

**HORNTON PARISH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING  
HELD IN THE CHURCH ROOM ON MONDAY, 9TH APRIL 2001 AT 7.30 P.M.**

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**PRESENT:**Cllr.Turner(Chairman), Cllrs.Burden, Cross, Jeffs, Miles (Vice Chairman), Offord. Clerk: J.Peace

**APOLOGIES:** Cllr.Fickling **IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr.Reynolds (County Cllr.) Mrs. Mansell (District Cllr.) and Mrs.J.Burden & Messrs. Hillman, Jarrett, Kings, Hart, & Webber.

**1.0. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:**

1.1. The Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting on 17th April 2000 having been circulated were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**2.0. FINANCE & G.P. REPORT:**

2.1. The Clerk presented a provisional Summary of Receipts & Payments as at 31st March 2001 from which the Clerk said that total receipts were £10635.01 and payments £12213.45. Having started the year with an opening balance of £2615.22 the Council had a carry-forward balance of £1036.78 which was considered to be a prudent reserve for contingencies. The annual precept had been maintained at £2500. Grants of £6454 and £1000 had been received from District Council for the Hornton Pavillion refurburbishments and Millennium seat respectively.

2.1.1. Mr. L.Kings, from the floor, was surprised that there were no figures yet for the Millennium Fund and asked whether they had been published. Cllr.Miles replied that Ian Harris the Fund's Treasurer would be publishing them as soon as all the expected donations had been received. Cllr.Jeffs suggested that the accounts could be published in the next issue of Gossip.

**3.0. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:**

3.1. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and first expressed on behalf of the Council the sad demise of Mr. Arthur Miles who had been a parish councillor for 36 years. He went on to introduce the Councillors who had been elected/co-opted onto the Council following the May elections. Thanking fellow councillors and the clerk for their loyal support he said that he enjoyed working with them over the year. He also thanked those in the village who mowed grass, tended to flower tubs and generally kept the village tidy. A special thanks went to Philip Brooks for the work he had done cleaning out the storm water drains and Wroxton Brook itself.

**4.0. PLANNING:**

4.1. The Chairman said that applications processed during the year were of a routine nature and there were no specific items of interest to report. Four applications had been for tree surgery.

4.1.1. Mr.Kings said that the trees on the Green needed pollarding and the Chairman replied that he had discussed the matter with the tree surgeon and the District Council's comments were awaited.

**5.0. ROADS & HIGHWAYS:**

5.1. The Chairman reported that the road to Wroxton Heath was in a bad state of repair. To improve the safety for traffic, particularly the school bus, the road by Wroxton Heath needed a major overhaul immediately. Storm water drains in the village had been satisfactorily cleaned out last Autumn but there was a continuing problem with the drain by West End where a spring appears to burst out from the ground with water running down the road and down to the path to the Church. This was being investigated. Mr.Hillman added that slabs were coming up in West End also. Mr.Hopkins had recently laid ducting along the verge from the top of Hornton hill to Glebe Farm, thus enabling BT to lay new cables underground rather than erecting more unsightly poles. A letter had been sent to Mr.Hopkins for his work which had helped to retain the rural amenity of the area. The Council had received a number of complaints about the terrible state of the village greens mainly caused by parents ferrying their children to and from school and, to a lesser extent, building work in the nearby vicinity. Parents had been approached on the matter but there had been no improvement to the situation. The Chairman sought suggestions from the floor to prevent further erosion of the Green.

5.1.1. Mr.Kings suggested that the teachers could help to identify the root cause of the damage to the Green and that if the school asked the Methodist Church again to use their forecourt the problem could be larely overcome. The Chairman replied that this issue had been raised before at PC meetings and by Cllr.Miles a Governor of the school. Letters had been sent out to parents seeking their cooperation but, in offering to make

a further approach to the Methodist Church, there was no easy solution to the problem. Mr.Hart said that having

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the use of their forecourt would not solve the problem alone. Debate over the issue continued with one person suggesting that the village could liaise with other villages such as Shennington to find out how they have overcome a similar problem. Among various options Mr.Kings suggested putting up signs and Mr.Webber said that something should be put around the Green. In conclusion Cllr. Miles said that he would have the matter placed on the next school governors committee agenda. The Chairman replied that he soon expected to receive Highway department's advice on how to solve the problem.

