

HUNTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 22ND JANUARY 2018 AT 7:30PM AT HUNTON VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Cllr G Thomas in the Chair, Cllrs D Heaton, T Stanbridge, R Lee, H Ward, A Trought and Mrs S Goodwin, Clerk.

IN ATTENDANCE: One member of the public was in attendance until Item 9. One member of the public entered during Item 6.2 and left at Item 9. Borough Councillors B Mortimer and R Webb were in attendance until Item 9.

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr J Goddard. Apologies had been received from Borough Councillor E Fermor and County Councillor P Stockell.

2. **FILMING AND RECORDING**

No members of the public expressed a wish to film, record or photograph the meeting.

3. **COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS**

3.1 **Declaration of Interests**

There were no councillor declarations.

3.2 **Dispensations**

There were no requests for dispensations.

4. **MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 20TH NOVEMBER 2017**

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th November 2017 had been previously distributed. The Chairman signed off the official copy of the minutes.

5. **MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES NOT INCLUDED IN THE AGENDA**

Item 11.1 – A response was submitted to the Boundary Commission's 2018 Boundary Review.
Item 11.2 – A response was submitted to the KCC Highways & Transportation Survey 2017.

6. **POLICE & COMMUNITY WARDEN**

6.1 **Police**

PCSO Alan Hunter is now working for the missing child team and has suggested that e-watch is used to obtain details of any crimes. No crimes have been logged on the e-watch website since the last Parish Council meeting.

6.2 **Community Warden**

Adam McKinley was unable to attend the meeting and had not provided a report.

6.3 **Huntonwatch**

Steve Wyles provided the following report on Huntonwatch:

We were made aware of three dead ponies being found in the woods off Barn Hill, a white van in suspicious circumstances and we have again enlisted the help of a small number of 4x4 drivers, who have volunteered to help residents in times of flood or snow. We have also set up a Huntonwatch Facebook page.

Members **Agreed** that it would be useful to know who the 4x4 drivers are. **ACTION: CLERK**

7. LOCAL COMMUNITY

7.1 King George V Playing Field

Simon Taylor, Chairman of the King George V Playing Committee, provided a report on the last meeting held on 10th January:

Five moles have been caught on the field which has eliminated the mole activity at a fraction of the cost of the previous mole catcher.

MBC has not highlighted any health and safety issues with the play area. The new nest swing/resurfacing was installed before Christmas, funded by Awards For All (£5,750), KCPFA (£1,000) and King George's Field (£112.50). The older play equipment will be painted in the spring. The boundary has been strimmed.

There is £5,525 remaining in funds. An order for a new fence and gate between the car park and play area will be placed in February, to match the other fencing around the car park.

Angle irons have been obtained to brace some of the posts holding the safety netting by the bowls club hedge and stock fencing will be installed on the road side of the field.

Steve Jones provided a written proposal to Members for the demolition/removal of the old cricket pavilion and the clearance/removal of the green storage container, including indicative costs. It is proposed that the old changing rooms should be retained for storage, to be refurbished by Hunton Wanderers Cricket Club, who will also clear the interior of the old pavilion and arrange for removal of the green container.

Members asked questions as follows:

Is there any value in the timber from the old pavilion? No, as the timber is treated/painted.

Some tiles may be worth salvaging.

What would be left after the old pavilion is removed? Nothing, would like everything removed and turned back to grass.

The cost seems quite cheap. Is there any asbestos? Unlikely as built pre-asbestos.

Any bats? Don't think so.

Who will be approached for the demolition work? There is a specialist demolition expert in Hunton and another in West Farleigh. Will probably obtain two local quotes and one from a larger company. It should be possible to demolish the building in one day and removal will take one to two days.

Are there any services to the old pavilion? There is mains water which will need to be disconnected and also foul water drainage and electricity to be capped off.

Members **Agreed** that £2,500 should be put aside in the budget for the pavilion demolition and clearance of the green container. Steve Jones will obtain the quotes. The green container will be cleared in March/April and the old pavilion will be demolished in September/October.

7.2 Hunton Village Hall Committee

Cllr Trought, Chair of the Hunton Village Hall Committee, advised that the next Committee meeting is to be held on 20th February 2018, so there is nothing to report until then.

Hires of the hall for weddings and children's parties are down slightly, but the level of bookings is generally consistent.

The Pre-school is using the hall for an extra afternoon now.

7.3 Hunton Primary School

Cllr Trought has not visited the school since the last meeting.

At the last Parish Council meeting a donation of £20 to the school was agreed, but Members **Agreed** that this should be increased to £100.

It is hoped that a walking bus will be established for 'Walk to School Week' in May.

