Management Committee of the King George V Playing Field, Hunton
Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 16th September 2026 at 8:15pm
at Hunton Village Club, West Street, Hunton
Charity number 1084141

Present:	Mr Steve Jones (Chairman)	Hunton Cricket Club
	Mr Simon Taylor	Hunton Cricket Club
	Mr Colin Slattery	Hunton Bowls Club
	Mr Danny Peacock	Hunton Football Club
Secretary:	Mrs Sharon Goodwin	
Apologies:	Mr David Heaton	Hunton Parish Council
	Mrs Angela Baptie	Hunton Bowls Club
	Mr Scott Elliott	Hunton Football Club
In attendance:	Mr Simon Webb	Hunton Parish Council

1. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.
It was noted that Tony Stanbridge has resigned as a trustee due to a move abroad for work.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting held on 16th July 2026. Copies had been distributed to all Trustees and Parish Councillors and were as usual available on request.

3. Matters arising

- Replacement of poles and safety net:
  Netting - SJ has not ordered the netting yet as he would be out of the country when it is delivered. He will be back in the third week of October. SJ contacted Collins Nets to double check the price, size and weight of the netting. The price is £576 including VAT, delivery is £46.80 and the netting would fit in the back of a car.
  Scaffolding poles – can be obtained at short notice.
  Cherry picker – SJ contacted FGS Rentals who recommended a diesel scissor lift rather than a cherry picker. There are two types – one which extends to 26 feet and the other to 33 feet (the latter also has additional stabilisers). The cost is £160 plus VAT for a week for the smaller lift and £180 plus VAT for the larger lift. A week is the minimum rental period. The delivery cost is £55 plus VAT each way. The total cost, including VAT, is £324 for the 26 foot lift and £348 for the 33 foot lift. ST agreed to look at scaffolding towers as an alternative to a scissor lift.
  It was agreed that the scaffolding poles should be purchased, holes drilled (CS has a drill) and then concreted in 3 feet from the hedge, ideally before the end of the year. Following this, the netting can be ordered, for delivery in several days. In the spring, the straining wire will be fed through the holes and the netting will be clipped to the wire.
  The old wooden poles will be cut down at ground level. CS noted that the scaffolding poles are 18 feet long, 3 feet of which will need to be below ground. CS, ST and SJ agreed to

meet at the ground to measure the existing poles to agree the length, then check the 50 metre netting length and drop required are correct (a 6 metre drop may be too long). CS will obtain a definite cost for the scaffolding poles, which will be delivered to the Bowls Club. Scaffolding padding may also be required. SJ will look at straining wire and clips once the net size has been agreed.

- CS has not seen any mole activity. ST noted that the rabbits are not very active.
- Robert Cox has cleared a large area in the north western part of the field and cut back around the cricket pavilion and boundary, as well as the small hedge at the car park entrance. Everyone agreed he had done an excellent job.
- Potholes are not currently an issue in the car park.
- A resident is still clearing the culvert on West Street, so water is not running down the road and creating potholes at the entrance to the car park.
- SG will ask SE if he has heard from the builder about a quote for repairing and repointing the wall at the entrance to the car park.
- SG will ask SE if he has a quote for new paving slabs outside the changing rooms, for the Parish Council to consider.
- The Tree Warden has trimmed the smaller branches from the oak trees to a level of 8 feet. If larger branches need removing, he recommends that this is left until autumn or winter when the trees are out of leaf. SJ noted that the trees are much better now.
- CS noted that the Bowls Club Open Day went very well.

- Cllr Simon Webb attended the meeting to speak about potential new play equipment for the play area, for children from 8 to 12 years of age. Following lengthy discussion with a representative from Educational Play Environments, he is recommending the 'P338 Forest Climber Passo' climbing equipment; it is not too high and has rope underneath. The equipment measures 6m x 5.5m x 2.7m. The Parish Council will be considering the proposal at the next meeting on 21st September.
  Cllr Webb will obtain quotes for safety surfacing which will measure an extra 0.5m around the perimeter of the equipment. SG can provide contact details for companies who could supply quotes.
  Cllr Webb asked where the best location would be for the equipment. Everyone agreed that the most suitable position would be north of the trim trail along the hedge line.
  SJ asked whether the equipment would need to be installed in the current financial year; Cllr Webb would ideally like it to be this year but it does not have to be. SJ advised that there could be an issue with access if the ground is soft.
  SJ has aerial photographs of the site and will sketch the equipment on to a photograph to demonstrate how it will look.
  No one objected to the addition of the equipment; the timing of the installation will just need to be considered.