**6.0. ALLOTMENTS:**

6.1. Cllr.Burden reported that 10 full and 2 half plots were under rental and new tenants had joined during the year. Further plots were available on request from himself or the Clerk. Oak trees planted by the allotments were coming on well and Cllr.Jeffs had offered to donate a further one should a replacement be necessary. Thanks were made to Adrian Horsley for keeping the grass down and best wishes for the coming growing season were conveyed to all plot holders.

**7.0. SMALL PLAYING FIELD:**

7.1. Mike Webber submitted audited accounts for the year to 5th.April 2001 showing a carry forward credit balance of £562.28 on the Club Reserve A/c and £124.33 on the Current A/c. Fund raising receipts included £191.50 for May Day, £180 for a coffee morning, and a total of £208.40 for Bingo events. Donations received amounted to £50 from the Church Ladies Working Party and £135 from the August Bank Holiday Music Festival at the Dun Cow. During the year expenditure of £848.35 was incurred on a new Basketball/Five-a-side Football Combination and £178.25 on replacement of the worn junior swing equipment. In May 2000 Chairman Don Wain and Cllr.Miles attended an Oxfordshire Playground Roadshow at Wardington. As a result the two drew up their own Inspection reports and in future it is intended to carry out inspections on a monthly basis. An official inspection by RoSPA has been booked. The Parish Council intended incorporating the Public Liability insurance into their own policy from June 2nd to give increased cover to £5 million and avoid duplication of premiums. Painting of equipment is intended in the coming year.

**8.0. HORNTON PAVILLION:**

8.1. No formal report received but Cllr.Turner said that the toilets refurbishments and new ramps for the disabled had been completed and paid for. Ian Harris was now the new chairman.

**9.0. MILLENNIUM PROJECTS:**

9.1. The Millennium stone seat had been completed and formally opened at a ceremony when a Commemorative mug was issued to every child in the village. The Time Capsule would not be inserted into the seat until August because the Hornton Millennium Film, being produced by Roger Corke, was taking longer than anticipated to edit. It was hoped the film would be available for release in late July when a film premiere would be held and videos of the film put on sale at £15 each. To help fund the stone seat and film projects several well supported fund raising events had been held in past year including a Music Festival and BBQ, a Christmas Fayre and Play. A further BBQ and Music festival were planned.

**10.0. HORNTON PRIMARY SCHOOL:**

10.1. 67 pupils were now on the roll with staffing remaining the same as the previous year. The school had installed a new computer system and it was now on line with a website being created. European links had been established with sister schools in Greece, Holland and Sweden and a Governor had been given responsibility for further developing and strengthening links internationally. The school had achieved the rare accolade of becoming a Beacon school which involved sharing good practices with other small primary schools. The school premises were in good order after a number of repairs and redecorations were completed. Tenders were out for redecoration of the toilets and cloakroom of the main school building.

**11.0. HORNTON BROWNIES:**

11.1. Ann Simpkins reported that Brownie numbers had increased from 7 to 15 during a good year and that she was looking for a permanent helper to replace Irene Harwood.

**12.0. HORNTON FOOTBALL CLUB:**

12.1. The Club's finances were sound with running costs for the season being between £1500 & £2000. The Club was reported to have between 25 & 30 playing members but pressure was placed on both the 1st and 2nd

teams as a result of players dropping out at short notice. Having gained promotion to the premier division in the previous season the 1st team ended up with mixed results and expected to finish in the middle of the table.

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**13.0. THREE H'S GARDENING CLUB:**

13.1. Membership remained around 60 and meetings at which talks were given on many gardening topics such as Snowdrops, Day Lilies, herbaceous plants etc., were always well attended. There were two garden visits and an outing to Powis Castle. The Christmas dinner was held at the Moon & Sixpence and the Plant sale & Flower show were held as usual. Mrs. Joy Hillman was Chairman and the committee remained unchanged. The low subscription was maintained while having a continued healthy bank balance.

**14.0. KEEP FIT CLUB REPORT:**

14.1. Pauline Hart reported that the club had had a further successful year with classes being well attended by a membership of up to 26 members aged between their 20's and 60's. Being a non-profit making group all surplus funds were given to charity and £100 was given during the year to a local disabled boy to help him go on a 'Journey of a Lifetime' to Chile. One member raised £100 by taking part in a gruelling Tours de Triggs and a further £100 was sent to the Fund a Nurse appeal which was raising money for a specialist cancer nurse at the Horton hospital.

