

HORNTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
HELD IN THE CHURCH ROOM ON MONDAY, AUGUST 20TH 2001 AT 7.30 P.M.

PRESENT: Cllr. Turner (Chairman), Cllrs. Burden, Fickling, Jeffs, Miles (Vice Chairman).

Clerk: J. Peace **APOLOGIES:** Cllrs. Cross & Offord **IN ATTENDANCE:** Cllr. Mansell & R. Gilkes.

1.0. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

1.1. The Minutes having been circulated were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

2.0. MATTERS ARISING:

2.1. None.

3.0. FINANCE & G.P. REPORT:

3.1. The Clerk circulated an Account Balances Report & Summary Receipts & Payments Report as at 31st July 2001. He would produce both on a quarterly basis in future thereby helping to satisfy internal audit considerations. The A/c balances as at 31/7/01 were: BPA A/c £1540.35 BCA A/c £100.00

3.1.1. The Clerk said that £594.50 had been reimbursed by the VAT office shortly after July 31st and should be added to the reported balances to reflect total funds on hand of £2234.85.

3.2. The Clerk presented (Final) Cash Reconciliation and Summary Receipts & Payments Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2001. He also presented a photocopy of cheque No. 100405 for £14 for which he previously could find no supporting invoice and it showed that payment was in respect of Church Room bookings. The figures presented were briefly examined after which Cllr. Miles proposed that the accounts be adopted. Cllr. Jeffs then seconded this proposal to be agreed unanimously whereupon the Reports were signed by the Chairman & Clerk.

3.3. The Clerk sought the approval of the Council to increase his salary 3.5% in line with the 2001 National Salary Award applicable from 1st April 2001. If approved he said his salary would increase £21.84 p.a. The Chairman proposed adoption, seconded by Cllr. Fickling and agreed unanimously.

3.4. Council had received £90 from Jeffs Coaches in respect of the damage done by one of their coaches to a flower tub. Cllr. Jeffs proposed that this amount should be reimbursed to M. Higgins who had incurred the expense of reinstating a replacement. This was seconded by Cllr. Miles and agreed unanimously.

3.5. The Clerk had arranged insurance cover for the Millennium seat & dial based on the previously agreed £7000 valuation. Council agreed to this action and asked for a note of the separate cost of premiums for both the seat & dial and the play equipment. These figures would be submitted at the next meeting.

3.6. The following cheques had been signed prior to the meeting:

Chq. No. 423 £211.44 Cornhill Insurance. Premium to cover play equipment & Millennium Seat.
Chq. No. 424 £50.00 R. Gilkes. For grass cutting (Ref Minute 9.8. of previous meeting)

3.6.1. Clerk sought authority to pay the following cheques:

Chq. No 425 £22.27 Cornhill Insurance. Additional premium re increased value of Hornton Pavillion. (Ref Minute 7.2. of previous meeting)

426 £ 55.20 NPower June quarter electricity

427 £ 90.00 M. Higgins Reimbursement for damage to plant tub.

Cllr. Miles proposed that the approval for payment of cheques 100423 to 427 be given. This was seconded by Cllr. Burden and approved by majority.

3.7. Cornhill Insurance had replied to the Council's letter about the playground equipment and replied to the effect that third party cover of £5 million applied if the Council was solely responsible for it. This being so Council agreed that it would still be necessary for the trustees to maintain separate cover with the Sun Alliance although for a lesser cover of £1 million 3rd party liability.

4.0. PLANNING:

4.1. The Parish Council reviewed matters regarding planning during the months June-August and had no objection to the following which were subsequently approved by CDC:

4.1.1. **01/01294/F & 295/F** re. proposal to change rear door to stable door at Manor House, The Green.

4.1.2. **01/00219/TCA** re proposal to crown lift & remove deadwood of Lime trees at The Green.

4.1.2.1. Council reconsidered the question of spending as much as £264 to remove deadwood etc. It was felt

HORNTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
HELD IN THE CHURCH ROOM ON MONDAY, AUGUST 20TH 2001 AT 7.30 P.M.

that the quote was too expensive and the village would gain limited benefit. Following a proposal from the Chairman, seconded by Cllr. Fickling, it was **RESOLVED** not to accept the quote pending clarification of what the work would entail. The Chairman would see if he could get a quote from Mr. da Silva.