7.4 Tree & Pond Warden

The Tree & Pond Warden, Mike Summersgill, was unable to attend the meeting, but had provided the following report:

No date has been received from Tantons Tree Surgeons yet for the work on the Turkey Oak.

Mike is to attend some further (free) tree (winter identification) and pond training courses with Kent Tree & Pond Partnership and Kent Wildlife Trust, in February and March.

7.5 Hunton Village Club

Cllr Trought reported that Gil Robertson took over as the Chairman at the Club at the AGM, so the licence and venue are safe. There will be a handover period.

The Committee is continuing with its fundraising efforts to finance the creation of a kitchen. Roger Ward has been doing some work at the Club.

7.6 TRAFFIC AND ROAD SAFETY WORKING PARTY

Cllr Ward provided a report on the last meeting of the TRSWP held on 7th December:

An article was included in the Hunton Herald about lorries on East Street and the movement of the 7.5T weight restriction sign to the entrance to Amsbury Farm. Readers were asked to notify the TRSWP of any lorries exceeding the weight restriction. Letters have been written to several companies, letting them know about the change to the 7.5T weight restriction, and to Fruition, asking them to inform the hauliers and erect extra signage.

Two top priority hazardous areas have been agreed, as they are used the most:

1. The bends on Hunton Hill. There was a nasty accident last week, resulting in the road being closed for three hours. The TRSWP is looking at signage (dangerous hill, accident black spot, bends) which will be discussed with KCC.
2. The bottom of Hunton Hill.

The TRSWP is concerned at the level of Wares Farm construction traffic on a Sunday and would like it raised at the next Monitoring Committee meeting. The traffic monitoring report produced by Wares Farm is inadequate, as a period of more than two days needs to be monitored and there is also a lack of independence as it was organised by DHA Planning. Cllr Heaton thought there would not be too much Sunday traffic unless work is behind.

8. COUNTY & BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

8.1 County Councillor

County Cllr Stockell was unable to attend the meeting.

8.2 Borough Councillors

Borough Cllr Mortimer has spoken to the MBC Planning Enforcement Officer regarding Amsbury Farm. A legal opinion has been obtained, which the Enforcement Officer needs to review. The process has been delayed due to a lack of officers and funding. The officers are under a lot of stress.

Over 700 signatures and objections have been obtained against the Forstal Road development. Cllr Mortimer is now on the MBC Planning Committee.

Cllr Mortimer advised that representatives from the village of Picardy (France) were hoping to visit in April/May, but this has had to be postponed due to the borough elections, so the visit will be rescheduled to the middle of June. Cllr Trought suggested that they may like to attend the Hunton Fete on 16th June. Cllr Mortimer is hoping that Cllr Goddard will be able to join the group on behalf of the Parish Council as he speaks French.

Borough Cllr Webb advised that a meeting is to be held with KALC in January to discuss the Parish Services Scheme (PSS). A decision on the PSS was deferred by MBC at the end of last year, but it will be back on the agenda for discussion in February/March. Cllr Thomas stated that the PSS pays for services the parish councils pay for within their parishes which MBC pays for in the town.

Cllr Mortimer will be having an operation in March and gave his apologies in advance as he will not be able to attend meetings for a while and thanked the Parish Council for the hospitality provided after Lieutenant Colonel Borton's commemorative stone laying ceremony at the school.

9. PARISH COUNCILLORS

9.1 Liaison with External Bodies

Cllr Thomas attended the KALC Maidstone AGM, those previously in post were re-elected. CPRE is to put forward a judicial review against Junction 8 of the M20 becoming an industrial/commercial site as it is felt that MBC misled the Planning Inspector on this issue.

CPRE would like the Parish Council to contribute towards the cost of the judicial review (costing £10,000), several parish councils have contributed already. Some time ago it was agreed by the Parish Council that £1,000 could be used for a purpose such as this. Cllr Heaton expressed his reservations as Hunton is not directly affected, other than a possible traffic impact, as it is too far away from J8. Cllr Thomas **Agreed** to provide more information and details of the amounts other parishes are contributing. ACTION: CLLR THOMAS

9.2 Footpaths and Ditches

Cllr Heaton did not think the permissive footpath had been swept by Betts as they agreed. Cllr Heaton reported that the ditch down West Street, before the Old Gudgeon, floods on to the road even with relatively little rain. This is due to the culvert, which is only 30cm in diameter. In future, if the Parish Council is consulted on planning applications to change a drive where the applicant wants to include a culvert, the Parish Council should recommend that a culvert is not used, and a bridge is installed over the ditch. All Members **Agreed**.

