



**Great Horwood
Parish Council**

Great Horwood Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 25th April 2022 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, Great Horwood

Present: Cllr John Gilbey (JWG) Chairman, Cllr Caroline Cousin (CC) Vice Chairman, Cllr Jackie Goss (JG), Cllr David Taylor (DT), Cllr Gavin Laird (GL), Sue Brazier (SB Clerk), Paula Shaw, Sarah Biswell, David Brazier, Andrew Cook, Ian Lamberton, John Nicholls, Liz Nicholls, Monica Gilbey, Sheila Cadge, Kathy Thompson, Paul Ketteridge, Yvonne Taylor, Vyv Rudd, Keith Sage, Sylvia and Derek Whitehall, Stuart and Carolyn Bayliss

1.	To receive apologies for absence Buckinghamshire Councillors Sir Beville Stanier Bt, John Chilver and David Goss, Community Board Co-ordinator Sophia Comer
2.	Confirmation of the Minutes of the 2019 Annual Parish Meeting held on 19th April 2021 The minutes were incorrectly dated 12 th April 2021. This was amended and initialled before the minutes were signed.
3.	Chairman's Report Cllr Gilbey welcomed Councillors and village organisations present, noting that this was the first in person Annual Parish Meeting since 2019. He introduced organisations as follows: Paula Shaw and Sarah Biswell: School, David Brazier: St James' Church and Focus, Andrew Cook: Silver Band, Ian Lamberton: Village Hall, John Nicholls: Horwode Pece, Liz Nicholls: Art & Craft Group, Sheila Cadge: Winslow Bus, Kathy Thompson: WI, Paul Ketteridge and Yvonne Taylor: Scouting Groups, Vyv Rudd: Football Club Cllr Gilbey wished to remember Robert Deuchar who looked after the parish footpaths so well and who passed away very suddenly. The PC have arranged a memorial plaque in his memory on a new kissing gate at Manglands Farm. He wished to thank the following: Mick and Gill Wood for looking after the MVAS, downloading the data and moving the MVAS to various locations in the village. The data is now published regularly on the PC website. Horwode Pece Management Committee chaired by John Nicholls and the volunteers on the weekly inspection rota. Volunteers who inspect the defibrillator on a monthly basis. Jane Holland who plants the troughs at the entrances to the village. Alan Biggins who has taken on the role of footpath monitor with incredible enthusiasm All Parish Councillors , including Angela Mayne who stepped down at the beginning of the year. A special thank you to Vice Chair Caroline Cousin and the Clerk, Sue Brazier Planning Planning applications still continue to take many months, and in some cases years to be determined. The most high-profile application to remain outstanding is the potential development of sixteen new houses at Home Farm. Buckinghamshire Council It has been quite a frustrating year with Buckinghamshire Council due to difficulty in getting timely responses and necessary actions. In particular, it has taken many months for the delivery and installation of two new litter bins, a street name plate, school orientation signs and the village name plates in Little Horwood Road.

TfB were under instruction to resurface the side roads of Little Horwood Road, namely Willow Road, Weston Road, The Close and Townsend Cottages and also the entire length of Spring Lane. Residents all agree that the roads that actually need attention are the High Street and Little Horwood Road.

The Clerk continues to chase the Bucks Council Environment Agency for a satisfactory conclusion to the sewage problems at Greenway Business Park and Church Lane.

60A Bus Service

The Parish Council have lobbied for regular transportation to and from the village. The new service is operated twice daily on week days and travels into Buckingham and Aylesbury. It is hoped that residents will make good use of this opportunity.

LED Lighting

Mention was made last year of the replacement LED street lighting. The Parish Council are now able to report that there has been a significant reduction in electricity costs. Since electricity costs are generally increasing, it could have been a lot worse if the PC had not undertaken this project.

Worthy Causes

The PC continues to invite village organisations to apply for the Worthy Causes funding. Organisations that have benefitted in the last year include Great Horwood School, the Football Club, WI and Winslow Bus. A new applicant this year, Nook Park Residents Association have been awarded a grant and once a bank account is in place, the funds will be transferred.

Welcome Pack

The Welcome Pack is regularly updated and distributed to new residents, in particular to those on the Croudace and High Street Homes new developments. It is understood that the High Street Homes site will be fully occupied by the end of May 2022.

