

**Management Committee of the King George V Playing Field, Hunton**  
**Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 8:15pm**  
**at Hunton Village Club, West Street, Hunton**  
Charity number 1084141

Present:	Mr Colin Slattery (Chairman)	Hunton Bowls Club
	Mrs Angela Baptie	Hunton Bowls Club
	Mr Danny Peacock	Hunton Football Club
	Mr Steve Jones	Hunton Cricket Club

Secretary: Mrs Sharon Goodwin

Apologies:	Mr Tony Stanbridge	Hunton Parish Council
	Mr David Heaton	Hunton Parish Council
	Mr Simon Taylor	Hunton Cricket Club
	Mr Scott Elliott	Hunton Football Club

**1. Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2. Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2024. Copies had been distributed to all Trustees and Parish Councillors and were as usual available on request.

**3. Matters arising**

- Outstanding item on the minor works list:  
Refix the safety net -> This can only be done with a cherry picker.
- The close-boarded gate has been fitted in the gap in the fencing near the cricket pavilion.
- The rabbits have been active on the cricket pitch outfield but there is no damage to the square. CS has not seen many rabbits around.
- DH has the two posts for the Community Orchard gate and someone who is willing to help fit it.
- Trees:
  - Hood's Tree Services have undertaken the survey on the turkey oak tree. The report does not recommend any reduction and recommends reinspection in 2 years (2026). Volunteers or groundworkers who visit the site regularly should keep an eye out for any major obvious decline such as large dead limbs or crown dieback, which may affect this recommendation, but this was not present at the time of the inspection.
  - The cherry tree near the old cricket pavilion needs cutting back but can be left until the next Visual Tree Assessment.
- CS signed the Unity Trust Bank form to add him as an authorised signatory and enable DH access to internet banking. SJ authorised the form. SG will ask DH to provide the second authorisation.
- The new bench has been installed in the play area.

- ST needs to return the bench slat to SE.
- No further progress has been made regarding the supply and fit of a boiler in the Football Club changing rooms.
- The car park has not been rolled since DH filled the potholes as it was not necessary. DH will fill the holes again in spring; the car park will be rolled then.
- SG asked Robert Cox to cut back the northern border of the field, but it was too wet; he will do the work when the ground freezes.

#### 4. Health & safety

- SG undertook a play area inspection on 9<sup>th</sup> October which has been circulated by email. All items are low risk, apart from the corrosion of the multiplay boxwork which is medium risk. SG will undertake another inspection in November and include the new bench in the inspection.
- SG has contacted Yalding Forge about the multiplay boxwork; she was asked to email photos which she will take when she carries out the play area inspection. CS noted that he had already contacted Yalding Forge and sent in photos but had not received a response.
- Items from the boundary walk in July:
  - Weeds on the play area surfaces -> CS had treated the weeds, but they need doing again.
  - The walnut tree needs cutting back -> The Tree Warden has taken some branches off a tree near the play area.
- SG will find out whose responsibility it is to cut the roadside hedge on the east side of the field, as it is becoming overgrown.

#### 5. Finance

- The Income & Expenditure report to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024 was noted. There will be £5,071 in funds remaining after the outstanding invoices have been paid at the meeting.
- Payments made since the last meeting are:
  - DD - Castle Water x 2 (water charges - September/October) - £283.72
  - Unity Trust Bank (service charges for June to September) - £23.30
  - Steve Jones (concrete/materials for installation of new bench) - £78.10
- SJ took a water meter reading of 5872 on 13<sup>th</sup> October. The Castle Water estimated reading on 1<sup>st</sup> October was 5789, so SG did not submit the meter reading to Castle Water. SG will make a comparison when the next reading is taken to check that actual and estimated readings are more in alignment (due to less water being used in winter). SG was asked to:
  - work out the standing charge per annum for water;
  - see how Castle Water do the billing; and
  - check when Castle Water did their last actual reading.
- Steven Waring has quoted £140 plus VAT to cut the whole field in the winter using the lighter machine. He cut the football pitch last week.
- Landscape Services have provided a quote of £1,893.46 plus VAT for 21 grass cuts in 2025/26 (£1,445.39 plus VAT in 2024/25). The cost has increased by over 30%. CS will speak to Landscape Services and also try and obtain a quote from another contractor. SG will check the quote from Steven Waring and ask if he will reduce the cost if he is given regular cuts.

- SG handed out a spreadsheet detailing non-discretionary expenditure for 2023/24 which amounts to nearly £5,000. Consideration needs to be given to keeping a reserve; a £1,000 contingency was suggested. SG will let DH know that, with the extra grounds maintenance cost, water charges and football pitch cuts, almost all of the annual £7,000 grant will be spent on non-discretionary items. SG will ask whether it would be possible for the Playing Field Committee to receive an increase in the Parish Council grant or whether it would be better to approach the Parish Council for funding for specific capital projects when they arise.
- SG advised that there is an allowance within the MBC Capital Budget Fund for match-funded grants that would be available to parishes for replacing strategic play areas. It is not just replacement of whole play areas, but also for partial/new equipment. SG asked if there are any items the Playing Field Committee could apply for; no one could think of anything but SG will ask if it can be used for repairs to equipment.
- The following payments were approved:
 

Maidstone Borough Council - Bin emptying (September/October)	£150.00
Commercial Services Trading Limited - Grounds maintenance (April/May/June)	£825.94
Robert Cox - Tidying the play area and car park	£120.00

 SJ will authorise the payments set up by SG online; SG will ask ST to be the second authoriser.

#### **6. Administration**

- The Parish Council agreed to accept the gifts of the springy tractor and bench, and they have been insured by their insurer, Zurich. The Playing Field Committee remains responsible for any maintenance work.
- SG has submitted the Annual Return for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 to the Charity Commission (the deadline is 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025).

#### **7. Other parish news**

- The Parish Council has replaced the defibrillator and cabinet on the outside of the village hall. SG will send the code for the cabinet to the sports clubs.

#### **8. Any other matters**

- SJ will be speaking to the yoga group again in March about use of the cricket pavilion on Saturday mornings.
- The Chairman of the Bowls Club asked SG if she knows of anywhere that reasonably priced chairs can be purchased from, as the Bowls Club want 24 comfortable chairs. SG asked about the cost of the chairs in the cricket pavilion; it would be relatively expensive for 24. SG had suggested looking on Freecycle or Gumtree.
- CS noted that the low walls at the entrance to the car park are becoming loose; he asked whose responsibility they are as they will need fixing in spring. SG will check the deeds and speak to DH.

**Date of next meeting: Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 8:15pm at Hunton Village Club**  
 SJ gave his apologies for this meeting.

The meeting ended at 9:21pm.