



## Great Horwood Parish Council

# Great Horwood Parish Council

Minutes of an Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2016 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, Great Horwood

Present: Cllr John Scholtens (JS) (Chairman), Cllr John Gilbey (JWG) (Vice Chairman), Cllr Angela Mayne (AM), Cllr Mary Saunders (MS), Cllr Jane Holland (JH), Cllr John Gunn (JG), Cllr John Huskinson (JRH), Mandy Cliffe Parish Clerk, 12 members of the public including County Cllr John Chilver and District Cllr Sir Beville Stanier.

1. To receive apologies for absence  
All present.
2. To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2015  
Item 4 (final bullet point) was hand amended to read "*Cllr AM investigated the purchase of a new ground screw for the MVAS...*"
3. To receive declarations of interest  
None were received.
4. To consider matters arising from the Minutes of the last meeting
  - Ian Walker will carry out a trial strimming of the area around the five village planters when the vegetation is in growth.
  - AVDC was advised of the precept request of £25,685.
  - The final budget was circulated for approval.
  - The Clerk informed AVDC of the Horwood Mill S106 requirement; i.e. using the funding for Horwode Pece equipment and of the Weston Road S106 requirement; i.e. the refurbishment or rebuilding of the village hall.
  - Having read the minutes of the previous meeting, Mr Alan Marlow had emailed to ask if the PC could explain S106 payments. Cllr JS had done this to Mr Marlow's satisfaction.
  - Cllr JS reported that he and Cllr JWG had met with architects on 22 January 2016 to discuss plans for the Nash Road NP site. Issues raised were the lack of affordable housing, insufficient parking and the need to take account of the floodplain. A revised outline plan is awaited.
5. Presentation of Cheques for Worthy Causes  
Formal cheque presentations were made by Cllr JS to the Silver Band (represented by President Len Goodwin, Secretary Beryl Lack and Chairman Roy Lack), Winslow and District Community Bus (Trustee Lynne King) and Focus magazine (June Margerrison). Cllr JS thanked and congratulated each organisation, presented the cheques and photographs were taken. The presentation to the GHCE School had taken place earlier in the day at the new twin climbing tower in the school playground.
6. Public Participation Period
  - On behalf of the Football Club Cllr JH requested permission to use The Green for their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations in June 2016.
  - Cllrs JH and JS raised, on behalf of residents, the issue of the failed road surface on Pilch Lane near the chicken farm (*NB within Adstock Parish*) caused by heavy lorries based at Adstockfields/Pilch Farm. In addition, lorries have been seen heading in the direction of Great Horwood in order to bypass the failed road, (*NB in contravention of company instructions to turn left out of the farm*). In doing so they cross a weak bridge (*NB map ref. SP759315*) which is already being monitored for cracking; the possibility of collapse making it a safety issue. County Cllr. John Chilver (JC) said that Transport for Bucks (TfB) were aware of the condition of Pilch Lane and a survey would be conducted. He requested that details be emailed to him. (**Action JS**). The clerk was also asked to report the problem to TfB (**Action Clerk**).
  - Cllr JS raised the issue of drastic farm hedge cutting on Pilch Lane (*NB starting at map ref.SP759315*). He voiced environmental concerns and asked County Cllr JC and the Clerk to raise the matter with the District Council and environmental bodies. (**Action Clerk**). County Cllr JC requested that details be emailed to him. (**Action JS**).
  - Cllr JWG reported potholes in Church Lane to the right of the Crown Public House. As this area is not owned by Great Horwood PC, the Clerk was asked to contact the "Report It Pothole" website at Bucks County Council (**Action Clerk**).
7. Report from the Recreation Committee  
The report is attached to these Minutes.
8. Footpaths Report  
Robert Deuchar had nothing to report to the meeting.

#### 9. Devolution of Services

A motion was proposed by Cllr JWG:

"It is proposed that Great Horwood Parish Council takes over from Buckinghamshire County Council (BCC) the devolved service of grass cutting etc. that is currently on offer for three years from April 2016 with guaranteed payments of £1933.43 for each of the 3 years and that Thomas Redding Contracts are appointed as the Council's official contractor to carry out the work itemised in the contract".

