

HORNTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN THE PAVILION ON
MONDAY 23rd APRIL 2018 AT 7.30pm

Present: Chairman Offord and Cllrs Burden, Hewlett, McKenzie, Overton and Woodcock.

Also in attendance: Clerk & RFO Katherine Mills

Members of the public: Mr & Mrs Higgins

1. Apologies

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

2. Minutes of previous Annual Parish Meeting held on 10 April 2017

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 10 April 2017

There were no matters arising

4. Chairman's report

The following report was presented by Chair John Offord.

Thanks to all of you for attending the 2018 Annual Parish Meeting.

During the Year the PC has attended to a number of concerns. The usual issues of planning, potholes, pavements, parking and poo (of the dog variety) are part of our continual work. We are also preparing for GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation).

Speeding and as mentioned, parking remain a constant problem. I would thank school for their continual assistance including the signs they are using. We have considered the options on speeding and will be making an announcement soon in conjunction with a number of other local Parishes.

We are pleased that work on the Pavilion and its promotion is now progressing. It is great living in a village with some many organisations and such community spirit.

Two ongoing issues are the proposed Oxfordshire unitary authority and the downgrading of the Horton Hospital. We are active in objecting to both these changes. Among other issues we are addressing currently are:

The building work on Millers Lane and the concerns for adjacent residents.

Warwickshire Hunt and their use of both footpaths & private land, without permission.

The Moto X track and its compliance to both the operating rules, damage to the road & litter.

Finally, thanks to all those councillors who give of their time so generously and freely for all the residents of Hornton.

5. District Councillors Report

There was no report.

6. County Councillor's report

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

Clearly potholes are a major concern. I can only repeat please report them on www.fixmystreet.com. If they are dangerous please use the 0845 number or email me, Cllr Reynolds. If it is at weekends, then the police 101 number will need to be used. You will no doubt be aware that OCC have given its councillors £15,000 to grant aid community projects this year. Already I am getting requests, so it may not last long.

7. Finance report

The report was presented by the RFO, Katherine Mills.

As agreed at the end of the 2017/2018 financial year, the Pavilion, Playground and Jumpa committees have continued to work as independent committees under the umbrella of the Parish Council. In the 2017/2018 financial year all Hornton Parish Council and committee income and expenditure has been recorded in one Receipts and Payments spread sheet. The RFO has provided individual finance reports for the committees when required.

I am currently working on the end of year accounts and the internal audit will again be carried out by Arrow Accounting at the beginning of June. The previous external auditors, BDO, have been replaced by auditors Moore Stephens and some new regulation had come into effect this year. It may not be necessary to submit the accounts for external audit, I will clarify this with the internal auditor.

The Parish Council approved a precept increase of £500 for the 2018/2019 financial year making the precept £9,500. The increase was to ensure the Parish Council had adequate funds to meet the substantial cost of tree maintenance and conservation around the village and the likely increases in utility, insurance and wage costs in the next financial year.

The Parish Council applied for a Transparency Grant and received a total of £1854 in March. This central government grant was provided to ensure the Parish Council had the appropriate finance to ensure all statutory transparency were being met.

And finally, a big thank you to Justina Marot for all of her help with the Pavilion accounts over the last few years.

Hornton Parish Council balance 31st March 2018

PC Main current account	96889.33	31/3/18
PC Reserve account	£6,125.22	31/3/18

Committee balance held within the main Parish Council current account

Parish Council current	£11491.07	31/3/18
Parish Council reserve	£6,125.22	31/3/18
Playground	£38,046.93	31/3/18
Pavilion Main	£42,110.40	31/3/18
JUMPA Main	£5001.01	31/3/18

8. Roads and Highways report

The report was presented by Cllr Tim Hewlett.

Hornton, like the rest of Oxfordshire is suffering from potholes and broken verges after a cold and wet winter. Construction traffic and regular school bus runs have exacerbated the problem. OCC is responsible for Highways maintenance and is aware of the poor state of our roads both in the village and in the 2 main approach routes. Our OCC representative has been to the village and seen the problems first hand. The PC continues to report new problems and attempt to get all existing bad areas treated as soon as possible.

