

**HORNTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD IN THE METHODIST CHURCH ON
MONDAY 29TH APRIL 2019 AT 7.30pm**

Present: Councillors Burden, Wain, Offord, Hewlett, McKenzie, Tilling and Woodcock

Also in attendance: County Councillor George Reynolds and Clerk & RFO Cindy Koberl,

Members of the public: Mr. & Mrs. Langton, Mr. & Mrs. Abbot, Mr. & Mrs. Higgins, Mrs. J. Stanley, Mr. D. Kings, Ms. S. Spencer and Mr. P. Lemon

Apologies: Apologies were given by District Cllr Douglas Webb, Cllr. Overton, Mr. Green and Mrs. Bridgeman and these were accepted.

1. Minutes of previous Annual Parish Meeting held on 23rd April 2018

The minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting and were signed by the Chairman.

2. Matters arising from the minutes of the 23rd April 2018

There were no matters arising.

3. Chairman's report

The following report was presented by Chair John Offord.

Thanks to all of you for attending the 2019 Annual Parish Meeting, It's nice to see such a good turnout.

I would also like to thank all the Parish Councillors who give their time freely and with great commitment to the residents of Hornton.

We have some additions to our team in Steve Tilling who recently joined as a councillor and Cindy Koberl who has joined as our clerk and RFO.

The Parish Council is involved in many aspects of the village, from litter pick to lighting. We are actively involved, in Jumba, The Pavilion and the Playground as subsets of the PC.

During the last 12 months some specifics are:

1. Speedwatch where, in conjunction with other PCs we have purchased the equipment to allow us to regularly monitor traffic speeds and report back to the Police when appropriate. A special thanks to Tim for persevering with this project.
2. Refurbishments at The Pavilion start in early May. I would again thank Andrew & Kevin for their work on this.
3. The building work on Millers Lane and the concerns for adjacent residents has continued.
4. Enforcement of planning requirements such as at 5 Bell Street.
5. The Moto X track and its compliance to the operating rules. We are in dialogue with the landowner, the operators and Cherwell DC.
6. Trees to commemorate 100 years from the end of WW1, which were provided to us by Oxford CC and are currently planted in the churchyard.
7. Finally, one that took up some considerable time. The Dun Cow. This hopefully will be resolved satisfactorily soon.

4. District Councillor's Report

A report from Cllr. Web was presented by the Clerk as follows:

1. Re priorities are the front line services at cdc.
2. with local plan defend against speculative development.
3. Looking after our environment .

We are looking into some issues raised by the village, enforcement, and the big change is the change in working with Southnorthants to a closer working with Oxfordshire, sharing officer time, reducing costs, and investing in Banbury Castle quay and supporting the Horton.

5. County Councillor's report

Cllr. Reynolds reported the following:

I have less to report as the school is now part of the academy.

The Road would always be a problem until there are sufficient funds. There are 20 or 30 cases of potholes that need to be checked up at the moment. The Dragon Patcher is used a lot more for the potholes, it is not satisfactory in my view but it does do a job. Although Dragon Patcher has to work better with the weather, the potholes would otherwise not get done in time with a man, a shovel and tarmac, especially it is quite often a pothole requires work to be done again in 6 month time.

Cherwell are divorcing themselves from Southnorthants because of a few problems within Southnorthants. In doing so, Cherwell is working closely with Oxfordshire County Council. It is a shame that we have just started to benefit financially from sharing back office and senior officers with Southnorthants. Now we are starting over again by joining forces and sharing buildings. It mainly affects south of Cherwell such as Oxford, Kidlington and it should not affect Hornton much.

The parish council could do so much and many of them have done very well on their own without interference. Every once a while when a parish council needs help, we are more than happy to help.

6. Finance report

The report was presented by the RFO, Cindy Koberl.

The Parish Council has received the initial internal audit report from Arrow Accounting with no major concern raised. Philip Hood from Arrow Accounting will visit me on 3rd May 2019 to finalise the audit. As the total receipts on the account for 2018/19 exceeded £20,000, we will have to carry out the external audit with Moore Stephens (appointed auditor to smaller authorities in Oxfordshire) by 1st July 2019.

