

**HORNTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE PAVILION ON**  
**MONDAY 27<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2017 AT 7.30pm**

**Present:** Cllrs Bellamy, Burden, Jarrett, Hewlett and Wain

**Also in attendance:** Clerk & RFO Katherine Mills

**APOLOGIES**

Cllr Offord gave his apologies and these were accepted. In Cllr Offord's absence the meeting was chaired by Cllr Hewlett.

**1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION**

None.

**3. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING - to confirm the minutes of the previous meeting held on the 20<sup>th</sup> February 2017 and any matters arising from those minutes.**

The minutes from the 20<sup>th</sup> February 2017 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting and signed by the Chair for filing.

**Matters arising:**

Minute 3 (minute 9.9) –The Clerk had contacted District Cllr Webb regarding the whereabouts of the flashing traffic signs that had previously been funded by the village but had not yet received a reply. KM to follow up. **ACTION: KM**

Minute 3 (Minute 13.3) –CDC Planning had inspected alterations made to the footpath along Hart View to ensure they adhered to planning regulations and had left correspondence with Mr.Hancox, the owner of the property. The Clerk would contact the Planning Officer next week to ask for an update. **ACTION: KM**

Minute 3 (Minute 16.2) – Cllr Burden reported that repairs to the gate by Townsend had been carried out by Pete Joiner.

Minute 7.4 moles – the Clerk had spoken to one company who dealt with moles but they did not cover the Banbury area. The Clerk would look for a more local company. **ACTION: KM**

Minute 7.2 – Cllr Wain had liaised with the primary school regarding the asset query about the allotment land.

Minute 8 – the Clerk had contacted Laura Short regarding the School Forest Garden to advise that the Parish Council supported the use of the copse by the Pavilion as part of the Forest School activities. Laura had confirmed that she had the required insurance and risk assessments in place.

Minute 9 – Cllr Wain reported that the annual Spring Clean had been a well-attended and successful event and the Parish Council thanked all those involved. Thanks were given to David Miles who had cleaned all of the village road signs.

Cllr Wain had also asked the motocross organiser to ask event attendees to take their litter home.

Minute 10 – Cllr Hewlett reported that the defibrillator training had been another well attended and successful training session with Dick Tracy from the Ambulance service. Cllr Wain would ask the school if they would be interested in hosting a paediatric training session in the future. **ACTION: KW**

Minute 12 – Cllr Wain would contact Sally Tweedsmuir regarding church clock repairs. **ACTION: KW**

Minute 17 – the Clerk had sent Parish Council 2017 meeting dates to the Pavilion Secretary Jo Langton and would also send them to the Playground and Jumba committees. This would assist with the planning of future committee meetings. **ACTION: KM**

**4. RISK ASSESSMENT – to be approved**

The document had been circulated in advance of the meeting. The Clerk had updated the Risk Assessment to reflect the new Parish Council insurance details and internet banking provision.

**Councillors APPROVED the risk assessment 2017.**

It was agreed that the document would be reviewed and approved at the 2017 May or June meeting to reflect the changes to the Parish Council and committees accounting system in the new financial year from 1/4/17. Cllr Hewlett asked Cllrs to forward any queries or comments to the clerk.

**5. FINANCE REPORT**

**5.1 Approval was requested for payment of the following:**

Payment	Amount	Payment type
Community First Oxford	£55	Transfer

**5.2 Payments made since the last meeting:**

Payment	Amount	Payment type

K.Mills Feb '17 salary	<b>£300</b>	<b>SO</b>
Castle Water	<b>£82.20</b>	<b>Transfer</b>
K.Mills March '17 salary	<b>£300</b>	<b>SO</b>
Tax Assist annual payment 2017-18	<b>£246</b>	<b>DD</b>

### 5.3 Account balance 30.1.17

<b>PC Main</b>	<b>£7959.20</b>	28/02/17
PC Business	£6123.51	28/02/17
Playground main	£9549.46	28/02/17
Playground Reserve	£28,912.20	28/02/17
Pavilion Main	£13,361.89	28/02/17
Pavilion Reserve	£23,155.50	28/02/17
JUMPA Main	£5001.01	28/02/17

### 5.4 Direct debit account details for approval

The following were approved for regular direct debit payments. The RFO would keep a document of approved direct debit accounts which would be reviewed every two years.