4.1.3. **01/01237/F** re. proposal to erect single storey side extension at Brae House.

4.2. The Parish Council also had no objection to:

4.2.1. **97/00430/CM** re. Non compliance with certain conditions related to failure to submit or implement landscaping scheme etc at Alkerton Quarry.

4.3. CDC Planning confirmed approval of the following applications:

01/00795/LB re. proposal to erect new stone wall to northern boundary at Manor House.

01/00925/F re. felling of plum & sycamore trees at The Stone Barn, The Green.

01/00212/F re. proposal to install a static caravan for residential use for a 3 year temporary period at OS Parcel 0002 E. of Cleavers House, Quarry Road.

4.3.1. In regard to **01/00212/F** the Chairman explained that Jack Hyde had asked him why the Parish Council had objected to the application when no objection was made to the original one (01/00238/F). He explained that the Council considered that as the proposed siting of the caravan was 200 yards away from the road, and well out of site, there was unlikely to be any problem. The first application was subsequently declined by CDC as the proposed caravan was not justified on agricultural grounds and would be detrimental to the character and appearance of the surrounding rural landscape. Council noted Mr. Barrett's objections in his letter of 27th. July 2001 to Cllr. Fickling which asked that CDC be informed about them. Cllr. Fickling added that the letter was evidently copied to CDC. The Chairman said that following the second application Council had advised its concerns about the temporary siting proposal and CDC's decision was awaited. There was also the question of whether planning authority was required for the market garden. Although Mr. Hyde had sent him a diagram of the plot, with a paper on the Animal Health Act, the Parish Council was powerless to object until plans were submitted by CDC. The Clerk was asked to check whether CDC had received an application from Mr. Hyde. Cllr. Miles commented that Mr. Hyde should have erected a septic tank when the caravan was originally sited.

4.4. Mrs. E. Lewis wanted the 2 cherry trees opposite her house pruned as they affected her light. She said that Mr. Wright was responsible for them as he owned the land on which they stood. Council were of the view that Highways owned the land as they owned most roadside verges - which these, in this case, originally were. Mr Wright had some pruning done by Mr. da Silva about three years ago and Mrs. Lewis was probably hoping that Council might seek his cooperation to have it done again. The Chairman said that he would check previous minutes to see if Council had asked Mr. Wright to trim the trees before. If this information could not be found the Clerk could ask Steve Bowden to clarify the land's ownership.

4.5. It was **AGREED** that although CDC's letter to the Dun Cow pub had been anonymously returned there was no need to pursue the matter concerning the roadside pub sign. There had been no complaints from local residents which were considered significant.

5. 0. CORRESPONDENCE:

5.1. The following correspondence was **NOTED**:

5.1.1. Cherwell Cultural Strategy - finalised; Leaflets enclosed and circulated.

5.1.2. Community Groups/Organisations - re. booklet of information.

5.1.3. OCC's advice of re-opening of all Public Rights of Way.

5.1.4. North Oxford Tourism Plan 2001-04.

5.1.5. Tony Baldry MP letter addressing the issue of the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme which he is pursuing with Ministers in the Treasury. Council will be advised of their reply in due course.

5.1.6. CDC's notification about free testing of electric blankets.

5.1.7. OCC's Medium Term Plan April 2001-March 2004 & Intro. to Environmental Services leaflet.

5.1.8. OCC's Decision of Public Transport Sub-Committee 17/5/01 -Review of financially supported bus services - Banbury Area. No change in respect of services to Hornton.

5.1.9. Chairman of CDC congratulates the Parish Council on winning the small village category in the Best Kept Village competition. The Chairman added that he and Cllr. Jeffs attended the award ceremony. A trophy was expected to follow later. He expressed thanks to Cllr. Jeffs for submitting Council's entry to the competition and for the attendant completion of entry details.

5.2. Thames Water had completed work in Wroxton Lane to a defective valve cover at the roadside verge.

5.3. There had been no objection to the application by The Dun Cow pub for a one-off Public Entertainment licence for the purpose of an outdoor musical event on Bank Holiday Monday 27/8/01.

