

# Hunton Parish Council

## Report for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023

### Parish Councillors

There have been no changes to the Parish Council in the last year.

At the Annual Meeting in May 2023, the Parish Council elected Cllr David Heaton as Chairman and Cllr Mike Summersgill 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 Simmons (secondary)
- Events and communications – Cllr Trought
- Planning issues and consultations – Cllr Summersgill
- Liaison with KALC, MBC and other external bodies – Cllr Summersgill (primary) and Cllr Heaton (secondary)
- Utilities (broadband, water, electricity) – Cllr Stanbridge (primary) and Cllr Summersgill (secondary)
- Speedwatch – Cllr Summersgill (primary) and Cllr Trought (secondary)

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 £26,338, which was raised on local householders, collected with the council tax. This amounted to £82.48 for a Band “D” property. Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) provided Parish Services Scheme funding of £1,677 to assist with maintenance of the recreation ground and play area.

The Parish Council also received £2,048 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.

During the year £6,107 in CIL Neighbourhood Receipts were received from MBC relating to four CIL liable developments in the parish. The Parish Council can spend the CIL Neighbourhood Receipts on projects that address the impact of development in the local area.

As a result of the resignation of the Fete Committee some years ago, the £4,247 left in the bank account was transferred to the Parish Council. This money will be used to put on events and entertainment in the village as required.

The Parish Council received a £10,185 grant from the South East Water Community Fund which was paid to the following organisations: Village Hall – towards new double-glazed windows; Cricket Club – towards a new scarifier; Bowls Club – towards a new water pump; and the Football Club for refurbishment work in the changing rooms.

### Expenditure

A large part of the Parish Council’s expenditure was a donation of £6,000 to the King George V Playing Field Committee for the maintenance of the playing field (less a £250 Committee contribution towards hedge plants).

The Parish Council also assisted the Village Hall with a contribution of £814 towards insurance costs and £1,000 towards running costs (as certain village events and activities take place at no charge, and with priority over private hires). In addition, grants of £4,000 towards the refurbishment of the toilets and £2,500 towards new infrared heaters were provided.

A rewire of the Football Club changing rooms and other works during the year amounted to £3,600. £990 was spent on a tree assessment and subsequent tree surgery. £642 was granted to the Village Club for the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

The income and expenditure figures for 2022/23 and comparative figures for 2021/22 are shown on page 3.

## 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.

Cllr Summersgill has been trained as a Flood Warden, as has one other resident, with a third waiting to receive training. The Parish Council has devolved powers (from KCC) to close roads in the event of flooding and has been given the necessary signage. Cllr Summersgill has compiled a database of properties at risk of flooding and liaises with residents on flooding issues.

Highways issues remain high on the agenda for the Parish Council. The Traffic & Road Safety Working Party takes an active role in identifying areas of concern on the roads and is committed to making improvements to ensure the safety of all road users throughout the village. The Parish Council has put aside funds to allow the Working Party to take positive action. Mirrors were recently installed opposite the end of Bensted Close to make it easier for residents to see when exiting on to West Street. The Parish Council has also engaged with the school about the parking on West Street. The Parish Council is waiting for KCC to set a date for the installation of kerbing outside the school, which the Parish Council will fund. Cllr Summersgill is the Speedwatch Co-ordinator for Hunton who, with five other trained volunteers, will be resurrecting the Speedwatch sessions to monitor the speeds of vehicles travelling through Hunton.

Remedial work was carried out following a tree inspection of all council-owned trees on the recreation ground and near the Village Hall. The Parish Council also planted a copse of trees to the north of the recreation ground to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

The Parish Council wants to protect the environment and biodiversity of Hunton. In responses to planning applications for new dwellings and major extensions, recommendations are made to request that environmental and sustainability elements are incorporated into the development. A project has recently begun to survey ponds for Great Crested Newts, utilising some of the CIL Neighbourhood Receipts received from MBC.

A King's Coronation afternoon tea for around 150 people was recently funded and organised by the Parish Council, with the help of a number of kind residents from the village.

## Planning

The Parish Council responded to 28 planning applications during the year, putting recommendations forward to MBC on applications received. 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. The Parish Council meets when required to consider new planning applications and details of these meetings can be found on the notice boards and website.

## 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.

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

## Contacts

Councillors or the Clerk can be contacted directly when more urgent issues arise. Contact details appear in the Hunton Herald and on the website at [www.huntonparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.huntonparishcouncil.org.uk).

Councillors:	Cllr David Heaton (Chairman)	01622 820678
	Cllr Annette Trought	01622 820448
	Cllr Tony Stanbridge	01622 820721
	Cllr Jonny Goddard	01622 820096
	Cllr Mike Summersgill	01622 820429
	Cllr Iain Simmons	01622 820875
	Cllr Jean Fuller	07738 935630
Clerk:	Mrs Sharon Goodwin	01622 681238

# Hunton Parish Council

## Summary of Receipts and Payments

### 2022/23

2021/22	Receipts	2022/23
£		£
26,338	Parish Precept	26,338
1,639	Parish Services Scheme funding	1,677
0	CIL Neighbourhood Receipts	6,107
2,036	Solar panels FIT receipts	2,048
0	Entertainment fund (previously Fete Committee funds)	4,247
0	South East Water Community Fund grant	10,185
1,085	VAT reimbursement from HMRC	1,712
<u>31,098</u>	<b>Total receipts</b>	<u>52,314</u>
<b>2021/22</b>	<b>Payments</b>	<b>2022/23</b>
<b>£</b>		<b>£</b>
	General administration	
	Running expenses	
396	Chairman's Allowance	618
480	Clerk's office allowance	480
125	Clerk's travel expenses	164
35	Data Protection fee	35
41	Postage	27
97	Stationery & office expenses	23
582	Subscriptions	522
30	Telephone	90
5,185	Salaries	5,627
290	Audit fees	290
72	Bank service charges	72
929	Insurance	950
	Recreation ground	
5,333	Annual contribution	5,750
0	Football Club changing rooms rewire/other work	3,600
1,157	Open spaces	993
1,000	Footpath maintenance	500
0	Highways costs	53
	Village Hall	
736	Insurance contribution	814
1,000	Running costs contribution	1,000
0	Grant towards refurbishment of toilets	4,000
0	Grant towards infrared heaters	2,500
0	South East Water Community Fund payments to sports clubs/hall	10,185
481	Street lighting	70
	CCTV	
252	Maintenance contract	258
990	Additional equipment	0
205	Training	135
500	s137	0
0	s145 Queen's Platinum Jubilee	642
335	Website	200
0	Annual Parish Meeting	72
175	Defibrillator maintenance	48
3,098	Removal of old cricket pavilion	0
2,000	Storage container	0
1,702	VAT on payments	877
<u>27,226</u>	<b>Total payments</b>	<u>40,595</u>