Blocked and broken drainage has also caused flooding and excessive surface water particularly after heavy rain. This is a Cherwell DC responsibility and in response to PC action a specialist company has been out twice in early April. In short, 2 drains in Millers Lane have been unblocked and 3 drains have been identified and reported as requiring sections rebuilding. These are outside the school playground, on the north side of The Green and halfway down Millers lane.

Speeding in Hornton continues to be a concern, particularly on entering and exiting the village via Bell Street and Millers Lane. Under our lead, 4 other villages namely Swalcliffe, Broughton, Tadmarton and Shenington have agreed to share the cost of purchase of a Speedwatch camera designed to identify speeding vehicles but without the confrontational action of a speed gun. This has all evolved with the full support of our Police Community Support Officers who will monitor our usage initially and act on data supplied by respective PCs. Representatives from the 4 villages and the Clerks came to Hornton in March and witnessed the equipment in action. It was agreed to wait until after the Council elections on 3rd May to ensure all 5 villages PCs remain committed to the project in the event of a change in Councillors. The total cost of the equipment is £2000 and usage will be shared by each village on a rostered basis.

Finally, in spite of several emails and phone calls, I have had no further response from Western Power Distribution or Freedom their sub-contractor, as to if or when the initiative to put overhead power cabling underground in the village is likely to happen.

9. Allotments and the John Fox Charity reports

Cllr Paul Burden presented his report.

It is sowing season again and with the coming of warm spring sunshine after a cold, wet winter, spring tenants are busy forking, digging and planting. On the whole the let plots are all looking in good shape.

With one or two more greenhouses attached to the Allotments now, people can sow seeds under glass when it is too wet to get on the ground. Annual rents are now all collected and at present there are 6 full and 8 half plots which are 1 and 2 chain each. Annual rent remains at £20 for a full and £10 for a half. Two halves are still currently vacant and if any villager would like a plot measuring 11yds x 22yds approx. they can give me a ring on 01295 670664.

The John Fox Charity, which used to be the whole of the allotment field, is now a bank accounts of sorts which holds all of the money from the sale of the land, some 5 and a half hectares. The sale money is held in perpetuity and part or all of the interest can be given to the Hornton Primary School.

At present this interest stands at just over £8,000 and will be given to the school when transferred over. The charity is run by two Parish Councillors, two school governors and one other person from the village.

Before I close my report, I would like to thank Martin Hemmings for keeping the main allotment paths mown throughout the allotment season which is a lot of mowing! Lastly, I would like to wish everyone a successful growing year.

10. Playground report

Cllr Paul Burden presented the report.

The playground this year has a new team and committee after two of our longstanding members have left the village. David Jarrett, who carried out regular mowing, equipment painting, re-staining seats in the playground and also the village as well as organising coffee mornings and meetings, has been a valued committee member. David Miles, a long-standing member for some 44 yrs, apart from mowing and general maintenance virtually ran the playground on his own. Keeping accounts, doing weekly inspections, ordering equipment and giving reports. Both will be hard to replace.

On the positive side, Hornton being the village that it is, replacement committee members have come forward and a new mowing rota set up. We have had a purpose made equipment box installed. This has been very kindly made, painted and donated by Tom Gibbs and Adrian Horsely. It has proved a valuable asset.

This coming year we are looking to install a new piece of small children's equipment and the possibility of a self-closing metal gate at the bottom of the ramp. Also, as usual, we will be hosting our coffee morning at the end of the summer.

I would like to thank the rest of the new team for giving up their free time to provide a safe playground for the children. They are Kevin Wain, Ian Donaldson, Ben Tyrell, Adam Busby and Martin Jones.

11. Pavilion report

The report was written by Committee Secretary Joanne Langton and presented by Cllr Overton.

The Pavilion Sub-committee meets about every three months. The committee now has 8 members. These resignations are due to personal reasons, not discord!

One of the most pressing issues for the committee has been whether or not to go ahead with the Pavilion extension, particularly after asking the village to support all the fundraising activities. After receiving the tenders, which came out higher than expected the committee, in consultation with the Parish Council, decided to have a rethink and undertook a survey to find out what residents expected of the Pavilion. The football club also said that they did not really need new changing rooms and we're happy with a refurbishment.

