

**Minutes of the Hunton Parish Plan Steering Committee
Wednesday 30th April 2014 @ 8pm - Hunton Village Club**

Present: Annette Trought (Chair), Steve & Sue Wyles, David Heaton, Di Martin, Alison Ellman-Brown, Mike Summersgill (Secretary)

In Attendance: None

Apologies: Kathy Reid (Treasurer), Ron Porter

Absent: Tony Stanbridge

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone attending the meeting, and noted that Barbara Wright had stood down from the Committee and that Ron Porter had now joined. These changes were effective from the date of the meeting.

2. Minutes of 12th February 2014

It was agreed that the minutes of this earlier meeting were an accurate record. Actions from previous Minutes had generally been completed, and any remaining points are repeated below.

Plan Priority 1 – Highways and Transport

3. Community Speedwatch

The committee learnt that two further Speedwatches had taken place over the longer daylight hours of Spring, and that 5 and 3 'speeders' had been reported to Police; they had decided to take no further action, not even issuing letters.

Steve had been exchanging correspondence with Police over their position, and there was a Speedwatch meeting held on 26th April. Guy O has the speedwatch machine.

Action: Steve Wyles to report back as to next steps and frequency.

Plan Priority 2 – Village Infrastructure

4. Village Shop

Eight dates for 2014 had been publicised in the Hunton Herald. In a joint exercise with the Village Club (and after a trial effort in March) the Pop Up Shop is now being held at the Club premises. This is mutually beneficial bringing the Club into a more general Community Centre role and exposing it to residents who had not visited it before. There are Ploughmans Lunches available afterwards. Money raised is going to the Club and to the Village Fete and Community Events Fund. Feedback to date has been good.

Action: Annette Trought to report back on progress regularly

Plan Priority 3 – Environment

5. Community Orchard

The Orchard Group has held a number of clear up events and 30 saplings have now been planted in the hedgerow boundary. The Orchard group is working with “Kent Orchards for Everyone”, having secured funding to develop a Community Orchard for Hunton. At the Lent Lunch held at the Village club an ‘I Remember Day’ for older residents was held. Their contributions around orchard location, layout and fruit varieties grown in Hunton will inform the development of the orchard. There will be a design meeting in May and a ‘Launch’ event will take place at the Fete on 21st June.

Action: Annette Trought to ask Barbara Wright to keep the Committee updated on progress

6. Footpath

The footpath has been in place for almost a year. Concern had been raised that the school had not yet put in place a “Walking Bus” scheme, although it was noted that parents were using the Village Hall car park and efforts were being made to address parking issues outside the school. Comments had been received from Jacqueline Leach, Chair of Governors at the School, that the school were committed to the development of a ‘walking bus’, but had not yet received approval from the local Education Authority.

Mark Pritchard from Medway Valley Partnership had visited to discuss the hedgerow work that could be undertaken alongside the footpath now the ‘cut’ had happened, and provided a costed scheme for planting in the Autumn. David to put this on next PC meeting Agenda, to see if funding might be available; Mike to provide copy of MVP proposal to DH.

Action: Mike to contact Mark Pritchard to attend July PPSC meeting

7. Neighbourhood Plan

The MBC priority planning site list had no Hunton site on the issued list. A group of residents, including members of the PPSC and PC, had received a communication from Mr. Hubble about the land near Bensted Close, with a suggested plan for a housing development on the 5 acre site adjacent to Bensted Close on West Street.

The PC have now formally requested PPSC to carry out a Housing Needs Survey for Hunton. Guidance was now needed on the questions to be asked (the Coxheath HNS wording was passed round, and found to be not strictly appropriate for this more ‘rural’ village). Advice to be sought via the PC and from Action for Local Communities in Kent (ALCK) on the aspects that ought to be questioned in our survey.

Noted that Marden were having a Neighbourhood Plan meeting on 6th June.

Action: Annette Trought to look at Coxheath questions and provide a draft for discussion with the PC in early June,

8. Sustainability/Biodiversity

Mike Summersgill confirmed that he was still seeking to get the archive information on Trees from the Parish Warden, but that he had progressed work on mapping exercise for ponds & ditches – ownerships a bit unclear.

Action: Mike Summersgill to advise on mapping/project work if/when needed.

Plan Priority 4 – Community

9. Litter Picking

Held on 29th March; Di Martin reported 40 black sacks (and a mattress added by ANO to the pile for collection). Next one will be June 5th, pre-Fete. Mike to check when next Saturday Freighter is due at Village Hall, as there was suggested to be an attic clear-out for that. (post-note – 14th June at 1.40pm)

10. Village Hall Music Events

Two events in March & April went very well musically, attendance very good for the April (Applause) one, although only 30% of 80 people from Hunton and there were many late bookings as a result of publicity in KM. Mike confirmed one more gig end-May and had requested an Applause event for October.

Village Hall AGM on 20/5 would discuss about future of these events, noting declining numbers of local attendance. Appeal in Herald for feedback on dates and artists had received two replies, one (positively) from Gillingham!

11. Hunton Court Events

Napoleonic War re-enactors due at Bank Holiday weekend again. Sky TV will be filming. Ashford Hunt are returning in early July for a pony club dressage event; Friends of St. Mary's are doing the Bar-B-Q for that event.

12. Village Events

Village Panto went very well in April, and made significant funds for the Church and Community. Annual Fete is on 21st June. The Craft Fair will be repeated this year, on 13th September. Hunton now has a FaceBook page and events are publicised there.

Noted that Hunton Wanderers (Cricket Club) were successful in gaining their Sports England funding towards rebuilding the cricket pavilion.

13. Neighbourhood Watch

Steve & Sue Wyles reported that there continued to be more properties signed up, some at the Pop-Up Shop; 115 members now, a few 'rural' patches are still in need of a Co-ordinator – a further newsletter (no. 4) had just been distributed by email & hand delivery. A couple of incidents had been reported. Greater detail will be available at the Parish Council AGM on 19th May.

14. AOB & Correspondence

No AOB on the night, but there was mention by the Chair that the time was right to introduce a communication strategy group to review, update and support village communications - working with the volunteers who continue to work hard to promote the village and its events and resources.

Two items of correspondence had been received: an update from Barbara Wright about the Orchard progress (Item 5 above), secondly an email from a resident covering three Items – the school walking bus (see item 6); noise from Napoleonic re-enactments; and development of the 5 acre site at West Street. The Chair will acknowledge these and refer two of the comments to the Parish Council.

15. Future Meeting Dates

Prospective dates for later in 2014 were discussed, and one changed to 3rd September and other remained as 29th Oct. Next PPSC meeting would be on 2nd July (hopefully with MVP attending); Mike gave Apologies in advance and asked someone else to take Minutes...