It was decided that, as the subject of Devolution had been extensively discussed, a decision must now be made. The Council, led by Cllrs JRH and JWG summarised the situation:

- £10m liability insurance was in place with both the Council and the Contractor's insurance companies.
- Employers Liability would be the responsibility of the Contractor (Ian Walker of Thomas Redding Contracts).
- There is an option to cancel the contract with 6 months notice.
- There would be no guarantee of any funding for grass cutting (or other items covered by this phase of Devolution) in three years time.
- TfB (Transport for Bucks) had already carried out a risk assessment for this phase of Devolution.
- Spot checks would usually be carried out as a result of a complaint from a member of the public and then in only 5% of cases.
- Little Horwood would be accepting the same package with the same contractor.
- The PC were already employing the contractor to mow Horwode Pece and had confidence in his work.
- The contractor had provided a price range within the payment provided by BCC dependant on the work he is required to carry out.
- Landowners who do not comply with PC requests (e.g. to trim hedges that block public footpaths) would be referred to BCC legal department for further action.
- Standards applied to the agreement would be the responsibility of the Parish Council.
- Cllr JWG agreed to take on the responsibility of Devolution Liaison Officer.
- The use, availability, licensing and quality of maps required to carry out Devolution responsibilities were described as inadequate by Cllrs MS and JH.

Comprehensive discussion took place. Cllr MS said that Devolution was wrong in principle and costs would increase. Cllr JWG proposed the motion and JRH seconded it. The motion was carried by five votes to two with Cllrs JS and MS voting against.

#### 10. Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations (QBC) – Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2016

The Council discussed plans for QBC and decided that:

- A beacon would be lit on the edge of The Green. The gas beacon used for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, currently being stored by Andrew Fuggle, was confirmed to be in working order. The Clerk would ascertain whether a new gas cylinder would be needed and whether Mr Fuggle would be willing to help with the beacon. **(Action Clerk)**
- Two people would be attendance on the beacon at any one time and chairs would be arranged around it as a safety cordon. Cars would need to be cleared from The Green.
- Cllr JH would speak to the Crown Public House to advise of our plans as they may wish to provide refreshments **(Action JH)** and Cllr AM would ask the WI whether they would like to participate **(Action AM)**.
- The Clerk would ask bell ringers and the GH Silver Band whether they would be willing to help mark the occasion. **(Action Clerk)**.

#### 11. Horwood Feast

The Council was asked to confirm the date and rental amount for the 2016 Horwood Feast. It was agreed that Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> August would be the set up date with 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> August for operating the funfair. Cllr JS proposed and the Council was unanimous in deciding that the rental would remain the same as 2015 at £275.00. Cllr JWG said that the funfair arrived too early last year and should be reminded of the 2.00pm arrival window. **(Action Clerk)**. Additionally, Cllr JH asked that the organisers be reminded of the need to keep noise to a minimum when clearing up on the end night. **(Action Clerk)**.

#### 12. Produce Show

GH resident Paul Robertson had made a request to hold a Produce Show on The Green (date TBD in September). Mr Robertson also asked whether the PC Public Liability Insurance would cover his show. The Clerk, having contacted Zurich Insurance, reported that it did not, unless the Parish Council organised the event. Cllr JS was keen that Mr Robertson retain ownership of the event. Cllr JWG suggested that Mr Robertson get a quote for liability insurance and that the PC would consider a contribution to mitigate the cost. Cllrs JRH questioned whether both the Football Club and St James Church, for their annual Fete, had their own Public Liability Insurance. **(Action Clerk)**.

Cllr JRH raised the subject of clearing The Green of cars for public events and the possibility of noise nuisance at night. Cllr JH assured the PC that the organiser of the Football Anniversary lived on The Green and would be consulting neighbours. Drivers would have to be notified to move their cars through notices and Focus.