Community Board

The Winslow and Villages Community Board continue to offer grants of various monetary value to successful applicants. Over the past year the following has been awarded: Parish Council (for playground rubber chippings) £10350; the Scouts and Guides (refurbishment of area outside the Scout Hut and tree lopping) £2799; Great Horwood School (wildlife area) £9630.

Looking forward:

New play park on the High Street Homes site

It was agreed during the planning process that an area of land would be made available for a new play park. The funding for this project is reserved within the Section 106 agreement and it is hoped that once Buckinghamshire Council have released the funds, the play park can be completed before the High Street Homes developers leave the site. The remainder of the S106 funding will be used for the **Refurbishment of Village Hall**. Consequently, until the play park is completed no further progress can be made with the Village Hall.

New Nash Road housing

Lodge Park Homes have taken over the development of new houses on Nash Road. However planning issues are holding up the building process which need to be resolved by Buckinghamshire Council.

Solar Farm

Work on the Solar Farm at Fox Covert will start in the next financial year. The main entrance will be on the A413 but there will be traffic through the village whilst the solar farm is under construction.

Gigaclear

Gigaclear, providers of superfast fibre broadband to premises will be present in the village in the next few months and will be digging up pavements to install cables. At the present time, they are working in the Buckingham area.

Cycleway

The long-term cycleway plan linking Winslow to Great Horwood has been taken up by Buckinghamshire Council and has been renamed Active Travel Winslow – Great Horwood. A recent meeting took place on site between Buckinghamshire Councillors, Winslow Town Councillors and Great Horwood Parish Councillors. A promising start, although the PC have so far been unable to make contact with the landowners and have yet to look into funding the project. A Bucks Council update will be available at the end of April.

Litter Pick

The Parish Council will be organising a Litter Pick to take place on Sunday 8th May. It is hoped that villagers including the Cubs and Scouts will help on the morning.

Platinum Jubilee

To commemorate the Platinum Jubilee, the Parish Council have organised two events: on Thursday 2nd June the Silver Band will play on The Green from 7.30pm and the evening will finish with the beacon lighting at 9.45pm; on Sunday 5th June the Silver Band and the Giocoso Bands will play on the Rec from 12 noon. Children's games will be available. It is hoped residents will bring their own refreshments and enjoy the entertainment.

The Green Upgrade Project

The Parish Council has earmarked funds available to take this project forward. The Clerk had prepared a small display of first draft ideas for perusal at the meeting with post-it notes to complete with any comments. It is hoped to have a wider consultation available at a later date in Focus. Cllr Gilbey paused the meeting so those residents present could view the plans.

4.

Report from Buckinghamshire Councillors

Cllr Chilver said that it had been an honour to represent Great Horwood on Buckinghamshire Council over the past year since last May's elections. All three Buckinghamshire Councillors would like to thank the Parish Council for their kind welcome to Council meetings and their support over the year. Between them they try to ensure that at least one attends every Parish Council meeting.

Cllr John Chilver is currently serving as Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources, Property and Assets; Cllr Sir Beville Stanier is on the Licensing Committee and also Vice Chairman of the Winslow and Villages Community Board; and Cllr David Goss as well as being a Winslow Town Councillor is on the Finance and Resources Scrutiny Committee.

As usual, a number of issues which they have been involved in over the year have related to roads and footpaths. They have a monthly meeting with the Local Area Technician Matt Whincup which is helpful to raise immediate concerns. It was good to see the completion of the resurfacing of Spring Lane and the four roads to the south of Little Horwood Road last summer. They have been lobbying for road improvements to both the High Street and Little Horwood Road and Matt Whincup has requested that they be included in future plane and patch scheme funding.

Another issue they have been involved in is supporting the plans for the Winslow to Great Horwood cycle path. They facilitated a site visit last summer by the Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure, Clive Harriss, to discuss the route and options and this was followed up recently by an online call with officers and consultants from Bucks Council who are exploring feasibility. The main challenges are securing the landowners' consent and obtaining the funding but they are happy to continue to support the project.

They have been involved in a number of planning decisions over the year and have called in planning applications when requested so that they would be considered by the planning committee, including the chicken farm at Pilch Lane. The final adoption of the Vale of Aylesbury Plan which took place last September will provide a stronger framework for future planning decisions.

The new Winslow and Villages Community Board is chaired by Cllr Jilly Jordan of the Great Brickhill Ward. They are very happy to support the funding application which has been submitted by Great Horwood School for the Seeds of Hope Garden of Tranquillity Project and look forward to seeing the project develop.