5.4. New Household Paper recycling scheme. CDC had informed all residents concerned of the proposals.

5.5. Local Gov't Commission of England: submission of the Commission's report setting out its final recommendations for electoral arrangements in Cherwell i.e. Cherwell to have 50 councillors representing 28 wards but there should be changes to ward boundaries in order to improve electoral equality.

5.6. CDC's 'The Oxfordshire Smoke Free Eating Guide' - for noticeboard display.

HORNTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
HELD IN THE CHURCH ROOM ON MONDAY, AUGUST 20TH 2001 AT 7.30 P.M.

5.7. Parish Consultations on Waste Strategy - OCC advised that they had appointed Proteus as their consultant for carrying out consultations with Parish Councils. Accompanying letter assumes that unless Proteus have heard from Council by 27/9/01 it will take it that the PC will not be sending a representative.

5.8. CDC re. Speed Indicator Device: the Parish Council would like a 'SID' visit during term time & at busier times of the day when children are being ferried to and from school.

5.9. CDC re. Tree services to Town/Parish Councils - trained & experienced arborists will carry out tree surgery at competitive market rates. Contact name: Mark Hemming on 01295 221803. Normal advisory service will continue to be provided free of charge by Senior Arboricultural Officer, Steve Bishop.

5.9.1. The Countryside Agency brochure 'Revitalise Your Village' - equipping people to shape their futures. It was agreed that this was an important community service offering grant support and advice and Cllr.Fickling suggested that a request be made to the Vital Villages Call Centre for an application pack.

5.9.2. OCC's Emergency Plan for Local Councils: describes OCC's method of operation and gives the means of contacting the 24 hour County Contact officer on 01865 842999 through Fire Service Control. The Plan draws attention to Annex A Flood Warnings, Annex B Severe Weather Warnings and Annex C Local Gov't Assoc.Advice on Personal Safety for Local Councillors. Cllr.Miles would read & report back.

6.0. ALLOTMENTS:

6.1. No specific report other than the fact that the allotments were tidy, the grass verges had been trimmed and that, overall, the growing season had been a good one.

7.0. SMALL PLAYING FIELD:

7.1. Most of the play equipment had been repainted and the remainder would be completed after the children had gone back to school. £200 had been raised at a coffee morning. A 2nd-hand strimmer had been obtained. Advice of the date of the playground inspection was awaited. An inspection form was being completed monthly although the area was looked at on a daily basis.

8.0. ROADS & HIGHWAYS:

8.1. The Clerk was asked to write & thank Mr.Nunneley for trimming the hedge near Wroxton Brook resulting in improved visibility for traffic.

8.2. The Clerk was asked to write to Thames Water about a possible blockage in the foul water drainage outlet under Millers Lane. Cllr.Burden asked to be informed when a meeting with the engineer was scheduled.

8.3. The Clerk was also asked to chase Steve Bowden in regard to the proposed drain gulleys in Millers Lane.

8.4. Mr.Kain of Rose Cottage, Pages Lane had complained that a footpath sign by the stile at the end of the lane jutted out too far and needed erecting in the field owned by the Manor. The Clerk was asked to write to The Manor asking the owners if they would agree to this.

8.5. A spiked iron fence located near The Green had caused injury to a child clambering over it; to avoid similar mishap happening again Mrs Higgins had said that she would replace it with a stone wall.

8.6. The Chairman and Clerk had previously met Mrs. Ramsey about the wall in Millers Lane and she had written to confirm that if it was to be partially dismantled she wanted a safety rail installed on the grass bank. Mr.H.Burden now did not wish to proceed with the dismantling unless 3rd party liability cover could be underwritten. Council agreed that the work could proceed subject to arranging insurance either under its own policy or by Highways.

8.7. The Clerk would remind Steve Bowden about the quote he intended getting for kerbing on The Green.

8.8. Flower pots along a section of highway verge in Quarry Road hindered a child cyclist's need to avoid an oncoming Cleanol lorry. The Clerk was asked to look into the matter and, if appropriate, would write to Mr.Clive Hick asking him to remove them.

