



**Great Horwood
Parish Council**

Great Horwood Parish Council Chairman's Report for the year May 2008 to April 2009

Battle against Winslow Green Outline Planning Application

During the course of opposing the Outline Planning Application submitted by Greenway Land LLP for a development of 3,300 homes and commercial and other premises under the name of Winslow Green on what was previously known as Little Horwood Airfield the Council took the following actions:-

- Information sheet hand delivered to every household in the village
- 2 displays of the details of the planning application held in the village hall on Saturday 24th January and Saturday 31st January. Nearly 200 people attended the two meetings.
- Public meeting held on 5th February with a final vote of 159 to 1 urging the Parish Council to oppose the application. (John Bercow MP and David Rowlands BCC County Councillor attended and spoke against the proposed development)
- Encouraged all residents to write to AVDC opposing the scheme – achieved 240 letters of opposition with only 5 in favour of which 2 were by persons with vested interests and 2 were anonymous.
- Detailed document opposing the application submitted to AVDC
- Cllr. Moulding spoke on behalf of the Parish Council at the AVDC Strategic Development Control Committee on 1st April.

The application was unanimously rejected by the Committee and we wait to see if Greenway LLP submits an appeal.

Horwode Pece Recreation Ground

The Council have supported the efforts of the Horwode Pece Management Committee in achieving the hugely successful installation of the great new recreation area and playground at the bottom of Spring Lane. Cllrs. Brocklehurst and Samways have been the nominated Parish Councillors on the Great Horwood and Singleborough Recreation Trust. At our November meeting we formalised the relationship between the Council and the Trust by putting into place a licence for the Council to install the play equipment on a defined part of the land which is all owned by the Trust. This

arrangement has enabled the Parish Council to order, pay for and own the play equipment that has been installed although, of course, almost all the funding has come from grants from various bodies such as WREN, AVDC, Bucks Community Action Winslow Lions and latterly our Lord of the Manor D. Jack Smith plus donations from various village groups and individuals.. This should enable an efficient treatment for VAT reclaim.

Dog Bins

The first 2 dog bins have been installed in the village. The first one adjacent to the entrance to the new Recreation Ground (kindly donated by Mr. and Mrs. Marshall) and the 2nd one in the High Street

Willow Road

The decision has been made to convert the old Recreation Ground in Willow Road into allotments. On legal advice from AVDC it was found that no formal planning consent for change of use was required to convert to agricultural use. The necessary notices were printed in the Buckingham and Winslow Advertiser and since there were no objections we are currently obtaining quoted to clear the ground and prepare for use as allotments.

Planning Committee

We have instituted a brief meeting of the Planning Committee before each Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council in order to formally ratify the responses to Planning Applications submitted to AVDC during the previous month.

Adoption of additional policies

At our November 2008 meeting we adopted a Freedom of Information model a copy of which is available from our website or by contacting the Clerk.

Formal Terms of Reference have also been agreed and approved for the operation of the Recreation Committee and the Planning Committee and these are also published on our website. (www.bucksinfo.net/greathorwoodpc)

Litter Pick

Thanks to Cllr. Samways we had another very successful litter pick on Sunday March 8th.

Lord of the Manor – donation of \$5,000

Although not strictly a Parish Council matter I was pleased to be able to propose and then facilitate the setting up of a process involving an independent committee under the Chairmanship of Sandra Birrell to consider and short list all the applications for the donation from Jack Smith. We have also used the Parish Council bank account as the conduit for transferring the money from USA to the final recipients. Thanks to Sandra Birrell for recruiting the rest of the committee and considering and evaluating

the applications in a very professional way and providing the shortlist for the final decision on the awards by Jack.

Vacancy on the Council

We once again have a vacancy on the Council and are looking to co-opt an additional member as soon as possible.

During the year we did co-opt Mr. Jeremy West on to the Planning Committee as a non voting member. He played a key role in the campaign against the Winslow Green development proposal.

At this point I would like to express my thanks to all the Councillors for their individual contributions during the past year and also a big vote of thanks to our Clerk Duncan Trigg.

Associated Organisations

We have continued to ensure that we attend meetings of local bodies so that the voice of Great Horwood can be continue to be heard and hopefully have at least some small influence on policies and allocation of any funds that may be available.

The following is a list of the main bodies at whose meetings we are regular attendees.:

BCC Winslow Local Area Forum
NBPPC (North Bucks Parish Planning Committee)
NAG (Neighbourhood Action Group) – liaison with local PCSO Nicole Bruce.
Aylesbury Vale North Sports Committee
BALC (Bucks Association of Local Councils)
AVALC (Aylesbury Vale Association of Local Councils)
BCA (Bucks Community Action)
AVDC Local Council Planning Liaison Group

Training

Mr. Jeremy West and I attended a one day course on 6th April on the subject of Common Land, Rights of Way, Village Greens and Open Spaces.

Review of Plans and Thoughts for the year 2008/9

Encourage and develop a forum to listen to villagers views and respond accordingly and appropriately. **Monthly report in Focus and new format for the Annual Parish meeting.**

Support the development and equipping of the new Recreation Ground - **Done**
Decide on and implement alternative use of old Recreation Ground in Willow Road **Nearly there**

Decide whether to install Dog Bins **2 installed**

Continue with the quest to find and install suitable traffic calming measures. **No progress.**

Be prepared to respond to further developments on SE Plan and AVDC Local Development Framework. **Winslow Green Planning Application.**

Be prepared to respond to other local consultation issues.
Continue to ensure that the voice of Great Horwood is heard in all appropriate local forums. **Ongoing**
Resolve issues arising due to current organisation and responsibilities between the Parish Council, the Recreation Committee of the Parish Council and the Great Horwood and Singleborough Recreation Trust, which owns the new Recreation Ground (Horwode Pece) land. **Done**
Revise the method of working of the Planning Committee of the Parish Council. **Done**
Decide on whether the Parish Council should appoint a Finance Committee. **No change**
Consider whether we should try for a Rural Exception Affordable Housing Scheme. **No decision**
Consider ways of completing the footpath in Nash Road opposite to Chapel House. **Planned for 2009/10 thanks to successful application for funds from the BCC delegated budget scheme.**
To further develop the Parish Council website. **Continuing – suggestions welcome**
To support any initiatives to provide and/or maintain facilities and resources required by our community.
To encourage other village organisations to attend and report to the 2009 Annual Parish Meeting. **New format with 25 village organisations invited and 19 accepted.**
To encourage and support further training for Councillors and the Parish Clerk **One training course attended during the year.**

Plans and thoughts for the coming year.

Replace the tree on The Green with a suitable acceptable alternative.
Review the possible repair or replacement of the Bus shelter at the end of Little Horwood Road.
Install additional budgeted Dog bins
Install additional budgeted Litter Bins
Completion of footpath opposite Chapel House
Continue to press for effective Traffic Calming measures for the village.
Consider whether we need a Finance Committee
Consider installing a 2nd notice board.
Support the preparation of the Village Design Statement
Finalise and implement Willow Road allotments
Continue to support the Horwode Pece Recreation Ground
If necessary review the lease of the Cricket Club on the recreation ground at the top of Nash Road.
Try to implement a footpath route from the Little Horwood Road to Horwode Pece.

To develop the community and community spirit of Great Horwood and Singleborough for the benefit of villagers from all sections of the community

John Gilbey – Chairman Great Horwood Parish Council

April 2009