<b>Name / company</b>	<b>Business</b>	<b>Date approved</b>
Cleenol	Cleaning products	27/3/17
Castle Water	Water supply	27/3/17
SSE	Electricity	27/3/17

**5.4** The RFO had prepared an accounts report regarding the amalgamation of the Parish Council and committee bank accounts and transfer of committee balances to the main PC account. This had been circulated to Cllrs and committees in order to assist with the new accounting systems.

**5.5** The Pavilion committee would discuss the proposed monthly payment by Pavilion club users and the system of cash collection and banking. It was agreed that the committees would continue to organise fund raising events as before. The only change would be the payment of the funds in to the Parish Council bank account. The RFO would then enter the payment in to the joint receipts and payments spread sheet in the committee sub heading section.

## **6 PLANNING REPORT**

**The Parish Council is currently considering:**

17/00061/DISC            Bridgelands  
17/00082/TCA            West End House – tree reduction

### **Permission granted**

17/00092/F            Hornton Pavilion extension  
17/00105/LB            The Old Post Office replacement of windows  
16/02593/F            1 Pages Lane extension

Cllr Wain had printed off several copies of the Pavilion extension plans to be distributed to builders who had agreed to provide a quote for the extension. At present these were Kevin Brookes, Glen Walther and Michael Barwick. The Pavilion committee hoped that the building works would start in the summer. Cllrs noted that the Pavilion loan for the extension would need to be recommended to the Parish Council by the Pavilion committee for approval.

## **7 ASSET REGISTER 2016/17 ADDITIONS AND DOCUMENT STORAGE**

The Clerk asked if there were any new assets to add to the asset register. There were none at present. It was noted that the new playground storage box would be added when completed.

Cllr Wain would request that the Pavilion committee consider storage space for Parish Council and club documents be considered as part of the extension.

**ACTION: KW**

## **8 CORRESPONDENCE**

Cllr Hewlett reported that the Thames Valley Police had contacted the Parish Council to ask them to review the list of police priorities in local communities which were speeding, parking around schools and anti-social behaviour. Cllrs agreed with these priorities. Cllr Hewlett would reply to Thames Valley Police.

**ACTION: TH**

## **9 PAVILION REPORT**

Cllr Wain reported that gravel in the Pavilion parking area was problematic in the winter and that parking in the car park opposite the Pavilion could also be improved. It was agreed that the Pavilion was now a good venue to promote events such as weddings which were a good revenue source. Cllr Wain would propose that the Pavilion committee would consider future car park improvements.

**ACTION: KW**

## **10 ALLOTMENTS REPORT**

Cllr Burden reported that the allotments were in good order and 1.5 plots were still vacant. Martin Flemmings had started mowing. There were now some new pigs being kept next to the allotment. Cllr Burden would collect the rent at the end of March. The Clerk would drop the receipt book off to Cllr Burden.

**ACTION: KM**

## 11 ROADS AND HIGHWAYS REPORT

Cllr Hewlett reported that progress with the speeding issue in the village was slow and frustrating. Cllr Hewlett had contacted various agencies and police members regarding the use of speeding assessment equipment in the village and was currently waiting for a reply from PC Carrie Cooke at Thames Valley.

**Hollow Way sign** - Cllr Hewlett had received a quote for £143.46 from Archer Signs for a No Access sign at the entrance of Hollow Way. Cllr Hewlett advised that Mr & Mrs Higgins were happy with the sign proposal and that the sign would be fixed to the existing bridle way sign post.

Cllrs APPROVED the purchase of the sign. The RFO would arrange payment with Archer Signs. **ACTION: KM**

**Millers Lane barrier** - Cllr Hewlett had spoken to the Site Manager on the Millers Lane building site regarding barriers that were sticking out in to the road and not properly lit at night. The Site Manager had advised that the lighting was within regulations. The barriers had now been removed. Cllrs would contact the Site Manager if there were any future issues.

**Western Power substation** - Cllr Hewlett reported that the Western Power contractors, Freedom, were waiting for Western Power to confirm the location of the ground level substations before work could begin.

