



**Great Horwood
Parish Council**

Great Horwood Parish Council

Minutes of an ordinary meeting held on 9th November 2009 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, Great Horwood.

Present: Cllr John Gilbey (Chairman), Cllr Rod Moulding (Vice-chairman), Cllr Michael Brocklehurst, Cllr Ian Lamberton, Cllr Moya Berrill, Cllr James Samways
16 members of the public

1. To receive apologies for absence
None.
2. To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th October 2009
These were approved without modification.
3. To receive declarations of interest
None received.
4. To consider matters arising from the Minutes of the last meeting
 - PCSO Lucy Andrews has given an update on parking at the top of Spring Lane. Letters have been left on three vehicles and fines will be issued if the same vehicles reoffend. She will continue to monitor the situation and will leave more letters if necessary.
 - Waste bins have been ordered and are expected to be delivered during the middle of November.
 - Paths at Horwode Pece are due to be finished this week.
 - Three councillors will be attending the Whaddon Chase presentation at Shenley Church End Council offices on 10th November.
 - No further feedback has been received on the review of the Conservation Area.
 - AVDC have been sent the applications for Perfect Village Sunday, Music in Quiet Places and Play around the Parishes but no response has been received
5. Parish Youth Council
Carl Cheevers, the Youth Development Manager from AVDC gave a short talk on Parish Youth Councils (PYC) and how it could benefit Great Horwood. The aim is to give young people a voice within the village and to get them to participate more with issues that concern them.

The key points of a PYC are as follows:

- Membership must be inclusive.
- It should utilise existing structures.
- It can be formal or informal.
- It is owned by the Young People of the parish who are able to make decisions.
- It should have some budget allocation in order to provide responsibility.
- It can run independently of the current Parish Council.

Cheddington was used as an example of a good PYC and Carl offered to arrange a visit if any young people were interested.

Further information can be obtained from Carl at youthprojects@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk.

6. Public Participation Period
Mr David Bolton asked for the Parish Council to take into account the current economic climate and the fact that there had been significant increases in the Parish Precept in recent years when setting the budgets for the next financial year. Cllr Gilbey assured him these issues would be considered.

Mrs Sylvia Whitehall asked what could be done to stop horses using the footpaths on the Nash Road. It was suggested that she contacted PCSO Lucy Andrews but it was also agreed that the Clerk would also contact Lucy.

Mrs Liz Nicholls suggested that the second phase of equipment installation at Horwode Pece may need planning permission. Cllr Moulding suggested that Mr David Bolton provided information of what is planned and then Cllr Moulding would get some informal advice from AVDC.

7. To receive and consider reports from Committees of Council
 - 7.1. Cllr Moulding updated the Council on the report from the Planning Committee with current open applications. There was a distinct view that the drawings provided for the Tythe House application were not sufficient and the clerk has been asked to contact AVDC to see if further information can be provided.

Other points noted included the following:

- The appeal on 22 Greenway has been successful and planning permission has now been given
- The issue of Salden Chase will be discussed later in the meeting.
- Three councillors are attending the presentation on Whaddon Chase Green and will report back at the next meeting.
- The Local Development Framework is now in the hands of the Secretary of State and there is little for the Planning Committee to do until the next examination in February 2010.

- 7.2. Cllr Brocklehurst updated the Council on the recent inspection report from Horwode Pece. A number of issues have been highlighted including the following.

- The preliminary work on paths has been completed and should hopefully be finished by the end of the week.
- The overhead line is to be taken down but no timescale has been given by Eon.
- The base of the bench on the north side is to be repaired.
- A split in the wood surround was caused by the grass cutter, so the way grass is cut will have to be reviewed.
- The working party in October was cancelled due to bad weather but this will hopefully be rearranged.
- The trust received £334 from David Rowlands which has paid for the picnic table installed in July.
- Further grants have been applied for and once it is known whether these will be received or not, a decision will be made on what further equipment to purchase.
- A supplementary point relates to trees at the bottom of Spring Lane. Some appear to be dead and are vulnerable in high winds. Cllr Gilbey and Clerk Karen Francis will look into ownership and contact the owner.

8. Great Horwood Cricket Club

Gary Lee, secretary of Great Horwood Cricket Club (GHCC) was invited to address the council. GHCC are requesting an extension to their lease as they are looking for significant funding to improve existing facilities. The club currently has 60-70 youth members (under 16's) and 8 coaches. There is also a ladies team.

The Parish Council are the sole trustees of the land and GHCC currently have an understanding which enables them to use the land. Gary explained that GHCC were looking to extend their lease until 2032 as they need a minimum tenure of 15 years for the size of the grant they are looking to obtain. The club are happy to have either an extension of the existing agreement or a new lease with a more formal understanding.

Cllr Berrill suggested a formal lease was drawn up although the stipulations within the lease should be fairly simple. Cllr Brocklehurst suggested the PC would need a solicitor to draw up a lease. It was agreed that GHCC would be happy to take this cost.

Cllr Gilbey raised the issue of rent for the existing land used by the Cricket Club (currently 5 acres). It was suggested the rent should be similar to other clubs within the village and a figure of £47.50 per acre per year was mentioned. Gary explained GHCC had been working to a similar figure and although this was not a figure agreed it didn't seem likely that the rent cost would be a sticking point.

