

HORNTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN THE PAVILION ON
MONDAY 10th APRIL 2017 AT 7.30pm

Present: Chairman Offord and Cllrs Bellamy, Burden, Hewlett, Jarrett and Wain

Also in attendance: Clerk & RFO Katherine Mills

Members of the public: Mr Donaldson and Mrs Langton

1. Apologies

County Councillor George Reynolds and District Cllr Douglas Webb gave their apologies and these were accepted.

2. Minutes of previous Annual Parish Meeting held on 11 April 2016

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

3. Matters arising from the minutes of the 11 April 2016

There were no matters arising

4. Chairman's report

The following report was presented by Chair John Offord.

Thanks to all for attending the 2017 Annual Parish Meeting. During the year the Parish Council has attended to a number of issues. These include the discussions with our auditors about the three sub committees, the Pavilion, Jumba & the Playground. To comply with Parish Council legislation the three committees either had to become true sub committees or look to take charitable status and stand outside the Parish Council. I would like to thank the Chairs, Treasurers and committees of each of these for their help in this process. I am pleased to say all decided to remain with the Parish Council.

We have managed to make savings on both our insurance costs and electricity during the year. Parking and speeding remain issues in the village. I would like to thank the school for their continual assistance including the signs they are using. We are considering the options on speeding, for both efficacy and cost and will be making an announcement soon.

The PC arranged for the defibrillator now installed on the Chapel. I thank the Chapel for their assistance and Val Ingram for her efforts in obtaining the grants we needed. Subsequently we had to fight to retain the BT phone box, which is safe for now.

A number of smaller building projects have happened during the year and two substantial ones are underway currently. Indeed, we hope work will start on the Pavilion extension later in the year.

Two large issues are the proposed Oxfordshire unitary authority and the downgrading of the Horton Hospital. We are active in objecting to both proposals as they will again reduce our facilities.

Finally, thanks to Roger Bellamy who joined the PC in the last year and has already made a great contribution, including introducing us to our newest resident Mr. Wallaby.

5. District Councillors Report

Cllr Douglas Webb's report was presented by the Clerk.

Cherwell District Council advised that their priorities remained the same and were a balanced budget, county elections in May, CDC opposition to the unitary council proposal and CDC support of the campaign to save the Horton hospital provision.

6. County Councillor's report

There was no report.

7. Finance report

The report was presented by the RFO, Katherine Mills.

Following an audit recommendation in the 2016/17 accounts report, the Pavilion, Playground and Jumba committees had formally agreed to the full amalgamation of the committee financial systems and reporting structure with that of the Parish Council, operating with 1 bank current account and 1 bank business account for all transactions.

The committees would continue to work as independent committees under the umbrella of the Parish Council. However, from 1st April 2017 all income and expenditure would be recorded in one spread sheet with sub headings for each committee. This would enable each committee, as well as the Parish Council, to keep a track of their own financial position throughout the year.

The committee bank accounts would be closed and balances transferred in to the Parish Council current account once all committee cheques had cleared. This would hopefully be by the end of April 2017.

The committee treasurers, Justina Marot, Simon Woolfe and David Miles, were all in the process of preparing the committee accounts for the annual return to be submitted for approval at the AGM in May. Thank you once again to the committee Treasurers for their work again this year.

The internal audit would again be carried out by Arrow Accounting at the beginning of May and then submitted to the external auditors, BDO, after the Parish Council approval of accounts in May.

Following the consideration of several quotes, the Parish Council had started a new three-year insurance policy with Zurich Municipal. A one year contract was agreed with SSE for electricity and quotes for a new policy would be sought before August 2017.

The Parish Council precept stayed at £9,000 for the financial year 2017-18.

Hornton Parish Council 31st March 2017.

PC Main	£8,304.73	31/3/16
PC Reserve	£6,123.66	31/3/17
Playground main	£9,549.46	31/3/17
Playground Reserve	£28,912.45	29/2/17
Pavilion Main	£14,923.25	31/3/17
Pavilion Reserve	£23,155.70	31/3/17
JUMPA Main	£5001.01	31/3/17

8. Roads and Highways report

The report was presented by Cllr Tim Hewlett.