9.3 Highways

Cllr Goddard was unable to attend the meeting, but had provided the following report:
The blue "Unsuitable for HGV signs" are on order with KCC. Locations to be the 7.5T sign post at Amsbury and on both 7.5T sign posts at the exit of Pattenden Lane. These signs were made incorrectly and had to be reordered by Claire Chewter two weeks ago. They will be fitted by Jamie (Works Coordinator) without the need for traffic lights.
The installation of the kerb stones outside Hunton school is due in the spring/summer, during school holidays. No fixed date yet, this needs to be agreed.
The "SLOW" sign on East Street on the approach to the "S" bends at Stonewall Farm will cost approximately £100. Location to be agreed with KCC Highways.
We are proposing to install a steel bollard on the corner next to Stonewall Farm to protect the wall from HGV damage. Costings to be provided by KCC Highways.
We are planning to install direction signs to Fruition at Amsbury. This is progressing with KCC Highways.
Two large potholes on East Street have been reported to KCC.

9.4 Speedwatch

Cllr Ward reported that no Speedwatch sessions have been held and she plans to speak with Steve Wyles about the way forward as more volunteers are needed. No one has come forward as a result of previous Hunton Herald requests. There is a core of 5 volunteers and 3-4 others who are occasionally available. Ideally, 6 more people are required. Cllr Trought noted that back when the Parish Plan was prepared, no one wanted to volunteer then either.

9.5 Hunton Parish Plan/Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Trought reported that, in terms of the Community Orchard, she has been working with Charlie from the University of Kent, who is doing a three-year project on Little Owls, whose numbers have fallen by 60%. Charlie installed a nesting box in the orchard on 2nd January and is looking for a donation towards his work (£25). He would also like to do presentations, also for a contribution of £25. Members **Agreed** that £25 should be donated to Charlie, Cllr Heaton **Agreed** to check how much is in the Hunton Parish Plan Steering Committee bank account.

ACTION: CLLR HEATON

Cllr Trought suggested that Charlie should be invited to the Annual Parish Meeting to do a talk on Little owls for a donation of £25 from the Parish Council. Members **Agreed**. Cllr Trought will also ask the school, to enable Charlie to engage with the children.

ACTION: CLLR TROUGHT

Regarding Neighbourhood Planning, Cllr Thomas advised that the government has issued a document on raising the importance of Neighbourhood Plans so borough councils have to take notice of them.

9.6 Communication & Events

Cllr Ward reported that 'Taste of Latin' evening and the 'Wind in the Willows' puppet show had both taken place at the Village Hall. Steve Wyles has provided a report and accounts on the

Christmas Fair. Members agreed that the change of format for the Christmas Fair was successful, using both the church and village hall. The Christmas Fair will take place again in 2018, most likely on 8th December, and it is hoped that there will be some additional entertainment in the village hall this year. Members noted that Steve and Sue Wyles stepped in and did the majority of the hard work on the Fair and **Agreed** that a thank you letter should be written to them. ACTION: CLERK

The lunches start this week for six weeks at the Club. There will be a wine tasting evening on 27th January and a walk and lunch on 10th February.

9.7 Planning Issues and Consultations

Cllr Thomas reported that the Green Barn planning application has been refused by the MBC Planning Officer (also recommended for refusal by the Parish Council).

The planning application for the old KCC depot has been permitted by MBC (also recommended for approval by the Parish Council).

9.8 Utilities

Cllr Stanbridge reported that South East Water are still looking into different options for the Hunton Hill water main replacement. No decisions or timescales have been given yet, but it is most likely that the replacement will take place during the summer holidays. Works are likely to occupy the road which will be closed.

10. OTHER PARISH MATTERS

10.1 Flooding

Cllr Thomas advised that the Joint Parishes flood group meetings are ineffective and not worth attending, but he and Cllr Heaton agreed to attend one more meeting and then decide whether to withdraw or not.

The Environment Agency (EA) is carrying out surveys on houses at risk of flooding. Five homeowners on the 'at risk' list in Hunton have not replied to letters from the EA. It was agreed that the individuals should be left to respond themselves.

Cllr Heaton noted that the Internal Drainage Board does not have responsibility for any ditches on the north side of the River Beult which is surprising.

Cllr Ward reported that the EA had held an event in Yalding before Christmas to show people how to use sandbags, etc.

Cllr Thomas pointed out that KCC has placed a container outside the Village Hall, which should contain items to use in case of roads flooding in the parish but does not contain anything at present. Cllr Heaton has put a lock on the side to secure it.

10.2 Public & Community Transport

Cllr Ward advised that KCC does not seem to be progressing with the drastic cuts to the bus services it subsidises in rural areas, now that Matthew Balfour has left KCC.

Cllr Heaton stated that the cuts to the train services to Marden are also on hold due to the increase in houses in Marden.

10.3 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported that Q-Tec Solutions Ltd carried out the CCTV maintenance on 22nd December.