The precept for the 2019/20 financial year has increased by £500 to £10,000. The increase was to ensure the Parish Council had adequate funds to meet the substantial cost of maintenance around the village and the likely increases in utility and insurance costs.

There are a couple of projects planned in this financial year. Firstly, the Pavilion committee has worked very hard on fundraising last year in order to fund the building work commencing on 7th May which would cost £43,450 plus VAT. Secondly, a new playground equipment designed for younger children will be installed at the cost of

£3,473.73. I will work closely with the committees and the council to ensure all the expenditures are authorised and accurately paid.

I started the RFO role in December 2018, it has been a positive learning curve so far. I would like to thank my predecessor, Katherine Mills, for her painstaking book keeping and filing. I would also like to thank the committee treasurers, Andrew, Paul, Kev and Simon for their assistance on reconciling the accounts. Lastly, I must express my gratitude to the chair and the councillors, for your help and advices.

7. Pavilion report

The following report was presented by ex-committee secretary Joanne Langton.

Since the last report the Pavilion has had a very busy 18 months. Fundraising has been at the forefront of the Pavilion committees' work as well as appointing a builder to carry out the refurbishment programme.

The Refurbishment: After some difficulty and a lengthy process we finally achieved three quotes. After many hours of work and meetings to agree the refurbishment programme with the committee, going through the tenders and then finalising the contract with the selected builder, they then pulled out. This was a major blow because work was due to commence in less than a month. The under bidder agreed to look at the job again and another builder was proposed. I am happy to report that Mach Solutions has been appointed and they will commence work in May. There are important booking dates in the diary over the summer so an element of panic was in the air! I think we need to mention Andrew Overton in dispatches as he has borne the brunt of this work – we are very grateful to him.

On a happier note, and I am not sure how we fitted it all in, we had an amazing year of funding raising. Many thanks to the many people who organised events on our behalf, and those who helped, particularly with the washing up – there was an awful lot of that! All were successful and much enjoyed by everyone who joined in. The amount raised really has helped with the refurbishment, which you will all get to see very soon. A sum has also been set aside for a new stage. We raised enough to more than cover our costs for the whole year and put a sum into the refurbishment pot.

We had WIFI and a telephone connected because it was felt that this might attract small business use during the day, for training days or small conferences. Andrew Overton produced an excellent leaflet which he distributed locally. At the moment we have had no uptake but we are ever hopeful. As the mobile signal is not reliable, the committee agreed that a telephone for emergencies was a good idea when we hold events in the Pavilion.

Some of the events held include:

A Valuation Day – Holloways of Banbury provided to expert and we had a good crowd. Holloways is keen to return this year. We also raised £170 for Katharine House Hospice by donations.

Royal Breakfast – To celebrate the marriage of the Duke and Duchess of Sussex. Thanks to Graham Hall and Ian Harris for cooking the breakfast and a special thanks to Colin Macleod for his generosity in loaning the equipment and the technicians to set it all up, it really made the event.

Ladies Pamper Day – a first for the Pavilion and organised by Cath Bellamy and Isabelle Harris – terrific fun and a repeat has been mentioned.

Saturday Night at the Pavilion – organised by Sarah Walther and a real crowd pleaser – plenty requests for more of the same.

Paella and Rounders – another new event – organised by Sophie and Guy Heathcote– family fun in the sunshine and the paella was excellent.

The Murder Mystery Night – Black tie dinner, set in the 1930's on board a luxury cruiser. Everyone entered into the spirit. Many thanks to Anne Joyner and her team.

The Progressive Dinner – thanks again to Anne – always enjoyed by everyone who takes part and a great way for new people in the village to get to know us.

We welcomed Cindy Koberl as the new Parish Clerk and thank her for taking care of our funds. I have relinquished the role of secretary and have handed over to Pete Lemon. I will remain on the committee to help with events and fundraising.

In the pipeline for this year: Black Tie Horseracing Night, Croquet, another Ladies Event, Wine Tasting evening, Karaoke evening, and a Pete Lemon Quiz Night- public demand. We are still looking at Tai Chi, having difficulty in finding an instructor and hopefully ballroom dancing in the autumn. Carol Overton is organising the Mayday which is coming very soon.