9.0. HORNTON PAVILLION:

9.1. The Chairman would be attending a Pavillion committee meeting in connection with a piece of land Mr.Nunneley had offered for use as an adjacent recreational facility.

10.0. MILLENNIUM:

10.1. Millennium activity accounts should be finalised and published before the year end. The Time Capsule will be installed in the Millennium Seat as soon as the DVD was ready; It was suggested that the contents of the capsule could be recorded in Council minutes and a record of where the capsule was kept could be lodged in the Church records.

11.0. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

11.1. There had been a burglary at the residence of Shirley & Keith Palmer at the top of Bell Street.

11.2. An application for grant assistance had been lodged with Oxfordshire CC to help launch a village website.

NEXT MEETING: the next meeting scheduled for Monday, 12th November 2001 at 7.30 pm.

**HORNTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
HELD IN THE CHURCH ROOM ON MONDAY, AUGUST 20TH 2001 AT 7.30 P.M.**

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 19TH SEPTEMBER 2001 AT 7.30 PM
IN CHURCH ROOM**

PROPOSED OFFER OF NUNNELLY'S FIELD TO THE PARISH COUNCIL

The Chairman had looked up the minutes of a meeting held on 21st May 1974 regarding the purchase of Hornton ground. Although Aplin Hunt & Brooks had done the conveyancing his enquiries with the firm failed to locate the deeds. It was felt that as Aplins did the conveyancing the onus was on them to conduct establish whether the land was registered and if so to ask the Land Registry for a copy of the Deeds. Julia Whitby of Hornton village, present at the meeting, offered to chase Aplins on Council's behalf. Evidently there had been a loan of £1250 from Cherwell District Council and it had been fully repaid. This being so Julia Whitby suggested that if CDC had granted a loan there may have been a charge on the property which had not been released. In which case, the deeds could be with that local authority. The Chairman thought that the field was originally owned by Banbury RDC and then sold to the Nunneleys when the land was not required for a proposed 4 Council houses.

The Chairman had attended the Hornton Pavillion committee meeting at which there were no objections to Nunnelly's field being registered in the Parish Council's name. Cllr. Jeffs asked whether Council might wish to consider joint ownership of the field. The Chairman preferred having the deeds in the Parish Council's name solely and Julia Whitby indicated that this would not be a problem irrespective of whose name the Hornton grounds ownership was registered. The only problem might be if access was restricted in some way. She suggested that the agreement to be drawn up would be fairly standard although it was likely that Nunnelly would like a claw back provision to ensure that if the land was ever sold for development the owner would want a share in the sales proceeds.

The Chairman asked for Council's view on the matter and asked for a proposal to go ahead with the acquisition. Cllr. Burden proposed adoption seconded by Cllr. Fickling. **RESOLVED:** There were no objections and the proposal to go ahead with acquisition was carried unanimously.

Discussing the matter further Julia Whitby said that she needed a map of the field's location and indicated that Council would need to seek planning permission for a change of use. She advised that she would not charge for her time when making enquiries but it would be best to get preliminary indication from the planners that there would be no obstacle to a change of use (from Agricultural to Recreational) before incurring conveyancing and related costs. Council would need to prepare a budget for the expenses but this would not be insurmountable. The Clerk would make enquiries with CDC Planning & Development immediately following the meeting. The Chairman said that the Hornton Pavillion's intention was to convert the field to a hard standing all weather surface suitable for a tennis court and childrens' ball games. Mr. Nunnelly had a pedometer and would measure out the intended perimeter boundary which was estimated to be around 140- 150 metres. Estimates had been obtained for fencing which it was suggested the Parish Council may have to pay for; Nicols had quoted £604.04 and Hawkings & Saville of Brackley £463.39. A line of hedging between the Pavillion and the field might need to be removed. Cllr. Miles suggested there was a footpath across the field but it could be diverted or reinstated as necessary. Consideration would have to be taken of any restriction imposed by the presence of underground sewer piping which ran under the field and linked to Hornton ground. These and similar matters would be explored during the conveyancing process.

Summarising, it was agreed that Julia Whitby would follow up the Hornton grounds search and the Clerk would make his enquiries with CDC Planning.