An email has been received from the Friends of Five Acre School fundraiser asking the Parish Council to consider making a donation or to fund raise. Members **Agreed** not to make a contribution.

The new play equipment has been insured with the Parish Council's insurers. The additional premium is £33.05 but is not payable until the next renewal date on 1st October 2018.

Mr Hubble has sent a letter to the Parish Council, offering to make some of his land adjacent to West Street available for off-road parking for school parents. Members felt that the school does not need a car park, just traffic management at drop off and pick up times.

11. CONSULTATIONS

11.1 DCLG – Review of Park Homes Legislation – Call for Evidence Part 2

The DCLG is carrying out Part 2 of the review of Park Homes Legislation. It is calling for evidence on how effective local authority licensing has been; how well the procedures for selling mobile homes, making site rules and pitch fee reviews are working and whether ‘fit and proper’ controls need to be applied to the sector.

Cllr Thomas commented that there are mobile homes in the parish, but not park homes. There is a park home at the foot of Gallants Lane in East Farleigh. Members **Agreed** that they fully support the need for additional legislation.

11.2 Department for Transport – Proposals for the Creation of a Major Road Network

The consultation asks for views on: how to define the Major Road Network; the role that local, regional and national bodies will play in the Major Road Network investment programme; and which schemes will be eligible for Major Road Network funding.

Members **Agreed** that the proposals do not affect Hunton and comments should not be provided.

12. FINANCE

12.1 Budget Monitoring Report

The Budget Monitoring Report to 31st December 2017 was **Noted**.

Cllr Lee advised that the Parish Council may receive some money from Amsbury Farm towards the Traffic Regulation Order paid for by the Parish Council.

12.2 Income Received

Members **Noted** the following income received since the last meeting:

MBC – Parish Services Scheme grant (second half)	£917.50
Awards for All (Big Lottery Fund) grant – New nest swing/resurfacing in play area	£5,750.00
Hunton Village Hall Committee – FIT receipts	£428.04

Cllr Trought reviewed and signed the bank reconciliation.

12.3 Payments Made

Members **Approved** the following payments made since the last meeting:

SO – Sharon Goodwin – Salary & office allowance – November	£435.54
300223 – Outdoorsy Living – New nest swing and resurfacing in play area	£8,235.00
Unity Trust Bank – Service charge	£18.00

12.4 Cheques for Signature

Members **Agreed** that the following payments be approved and the cheques were signed by Cllrs Ward and Lee:

300224 – E.ON – Street lighting electricity	£10.50
300148 – KT&PW – Cheque written back - two cheques issued in place	(£50.00)
300225 – Kent Tree Wardens – Donation (replacement of previous uncashed cheque)	£25.00
300226 – Kent Pond Wardens – Donation (replacement of previous uncashed cheque)	£25.00
300227 – Mike Summersgill – Tree & Pond Warden training expenses	£21.50
300228 – Kent County Council – ‘Unsuitable for HGVs’ signage	£386.57
300229 – Hunton CEP School – Donation	£100.00
300230 – Sharon Goodwin – Travel expenses/postage/stationery/Chairman’s Allowance	£176.45

12.5 2018/19 Budget and Parish Precept

Members had received the budget papers produced by the Clerk prior to the meeting. Members **Agreed** the budget for 2018/19, subject to:

- carrying forward the budget for the kerbstones outside the school to 2018/19 if not spent in 2017/18;
- removing the £1,000 Hunton Parish Plan communications budget;
- adding a £2,500 budget for costs associated with the old cricket pavilion removal and green container clearance.

Members **Agreed** that the Precept should be set at £26,000, which creates a tax of £82.67 per property (an increase of £3.48 per property on last year). The Chairman and Clerk signed the MBC Parish Precept Requirement 2018/19 form for submission to MBC.

13. PLANNING

13.1 Planning Decisions

The following decisions received from Maidstone Borough Council were **Noted**:

13.1.1 Former Highways Depot, Upper Barn Hill – 17/505986/FULL

Removal of existing hardstanding and palisade fencing and erection of 2 no. detached dwellings with associated access, landscaping and parking.

Parish Council recommendation: No objection

Maidstone Borough Council decision: Permitted

13.1.2 The Green Barn, Water Lane – 16/506436/FULL

Application to vary conditions 1 & 2 of MA/02/1380 (stationing of 1 mobile home for gypsy family) that was allowed at appeal (APP/U2235/A/02/1104824) to allow an additional 3 mobile homes to be occupied by Kelly Mendham, Lisa Mendham and Lee Mendham and their dependent children living with them.

Parish Council recommendation: Refuse

Maidstone Borough Council decision: Refused

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next full Council Meeting is on **Monday 26th March 2018** at Hunton Village Hall.

There being no further matters to discuss the meeting closed at 10:25pm.