Also a call to action for anyone who would like to help paint the main hall and kitchen, help to keep the costs down.

8. Allotments and the John Fox Charity reports

Cllr Paul Burden presented his reports.

Allotments

Once more it is planting time again and tenants are busy forking and preparing their plots for the spring and summer. With more and more sheds and greenhouses. Gardeners can sow early under grass to transplant later in the warmer conditions. Egg production is the latest craze with three small chicken runs added to allotments.

Rents are now allocated and remain at the same price as previous years. Being £20.00 for a full plot (2 chain) and £10.00 for a half.

We are joining the village open gardens in the summer when some of the proceeds go to Katherine House Hospice. So we all hope they look their best by July.

I would like to thank Martin Hemmings for continually mowing the main paths and setting the standard with his own plot. With a big thank you to all tenants for keeping to the rules and being good neighbours.

Last but not least we have a gardening club in the village with a plant sale on the 18th May and flower and vegetable show on the 17th August. So why not join up and put some of your prize crops on the judges show bench. Membership is £10.00 per year available from Sally Tweedsmuir on 670608 or sally@tweedsmuir.plus.com.

Lastly I would like to wish every gardener a successful year.

The John Fox Charity

The above charity was bequeathed to the village school by a local Quaker land owner of the same name in the 1800s. When rent was used to provide books for Hornton school children.

Early 2011 the land was sold at auction and the money held in a charity bank account in perpetuity, with some or all of the interest given to Hornton school annually or biannually.

Since then it has raised some £16000, which has helped the school with new teaching methods. I would like to thank all of the trustees which are two Parish Councillors, two school governors and one village resident for their help in running the charity.

The next meeting is some time in May.

9. Roads and Highways report

The report was presented by Cllr Tim Hewlett.

1. Potholes and Road Surface. Keeping the village and local roads in a fit state is an on-going process. The PC constantly report defective areas on the fix-my-street website which is the official OCC website for road and highway improvements within the county. Whilst the recent improvements fall short of the full resurfacing we had requested, improved technology in repairing roads has resulted in a better method of dealing with potholes within the village and on the approach roads which should last longer than filling a hole with tarmac. Serious flooding in the last year has resulted in major repairs to 3 drains in the village at the bottom of Millers Lane and around the Green. In the absence of serious rain since this repair was carried out, this has yet to be put to the test. For all Road and Highway issues the fix-my-street website is the best way to ensure potholes and poor verges are dealt with. OCC check the website regularly and it is open for all members of the village to contribute. The inclusion of photos to a report is a positive addition.

2. Signposts. Signposts have been improved with a new Millers Lane sign at the top of Millers Lane and a new sign at the end of the straight road leading off the Stratford Road which now directs motorists to Hornton, Shutford and Wroxton. Again, the OCC website provides a comprehensive means of raising signpost issues within the county or report them to a member of the HPC.

3. Speedwatch. Following complaints of speeding in the village over a year ago, the PC investigated effective methods of reducing vehicle speed within the village. An initial approach to OCC proved to be unsatisfactory and the PC agreed to adopt the use of the SpeedWatch system. Three other villages in North Oxfordshire were interested and Hornton finally shared in the purchase of the equipment from Traffic Technology with Swalcliffe, Broughton and Tadmerton splitting the £2300 cost price. The equipment measures the speed of approaching vehicles which is relayed to a tablet. Vehicle details are noted by the operators and are reported to the Police who write to the offending vehicle owners. Hornton's roads are largely self limiting on speed but Broughton's first week of use produced over 100 vehicles exceeding 35 mph inside their 30 mph limit. The equipment is rotated on a weekly basis between the 4 villages. The PC has already been contacted by councillors from Wroxton and Middleton Cheney who share our problem and are keen to get more information.

4. The Green. Over the years, the wooden posts around The Green have become decayed and loose and are now considered a liability. At the time of writing, councillors are looking at replacing or removing the wooden posts that surround the 2 main Greens in the village which support the sun dial and the war memorial with something that will continue to discourage motorists to park on the village Green.

10. JUMPA report

The report was presented by Cllr Steve Woodcock.

Thanks to all the volunteers who put in considerable time and effort running Jumba and particularly maintaining the site to a high standard...whether mowing, log splitting, hedge trimming or litter picking.

