

Hunton Parish Council

Report for the year to 31st March 2018

Parish Councillors

This is the second year of the four-year term of the Parish Council. There have been no changes to the Parish Council in the last year.

At the Annual Meeting in May 2018, the Parish Council re-elected Cllr Gary Thomas as Chairman and Cllr David Heaton as Vice Chairman. At the same meeting, the parish councillors agreed to continue to take responsibility for specific parish matters to ensure that focus is given to these areas and to provide a good service to parishioners. These roles are as follows:

- Footpaths and ditches – Cllr Heaton (primary) and Cllr Goddard (secondary)
- Road conditions and speed limits – Cllr Goddard (primary) and Cllr Lee (secondary)
- Speedwatch – Cllr Ward
- Hunton Parish Plan/Neighbourhood Plan – Cllr Trought
- Events and communications – Cllr Ward
- Planning issues and consultations – Cllr Thomas
- Liaison with KALC, MBC and other external bodies – Cllr Thomas
- Utilities (broadband, water, electricity) – Cllr Stanbridge

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 £25,000, which was raised on local householders, collected with the council tax. This amounted to £79.19 for a Band “D” property. Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) provided Parish Services Scheme funding of £1,835 to assist with maintenance of the recreation ground and play area. The Parish Council has also received £1,910 in Feed-in Tariffs 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.

Expenditure

A large part of the Parish Council’s expenditure was on a donation of £6,000 to the King George V Playing Field Committee for the maintenance of the playing field. The Parish Council also assisted the Village Hall with a contribution of £1,242 towards the insurance costs and £1,000 towards the running costs (following agreement that certain village events and activities should take place at no charge, and with priority over private hires). A new nest swing was purchased for the play area, as well as new resurfacing under the multiplay equipment, at a cost of £6,823. This amount was fully funded through grants. The Parish Council is focused on improving the safety of road users in the village. In 2017/18, £1,200 was paid for a Traffic Regulation Order to move the 7.5T sign at the bottom of Hunton Hill to the outside of Amsbury Farm to create a HGV corridor down Hunton Hill to the farm and £367 was spent on road signage.

The income and expenditure figures for 2017/18 and comparative figures for 2016/17 are shown on page 3. 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.

A Traffic & Road Safety Working Party has been set up in the last year to identify areas of concern surrounding traffic movements and the safety of all road users throughout the village. The Parish Council is providing funds to allow the Working Party to take positive action, including the TRO to move the 7.5T sign and additional signage. In addition, the Parish Council has:

- engaged with South East Water regarding the water main replacement on Hunton Hill;
- objected to planning applications which will increase the amount of traffic on Hunton's roads if permitted;
- reported potholes and flooding on roads to KCC Highways.

Looking to the future, the Parish Council will be paying for kerb stones to be installed outside the school to prevent the verge from being eroded.

The Speedwatch equipment bought by the Parish Council in 2013 is being used by the Hunton Speedwatch team, with reports being made to the police where necessary, although more members are needed for the team.

Parish councillors attend the Joint Parishes Flood Group but little progress has been made by the Environment Agency to mitigate flood risk in the area. Their focus is now predominantly on individual property resilience, rather than a wider-reaching flood prevention scheme.

Planning

The Parish Council responded to 17 planning applications during the year. It meets when required to consider new planning applications and details of these meetings can be found on the notice boards and website. In considering its views on planning applications, the parish councillors continue to put forward recommendations that they feel best represent the interests of local parishioners.

Meetings

The Parish Council meets bi-monthly at the Village Hall, usually on the third 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. The Parish Council also has a Publication Scheme required under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, whereby copies of particular 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.

Councillors:	Cllr Gary Thomas (Chairman)	01622 820691
	Cllr David Heaton	01622 820678
	Cllr Tony Stanbridge	01622 820721
	Cllr Annette Trought	01622 820448
	Cllr Jonny Goddard	01622 820096
	Cllr Helen Ward	01622 820810
	Cllr Roger Lee	01622 820210
Clerk:	Mrs Sharon Goodwin	01622 681238

Hunton Parish Council

Summary of Receipts and Payments 2017/18

2016/17	Receipts	2017/18
£		£
25,000	Parish Precept	25,000
623	Local Council Tax Support	0
1,874	Parish Services Scheme funding	1,835
2,044	Solar panels FIT receipts	1,910
9	Bank interest	0
0	Funds banked on behalf of HPPSC	225
0	Funds banked for St Mary's Church	32
0	Awards For All grant for new nest swing/resurfacing	5,750
0	KCPFA grant for new nest swing/resurfacing	1,000
0	King George PFC grant for new nest swing/resurfacing	113
0	VAT recovered	4,253
29,550	Total receipts	40,118
2016/17	Payments	2017/18
£		£
	General administration	
	Running expenses	
172	Chairman's Allowance	314
480	Clerk's office allowance	440
180	Clerk's travel expenses	161
35	Data Protection fee	35
54	Postage	39
126	Stationery & office expenses	235
494	Subscriptions	515
1,541	Running expenses total	1,739
4,699	Salaries	4,351
375	Audit fees	275
54	Bank service charges	72
892	Insurance	926
875	Open spaces	360
1,165	Village Hall insurance contribution	1,242
1,000	Village Hall running costs contribution	1,000
8,852	Recreation ground - donation to KGF	6,000
34	Street lighting	147
390	Training	231
150	s137	100
32	Annual Parish Meeting expenses	87
591	Footpath maintenance	990
0	Highways costs	1,567
0	CCTV maintenance contract	240
0	New nest swing/resurfacing	6,863
0	Money held for St Mary's Church - paid	32
377	VAT on payments	1,558
1,158	Parish Council contribution to new cricket pavilion	0
78	Defibrillator cabinet/installation	0
22,263	Total payments	27,780