#### 13. Annual Parish Meeting

It was agreed that the Annual Parish Meeting would be held at 7.30pm on Monday April 11<sup>th</sup>, after a shortened PC Meeting at 6.30pm. Local GH groups and societies would be asked to report briefly on their activities during the previous year.

14. Great Horwood & Singleborough Recreation Trust (GHSRT) Bank Account

JH reported that plans to have a separate bank account for the GHSRT were advanced. The Clerk advised that any capital expenditure should continue to be made through the PC so that VAT could be reclaimed.

15. Milton Keynes Plan & Oxford and Cambridge Expressway

Cllr MS praised the consultation document "Plan MK Strategic Development Directions" which is part of the development of the MK Local Plan. Consultation meetings have been arranged at Newton Longville (Longueville Hall) on 4<sup>th</sup> March and Whaddon on 23<sup>rd</sup> March (both events open from 6.00pm to 9.00pm). Interested parties would have every opportunity to ask questions as MK were making every effort to invite views from local residents and neighbouring districts. MK has land available in central Milton Keynes but is also looking south and south west for possible development areas which would impact on GH. MS urged as many people as possible to attend one of these meetings. In parallel, MK Council's 'MK Futures 2050 Commission' is examining longer term issues.

Cllr JS commented that AVDC had always acted as a buffer to south west expansion in the past and Cllr MS highlighted problems with infrastructure should this direction be chosen. For example, the A413 was not considered strategic and not earmarked for improvement. Also further duelling of the A421 was considered unlikely. The Oxford Cambridge Expressway is at the study stage with the route undecided but if it were to take a westerly route, this would cut North Bucks off from the rest of the AVDC.

16. School Crossing Patrol

Cllr JRH advised that a traffic count had been carried out. The GHSRT School had asked Angela Gunn to act as coordinator for the crossing patrol. The PC would be required to fund preliminary work including the marking of lines outside the St James Church and the fixing of warning lights.

17. Weston Road Planning Application

Cllr JWG expressed thanks to David Saunders (DS) for his help in preparing the discussion document circulated to Councillors. He made the following points:

- That the Inquiry would take place on the 15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> March 2016 at the AVDC Offices, (The Diamond Room, The Gateway, Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury, Bucks, HP19 8FF), starting at 10.am.
- That GHPC will be represented by Matthew Dale-Harris, Barrister from Landmark Chambers, to concentrate on the legal aspects of the case; by David Saunders who will describe the issues arising in the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan and by Neil Homer who will be our expert witness on the planning issues.
- Each of these will be submitting their evidence in advance and will be subject to cross examination by the representatives of the opposing parties.
- Additional speakers will be allowed to make a contribution but their evidence should be screened for repetition. Three main areas need to be covered, legal/planning, sustainability and localism.
- The timetable for the additional speakers would be arranged on the first morning of the Inquiry.
- Offers to speak in support of GHPC had been received from Roy Van De Poll from Winslow Town Council, Vick Otter (Winslow Neighbourhood Plan), Cllrs JS and JH (first day only). It was suggested that Rod Moulding would be an additional good choice of speaker.
- As many members of the public as possible should be encouraged to attend as representation and support was required on each day.

Cllr JRH asked whether all speakers could be cross examined. DS said that, on the advice of Matthew Dale Harris, any speaker could, in principle, be cross examined and that the evidence of those who were tested would carry more weight. Examination of non-expert speakers was unlikely to be aggressive and cross examination of local residents was unusual.

DS requested that the Parish's invitation to give evidence on behalf of GHPC and his acceptance form part of the Minutes of this meeting.