The main Highways issues in the village fell in to the following categories:

- a) Speeding – having contacted various agencies and Thames Valley Police, a date had been agreed with a Neighbourhood Sergeant for speed monitors to be used in the village to assess the situation.
- b) Western Power work to overhead power cables was ongoing. The sub-contractor, Freedom, was currently in the process of confirming the locations for the two sub stations, one of which would be next to the bus stop on Millers lane, the other in the field next to the pub. There were access issues at the second site that needed to be addressed before work could begin. It was likely that this would commence later on in the year.
- c) Potholes around the village were an Oxfordshire County Council Highways issue. Cllr Hewlett had listed pothole sites on the OCC website FixmyStreet and some had been treated whilst others had not. Cllr Hewlett would continue to report potholes on the website including along the A422 from Bell Street, although this was outside the parish boundary.
- d) A sign had been ordered to install by Holloway to advise of no road access to the farm

9. Allotments and the John Fox Charity reports

Cllr Paul Burden presented his report.

With the recent spell of warm, dry weather, gardeners are busy preparing their plots for the coming season. Many plots are already well under way with planting.

At present, we are in the same situation as last year with 8 full allotments, 4 half allotments and 1.5 vacant allotments. If anyone in the village would like to make use of one of the vacant allotments please contact me on: 670664. I am hoping to collect rents by the end of April. Prices are the same as before, £20 annually for a full allotment and £10 for half.

The John Fox Charity, which manages funds raised when the field was sold, are currently awaiting another meeting.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Martin Hemmings for once again keeping the paths and grass mown; it really does make such a difference and encourages all tenants to keep their plots tidy. Can I also remind dog owners to keep pets on a lead and to clean up after them.

I wish all growers a very successful year 2017.

10. Playground report

Cllr David Jarrett presented the report.

The committee had purchased 2 gallons of petrol for the mower which should last for the season's mowing. A replacement plaque had been purchased in remembrance of a former committee member and Cllr David Derrington.

A new mower box had been ordered and mowing had started. The committee had asked the primary school for feedback from families on the proposal of a new playground Wendy house for young children.

11. Pavilion report

The report was presented by Joann Langton.

The past year the committee met 5 times. Probably the most important thing that was discussed early last year was the Parish Council asking the Pavilion, JUMPA and the Playground committees whether we wished to become standalone charities or "proper" sub committees of the Council. It is fair to say that none of us wanted to take on the considerable amount of admin etc to become charities. So we now have a formal structure in place as a subcommittee of the Parish.

As at February 2017 the Pavilion has a total of £36,517.39 in its accounts and expenditure September to March this year is £3,168.66. Income for the same period is £3,470.56.

The extension has also taken considerable time and with planning granted this will provide new changing rooms for the men, including better referee facilities, improving the women's lavatories, and making the entrance hall bigger and better storage arrangements. At the moment, we are undertaking the necessary bat testing and flooding survey. Tenders will shortly go out and we hope that work will commence in the Autumn.

We joined the community halls forum, which offers help and advice in a number of ways, funding for community buildings, legal advice and savings suggestions for insurances etc as well as runs training courses for various things, including PAT testing, which makes sure your electrical appliances are safe. Kevin Wain kindly went on the course and this will mean we don't have to pay anyone else to do it!

The Pavilion also sponsored a meeting for Hands off the Horton campaign, which was well attended. The speakers, Keith Strangwood and Roseanne Edwards said afterward that it was the most interactive meeting they had attended. They gained as much from us and we heard from them.

Fundraising is always an agenda item and We have to thank Anne Joyner for the generous donations she has made to the Pavilion from the Safari Suppers and the Pantomime these are significant. As both She and Liz Jeffs retire from the committee we want to express our gratitude and thanks for their support over many years.

We have some new ideas for fundraising in the melting pot, for the autumn and winter, so we will keep you posted.

