

Management Committee of the King George V Playing Field, Hunton
Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 15th January 2025 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 Scott Elliott	Hunton Football Club
	Mr Simon Taylor	Hunton Cricket Club
	Mr David Heaton	Hunton Parish Council

Secretary: Mrs Sharon Goodwin

Apologies: Mr Steve Jones Hunton Cricket 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 13th November 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. To discuss at the next meeting.
- No one has been to the field to see if there has been any rabbit activity.
- DH has the two posts for the Community Orchard gate - to be fitted.
- Trees:
 - The cherry tree near the old cricket pavilion needs cutting back but can be left until the Parish Council's next Visual Tree Assessment (VTA).
 - DH noted that the lime trees around the Village Hall need cutting back but can also be left until the VTA.
- CS is now an authorised signatory with Unity Trust Bank and DH has access to internet banking again.
- ST has returned the bench slat to SE.
- SE advised that obtaining three quotes for an LPG boiler is proving very difficult and suggested it would be easier and cheaper to install three electric showers instead. The suggestion will be taken to the Parish Council meeting on 20th January for approval. Once approval has been received, SG will obtain a quote (or several depending on the likely cost). SG will liaise with SE and DP for access to the changing rooms for the contractor(s).
- The filling in the car park potholes is holding up well. DH will order another 3 tonnes of material in the spring to fill the holes again.

- Robert Cox has not cut back the northern border of the field, possibly because it is too wet. SG will remind him to do it and to cut the beech hedge between the cricket pitch and Bowls Club.
- SJ will speak to the yoga group again in March about using the cricket pavilion.
- SG confirmed that, according to the title plan, the wall at the entrance to the car park is the responsibility of the Playing Field Committee.

4. Health & safety

- SG undertook play area inspections on 24th November and 20th December which have been circulated by email. All items are low risk, apart from the corrosion of the multiplay boxwork which is medium risk.
- SG has accepted the quote of £1,258 from Yalding Forge to replace the multiplay boxwork, following approval by email from most Committee members. SG has not yet heard when the work will be undertaken; CS has to visit Yalding Forge so will follow this up. CS will padlock the gates to the play area while the work is being done. SG will order some 'Closed for maintenance' signs for the gates.
- Items from the boundary walk in July 2024:
 - Weeds on the play area surfaces -> CS will spray the weeds again in spring.
 - The walnut tree needs cutting back -> CS will check the tree to see if any more cutting back is required.
- It is the Playing Field Committee's responsibility to cut the roadside hedge on the east side of the field. SG will ask Robert Cox to cut it to six feet at the top and cut the side, for the length of the hedge up to the wooded area.

5. Finance

- The Income & Expenditure report to 31st December 2024 was noted. There will be £4,324 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 - November/December) - £412.28
 - Unity Trust Bank (service charges - November/December) - £12.00
- The last water meter reading was taken on 13th October; CS will take a new reading.
- SG supplied the following information requested at the last meeting on water charges:
 - The annual standing charge = $365 \times £0.201958 = £73.71$
 - Castle Water bill at the beginning of each month for the previous month (this only started in July 2024). The direct debit subsequently taken is the billed amount.
 - Castle Water took their last actual reading on 23rd October (which was the same reading as SJ took on 13th October).
- SE will ask Steven Waring to cut the football pitch again at the end of January.
- Including VAT, Landscape Services have quoted £2,272.15 for 21 grass cuts in 2025, compared to £2,415.42 from Steven Waring for the same number of cuts. Steven Waring would cost £143 more than Landscape Services. CS has spoken to Landscape Services, who will not reduce the price. They are also changing to rotary mowers in the next couple of years. It was agreed that the contract should be given to Steven Waring. SG will let him know and ask that he does the first cut as soon as he is able to (mid-March), with three cuts needed before the start of the cricket season and approximately three cuts to be done every month from March to October. SG will ask how much notice he needs for the cuts. CS will ask Landscape Services to return their field gate key and provide it to Steven Waring.

- The Parish Council will be setting its budget on 20th January. It was agreed that a grant of £8,000 should be requested for 2025/26 for the Playing Field Committee (an increase of £1,000).
- SG advised that the allowance within the MBC Capital Budget Fund that would be available to parishes for replacing strategic play areas will not be available until the next financial year, so it would be too late for the repairs to the multiplay equipment. It is worth bearing in mind for the next financial year.
- The following payments were approved:

Maidstone Borough Council - Bin emptying (November/December)	£150.00
Simon Taylor - Reimbursement for the close board gate from Tate Fencing	£173.50

 CS and DH will authorise the payments set up by SG online.

6. Administration

- The dates of the Committee meetings for 2025 were agreed as:
 - 12th March
 - 7th May
 - 16th July (including boundary walk and AGM)
 - 10th September
 - 12th November
 SG has previously emailed the dates to Committee members (the May meeting date has changed from the 14th to 7th).

7. Other parish news

- DH noted that there are currently a lot of caravans at The Chances. There will be a funeral for one of the residents at the church in January; it is likely to be a large funeral.
- CS asked about flooding. DH advised that West Street had flooded near the Gudgeon and Grove Lane had also flooded, but the water had subsided quickly. The river flooded the following day near the Mill but had subsided by the next day.

8. Any other matters

- AB advised that the Bowls Club has purchased 24 chairs, but they will not fit under the smaller tables. AB asked if the smaller tables could be swapped with the tables in the Village Hall. DH did not think this would be possible as some of the tables in the hall have gone missing.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 12th March 2025 at 8:15pm at Hunton Village Club

The meeting ended at 9:17pm.