18. Planning Report

Cllr JS commented on the length of time it was taking for AVDC to resolve planning issues such as the Nash Travellers' site (for which the way forward had already been agreed at a meeting with Greg Clark SofS for Communities and Local Government, John Bercow MP and Carole Paternoster of AVDC). With reference to the Horwood Mill application, DS advised that the delay was caused by the developers appealing against AVDC's refusal of planning consent. Cllr MS regretted that GHPC is not formally consulted on a number of issues such as the change of materials to a Singleborough planning application 15/A0258/DIS. *(NB this was queried with AVDC whose response was "We do not consult on discharge of condition [suffix /DIS] only on planning applications [e.g. suffix /APP]").*

19. Update on the Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr JS reported that

- Nash PC were considering the preparation of a NP and that Cllr JWG and DS would give their advice.
- Jonathan Harbottle, (on behalf of Land and Partners Ltd), had requested a meeting to discuss development of the land south of Little Horwood Road (Policy 2 under the GHNP 2020/2031). Cllr JS, Cllr JWG and DS would meet them. JS expressed concern that their plans "pulled in" the reserve site. He stated that the Parish could not agree to use of the reserve site at least until the

outcome of the Weston Road Inquiry was decided but most importantly until the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (VALP) had been finalised. Moreover, in the event that large scale developments were approved, the Parish would have grounds to contest the use of the reserve site (which was only identified under direction from the Neighbourhood Plan Examiner).

Cllr JWG said that Gladmans had requested a meeting with GH Planning Committee to discuss their vision for Winslow; plans to build 1500 houses on the right hand side of the Great Horwood Road, crossing the boundary into GH Parish. The decision on whether or not to meet Gladmans was considered by Llew Monger, Deputy Chair of Winslow Town Council, Roy Van De Poll (WTC) Cllr JWG, DS and Neil Homer who advised meeting Peter Williams of Forward Planning at AVDC first. Mr Williams uncovered a number of issues on which Gladmans could be challenged such as ownership of the land, compliance with VALP and the veracity of their description of an estate road as a bypass. Cllr JWG confirmed that Winslow and GH would meet Gladmans together, with Cllr JWG and DS representing GHPC. Once again, a development has been proposed which is in conflict with the made Neighbourhood Plan and the wishes of the local community.

20. Reports

- i. North Bucks Parishes Planning Group (NBPPG) meeting 20th January 2016 (Attended by Cllr MS)
- ii. Bucks County Council Parishes Liaison Meeting 27 January 2016 (Attended by Cllr JWG)

Reports were submitted for both meetings and are attached to these minutes. Cllr JS gave his personal thanks to Councillors for attending meetings on behalf of the PC.

21. Budget

As requested at the previous PC Meeting, the Clerk circulated the final version of the budget with changes to reflect the additional funding requested by GHSRT for the purchase of a slide and for maintenance of Horwood Pece. The cost of the Inquiry (Estimated at £8,000) would be met from reserves.

22. MVAS

The Clerk advised that the MVAS maintenance contract had been renewed with Swarco, prompting Mick Wood to ask when the annual inspection would be carried out. **(Action Clerk)**. He added that MVAS readings remained constant, supporting the need for TVP speed enforcement action. JS asked what progress TVP had made in identifying a suitable site for the Enforcement vehicle. **(Action Clerk)**.

23. To agree items for payment

- Village Hall rental - £132.00 cheque (retrospective)
- Leigh Day Barrister Matthew Dale-Harris fees £450.00 NPT ACCT BACS (retrospective)
- RCOH (Rule 6 statement) - £1500 – NPT ACCT BACS (retrospective)
- AVDC Dog Waste service £610.20 - BACS (retrospective)
- Swarco Traffic £240.00 (retrospective)
- Eon Maintenance Bill £110.70 (retrospective)
- Clerks BCC Accounts & VAT Training Courses £95.08 – cheque

24. To receive and note correspondence

Letters were received from The Great Horwood Silver Band and the Winslow Community Bus thanking GHPC for Parishes generous donations to their respective groups. These were much appreciated by the Council on behalf of GH residents.