They hold a monthly residents' surgery on the first Sunday of every month (the same day as the Winslow Farmers' Market) from 10.30 – 12.00am at the Winslow Town Council offices 28 High Street and all are welcome to discuss any local issues.

They are always happy to hear from residents and their contact details are on the Buckinghamshire Council website.

5.

Brief reports from village organisations

Silver Band

Andrew Cook introduced himself as Chairman and has been a member of the band for 40 plus years. For fifteen months the band couldn't practice due to Covid restrictions and relied on zoom meetings to keep in touch. They were able to resume indoor rehearsals in September 2021 and have enjoyed returning to their regular events including playing at the Village Fete, Remembrance Day services, carol concerts and playing on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day morning. Even though they have lost only a few members and are in a fortunate position, they must recruit new members for the future. As well as recruitment, their other priority is updating their website and advertising events on facebook to raise the profile of the band.

Football Club

Vyv Rudd introduced himself as Chairman of Great Horwood Football Club. Unlike last year, this season the football teams have played uninterrupted with varying degrees of success. The football club have been fortunate to recruit children for the junior teams and now have teams at Under 8's and Under 9's. The presentation for the junior section will take place on The Green on Saturday 3rd June during the Platinum Jubilee weekend. They have a senior section (if they win or draw their last match of the season, they win the league); a Reserves Team (who have done well, too) and a Vet's Team (who enjoy turning up and having fun!) Mr Rudd wished to thank the Parish Council for the Worthy Causes grant last year. They were able to purchase the new Under 8's football kit and some new goals.

WI

Mrs Kathy Thompson, Vice Chair of the Great Horwood and Singleborough WI, said that the group had faced some challenging times but had kept going with a mixture of zoom meetings and face-to-face meetings. They had managed to book some interesting speakers and thanked the Parish Council for the Worthy Causes grant that has made this possible. They had enjoyed a tea party at Horwood House last summer and their August meeting at Horwode Pece. The Walking Group continues to meet on a Monday morning in all weathers and they recently enjoyed their annual meal at Winslow Bistro. They intend to advertise their programme to the new developments and hope to gain some new members.

Winslow and District Community Bus

Miss Sheila Cadge, Secretary of Winslow Bus, explained that the Community Bus was very slowly getting back to what would be considered normal. People are gradually beginning to feel more confident with the Rules and Regulations in place. She thanked the Parish Council for their generous donation which helped to pay for the vehicle to be deep cleaned each month. The committee are still working on a programme for this year. They have had three hires for the first time in two and a half years which is good news.

Great Horwood C E School

Mrs Paula Shaw, Headteacher of the School, spoke about the challenges faced since the children and staff returned to school after the various school lockdowns. Children and staff in recent times have been unable to socialise and build up their immunity systems to minor germs, so consequently there have been illnesses in school including sickness, chicken pox and Covid. In many ways, times are more challenging now than during the pandemic. She wished to thank the Parish Council for their generous Worthy Causes grant to fund the following:

Brass music lessons – the children in Years 4,5 and 6 very much enjoy their subsidised music lessons. Brass was chosen because it is hoped that children might support the village Silver Band in the future. The Silver Band came into School to perform a concert and the children were able to join in with Jingle Bells. Mrs Shaw explained that music has helped with mental health issues and helped children to relax.

Art Workshop – a local artist will be visiting school to work with all children on the theme Rabbits. A camera has been set up in the nature area to support the day's art activities. New printing inks, paints and pencils were also purchased with the Worthy Causes grant.

They had a visit from OFSTED in January and received a Good outcome. The school were very pleased.

Mrs Sarah Biswell, Chair of Governors, wished to thank the Parish Council for the Worthy Causes grant which was used to pay for the Ecology Report to start the Seeds of Hope project in the conservation area. They had received an additional £9630 from the Community Board towards this project and have submitted a further application for £25,000. Mrs Biswell thanked the Parish Council for organising the school directional signs that help newcomers locate the school.

Arts and Craft Group

Mrs Liz Nicholls said that they are a small group that meet on Friday mornings, 10am to 12 noon. To start with they brought their own activities but then decided to organise a project. They are currently working on canvas work. The meetings have helped members socially during these challenging times. New members always welcome.

