

**Minutes of the Hunton Parish Plan Steering Committee
Wednesday 27th February 2013
8pm - Hunton Village Club**

Present: Mrs Annette Trought (Chair), Mrs Barbara Wright, Steve & Mrs Sue Wyles, Tony Stanbridge, Mike Summersgill (minutes)

In Attendance Mrs Kathy Reid (Village Club), Alan Bishop (Village Hall)

Apologies Miss Judi Arnold, Guy Oliver, David Heaton, Mrs Alison Ellman-Brown, Ms Di Martin

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone attending the meeting (Mr Bishop arrived shortly after the start, at Item 3 below). Apologies were received as above.

2. Minutes of 9th January 2013

It was agreed that the minutes of this earlier meeting were an accurate record, except for getting East and West (Street) confused in Item 15b. Actions from previous Minutes had generally been completed, and any outstanding points are noted within specific Items below—or are listed on Agenda for the meeting.

Plan Priority 1 – Highways and Transport

3. Community Speedwatch

The committee learnt bid for funding had been successful and the Equipment was now with Guy Oliver; Steve & Sue Wyles wished to volunteer for training.

Action: Steve and Sue to be trained and briefed. Guy Oliver to arrange for equipment testing and deployment.

Plan Priority 2 – Village Infrastructure

4. Hunton Playing Fields

Equipment had been installed in January, and was well received by young/old.

5. Village Shop

The first 'pop-up' shop would be on the Church forecourt on Saturday 30th March; if this trial run is successful, there is the opportunity for the shop to take place regularly at different locations within the village (including outside the village club). More details would be provided in the next Herald.

Action: Chair to provide item for Herald and poster for circulation

There was also to be a Craft Market on 7th September, and a Fundraising Concert on 14th September (trip to London); Louise Ferns organising these.

Plan Priority 3 – Environment

6. Community Orchard

Mrs Wright had circulated the (lengthy) Report to committee members, and a visit had been made to the Lenham Community Orchard (and photos sent round). Another meeting was planned with Pippa Palmer on 14th March at the Club to discuss next activities. Information gathered from the questionnaire, as well as more detailed information, will be used to assist with the bid for heritage lottery fund monies, and a decision should be available in June.

7. Footpath

The committee noted that there has been no visible progress regarding the footpath, but Mr Stanbridge advised that imminent political pressure was due. Mark Pritchard from Medway Valley Partnership is scheduled to be invited to the 26th June meeting of this group, to discuss the hedgerow work that could be done alongside the footpath (if no footpath, this invite would be postponed)

Action:

Parish Council continue to press KCC for a progress report.

8. Neighbourhood Plan

There had been no recent progress on the Core Strategy by Maidstone Borough Council, which it is reported is being delayed by up to a year. Progress on Neighbourhood Plans is being monitored by the Parish Council.

Action (to note, but no immediate Action):

Secretary to add to agenda when MBC Core Strategy published.

9. Sustainability/Biodiversity

Mike Summersgill suggested that there may be a need for Working Groups on certain topics in the Summer, but that he was still seeking the existing/archive information on Trees and Ponds from the Parish Warden.

Action (continuing):

Mr Summersgill to scope/establish a baseline survey for biodiversity in Hunton, to help identify future projects/funding.

Plan Priority 4 – Community

10. Welcome Pack

This Is now available and established on the website, and very useful for those new to the village.

11. Litter Picking

Next litter picking event is to be on 16th March 2013 in the morning; Di Martin had organised the equipment and Insurances etc.

12. Village Hall Events

Alan Bishop had noted the Parish Plan update in circulation, and wanted to address the Committee about the Village Hall usage/events; in particular, he sought help with making the Hall Committee more representative of the village, and to address its needs, and to agree how the Hall should be used.

Concern was raised that the popular musical Applause events may cease, as Arts Council + KCC funding/subsidy of the organisation was potentially being withdrawn. The next 2 Applause concerts (23/3 & 10/5) had been booked, but may have to be self-funded, as was a third personally booked event (by Alan) in May. Mr Bishop requested help in publicising these events, but also in understanding why fewer villagers were now attending (balanced by more people coming from other villages).

There was discussion about the need for the Hall to perhaps have a website (like the Club & Village) and/or Facebook page, and better publicity in the Herald (although recent issue covered the dates well, and posters were up on Notice Boards). Kathy Reid offered to be secretary of the village hall committee; Annette Trought offered to join the committee and Steve & Sue pointed out that they will be joining too and would be assisting at the event on 23rd March. Mike Summersgill offered assistance in publicity and event preparation.

The Committee confirmed that they would assist the Hall Committee members as requested.

Action: Alan Bishop to circulate information and liaise with Kathy Reid re supporting committee meetings

13. Hunton Court Events

Annette updated the Committee on proposals for future events at the Court. She had updated the Parish Council who have written to the estate manager suggesting that it would be helpful to receive information from them of upcoming events. It is important to ensure that the village benefits from these events as well as being able to minimise disruption from traffic etc. The Napoleonic War re-enactment group will be returning on the May Bank Holiday (24-27th May), there will be a south-eastern regional Pony Club dressage event on 7th July

14. Reporting Back to Village

Annette had received all the information from contributors, and had compiled the report on progress against Parish Plan objectives to date. This was agreed to be circulated to the village via the March edition of the Herald. It was this information which prompted Alan Bishop's attendance.

15. Future Meeting Dates

These were published for 2013 on the Agenda for this meeting – Abbi Jessop from MVP will speak at the next meeting on **1st May**, and possibly Mark Pritchard will attend on 26th June.

16. AOB

- a. Mr Bishop sought help with re-planting the hedge alongside the Playing Fields (and West Street); Steve Wyles offered his assistance for this.
- b. An enquiry about Neighbourhood Watch activity in the village, and whether anyone was actively involved with this. No-one knew for certain and it was suggested the PCSO was contacted to find out (there are signs on Red Wall Lane, for instance, but of some age).