25. Items for the next meeting

Football Anniversary/Produce Show  
Report on the Community Impact Bucks workshop on Working with Volunteers  
Devolved Services, Risk Register and Policy  
Parish Annual General Meeting  
Weston Road Planning Inquiry  
Clean for the Queen Litter Pick

26. Confirmation of date and time of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2016 at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ **DRAFT** \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Planning Committee Report - for meeting on 8th February 2015

Below are current and recent Planning Applications. The Parish Council is invited to ratify the comments made to AVDC on behalf of the Planning Committee since the last meeting.

### CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Date Received	Application Number	Applicant	Site Address	Details of Application	Parish Council Response	AVDC Decision
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#### Determined

05/11/2015	15/03656/APP	Mr S Hole	Cross Roads Kennels	First Floor Extension	No Objection	Approved
18/08/2015	15/02811/APP	Mr E Dablin	Timbers, 2 Church Lane	Refurbishment of roof and new gate and fence	No Objection	Approved
18/08/2015	15/02602/ALB	Mr E Dablin	Timbers, 2 Church Lane	Internal alterations; convert 2 no. windows to door openings; refurbishment of roof and new concrete ground floor slab	No Objection	Approved

#### Pending

29/08/2014	14/02414/AOP	Talbot Homes	Land at Willow Road	Outline application with access to be considered and all other matters reserved for the erection of up to 34 dwellings including associated infrastructure and work.	Objection	
25/09/2014	14/01540/APP (Revised)	Taylor Wimpey	Land off Weston Road	The erection of 42 no. residential dwellings together with associated access, car parking, landscaping and open space provision.	Objection	
29/04/2015	15/00038/REF	Ms M McArthy	Land Off Little Horwood Road Nash Buckinghamshire	Change of use of land to residential use for one static caravan , one touring caravan and car parking for Gypsy family	Objection	No further info on planning portal
07/07/2015	15/02233/APP	Mrs Carmel Williams	Land opposite Causter Farm	Removal of Condition 2 on planning application ref 10/00680/APP allowed on appeal with ref APP/J0405/C/11/2148933 and APP/J0405/A/11/2148930 to allow permanent occupation of the mobile homes on site	Objection	Still awaiting decision
12/11/2015	15/03250/APP	Mr P Davis	6 The Close	Dropped kerb to allow off road parking	No Objection	
12/11/2015	15/03804/APP	Mr Houghton Hennigan	Crossroads Kennels	Widening of 2no. existing crossovers.	No Objection	
24/11/2015	15/03884/APP	Mr & Mrs Wootton	9 a Little Horwood Road	<a href="#">Demolition of existing sheds and construction of a new detached dwelling to "Passivhaus" criteria.</a>	Objection	
09/12/2015	15/03902/APP	Mr P Brooker	Medical Dogs	Accommodation to provide dog training facilities together with ancillary offices car parking provision and landscaping.	No Objection	
10/12/2015	15/04114/APP	Mr T Storey	Blue Gates, 1 Church Lane GH	<a href="#">Removal of bay window, store and garage. Erection of extensions with internal alterations. Re-build front wall and form vehicle and pedestrian access points. General repairs and maintenance</a>		
10/12/2015	15/04115/ALB	Mr T Storey	Blue Gates, 1 Church Lane GH	<a href="#">Removal of bay window, store and garage. Erection of extensions with internal alterations. Re-build front wall and form vehicle and pedestrian access points. General repairs and maintenance</a>		
10/12/2015	15/04134/ALB	Mr C Sellars	Old Vine Cottage, Singleborough	Erection of single storey rear extension; alterations to existing extension and demolition of detached garage.		
10/12/2015	15/04084/ALB	Mr C Sellars	Old Vine Cottage, Singleborough	Erection of single storey rear extension; alterations to existing extension and demolition of detached garage.		

## **Horwode Pece Management Committee - Report to Parish Council December 2015**

Since the working party in mid October the Rec appears to be in very good condition, given the time of year. Even with all the rain there are no major areas of flooding, although shortly after a period of rain there is still much standing water.

Some items planned in the working party could not be completed. It had been planned to replace the damaged and rotten wooden surround of the infant's area, however on inspection, it was found that the D shaped wood sections were an unusual size, so this repair will be complete at the spring working party.