St James' Church

David Brazier, Churchwarden, explained that it had been two and a half years since the lead had been stolen from the church roof. The planning permission has at last been granted and the Church faculty has recently been approved. The PCC are waiting for final costings before starting the process of applying for grants. Our Rector Rev Andrew Lightbown has moved on to pastures new in Wales so we are in what is called an interregnum. The Church Community are being very well looked after by our Curate Rev Mark Nelson as well as our Self-Supporting Minister Rev Didier Jacquet, retired Minister Rev Alan Hodgetts and United Reformed Minister Rev Daphne Preece. The church is an Inclusive Church and everyone is welcome to all services at 11.00am. The main fundraising events taking place towards the roof project are the Plant Stall with refreshments and raffle in May and the Village Fete and Dog Show in July. He wished to thank the Parish Council for their contribution towards the churchyard mowing costs this year.

Focus

David Brazier, one of the Editors of Focus, said that a copy of Focus is distributed to each household every month (apart from January and August) and the team hope it is useful. Village organisations are encouraged to write articles which are free of charge. The individuals and companies who pay to advertise their services contribute to the printing costs of this free magazine. Mr Brazier wished to thank the Parish Council for their donation towards the colour printing costs ensuring that the front and back covers are colourfully presented.

Village Hall

Mr Ian Lamberton, Chair of the Village Hall Committee and Bookings Clerk was very pleased that those present could use the Village Hall after a number of challenging years. He explained that since the previous APM, the Village Hall had had much work done namely a new roof, disabled access, LED emergency lamps, new fire alarm and a new noticeboard. Organisations were not able to use the Village Hall during the various lockdowns but the travelling Post Office was able to provide this essential service each week. Mr Lamberton wished to thank the Village Hall Committee, in particular Cllr Caroline Cousin for writing the detailed Health and Safety Risk Assessments and for organising the social distancing in the hall with sticky tape, thereby keeping users as safe as possible. He also wished to thank the Parish Council for the generous donation provided by the coffee van each week in lieu of paying rent to use The Green. Thanks also to Cllr John Gilbey for securing a number of significant grants in order to keep the hall running. The hall is now used for Lent lunches, yoga, pilates, Post Office, Silver Band and children's parties.

The Village Hall will be refurbished in the future using S106 monies available from the new housing. Once a more definite amount of funding is known, the Committee will involve the village in more formal discussions so the hall will appeal to everyone.

Scouts and Guides

Yvonne Taylor, Group Scout Leader, said that the Scouting Group had continued to run with a mixture of online and face-to-face meetings. One way or another, they had kept in touch with the young people. Since meetings have now returned to normal, there has been an increase in numbers and also a waiting list. There is a strong leadership team who have planned many interesting activities: Residentials at Nash Village Hall, den building at College Wood and Howe Park, water kayaking at Great Moor Sailing Club and bridge building in Pilch Lane. There was a full turn-out for the village Litter Pick last year and the Scouts also helped run the children's games at the Village Fete. During the Remembrance Sunday Service in November two new leaders were invested. Three Cubs have received their Silver Chief Scouts Award and two Leaders have received their Wood Beads. The Headquarters has received new fencing and the crowning of a tree to make the outside area safe. The next project is to alter the inside of the premises to install a disabled toilet. Mrs Taylor wished to thank the children, parents and carers, and the Committee for contributing to make the group a success.

Horwode Pece

John Nicholls, Chairman of the Horwode Pece Management Committee, wished to thank his team of volunteers that maintain the equipment to RoSPA standards. He explained that if the Rec checkers find any issues, these are logged and action is taken at the Working Parties each year. At the last working party, part of the teenage ramp was replaced that had been on the Rec for about ten years. Last year the wood chip cushion fall was replaced with rubber chippings which will be far more

6.	<p>6. durable. New volunteers are always welcome. Twice yearly working parties and regular reports are advertised in Focus.</p> <p>Open Forum</p> <p>School Mrs Shaw said that the school are hoping to increase the number of classes in September to 4. There will be around 80 children registered including ten in the Reception Class.</p> <p>Litter Pick Mrs Taylor is hoping for a good turn-out at the Litter Pick again this year to support the Parish Council and wider village.</p> <p>Cllr Dave Taylor wished to thank the Silver Band for playing around the village at Christmas time and especially on Christmas morning. They are a great asset to the village.</p>
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The meeting closed at 8.50pm

Signed.....**DRAFT**Date

Chairman