Thank you everyone for supporting the Pavilion in so many ways. Special thanks were given to Anne and Liz who had retired from the committee after many years of contribution.

12. JUMPA report

Ian Donaldson presented the report.

JUMPA continues to be well used by both the village and Hornton Primary School. JUMPA still remains free at point of use.

A special thankyou to the committee members and volunteers who continue to give their time to inspect and maintain JUMPA on a weekly basis. The new lawnmower garage has been well received and makes the maintenance so much more convenient.

Confirm £5001.01 JUMPA funds available, 31 March 2017. JUMPA continue to receive payment of £1000 annually from Hornton Primary School, in addition to various individual supporters and fundraising activities throughout the year.

JUMPA are always keen to attract new committee members, especially from younger families within the village.

13. Hornton & District WI

Cllr Wain presented the report.

Hornton & District WI meet on the first Thursday of the month in Hornton Chapel at 7.30pm. We currently have 22 members from Hornton, Horley, Balscote and Avon Dassett and although a small group, enjoy our monthly gatherings. In the past year, we have had a varied and diverse programme, including tales from a female Barrister, a lady playing a saw and the customs of the Tudor harvest to name a few! We have also enjoyed several outdoor visits and a memorable Christmas trip to Waddesdon Manor with a lovely Christmas lunch. We have another interesting programme planned for this year and always welcome new faces.

14. Hornton History Group

Cllr Wain presented the report.

The group has had another busy 12 months and focused on our latest exhibition which is now taking place over the August bank holiday weekend, 25th, 26th, 27th and 28th August. This will allow us to go in to Monday as well as giving people a longer viewing time. The exhibition is based on the businesses and families of Hornton with stories, photos, videos, memorabilia, and a village history walk.

We are also trying to site a permanent display cabinet in the chapel so we can have family history stories running throughout the year.

Over the last 12 months we have had several visits and talks, some are member only and some have been open events. The last one being the Anchorite talk by John Bridgeman in the church a couple of weeks ago. On Thursday, we have a talk by Andrew Baxter about the Edgehill light railway with a follow up walk around the site at the end of the month. We also have a Barn Dance arranged for a fund-raising event on Saturday 20th May which is selling out fast although I think there are a few tickets left. In August, we have a trip to Portsmouth Harbour which has sold out.

If you would like to join us we are a very social group and meet on the second Thursday of the month at the Dun Cow, just check out our website www.hornton-history.co.uk for details.

15. Hornton Primary School report

As the APM fell in the school half term holidays, report had not been received. However, Cllr Wain reported that the school was keen to get involved in the village community and residents received school newsletters by email on a regular basis. The number of children in Peach Tree was low this year which had an impact on the preschool budget. Efforts had been made to market the preschool in order to increase numbers. The facility had been promoted in Hanwell Field and surrounding areas. The school was currently looking at possible sites for the school on the outskirts of the village.

16. Hornton Keep Fit

The report was presented by Cllr Wain.

Last year saw our resident keep fit leader, Debbie, depart for pastures new in Wales, after 20 years of travelling to Hornton for the weekly classes. It was thought that the class would have to fold but Jess Wain agreed to take it over for a trail run, albeit in a slightly different format. Instead of an aerobics session we now have circuit training with various exercises designed to improve core strength and flexibility. This has proved very popular, with an average weekly turnout of 12 – 16 and now includes men as well as ladies. We meet on Wednesdays at 7pm in the Pavilion and the cost is £5 for an hour class.

17. Resident queries

Could residents help with reporting potholes to Highways?

Cllr Hewlett advised that yes, anyone could report highways issues on Fixmystreet website and could also attach a photo to the report. The more times a report was made on the website the better.

Who was responsible for litter from the brook upwards?

Cllr Hewlett advised that this was in the Wroxton parish but some clearing of litter had been done during the Spring Clean and announcements had been made at the motocross event to ask those attending to take their litter away with them.

The Chairman John Offord thanked all for their attendance and the meeting ended at 8.10pm.

Signed:.....