Hopefully the removal of the trees shading the court will allow the surface to avoid further deterioration from moss.

Fund raising continues at a modest level and is important in building up a reserve for when the surface will need relaying, a requirement every ten years or so.

We would like to encourage greater use of the court, it is free and a great asset for Hornton!

11. Playground report

Cllr Kevin Wain reported the following:

The small playing field is looking in good health. The recent external inspection gave a really good report apart from some minor recommendations. We have good maintenance crews in the committee, the volunteers are mowing and helping with maintenance. On behalf of the committee and the users of the playing field, I thank the volunteers for all their hard work and continuing support. We have plan to pant the slide and swings. We are also due a visit from a mole expert for the excavation. Our next project is to install "Buzz Tower", a equipment specifically designed for the younger children. Hopefully this will add attraction too our playing field. This May we will close the playing field for a couple of days when they install the equipment the mole man is working. Presently we have £37,334 and the playing field is in very good condition. Hopefully this continues to be the scenario.

12. Hornton & District WI

The report was presented by Committee Secretary Sally Spencer.

Since taking over as Secretary in March last year we have attempted to source a diverse range of speakers, being a fairly small group we have limited funds so we always take this into account when arranging our new programme.

Last year members of our group enjoyed being part of the jazz and wine evening at Cropredy where we won the area trophy back!

In May we welcomed Alan Brewer, ex Cabin Services Director on BA incorporating his time as the First Class Catering Officer on the Queens Flight, he attended to the needs of the rich and famous, Tony Blair, Cliff Richard, Elton John to name but a few. This was one of the most amusing talks we have had and had us amused all evening.

June saw us reach 10 years of the WI in Hornton and we celebrated in style with a garden party enjoying Pimms, a sumptuous buffet and a live 2-piece band.

During the summer we had a lovely trip out to Ball Colegrave and then attended a talk by Pippa Greenwood over at Stanford le Vale and many of us bought lots of super plants for our gardens.

So far this year we have taken part in a pilates evening and watercolour workshop and with lots more very interesting speakers still to come it should be a good year ahead.

I'm proud to say our membership is increasing and now we have 24 paid up members with possibly 2 more this month.

We meet on the first Thursday of each month at the Chapel at 7.30 so please come along and give us a go!

13. Hornton History Group

The report was represented by Cllr Kevin Wain.

Hornton History Group is going from strength to strength, with a full programme of research, talks and events, together with a growing membership base. We have established good links with Banbury Museum, which has displayed our exhibitions in the past and with whom we are coordinating to finalise the loan of the Hornton Anglo-Saxon artefacts.

In the last year we have commemorated the 100-year centenary of the First World War with a memorial stone on the village green, this stone excavated from the grounds of a house once lived in by one of our soldiers who gave his life during that war. We also achieved a first by screening the first showing in England of a remarkable silent film from 1923 depicting the original War Horse story. This completes our many activities and events commemorating the First World War centenary.

Our next project will be the recording and archiving of village stories relating to World War 2 – the men and women who went to war or were part of the war effort, the families who took in evacuees and prisoners-of-war and village life during that period with rationing and the need for self-sufficiency.

Sadly we will no longer be able to call on Barbara Greenhalgh to help us with research for these future projects. Barbara, who as you know, died last December, worked tirelessly researching many different subjects about Hornton and its people and we will continue to use her archive material as much as we can.

We will continue to develop our research work on the Graveyard Survey. This is nearly ready to write up as a document and will also be made available as a database online for research purposes.

History Group has enjoyed some fascinating talks and visits in the past year. Tim Hewlett spoke about his distinguished career in the RAF, Stephen Wass showed us the delights of Hanwell Castle's "House of Diversion" and Martin Willoughby talked us through his father's reconstruction of a famous WW2 Lancaster Bomber called "S for Sugar". We visited the National Trust's Chastleton House and had a 'grand day out' at Greenwich Park in London.

We also have a full programme for this year. Already we have visited Coughton Court in Warwickshire and enjoyed a talk by Jim Smithson about the Normandy

Landings in 1944. We will again run a 'crock-bashing' stall at May Day and the Barn Dance evening at Hornton Grounds in June.