4. Health & safety

- SG carried out play area inspections on 24th July and 5th September which were circulated by email:
  24th July report – all items are low risk/satisfactory. Two slats on two picnic table seat backs are wobbly. SJ subsequently fitted vertical wooden batons to strengthen the backs.
  9th September report – all items are low risk/satisfactory. The top slat on one picnic table seat back (the other table) is wobbly. SJ will fit batons when he gets time. The bin outside the north eastern corner of the car park has been removed; it appears that it has

been moved to the north western corner and the broken bin which was in that location previously has been taken away. No one knew who had removed the broken bin, perhaps Maidstone Borough Council. It was agreed that an additional bin should be purchased to hang on the fence surrounding the infants' play area; SG will research it.

5. Finance

- The Income & Expenditure report to 31st August 2026 was noted. There will be £6,923 funds remaining after the outstanding invoices have been paid at the meeting.
- Payments made since the last meeting:
  Unity Trust Bank (service charges – June/July) - £14.00
  Paul Waring (grass cutting and harrowing – July) - £203.76
  Robert Cox (strimming/cutting back/clearance) - £875.00
  Castle Water (water charges – June/July) - £324.14
- The water meter reading on 24th July was 6551, compared to 6457 on 1st July (94 units used). Castle Water estimated a reading of 6588 on 1st September. SJ will take a reading.
- SG has given the garden bin permits to AB.
- CS asked if the cuttings have been removed from behind the hedge near the village hall; SG will check.
- The following payments were approved:
  Maidstone Borough Council – Bin emptying (July/August) £150.00
  Steve Jones – Metal strips for multiplay/timber for picnic benches £21.75
  CS and SJ will authorise the first payment set up by SG online; CS and ST will authorise the payment to SJ.

6. Administration

- None.

7. Other parish news

- The Village Hall Centenary event on 25th July was a success.
- There are two vacancies on the Parish Council due to the recent resignation of two parish councillors.

8. Any other matters

- SJ still has some shingle to lay near the cricket pavilion decking. He has some ragstone to fill the gap and will lay chippings on the top.
- Maidstone Borough Council have advised that the location of the bin near the football pitch is an issue for operatives and asked if it could be moved within 25 metres of the car park. It was agreed that the bin is in an ideal location which should not be changed. SG asked if the football team is taking their litter home after matches; DP will check with SE that bottles are being cleared.
- SG noted that several residents have complained about litter during the summer months. SG volunteered to do a weekly litter pick; it was agreed that litter picking materials would be funded.
- SJ advised that some branches on the conifers on Hunton Engineering land need to be cut back as they are touching the pavilion roof. SG will contact Hunton Engineering.
- CS advised that one of the older members of the Bowls Club collapsed during the Open Day. There were problems keeping in communication with the paramedics due to the poor signal and internet connection. CS asked if it would be possible to have the Wi-Fi password

for the router in the village hall and a Wi-Fi booster could then be placed in the Bowls Club to improve the internet connection; it would only be used in an emergency. SG will speak with Kathy Reid as the Pre-school pays for the internet in the hall and will also ask if there is a telephone landline in the hall that could be used as an alternative.

- DP noted that several young men with three lurcher dogs have been seen in a car on Buston Manor land during the day and night; something to be aware of. CS advised that, once while the ladies were playing bowls, three boys and two girls were very abusive. The Bowls Club subsequently decided to board over the gate so people cannot look in and keep the gate shut.
- CS noted that an old bench which was on the bowls green has been moved just outside the Bowls Club gate and is being well used. It may be worth considering the purchase of a bench similar to the one inside the play area.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 11th November 2026 at Hunton Village Club

The meeting ended at 9:45pm.