

Hunton Parish Council

Report for the year to 31st March 2022

Parish Councillors

Mike Summersgill was elected on to the Parish Council in May 2021. Iain Simmons was co-opted in May 2021 to fill one of the vacancies left after the election and Jean Fuller was co-opted in March 2022 to fill the final vacancy.

At the Annual Meeting in May 2022, the Parish Council elected Cllr David Heaton as Chairman and Cllr Annette Trought as Vice Chairman. At the same meeting, the parish councillors agreed to continue to take responsibility for specific parish matters to ensure that focus is given to these areas and to provide a good service to parishioners. These roles are as follows:

- Footpaths and ditches – Cllr Heaton (primary) and Cllr Goddard (secondary)
- Road conditions and speed limits – Cllr Goddard (primary) and Cllr Simmons (secondary)
- Events and communications – Cllr Trought
- Planning issues and consultations – Cllr Summersgill
- Liaison with KALC, MBC and other external bodies – Cllr Summersgill (primary) and Cllr Heaton (secondary)
- Utilities (broadband, water, electricity) – Cllr Stanbridge (primary) and Cllr Summersgill (secondary)

Hunton parish councillors have all undertaken to act in accordance with a Code of Conduct and there have been no complaints to the local monitoring officer about their individual or collective activities.

Income

The Parish Council was mainly financed by a precept of £26,338, which was raised on local householders, collected with the council tax. This amounted to £83.09 for a Band “D” property. Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) provided Parish Services Scheme funding of £1,639 to assist with maintenance of the recreation ground and play area. The Parish Council also received £2,036 in Feed-in Tariffs from the Village Hall’s energy supplier, following the investment in solar panels on the Hall roof in 2012. The Hall benefits from reduced energy bills.

Expenditure

A large part of the Parish Council’s expenditure was a donation of £6,000 to the King George V Playing Field Committee for the maintenance of the playing field (less a £667 Committee contribution towards a new container). The Parish Council also assisted the Village Hall with a contribution of £736 towards insurance costs and £1,000 towards running costs (as certain village events and activities take place at no charge, and with priority over private hires).

£1,138 was spent on tree surgery and also new hedge plants to the north of the recreation ground, as part of the Queen’s Green Canopy project to mark the Platinum Jubilee, and to provide added security.

New additions during the year included a new LED streetlight, additional CCTV equipment and a container for security.

The old cricket pavilion was demolished during the year at a cost of £3,098.

The income and expenditure figures for 2021/22 and comparative figures for 2020/21 are shown on page 3. Copies of audited annual returns are available under the Publication Scheme.

Activities

The Parish Council continues to maintain the permissive footpath between Bensted Close and the Village Hall through a maintenance contract, to ensure the hedge running alongside the footpath and the path verges are kept tidy.

Parish councillors have liaised with MBC, Kent County Council (KCC), local farmers and residents to try and resolve flooding issues. The Parish Council has devolved powers (from KCC) to close roads in the event of flooding and has been given the necessary signage. Cllr Summersgill has been trained as a Flood Warden and is also putting together a database of properties at risk of flooding.

Highways issues remain high on the agenda. The Traffic & Road Safety Working Party has taken an active role in identifying areas of concern on the roads and is committed to making improvements to ensure the safety of all road users throughout the village. The Parish Council has put aside funds to allow the Working Party to take positive action, including additional road signage. Speed indicator devices are being considered for part of West Street, and also the installation of kerbing outside the school.

An application has been submitted to KCC for installation of electric vehicle charging points in front of the village hall.

A tree inspection has been undertaken recently on all council-owned trees on the recreation ground and near the Village Hall. Recommended remedial work will be carried out in the coming months. The Parish Council is planning to plant a copse of trees to the north of the recreation ground to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

The Football Club changing rooms, next to the Village Hall, have been rewired recently and other work will be carried out to improve the facility. A £500 grant was given to Hunton Bowls Club towards a new mower.

A new Parish Council website was developed during the year, which contains Parish Council and village information.

Planning

The Parish Council responded to 31 planning applications during the year, putting recommendations forward to MBC on applications received, and some additional applications which could potentially affect Hunton in some way. In considering its views on planning applications, the parish councillors continue to put forward recommendations that they feel best represent the interests of local parishioners. The Parish Council meets when required to consider new planning applications and details of these meetings can be found on the notice boards and website.

Meetings

The Parish Council meets bi-monthly at the Village Hall, usually on the third Monday of January, March, May, July, September and November and parishioners are welcome to attend. Parishioners are given an opportunity to raise matters at the start of every meeting.

Articles on Parish Council meetings are reported in the Hunton Herald and the meeting minutes can be viewed in full on the website at www.huntonparishcouncil.org.uk. The Parish Council also has a Publication Scheme required under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, whereby copies of particular documents are available upon request.

Contacts

Councillors or the Clerk can be contacted directly when more urgent issues arise. Contact details appear in the Hunton Herald and on the website at www.huntonparishcouncil.org.uk.

Councillors:	Cllr David Heaton (Chairman)	01622 820678
	Cllr Annette Trought	01622 820448
	Cllr Tony Stanbridge	01622 820721
	Cllr Jonny Goddard	01622 820096
	Cllr Mike Summersgill	01622 820429
	Cllr Iain Simmons	01622 820875
	Cllr Jean Fuller	07738 935630
Clerk:	Mrs Sharon Goodwin	01622 681238

Hunton Parish Council

Summary of Receipts and Payments 2021/22

2020/21	Receipts	2021/22
£		£
26,338	Parish Precept	26,338
1,601	Parish Services Scheme funding	1,639
2,496	Solar panels FIT receipts	2,036
1,691	Insurance claims	0
10,000	MBC - Business Rates grant	0
84	King George's Field Hunton - Match funding for SIPA grant	0
0	MBC SIPA grant for play area	0
0	Wayleaves	0
4,744	VAT reimbursement from HMRC	1,085
46,954	Total receipts	31,098
2020/21	Payments	2021/22
£		£
	General administration	
	Running expenses	
50	Chairman's Allowance	396
480	Clerk's office allowance	480
71	Clerk's travel expenses	125
35	Data Protection fee	35
56	Postage	41
62	Stationery & office expenses	97
590	Subscriptions	582
112	Telephone	30
5,096	Salaries	5,185
275	Audit fees	290
72	Bank service charges	72
884	Insurance	929
	Recreation ground	
6,000	Annual contribution	5,333
3,000	Grant	0
2,347	Open spaces	1,157
990	Footpath maintenance	1,000
572	Highways costs	0
	Village Hall	
1,066	Insurance contribution	736
1,000	Running costs contribution	1,000
56	Street lighting	481
	CCTV	
246	Maintenance contract	252
0	Additional equipment	990
150	Training	205
550	s137	500
0	Defibrillator maintenance	175
0	Removal of old cricket pavilion	3,098
0	Storage container	2,000
0	Website	335
975	New mower	0
204	New bin	0
878	Repayment of MBC SIPA grant paid twice	0
840	New security lights	0
110	Car park barrier	0
700	Grant to HWCC - new mower	0
103	Other expenditure	0
1,078	VAT on payments	1,702
28,648	Total payments	27,226