The Chapel display case will be updated in the Spring to continue the theme of "families of Hornton", with stories and memorabilia about the Miles family. The History Group will also work closely with Banbury Museum to assist them with their display of the so-called 'Hornton Hoard' in the Autumn. To coincide with this exciting event we have a talk in the village by Peter Spackman on Anglo-Saxon life.

As well as a tour of Tooley's Boat Yard in June, we will tour the fields around Cropredy Bridge in July to learn about the English Civil War battle. We'll also be spending a day out at Hampton Court in September to immerse ourselves in the Tudor experience. Just to finish, we do have a few tickets available for our trip to Hampton Court.

14. Hornton Primary School report

Cllr Louise McKenzie reported following:

There are currently 104 pupils in Hornton Primary School including pupils in Peachtree, the pre-school. We have big year 6 leavers in July but the subscription for the reception year is currently full. The Head teacher Matt Green is leaving the school at the end of school term in July, the governors are in process searching for a new head teacher to start from September. The school is looking to have new fences to secure the school grounds, the school has not decided which contractor to go for as yet, but it would be in compliance of with the conservation planning. The roofs of the school desperately require repair and Mr. Green has secured half a million pounds from the academy for the work to be carried out during the summer holidays.

15. Village Church report

Due to PCC Annual Meeting scheduled the next evening of the Annual Parish Meeting, Mrs. Bridgeman sent her apologies on behalf of the Church for not presenting the report on the night of APM. She later presented the report to the clerk which would be available as an attachment of this minutes.

16. The Chapel Report

The report was represented by Mrs. Julie Stanley.

The Chapel was built in 1865 by village people. Over the years it thrived as a place of worship. Later a vestry, meeting room and outside toilet was added. However by 1999 the whole building was in need of expensive repairs including replacing the roof, and the congregation had depleted quite a lot. Services were reduced from three services to one morning service and the building was only open for that hour a week. The Church Council had to decide if there was a way forward and with little money the future looked bleak.

However with a lot of faith they decided to use the surplus money they had to redecorate and take out the pews. The pews were sold and chairs were bought with the money. People began to see what a special place it could be and soon after enough money was raised to have the roof replaced. More funds were raised to put in a new heating system for the main Chapel. We then decided to take down the vestry area at the side of the Chapel and replace it with a new building. We set about raising the funds and in 2012 the new building was completed with inside toilets, a kitchen and an eco friendly heating system. The cost was £192,000 raised by village fundraising, Bequests and grants.

Around 1999 the school had no space big enough for assemblies and lessons like music and movement and asked if they could rent the chapel 4 days a week. Over the years it has been a great asset to them especially when the School House was altered for classrooms etc. and they moved one class to the Chapel during the work. Due to their budget this year, they have decreased the hours at Chapel to 3 hours a week which has seriously depleted our finances. It costs around £12,000 per annum to keep the doors open. This has to be found from fundraising, lettings and collections.

We work closely with the Parish Church as Churches Together in Hornton and plan our services so that the first and third Sunday Hornton worships at the Chapel and on the

second and fourth Sunday at the Church. This means that a Christian service is held in Hornton every week.

To enhance community life in Hornton, the Chapel doors are open for a coffee morning every Friday, (we sometimes hold special coffee mornings for good causes during the year). During term time a mother and child group is held on Friday after school. The lunch held on the first Monday in the month is still very popular, and the door is always open for people to come and change their books at the small library in the foyer.

The Chapel is also used for Yoga on Tuesday evenings on a regular basis and we are beginning Spanish lessons in the smaller room on Wednesday morning's beginning on the 8th May.

We hope there is a long future for the Chapel but with a changing a community this may not be the case.

17. Neighbourhood Watch report

Sally Spencer advised that she is the new Neighbourhood Watch coordinator so she had no report but would welcome neighbourhood watch concerns to be raised with her.

18. Village queries

Footbridge between the pavilion and Jumpa

It has brought to council's attention that the footbridge over the stream in between the pavilion and Jumpa requires maintenance. Cllr. Woodcock reported the footbridge is on a footpath, the hand rail is rotting and the base is spongy. He raised this issue with Oxfordshire County Council and is awaiting a response.