The survey results showed us very clearly where we needed to go - better, warmer toilets, more storage, a telephone, redecoration, better entrance hallway and plenty of other ideas for activities and events. It was gratifying to know that the village enjoys using the Pavilion and most were very supportive.

The decision was made not to build the extension but rather undertake a full refurbishment programme. These improvements should increase usage and income for the Pavilion. In order to keep the project on target the committee has formed two groups - marketing and refurbishment.

The marketing group, led by Andrew Overton, has researched a number of possible ways of increasing revenue. These include daytime activities and perhaps usage by small business. This work is ongoing although considerable work has been done. Leaflets promoting the Pavilion for children's party have been distributed to the school and another for business is being compiled.

Cath Bellamy with Glen Walther have looked at the structure of the building and how to bring it up to date. The major job will be replacing the roof and extending the heating system into the toilets. Other improvements and redecoration are included in a long list!

We have established a link with Cherwell District Council's youth activity team and they held a taster session in the Easter holidays, which was well attended even though lots of people were away. David Norridge, tells me that they will be back in the May half term and provide a weekly session on the playing field in the summer holidays. He also said the children were very polite and well-motivated!

Anne Joiner held a very successful 'Murder Mystery' dinner and raised £1500 for Macmillan. Sarah Walther is organising another of her very popular theme nights on 30th April, this time 'Saturday Night at the Pavilion, which is raising money for the Pavilion. The committee is very grateful to them for these fantastic events. A Valuation Day with experts from Holloways of Banbury, was very successful and they want to make it an annual event.

The committee would like to thank everyone for their continued support and we look forward to some fun family events in the summer, these include the Royal Wedding breakfast, Paella and Rounders and a family tennis tournament.

12. JUMPA report

The report was written by Committee Chair Ian Harris and presented by Steve Woodcock.

As previously reported we anticipate the Jumpa facility to be well used again this year, especially as the weather improves.

We are exploring the opportunity to prune or remove some trees on the edge of the car park to reduce shading and moss growing on the Jumpa playing surface. Subject to approval we plan to carry out these works in the autumn after the bird nesting season.

Whilst we continue to have a good solid core of volunteers to maintain Jumpa, a few new volunteers have joined, and we are always on the lookout for more.

13. Hornton & District WI

The report was written by Committee Secretary Jane Wain and presented by the Clerk.

Hornton & District WI had another good year with membership at 23, mainly from Hornton and Horley.

We had a diverse range of speakers and activities, including learning about the beautiful Cotswolds on our doorstep, finding out about the Mary Rose, a Pimms and games evening, and a murder mystery evening with three course meal for our Xmas meeting in December.

We also hosted the Sibford group meeting at the pavilion in October, which saw two actors perform a comedy play entitled “Arrows of Desire”, all about the WI, of course. The pavilion was well filled with approx 60 members, and we all enjoyed a chilli and jacket potato supper with some sumptuous puddings, not to mention a rousing rendition of Jerusalem!

In the summer we ran a “Human Fruit Machine” stall at the Hanfest festival in Hanwell, and it was such a success they have requested we come back again this year to do a repeat performance!

We always welcome visitors to come along to any of our meetings, and hopefully like what they see and come and join us.

14. Hornton History Group

The report was written by Cllr Wain and presented by the Chair.

History Group goes from strength to strength

The past year has been a great success for the group and we have the prospect of another exciting year ahead.

Celebrating 10 years

Started by Kevin Wain in 2008, Hornton History Group can now look back at ten years of activities and achievements. During that time we have carried out detailed surveys, interviews and research into many aspects of village life, establishing a significant archive for future generations. One important piece of research has been the extensive graveyard survey, which will eventually form an online database for wider public use.

The Way We Were event

Nearly 600 visitors descended on Hornton for the village’s ‘The Way We Were’ event over the August bank holiday weekend. Those attending enjoyed glorious sunshine and took part in activities ranging from honey-tasting, felt-making and medieval pigment painting. The village trail was taken up by a good proportion of visitors, who also had a rare chance to see vintage vehicles on display and talk to their proud owners.

