



**Great Horwood
Parish Council**

Great Horwood Parish Council

Minutes of an ordinary meeting held on 14th February 2011 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, Great Horwood.

Present: Cllr John Gilbey (Chairman), Cllr Rod Moulding (Vice-chairman), Cllr Michael Brocklehurst, Cllr Moya Berrill, Cllr Ian Lamberton, Cllr Russell Margerrison, Karen Francis (Clerk)
11 members of the public

1. To receive apologies for absence
Apologies were received from Cllr Samways due to work commitments
2. To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held on 13th December 2010
These were approved with a minor modification.
3. To receive declarations of interest
Cllr Moulding declared a potential personal interest in item 19 – Dropped Kerbs
4. To consider matters arising from the Minutes of the last meeting
 - Two further allotment plots have been let which now leaves just one available plot in Willow Road.
 - The response to the consultation on the New Homes Policy was made.
 - Cllr Moulding confirmed that a 'Music in Quiet Places' concert would be held in St James on 18th June.
 - Cllr Gilbey confirmed there were to be two 'Play around the Parishes' in Great Horwood. The first on the afternoon of 13th April and the second on the morning of 21st April.
5. Public Participation Period
Mrs Liz Nicholls explained a group of people within the village are looking to produce a book about the village and its history. In order to obtain funding she asked for the support of the Parish Council. All councillors were in favour.

Mr David Bolton stated he found the decision to increase the precept disappointing and also wanted the Parish Council to explain why the precept was increased and yet support wasn't given to either Winslow Library or the Good Neighbour network. Cllr Gilbey explained there had been no other objections to the increase in precept and that the increase would allow a small reserve to be in place which would be available if needed for unexpected liabilities arose during the next financial year.

Mr Darke asked why the Parish Council didn't support Winslow Library. Cllr Gilbey explained that the Parish Council wouldn't play an active role in supporting Winslow Library but residents could contribute individually if they wished.

Mr Mick Wood stated he was disappointed with the lack of community spirit during the recent snowy weather as he had hoped residents would clear the paths outside of their houses to help provide a safer route for pedestrians around the village. It was suggested that some residents thought they would be liable if an accident occurred where snow had been cleared and the Clerk agreed to find out the latest advice from the Government and report in Focus.
6. To receive and consider reports from Committees of Council
 - 6.1. Cllr Moulding updated the Council on the report from the Planning Committee. There have been two decisions and three new applications since the last meeting. Cllr Moulding proposed that the comments made to AVDC were ratified, Cllr Gilbey seconded this and it was approved unanimously.
 - 6.2. Cllr Brocklehurst updated the Council on the recent developments at Horwode Pece.

- An accurate plan of equipment at Horwode Pece is expected shortly.
- There are currently no problems with the equipment.
- There is still a small amount of money left from the Community Spaces grant.
- Bird boxes are currently being made by the Scouts for Horwode Pece.
- A working party will take place later in the year but as yet no date has been fixed.
- New grass cutters have been appointed.

Cllr Brocklehurst also asked Cllr Gilbey to confirm that AVDC will provide insurance for the Play around the Parish event.

7. Report from the Parish Plan Steering Committee

This was reported along with item 8.

8. Parish Plan Project: AVDC's Vale of Aylesbury Plan

Cllr Moulding circulated a report on the Pilot Parish Project prior to the meeting which explained a number of points but the most important part was section 8 which highlighted the need for a formal response from Great Horwood to AVDC to the four part initial question outlined in the Vale of Aylesbury Plan Newsletter.

This topic had been discussed at the Planning Committee meeting and it was recommended that the response from Great Horwood was 'We want to explore with AVDC the issues around development before coming to a conclusion'. This would only commit the Council to exploring opportunities as a detailed consultation would need to be held within the village.

Full Council support was given to this suggestion and it was agreed that the Clerk would respond with a formal letter which would be composed by Cllr Moulding.

9. Report on the BCC Winslow & District LAF held on 15th December 2010

Cllr Gilbey attended this meeting. An update was received from Inspector Emma Garside which highlighted that there were currently no anticipated changes to policing levels.

The PCSO for Great Horwood has resigned and a new PCSO has been appointed. PCSO Alex Trevino is the new PCSO.

No decision has been made on the delegated budget applications and the Parish Council are still awaiting the decision on the applications made.

There was also no answer to the issue of dropped kerbs especially at Wheathouse Copse.

10. Report on the NBPPC meeting held on 24th January 2011

Cllrs Gilbey and Moulding attended this meeting but there was very little to report back as many items are still pending. The main discussion was on Salden Chase and the Milton Keynes strategy but no decisions have been taken.

It was also explained that Winslow residents won't get priority for affordable housing being built in the town. However, the rural exception scheme would apply to Great Horwood if affordable houses were to be built within the village.

