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**Chairman’s Monthly Report**

**Last Meeting – Monday 11 April 2016**

**Introduction**

At last Spring is really on the way, with both the leaves and roadworks breaking out all over the place. After the recent period dominated by planning issues, we are now looking forward to making progress with our Parish Plan 2016.

**Parish Updates**

**Planning**

Consultee comments for the Weston Road Planning Inquiry have been made and the Planning Inspector in early May is due to make his report and recommendations to Greg Clark the Secretary of State. Elsewhere, AVDC decisions on planning matters remain slow and we still have no decision by AVDC concerning the Nash Park traveller site for which the temporary permission expired in November 2015 or on the Willow Road large-scale development proposal.

**Speedwatch**

The Speed Watch Campaign has begun but we would like some more local volunteers particularly from Singleborough where we also wish to perform some traffic monitoring. If you are able to help, please contact the Parish Clerk on clerk@greathorwoodpc.org.uk or telephone 715829.

**Annual Parish Meeting**

The Annual Parish Meeting took place on Monday 11 April at 7.30pm in the Village Hall with some 40 attendees. My full Chairman’s Report is lodged on our parish council website (<http://www.bucksvoice.net/greathorwoodpc/>). An important part of the evening was the presentations by representatives of our parish organisations who described their memories, achievements, issues and plans. It was pleasing that this was so well attended by so many people and particularly the volunteers reflecting the kind and generous spirit of many in our community. Monica Gilbey and 6 youngsters (Youth Club), Peter Brooker (Medical Detection Dogs), Paul Hodson (our Local Area Technician), John Chilver (our County Councillor), Wendy Taylor (our local PCSO), David Saunders (from our Neighbourhood Planning Team), Becky Porter (Rainbows), Gill Wood (Village Hall), Karen Wilkinson (WI), John Huskinson (School, PTA, School Crossing Patrol and Speedwatch), Roy Lack (Silver Band), Vyv Rudd (Football Club), John Nicholls (Great Horwood & Singleborough Recreation Trust), David Brazier (St James’ Church) and a written report from John Goodger (Cricket Club).

It was also the chance for me to review the issues dominating the last year for our council and outline the priorities and key issues for the coming year. In summary, the Parish Council had a large changeover and for the first time in many years has a full complement of councillors! We also bid farewell to our fabulous clerk of many years Karen Francis and greeted her new and extremely enthusiastic successor Mandy Cliffe. During the last year following our questionnaire survey and consultation event we have made considerable progress with the Great Horwood Parish Plan 2016. Of special note, we have taken over from Buckinghamshire County Council the devolved services of grass cutting, chasing up landowners for hedge trimming if necessary, right of way maintaining of accessibility, signage supervision and minor maintenance, footway weeding/monitoring and maintaining the Risk Assessments and Register. We have continued our enthusiastic support of the Horwode Pece recreation facility and play area.

During the coming year and indeed beyond, GH PC priorities will be driven by the emerging Great Horwood Parish Plan 2016 and its attendant Action Plan. In broad terms this means:

* **Influence** – making sure that the Parish voice is heard through Parish Council representation especially around housing provision for the Parish.
* **Recreation** – supporting facilities for younger people in particular at Horwode Pece but also facilities for other groups.
* **Road Traffic Impact** – making the Parish roads safer including endeavouring to provide new footpaths and cycle ways.
* **Environment** – safeguarding the Parish environment including maintenance of The Green, paths and street lights.
* **Community** – supporting valued community facilities and developing new ones.

The biggest issue confronting the parish is the large planning applications that are or will be submitted in direct contravention of the Great Horwood Parish Neighbourhood Plan. Apart from Weston Road, we still have the Willow Road application awaiting determination, we have the Old Mill application waiting for the result of the appeal and we are expecting an application from Gladman for 1,500 homes north of Winslow which will include 650 within our parish boundary. Clearly these potential developments would have a major effect on the
future character of the parish. The Parish Council will of course oppose these unwelcome proposals and keep you all aware of progress and any related issues. With respect to the Great Horwood Parish Neighbourhood Plan, we have already had consultations with developers/architects for the 3 housing development sites identified in the Plan but will continue to work with them and with AVDC and local landowners to see the successful implementation of the developments. Additionally, we will endeavour to get the School Crossing Patrol preliminary work including the marking of lines outside St James Church and fixing of warning lights, and are currently seeking to recruit a Lollipop Lady/Man.

**Parish Council Website, Meetings and Suggestions**

For a more comprehensive report of the latest or indeed previous Parish Council meetings, please read the Minutes published on the website. (<http://www.bucksvoice.net/greathorwoodpc/>). This website also has updates of items on its latest news page and lots of information about the parish.

If you have any items that you would like to bring to the Council’s attention, please contact the Clerk or any of the Councillors, or otherwise, we are always pleased to welcome residents to our monthly meeting where we include a public participation period where you can raise an item directly. The next meeting of the Council will take place in the Village Hall at 7.30pm on Monday 9 May.

***John Scholtens***

Chairman, Great Horwood Parish Council

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