

Management Committee of the King George V Playing Field, Hunton
Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 8th May 2024 at 8:15pm
at Hunton Village Club, West Street, Hunton
Charity number 1084141

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

Secretary: Mrs Sharon Goodwin

Apologies:	Mr Scott Elliott	Hunton Football Club
	Mr David Heaton	Hunton Parish Council

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 March 2024. Copies had been distributed to all Trustees and Parish Councillors and were as usual available on request.

3. Matters arising

- Outstanding items on the minor works list:
 - Replace the missing post on the activity trail -> SJ will be replacing the post on 9th May.
 - Infill the tractor rocker with play bark or shredded rubber -> SJ advised that no infill is required.
 - Refix the safety net -> this can only be done with a cherry picker. The posts are solid still, there is just the gap in the netting at the top. The net will need to be replaced at some point.
- ST has obtained a price of £236 for a close-board gate in a heavy frame for the space near the cricket pavilion/shed; the price was agreed. ST will supply the ironmongery to hang the gate and it will be fitted by members of the Cricket Club.
- The rabbits are quite active but have not affected the cricket square. No rabbit activity near the Bowls Club. No mole activity.
- SJ advised that the container is fine for the current contents. If shelving/storage is required in future it can be considered then.
- The gate/posts still need to be reinstated in the Community Orchard.
- Action on items noted on the boundary walk in July 2023:
 - The lower branches have been removed from the tree near the football pitch by the Football Club and left underneath. Other tree work affecting the field will be Poplar removals on the north boundary and any work necessary on the Turkey Oak following the climbed inspection.
- The Parish Council agreed to obtain an EICR on the cricket pavilion from a second

company; the work was carried out on 7th May. The EICR has not been received yet but SJ was present when the work was carried out and advised that there are three C3 issues, none of which require any action. SJ noted that the plumber has fixed the leak in the cricket pavilion.

- DH is currently unable to access the UTB bank account for internet banking.
- SJ has ordered the bench for the play area which will be delivered to his house on 24th May. DH will collect it using his trailer.
- ST still has the strut for the bench near the football pitch; he will return it to SE.
- No further progress regarding the supply and fit of a boiler in the Football Club changing rooms.
- The potholes in the car park are getting worse and need filling as a matter of urgency. SG will mention it to DH. There is also a pothole between the car park entrance and the road which needs fixing. SG will check whose responsibility it is - KCC Highways or the Playing Field Committee.
- SG will ask Robert Cox to cut down the nettles and brambles near the cricket pavilion and football pitch.

4. Health & safety

- SG undertook play area inspections on 26th March and 30th April which have been circulated by email. All items are low risk, apart from the corrosion of the multiplay boxwork which is medium risk.
- DH agreed to speak with someone in the village to see if he would be able to weld the multiplay boxwork; progress unknown as DH was unable to attend the meeting.
- SG has sent the repeat order form to The Play Inspection Company Ltd to schedule the inspection for 2025.

5. Finance

- The Income & Expenditure report to 31st March 2024 was noted. Funds of £2,524 have been carried forward to 2024/25.
- The Income & Expenditure report to 30th April 2024 was noted. There will be £1,529 in funds remaining after the outstanding invoices have been paid at the meeting.
- The £7,000 grant from the Parish Council will be authorised at the next meeting on 18th May.
- The payments made since the last meeting are:
DD - Castle Water x 2 (water charges - March/April) - £288.92
Unity Trust Bank (service charge) - £18.00
- SJ will take a water meter reading.
- It was agreed by email that the quote of £1,445.39 from Landscape Services should be accepted for grass cutting. SJ noted that they have only cut the field twice so far, when there should have been 4-5 cuts. Apparently Landscape Services are struggling to meet demand. It will be cut again this week; cuts are on Fridays but it would be better to cut it earlier in the week so cuttings can disperse. The surface is barely playable at the moment.
- At the March meeting, SE requested funding for winter work on the football pitch, which was turned down as it would set a precedent for the other clubs. SE has circulated an email since the meeting, to ask that his proposal is reconsidered. It was agreed that it is important that the Football Club keeps going.

ST and SJ have researched whether funding is available and believe it is, for example, from the Football Foundation.

DP stated that the football pitch needed more cuts as the grass is too long to play on in the winter; it was agreed that the grass cutting could be extended into the winter. Steven Waring has quoted £75 plus VAT for cutting the football pitch in the winter, using a lighter mower which can cut when the ground is wet (unlike the tractor mower).

In terms of improving the quality of the field, SJ thought that both the cricket and football pitches could be improved and will obtain advice from contacts at the ECB (and/or Kent FA) on what would need to be done to improve the quality of the whole field. It will be useful to obtain professional input to give a range of options. Once the advice has been received, the Playing Field Committee can decide on action to take, bearing in mind the funds available. CS suggested speaking to someone at Yalding as they spent £3,000 on their football pitch.

SJ has looked at the terms of association of the Playing Field Committee - the object is social welfare of the residents.

ST will contact SE to advise that the response from the Playing Field Committee is:

- Obtain a professional opinion on improvements which could be made to the field as a whole.
 - Look into funding - grants, funding from the Playing Field Committee, etc.
 - The Playing Field Committee to fund some cuts of the football pitch in the winter (including use of Steven Waring where necessary).
 - The following payments were approved:

Maidstone Borough Council - Bin emptying (March/April)	£150.00
Steve Jones - Reimbursement for purchase of bench for the play area	£445.07
Hunton Village Hall Committee - Contribution towards drainage and treatment plant costs 2023	£255.00
- SJ and ST will authorise the payments set up by SG online, including the payment to SJ, as DH is unable to authorise payments at the moment.

6. Administration

- SG has renewed the insurance with Clear Insurance Management.

7. Other parish news

- The Hunton Parish Council election was held on 2nd May; it was uncontested.
- The Hunton Annual Parish Meeting will be held on 20th May.

8. Any other matters

None.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 10th July 2024 at Hunton Cricket Pavilion

7:30pm Annual Inspection of the Playing Field (weather permitting)

8:00pm AGM

8:30pm Committee Meeting

The meeting ended at 9:25pm.