11. Update on the Localism Bill

Cllr Gilbey circulated a summary of the Localism Bill and highlighted the key points. These can be found using the following website

www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/localismplainenglishguide

12. County Council Budget Consultations

Cllr Gilbey highlighted that BCC are making a number of suggestions in order to cut spending for the next three financial years. Proposals include reducing street lighting, cutting Sunday and evening bus services and revising the cost of Adult Social Care. Comments can still be made via the BCC website.

13. Planning Application 11/00031/APP: Land to the rear of 11 The Green

This application has been discussed by the Planning Committee and it was agreed that the application should be objected to. A letter will be sent to AVDC which will include a number of reasons to the objection.

14. Vehicular Access to The Green

Cllr Moulding requested that Standing Order 2.12.1 (temporarily excluding the public) was implemented and it was agreed to discuss this item at the end of the meeting.

At the end of the meeting Cllr Moulding proposed the following resolution, Cllr Brocklehurst seconded it and it was unanimously agreed:

That in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted in relation to vehicular access across The Green, legal advice having been received that litigation might be possible, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw.

The matter was discussed and the Parish Council agreed the next course of action.

15. Internal Audit Procedures

The Clerk informed the Council that a new internal auditor was required with immediate effect. Ideally this should be a resident from the village who is prepared to fill the role voluntarily. The person must be independent and competent and be able to review the accounts and financial procedures of the council at least once a year. There are some people who could be approached but it was agreed the first step would be to advertise in Focus and await any responses. The Clerk agreed to compose an article.

16. Recovery of money from Tom Saunders

A claim has been made by the Parish Council in the Small Claims Court for the sum of £423 + costs against Tom Saunders. An acceptance of the claim by Mr Saunders has been received and a judgement has been sent to Mr Saunders requesting payment by the end of March 2011.

17. Recruitment of Councillors

Cllr Gilbey highlighted that due to a number of existing Councillors stepping down from their roles in May, more villagers are needed to fill their places. Seven places are available and nomination forms need to be submitted by 4th April. It was suggested and agreed that a leaflet drop was done within the village and an article was put in Focus. Cllr Gilbey agreed to write the article and would liaise with the Clerk in order to arrange the leaflet drop.

18. The Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge

An email has been received asking for interest in Fields in Trust new project which marks the Diamond Jubilee. The aim of the programme is to protect 2012 outdoor recreational sites for communities across the country by 2012. There will also be access to improvement funds. It was agreed the clerk would contact the organisers for more information.

19. Dropped Kerbs

Cllr Gilbey has chased a number of times for a resolution to this problem and finally BCC have arranged for a site visit to discuss the problem. Cllr Moulding offered to provide further information to Cllr Gilbey relating to land boundaries. Cllr Gilbey will report back at the next meeting.

20. Date for 2011 Litter Pick

It was agreed the litter pick would be arranged for Sunday 20th March and Cllr Gilbey would put a note in Focus.

21. Salt Bins

Councillors discussed whether additional salt bins were required throughout the village. Councillors expressed a number of different opinions but it was agreed that no additional salt bins would be added at this time.

22. Church Fete

A letter had been received from a Church Warden requesting permission to hold the fete on the Village Green in 2011. The Parish Council agreed in principle that the fete could be held but would like more information nearer the time. It was also agreed that a nominal charge of £50 would be made. The Clerk agreed to send a letter to the Church Warden confirming the decision.

23. Telephone Box on The Green

An email had been received from a resident asking whether the Parish Council would consider trying to replace the existing telephone box with an old fashioned red telephone box. The resident stated he would be willing to assist in any way possible and the Clerk agreed to contact the resident to ask him to obtain further information.

24. Receipts

- Allotment Rent £5.00
- Barber Rent £15.00
- Repayment of Fixed Term Deposit and Interest £10,060.84

25. To agree items for payment

- Eon UK Street Lighting Maintenance £108.39
- Great Horwood Village Hall £132.00
- Clerks Expenses £57.16
- Small Claims Court Expenses £35.00

26. To receive and note correspondence

- Feedback form from Majestic Trees. This was passed to Cllr Gilbey to be completed.
- Request for funds for the Sue Ryder Nettlebed Hospice. This was declined.
- Notice of road closure for the Great Horwood Fun Run.
- Confirmation of fair dates from Tom Smith.
- Copy of a letter from Nash Parish Council to Anglian Water asking for a number of burst pipes on the road to Nash from the A421 to be repaired.
- Email from a resident asking the Parish Council to investigate a dead tree which appears to be dangerous at the bottom of Spring Lane. Cllr Gilbey agreed to liaise with the Clerk over this matter.

27. Items for the next meeting

No additional items were added.

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Monday 14th March 2011 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

The meeting closed at 9.43pm

Signed _____

Draft

Date _____