



Great Horwood Parish Council

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Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 30th April 2018 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, Great Horwood.

Cllr Mary Saunders, Chairman of the Parish Council, opened the meeting by welcoming residents from Great Horwood and Singleborough. Approximately 40 people attended the meeting

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Mr David Saunders.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the 2017 APM held on 18th May

These were approved without modification with no matters arising.

3. Chairman's Report

Cllr Saunders gave the Annual Chairman's Report. A copy of the report is attached to these Minutes and can be found on the Great Horwood website.

In her report, Cllr Saunders reviewed the activities and achievements of the Parish Council over the last year covering planning, road related issues and community matters. She offered the Parish Council's thanks and appreciation for the hard work of all those who have been active and involved in helping the Parish during the past year.

4. Sir Beville Stanier's report

Sir Beville

- outlined the prospects for dramatic change in the next 20 - 30 years due to HS2, the possibility that the Oxford – Cambridge Expressway could follow the A421, East West Rail, Winslow Station, the increasing need for housing and the prospect of new businesses. He felt, however, that this should not be a cause for gloom.
- As Cabinet member for Environment and Waste, asked that any problems with bins, litter, fly tipping etc. be passed to him. He also congratulated the Aylesbury Vale bin men for winning their national championships.

5. Dist. Cllr John Chilver's report

Cllr Chilver

- Outlined the perennial problem of potholes, repairs of which have been delayed by a bad winter. However, this year additional funds have been made available for road maintenance. He asked that residents use the Bucks County Council "Fix My Street" section of the website to report their road concerns. He acknowledged that Pilch Lane was very bad but said the jet patching would be carried out in the next couple of weeks with the prospect of full reconstruction at a later date.
- thanked the Rights of Way team for their prompt response to requests for village rights of way improvements (bridges on footpath 4 and the junction of 5 & 7) and Winslow and District Local area Forum for their help in funding the Spring Lane junction survey and for the purchase of a second sentinel hosted by Great Horwood
- Said that Bucks County Council Finances were at break-even point in the last financial year despite pressure on Children's Services and Adult Social Care.
- Said that the Secretary of State was "minded" to agree to a single unitary council for Buckinghamshire. District Council elections have been postponed to 2020 and the Council has been extended by one year. However, the change of Secretary of State has brought uncertainty.
- Reminded the meeting that his monthly surgery is held in Winslow Library between 10.00 and 12.00 am on the first Sunday of every month.

6. Representations from Village Organisations

Village organisations provided visual presentations or representatives, although to avoid congestion in the hall the number of displays was reduced this year. Those groups not in attendance this year will receive an invitation to provide a display in 2019.

Cricket Club & Football Club	Vyv Rudd & friends
Footpath Monitor	Robert Deuchar
Great Horwood CE Combined School	Paula Shaw and John Huskinson
Horwode Pece Rec Committee	John Nicholls
Post Office & Village Hall activities	Gill Wood
Scouts & cubs	Yvonne Taylor
Silver Band	Beryl & Roy Lack
Winslow & District Community Bus	Lynne King
WI	Angela Mayne & Members

7. Open Forum

Residents

- Reported a faulty street light on the corner of Spring Lane.
- Asked why the Spring Lane junction survey had been commissioned. Cllr Gilbey responded by saying that an independent professional survey was the only way to discover whether all possible avenues for improvement of the junction had been considered.
- Asked whether traffic calming and footpath improvements were being considered for the Horwood Mill development. The Parish Council has no control over these issues but will raise the matter with AVDC and Bucks County Council. *Chairman's note - improvement of the footway from Horwood Mill (possibly to where Greenway re-joins Spring Lane) is included as one of the conditions of the planning permission.*
- Asked whether the local sewage arrangements could cope with additional housing. The Parish Council will speak to Anglian Water on the matter.

Cllr Saunders thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 9.00pm.

Great Horwood Annual Parish Meeting 30 April 2018

Chairman's Report

Welcome to our Annual Parish Meeting.

Before giving a review of activities during the past year, the very first thing that I want to say this evening is to put on record the shock and sadness that was felt at the sudden death in early December of John Scholtens, former councillor and chairman of the Parish Council. He was much involved in the early stages of the development of the Great Horwood Neighbourhood Plan and had made a significant contribution to many aspects of the work of the Parish Council. It is hard to think that we shall not see him flying along the road on his bike again.