A budget for 2016 has been prepared and submitted to the Parish Council. These minor repairs have been included, as have replacement of the oldest of the picnic tables. The major items in this budget is the top-up of the woodchip in both play areas and a further contribution to the purchase of a slide, which with installation was more expensive than earlier quotations had led us to believe.

The two ramps to each play area were measured with a view to replacing them. This proved too expensive, £420 to replace and treat both ramps. Further research on the internet has suggested an equally good but lower cost option that may prove more robust; this would be to fit anti-slip grips that can be screwed on to the existing treads of each ramp. The cost of this option is £70-£80 and we ask for permission to go ahead with this option and spend this amount from our 2016 budget early so that we may fit these non-slip grips before the worst of the winter weather.

John Nicholls  
Chairman

## **GREAT HORWOOD PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Report of meeting of North Bucks Parishes Planning Consortium held on 20 January 2016**

There was a discussion was about how AVDC was treating made Neighbourhood Plans, for example at Haddenham, Winslow and Great Horwood. Parishes which were considering Neighbourhood Plans were encouraged to continue.

It was noted :

- ⑩ AVDC's draft local plan consultation is scheduled for Spring 2016 with proposed submission consultation in late Summer 2016.
- ⑩ Better information is being received from Milton Keynes Council than AVDC in relation to proposals for development of SW Milton Keynes
- ⑩ Several parishes are subject to hostile planning applications and planning enquiries are in the offing for Great Horwood and Winslow.
- ⑩ Little Horwood have increased their precept to cover grass cutting but this leaves them unable to afford anything else.
- ⑩ As part of the development of Plan:MK, their Local Plan, Milton Keynes Council are carrying out a Strategic Development Directions Consultation. This explores and seeks views on several options for the location of further development. The consultation period runs from 13 January to 6 April. MKC have arranged various local consultation events including a drop in session at Whaddon on 23 March between 6.00 pm and 9.00 pm which includes presentations at 6.30 pm and 8.00 pm as well as a Q and A session. Another event is planned for Newton Longville – details yet to be announced.

I flew a kite about whether North Bucks would be better served by being linked to Milton Keynes rather than Aylesbury, because we have better connections with Milton Keynes.

MAL Saunders  
4 February 2016

## **Report from the Bucks County Council Parish Liaison Meeting of 27<sup>th</sup> January 2016**

I have attended this meeting quite regularly over a number of years and this was the best attended that I can recall with representatives from more than 30 parishes in attendance.

**Chris Williams** gave a brief review of the current financial situation and then answered a number of questions (Chris Williams last meeting as he retires in March)

- Government Grant reduced from £42million to zero over 2 years – so 2017/18 no government grant
- £11 million Business Rates top up lost over 2 years
- £0.75 million lost from education support
- Have lobbied Greg Clark and some hope that the cuts may spread out a little.
- So +2% Council tax for Adult Social Services plus 1.99% but not enough to cover the shortfall

**So**

Many reductions to be made in services including those which directly affect parishes as follows

- Withdraw funding for extra PCSO's
- Reduced Bus subsidies
- Reduce LAF funding from £780k to £500k
- Reduce Local Area Technicians from 18 to 14

All the cuts planned still do not meet shortfall so plan to use some of the £20 million reserve which has been built up to purchase the incinerator at Calvert and so will then need to borrow to complete the purchase.

**Devolution**

- 44 parishes joined in Tranche 1
- 46 have declared an interest in joining Tranche 2
- 35 have not yet replied

Rebecca Carley gave reports on the LAF review and the analysis of the LAF participants survey and levels of attendance at LAF's. The details of this will be published at a later date.

There was a report from the Director of Transport Services once again emphasising the current stringent financial situation and the need to make savings and to work as efficiently as possible. The capital investment programme for roads will continue but at a reduced level of £15million.

Cllr. John Gilbey  
5<sup>th</sup> February 2016