Double dips on Horley Road

Mr. Abbott reported the there are significant double dips on the south side of Horley to Hornton Road. This has presented great danger to both motorists and cyclists for some time. Cllr. Reynolds advised if the dips are to do with badger activities, the council would have to prove that the activities is in dormant and to work outside badgers' breeding season, this would normally take a while before work is carried out. Cllr. Hewlett suggested Mr. Abbott to log a case on fix-my-street website and Cllr, Hewlett would also do so as well as follow up with the case.

Village bus services

Cllr. Burden asked if there is any possibility to bring the bus services back. It is unfair for the pensioners to pay taxis to get in and out the village. Cllr. Reynolds responded it has proven to be difficult to provide villages that are off main road with bus services due to insufficient funds. The bus passes are brilliant idea but it does not cover the costs of the bus services. There were community buses which were subsidised by the parish councils such as Wroxton and Shutford but they were stopped because not enough people taking the services. Cllr. Reynolds would try to find out from the OCC if the youth buses which are normally used for schools could provide services to Hornton during the gaps of school services.

Mr. Kings also advised that there is Volunteer Driver Service which provides effective taxi services by charging only the fuel used on the mileage. We could also run a village volunteer rota to take people in and out of Hornton.

The Chairman John Offord thanked all for their attendance and the meeting ended at 8.20pm.

Signed:.....

The report was presented by Lindy Bridgeman, Lay Deputy Chair of St John the Baptist Church PCC Hornton, to the council in writing after the meeting.

St John the Baptist Church Hornton Report for The Parish Council April 2019

The past twelve months has been an exciting time for St John the Baptist Church. The residents and friends of Hornton responded most generously to the Project Appeal for which we were most grateful and celebrated at a village concert with wine and canapés. We also received Grants from Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust, Garfield Weston Foundation, National Churches Trust, Pie Foundation and some local anonymous benefactors. Thanks go to all these contributors and to those who helped to approach them.

Work began on creating our new community space in early Autumn. Our new oak doors of the WC and Vestry were made by Glebe Farm Joinery of Farthinghoe and have won universal acclaim. Our WC has been equally enthusiastically welcomed (now the lock works!) and it is to be twinned with a new loo in Africa, the building of which we shall support. Our new kitchen, designed to allow renovation work on the bells at a later date, is also fitted in a lovely warm oak as requested by the Diocese and is now a great working space with hitherto unknown luxuries such as wall cupboard, heating and hot water!

Our new space was tested for the first time when we were generously given the opportunity by the organisers of Hornton's first Garage Sale to provide tea coffee and cakes that morning. Ten people kindly made cakes and other treats, and volunteers valiantly helped on the day. Trade was brisk with, at one point, a queue of fourteen! This enabled us to make £217.40 for the church plus a £10 pitch fee to JUMPA. More important than the money was that the new space worked, and we were able to welcome friends and strangers in a great atmosphere.

The need for Rob Timms of builders Seckington and Whitehead, to be away from his desk due to the birth his very premature twin daughters has, of necessity, slowed down the completion of the project and the resolving of snagging. However, Rob has always kept in touch, and as a committee, we have always felt that the wellbeing of these little girls is paramount. Things have been further slowed by the disappointing performance of Green's Electricians.

We have had some great Festival Services over the year each under the banner of 'Hornton Churches Together' – We so much value our Covenant with The Methodist Chapel. Harvest, remembrance, Christmas, Mothering Sunday, Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter all gave rise to memorable services. Many people in the village help us on these special days, and not only people, as donkey Angus brings so much to our worship! Apart from Festivals it has been great to welcome the next generation through Baptism and indeed to meet for our weekly worship. We shall all miss the Reverend Dr Hugh White who has now taken up a new position in Witney. This will put much pressure on our Rector, The Reverend Dr John Reader, but there will still be four services per month in Hornton. The first and third Sundays a Methodist Service in Chapel, the second Sunday, Communion in Church and the fourth Sunday, village service in Church.

There is much to look forward to now, beginning with the dedication of our new facilities so please watch this space! Once again, many thanks for all the support we enjoy from the village. We look forward to welcoming you again soon.