**15.0. HORNTON ALLSORTS CLUB REPORT:**

15.1. The Club was reported to have had a very successful year with new talent having recently joined. The Halloween and Valentines evenings were well attended and a play was planned for later in the autumn.

**16.0. HORNTON CUBS REPORT:**

16.1. Les England reported that the club had ceased activity due to a lack of financial support from the scout movement and the fact that it could no longer afford to pay the scout association £320 per year. The boys had since been affiliated to the Oxford Youth Association at cost of only £80. Many new events were being planned and a report on the new youth club would feature at the next APM.

**17.0. HORNTON GOSSIP REPORT:**

17.1. Julie Stanley expressed thanks to all who had contributed with articles over the past 10 years and to the Parish Council for money towards printing costs. Together with Ann Hemmings the newspaper is now more easily produced on computer and as much information as possible about Hornton village life is included in each issue. The May edition was expected to be a bumper issue to commemorate Gossip's 10th birthday.

17.1.1. Mr.Kings asked whether it would be appropriate to charge for Gossip but it was generally felt that if people were charged they would probably not want the newspaper. The Chairman added that the Council gave some financial support with last year £150 being donated towards printing.

**18.0. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:**

18.1. Roads in Hornton were perfect in comparison with roads elsewhere in the county where most have been declared dangerous. Cllr.Reynolds was powerless to get anything done & the threat of insurance claims seems not to have had much effect. However, he recommended keeping up the pressure on OCC Highways if road works were needed. He was glad to hear that the school was doing well & he offered his congratulations to the staff. He went on to point out that Council could resort to taking criminal proceedings under the Registered Greens Act against those who damage the Green. Mr.Kings replied that while it might be an offence to park on the Green he would prefer to see this stopped by friendly persuasion rather than taking criminal action. Cllr.Reynolds said that it was unlikely OCC would give financial support for care of the Green.

**19.0. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:**

19.1. While Hornton should not be affected directly, Cllr.Mansell reported having been active in preventing more houses being built beyond those already planned for Hanwell Fields. She added that District Council had limited funds available to pay for traffic calming measures; the Chairman replied that the Parish Council were consulting the appropriate District/County Council channels about the speeding problem.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 9.25 pm after Mr.Kings gave a vote of thanks to all Councillors for the work that had done for the Council in the past year.

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**HORNTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**LIST OF COUNCILLORS & THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES**  
**AS AT 1ST JANUARY 2002**

<u>COUNCILLORS</u>	<u>RESPONSIBILITIES</u>
CLLR.ERIC TURNER BELLEVUE BELL STREET HORNTON	CHAIRMAN FINANCE PLANNING ROADS & HIGHWAYS HORNTON PAVILLION COMMITTEE
DAVID MILES JUBILEE HOUSE HORNTON	VICE CHAIRMAN TRUSTEE OF SMALL PLAYING FIELD MILLENNIUM PROJECTS SCHOOL LIAISON HORNTON PAVILLION COMMITTEE PLANNING
CLLR. PAUL BURDEN BARRY COTTAGE HORNTON	ALLOTMENTS TRUSTEE OF SMALL PLAYING FIELD HORNTON PAVILLION COMMITTEE PLANNING
BILL JEFFS BLACKSMITHS COTTAGE BELL STREET HORNTON	ROADS & HIGHWAYS HORNTON PAVILLION COMMITTEE MULT-SURFACE SPORTS AREA COMMITTEE BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION PLANNING

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**MALCOLM CROSS  
1 HOLLOWAY COTTAGES  
MILLERS LANE  
HORNTON**

**HORNTON PAVILLION COMMITTEE  
PLANNING**

**LYNNE FICKLING  
HENSTONES  
BELL STREET  
HORNTON**

**PUBLICITY & GENERAL  
HORNTON PAVILLION COMMITTEE  
PLANNING  
PARISH WEBSITE**

**JOHN OFFORD  
BRAE HOUSE  
BELL STREET  
HORNTON**

**PARISH WEBSITE  
SCHOOL LIAISON  
HORNTON PAVILLION COMMITTEE  
PLANNING**