be fitted to the outside of the Village Hall within the next month.

The Council provided funding support for the Hunton Parish Plan Steering Committee towards communications with parishioners, predominantly used for the Neighbourhood Plan work carried out during the last year.

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.

## **Planning**

The Council was consulted on 21 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.

The Council has provided comments on the MBC Draft Local Plan in its various forms, as well as responding to numerous other consultations.

## **Meetings**

The Council meets bi-monthly at the Village Hall, usually on the third Tuesday 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. 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 David Heaton	01622 820678
	Cllr Tony Stanbridge	01622 820721
	Cllr Steve Wyles	01622 820403
	Cllr Annette Trought	01622 820448
	Cllr Jonny Goddard	01622 820096
Clerk:	Mrs Sharon Goodwin	01622 681238

## Hunton Parish Council

### Summary of Receipts and Payments 2015/16

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 2014/15

2014/15		2015/16
£		£
	<b>Receipts</b>	
17,000	Parish Precept	20,000
1,061	Local Council Tax Support	842
1,874	Parish Services Scheme funding	1,874
2,624	Solar panels FIT receipts	1,909
0	VAT reimbursement from HMRC	2,623
28	Bank interest	37
0	Reimbursement from Village Hall Committee for intruder alarm	977
26,563	Sport England grant for new cricket pavilion	23,437
0	Tree Council grant for Community Orchard	414
0	Hunton Herald contribution to defibrillator cabinet	100
0	Playing Field Committee contribution to defibrillator cabinet	100
4,009	Insurance reimbursement for stolen solar panels	0
138	KCC grant for Community Orchard	0
<u>53,297</u>	<b>Total receipts</b>	<u>52,313</u>
	<b>Payments</b>	
	General administration	
	Running expenses	
20	Chairman's Allowance	73
480	Clerk's office allowance	480
182	Clerk's travel expenses	165
35	Data Protection fee	35
129	Postage	53
164	Stationery & office expenses	177
451	Subscriptions	518
0	Telephone	0
1,461	Running expenses total	1,500
4,328	Salaries	4,653
275	Audit fees	375
1,237	Insurance	1,228
1,527	Open spaces	60
1,937	Village Hall insurance contribution	2,086
	Parish Services Scheme	
5,800	Recreation ground - donation to KGF	5,800
26	Street lighting	30
60	Training	190
140	s137	150
2,544	VAT - on payments	3,875
26,009	New cricket pavilion	22,344
0	Parish Council contribution to new cricket pavilion	3,451
1,637	Car park repairs	213
481	Loan to Community Orchard Group	50
583	Footpath maintenance	486
45	Contribution to Hunton Parish Plan work	788
0	Installation of CCTV & intruder alarm	7,597
0	Defibrillator cabinet	395
4,055	Replacement of solar panels	0
4,000	Capital expenditure on Village Hall	0
<u>56,145</u>	<b>Total payments</b>	<u>55,270</u>