The work of the Parish Council during the past year has tended to fall into three main categories, namely, planning , road related issues and community matters. To take these in turn :-

1. Planning

The Parish Council has been consulted by AVDC about 27 new planning applications. A lot of these were for extensions or alterations to existing buildings. This is in addition to several long running applications which remain to be decided and also various applications relating to discharge of conditions, reserved matters and other miscellaneous applications such as agricultural applications. One of the long-running applications was, however, decided last November by AVDC when permission was confirmed for the demolition of the redundant Horwood Mill and the construction of seven dwellings. The Parish Council had argued strongly that access to the new dwellings should be through the Greenway Business Park rather than adding to the traffic in Spring Lane. Ultimately, we were unable to persuade the Committee to agree to this, although they did agree that construction traffic should not use Spring Lane. Demolition and ground works have been taking place in recent weeks. Outline permission has also been granted for the construction of thirty houses to the east of Little Horwood Road. This development forms part of the Neighbourhood Plan. It should also be noted that two applications to increase accommodation at the traveller site on the road to Nash (but still in Great Horwood parish) have been refused but it is not yet known whether there will be any appeal against these decisions.

2. Road related issues

Speeding, parking and potholes are recurrent topics for the Parish Council over many years. The bad weather over the winter has played havoc with roads everywhere and Great Horwood is no exception to this. We are grateful that some of the potholes in the village have been filled and hope that more will be quite soon. Inconsiderate parking in various places in the village including on pavements and near junctions continue to cause problems for other road users and pedestrians. These problems are particularly acute at the junction of Spring Lane and Winslow Road which can be very hazardous due to the layout of the junction and exacerbated by speeding vehicles and parking. This junction has been on and off the agenda of the Parish Council for the last thirty years at least. In order to see whether there is any reasonable solution, the Parish Council has commissioned a survey of the junction and awaits the results and any proposals.

A new Sentinel Speed camera has been acquired through the Winslow Local Area Forum and will be kept in Great Horwood, so watch out for this in action – and if you would like to help with this, please contact the Clerk! The MVAS (Motor Vehicle Activated Sign) has continued to record speeds in and around the village and the Parish Council is very grateful to Mick Wood for managing this on their behalf.

The Parish Council is also very grateful to Robert Deuchar who keeps the parish footpaths in good order and negotiates with landowners about the possible replacement of stiles. It is good, too, that the County Council have added to their schedule the provision of a handrail to the perilous plank giving access to the footpath to Adstock from Pilch Lane - in fact this has now been done - and the repair of the bridge over the stream on the path to Singleborough, including making access to the bridge easier.

3. Community matters

The Parish Council has been pleased to make grants to support various organisations which contribute to the life of the village – including the School, the Football Club, the Silver Band, the Scouts and the Winslow Community Bus. You may have noticed that The Green has been tidied up and a new tree provided. This has been a Parish Council project and thanks go to Angela Mayne who co-ordinated this. The renewed lease of what is formally known as the Recreation Field to the Cricket Club has finally been completed and we hope that this will give the Club security in the years to come and the ability to apply for grants. The Parish Council regrets the closure of the Youth Club in the village due to the lack of volunteers and hopes that it may be possible to re-open a Youth Club at some point in the future. Horwode Pece has continued to be cared for by its Management Committee who keep the equipment and the ground in good order. Again, the Parish Council is very grateful for all that they do. Indeed, the Parish Council is grateful for everything that all the organisations in the village do which contributes to our life together in this community. On this occasion, I'd particularly like to thank the WI for providing the refreshments this evening.

Looking further afield, the Parish Council has considered or been consulted about various schemes and proposals which will have a significant impact not only on Great Horwood but on the wider community in North Bucks as a whole. These include the proposals for the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan, the proposals for local government reorganisation, East-West rail and the proposed Oxford-Cambridge Expressway. There remains a great deal of uncertainty about all of these.

4. Thank you

In conclusion, on behalf of the Parish Council, I should like to express our thanks to our District Councillor, Sir Beville Stanier and our County Councillor, John Chilver. They have provided us with advice and support throughout the year. I should also like to add my thanks to my fellow councillors for all the hard work they have contributed during the year. And finally a heartfelt thank-you to our Clerk, Mandy Cliffe.

MALS
30.04.18