The Hornton Picture Palace mini cinema proved very popular and it quickly sold out of the choc ices served by usherette Jane Wain, while others enjoyed the traditional tea and cake at the outside “Memory Lane Café”, served by our hard-working waitresses.

Takings from donations, the Memory Lane Café and the usherette’s tray topped £1,000 to go towards future Hornton History Group events and other village projects.

Activities

The Group enjoyed an enjoyable visit last year to Portsmouth Historic Dockyard. We also had interesting talks by David Freke on the excavation of the Roman site at

Warmington and Bill Baker on his involvement in the design and engineering of the original hovercraft – some of us even got to ride in one! This year sees a day out to Greenwich and a tour of Historic Burford.

Links with Banbury Museum

We established an important relationship with the museum in 2014 when our Soldiers of Hornton exhibition was accepted for display in the museum gallery. This spring we have been given one of the principal areas to display our The Way We Were exhibition, and Laurie Stewart-Furneaux will also be giving an illustrated talk on 2 June about the village and its past way of life.

One of the highlights of this year will hopefully be the loan of the Hornton Anglo-Saxon treasure back from the British Museum, where it has been kept in storage since 1886, for display in Banbury Museum. The treasure consists of jewellery from the grave of a high-status woman and it was found in the late 19th century in the church's glebe land.

15. Hornton Primary School report

The report was presented by Cllr McKenzie

The school Headmaster, Matt Green, is on paternity leave, however I did speak Jenny in the office, the Chair of the PTA and one of the governors but there's not that much going on at the moment.

The school currently has 109 Pupils. An Ofsted inspection was carried out in early March, the school has never previously been inspected and the report came back with a Rating of GOOD

Key points were:

Happy village school with Good Attendance

There is a Good Teaching Standard

Good pupil progress and behaviour

They have an Effective pupil Safeguarding policy in place

Generally everything comes out as "GOOD". I have copy of report if anyone is interested and would like to see it.

Playground

Over the Easter break the playground was given a bit of facelift with new games and activity markings painted on the floor and a new climbing wall installed, it was all paid for by the North Oxfordshire School Sport Partnership, they are a non-profit making organisation who are funded mainly by the Department of Health and the Department of Culture, Media and Sport. The money is ring fenced solely for developing PE and school sports in primary schools.

School Library

The school has now raised the £12,000 needed for a new library to be built in one of the upstairs rooms and that will be done over the summer holidays.

School Technology

The school received a really generous donation of about £8,500 from the John Fox Trust which has gone towards updating WIFI service, the tech infrastructure and some new laptops.

Fundraising

Last year the schools main objective was to try to raise the 12k needed to build a library, they were given two large donations from two separate charities but a third of money was raised by the PTA, it was a massive ask of the parents and it seemed like constant requests were coming out to donate money on top of the usual school expenses for things like trips and photos, etc. It was felt that this year fund raising and donation requests should be watered down a little, so at the moment the only current fund raising project going on is parents were asked fill a paper cup with coppers and spare change, whatever that raises will be put towards buying some more playground benches and tables.

Mayday

The school held a couple of non-uniform days in April in exchange for donations for the usual tombola stall. The money raised will also go towards the playground benches

School Meals

Previously they were supplied by Carillon but after they went into administration the contract was taken over by a company called Caterlink where by the food is cooked at another local school and delivered at lunchtime; feedback is it is much nicer food than the previous supplier.

Defibrillator

The school is still looking at defibrillator training with staff but is finding it difficult get a mutually agreeable time with trainer and teachers.

16. Village Church

Cllr Overton reported that the Church Committee was in the process of putting together a guide book which would be on sale soon.

17. Resident queries

Mrs Higgins asked fi / when the broken litter bin on the grass in front of the school would be replaced.

The Clerk advised that a new bin had been ordered and that Cllr Burden would install it when received.

Mr Higgins raised the matter of motorbikes ridging on the public footpath by the Old Quarry. Cllr Woodcock advised that this had been raised previously with Warwickshire County Council.

Cllr Offord also advised that he was liaising with Cherwell District Council regarding the motocross events that took place in the field at the top of the village.

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

Signed:.....