**Potholes** – some potholes around the village had been filled, other still required work. Cllr Hewlett would continue to report problems on FixMyStreet. Cllr Hewlett had been advised by Highways that the damaged verge opposite the motocross site entrance was not a Highways issue and that the event organiser needed to install a larger gate to allow better access for vehicles. If there was no further progress with Highways Cllr Hewlett would contact the event organiser.

## 12 JUMPA report

Cllr Bellamy reported that the JUMPA committee meeting in March had been a positive meeting. The committee was reassured by the joining of Parish Council and committee accounting systems. The committee had requested that cheques were drawn at the start of the season for maintenance costs and would contact the RFO regarding this matter. Cllr Burden reported that there may be another 5ft Christmas tree to plant in the Jumba grounds. Cllr Burden would liaise with Steve Woodcock.

## 13 PLAYGROUND REPORT

Cllr Burden reported that the storage box was nearly complete. David Miles was currently purchasing petrol for the seasons mowing which had started on a weekly basis. The old notice board door had a broken frame and joint, David Miles would carry out repairs.

## **14 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION**

Cllr Bellamy gave the following report.

During 2016-7 the Government, anxious to reduce funding to local councils and devolve responsibilities for varying functions, began a campaign to encourage District Councils to amalgamate throughout the counties in order to reduce costs. Whether this process actually would be more efficient in the long-term was unproven but various councils, to varying degrees, considered the idea.

Last year the Oxfordshire County Council came up with a plan that would see the four Oxon District and Oxford City Council amalgamate with the County Council to form one 'super council'. The City and District councils came up a counter-proposal whereby the County Council would still remain separate but the other councils would combine. At this point the OCC launched a campaign to woo the other councils with the result that the two southernmost District Councils, White Horse and South Oxfordshire agreed to link up with the County Council, whilst the two other District Councils and Oxford City Council preferred the status quo but reserved the right to link up with other councils on an ad hoc basis.

The 'One' campaign of the OCC and the two southern District Councils claims that a single council could offer substantial financial savings that could prevent further erosion of services and possible Council Tax rises. They use as their evidence two surveys commissioned specifically to promote this ideal, by Grant Thornton and PwC. Much of the savings appear to come from the redundancy of around 70 senior council executives, though it was very unclear what other, if any, major efficiencies could be found, especially as the 'One' proposal proposed at least four district 'executives' with limited functions and authority.

Meanwhile the two District Councils and Oxford City Council have promoted a vigorous campaign to keep their policies and identities, the better to serve their areas. Despite the blandishments of the 'One' campaign there is little appetite for this merger within the general population and a good deal of scepticism about what 'efficiencies' or what cuts would result. Furthermore, at present the three 'non-One' councils have succeeded in requesting a government review of the whole process.

As far as we in Cherwell are concerned, this plan may be yet another focussing of resources and political will on Oxford and the lower Thames Valley at the expense of those in the north, the west and the unpopular parts of Oxford. Watch this space...

## **15 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 10<sup>TH</sup> APRIL – VILLAGE CLUBS AND SOCIETIES WERE WELCOMED TO THE APM TO GIVE AN UPDATE ON THEIR ACTIVITIES OVER THE LAST YEAR.**

### **15 AOB**

- Cllr Wain reported that the History Club was organising an event to mark Armistice Day and was considering installing a First World War memorial on the village green. This would be made with Hornton Stone. It was agreed that the History Group would prepare a proposal for the Parish Council to consider.
- Cllr Burden reported that there was a broken slab outside Home Farm. Cllr Wain would put this on FixMyStreet.

- Cllr Jarrett reported that some underground cabling was being carried out in the village.
- Cllr Bellamy reported that several trees had been blown down in the recent storm which had obstructed roads and affected access to the village. They had been dealt with by residents but it was agreed that a survey should be carried out of other trees in the village along road sides to ensure they were safe. The Clerk would contact Ben Acreman. ACTION: KM
- Cllr Bellamy gave a report on the Oxfordshire Sustainability & Transformation Plan and its presentation. See appendix 1.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

Signed .....

DRAFT