One final point was raised by Cllr Brocklehurst who questioned whether there would be a problem granting a long lease as the land is owned by a charity. The clerk agreed to contact the Charities Commission to see if this was an issue.

It was explained that GHCC are currently working to tight timescales as the installation needs to be in by 31st March 2010. It was therefore agreed a working party be set up. Cllr Gilbey, Cllr Berrill and Cllr Brocklehurst agreed they would be the three members of this working party.

A formal resolution is required to set up a working party and therefore it was resolved that a working party of three councillors would be set up to investigate the legal considerations and terms of a lease of the old Recreation ground to the Cricket Club and to negotiate terms with the Cricket Club. The working party will have delegated powers, after consultation with the other members of the Parish Council (which does not necessarily have to be at a meeting of the Parish Council), to agree terms and to sign lease documents on behalf of the Council.

Cllr Moulding proposed the resolution, Cllr Brocklehurst seconded the resolution and the vote was unanimously in favour.

9. Agreement of Budget and Precept 2010/2011

AVDC have asked that the precept requests are submitted by 31st December 2009. Therefore, further to the action from the previous meeting a draft budget document was circulated among councillors in order to start discussions on budget and precept levels for the next financial year.

Cllr Moulding had responded outside of the meeting with comments. No other comments had been received.

Within the meeting, Cllr Berrill expressed a wish to keep the precept at the same level as 2009/2010 due to the current economic climate.

After discussion of each line within the budget the following is a summary of what was agreed where lines were challenged.

- It was questioned whether the income from the Fun Fair could be increased but it was thought that the current level had to remain for a further year. The clerk will investigate when the income can be increased but for the next financial year the income will remain at £275.
- Income from John Heath (barber) was also questioned. At the moment, income is £1 per week. It was agreed that this would be increased to £20 per quarter from April 2010 and Mr Heath would be informed of this change by the Clerk.
- The increase to the clerk's remuneration was questioned by Cllr Moulding. Cllr Gilbey responded by saying he had contacted BALC for their view and from the information they had received and the additional work the clerk had recently taken on, that 6 hours per week was reasonable. This was agreed.
- Cllr Moulding suggested that an additional amount was added to the electricity budget. It was agreed to increase this to a total of £500 for the year.
- Cllr Moulding suggested that The Green is not in a good state and needs some refurbishment. It was suggested an amount of £500 was put in for one year only in order to improve the appearance of The Green. This was agreed.
- Cllr Moulding suggested the donation to Focus was increased to £200 due to the frequent use of the village magazine by the Parish Council. This was agreed.
- It was agreed that the donation to the Village Design Statement was reduced to a nominal amount as there was no expected to be any expenditure in the coming year. £50 was the agreed amount.
- The Clerk had provided some new figures for maintenance of Horwode Pece. Overall these were agreed although an additional amount of contingency needed to be included. It was agreed to round up the maintenance cost to £3500 although this would be changed slightly as the insurance element is to be split out.
- Cllr Gilbey proposed that budget for Willow Road allotments is removed as he believed there would be no additional spend in the next financial year. Cllr Moulding was keen to include an amount for further development and it was agreed to include an amount of £500.
- It was questioned whether an amount should be included for the new tree on The Green but it was decided that it should be under a maintenance contract in the first year and if there was any urgent need for maintenance it would be addressed if it arose.
- The inclusion of the bus shelter was also questioned but it was agreed that it would remain in the budget and a decision would be taken next year as to whether this project should go ahead.

Cllr Moulding suggested that the precept should be increased and gave some numbers to back up his figures. He suggested that an increase in the precept by £1000 was an increase of approximately 5 pence per week for a Band D property. He also highlighted that the precept level of Great Horwood was one of the lowest in the area.

After discussion the matter was taken to a vote and Cllr Gilbey proposed a resolution to ask all those in favour of an increase. For: 3, Against: 3. Cllr Gilbey, as Chairman, exercised his casting vote and it was agreed that there would be no increase in the precept for the coming year.

The impact on the reserves after these changes to the budget would be to reduce them by £958 over the year 2010/2011.

10. Report back from the Transport Symposium

Cllr Gilbey attended the Transport Symposium on 13th October in the Civic Centre in Aylesbury. From 2011 Aylesbury Vale have to produce the Local Transport Plan 3 which deals with five major concerns with transport. These are:

- Reducing carbon emissions
- Supporting economic growth
- Promote equality of opportunity
- Contribute to better safety, security and health
- Improve quality of life and the environment

This has been interpreted into 39 strategic options and now they are canvassing opinions. Cllr Gilbey will circulate the email which requests comments and any comments need to be passed back to the Clerk by the end of November.

11. Agreement of Parish Council meeting dates for 2010

It was agreed that meetings would continue to be the second Monday of the month at 7.30pm in the village hall. However, due to the earlier deadline for setting the precept, there will be a December meeting in 2010 and no January meeting in 2011.

12. NBPPC and MK South West Extension (Salden Chase)

This had been scheduled to be discussed at a workshop on 28th October where Cllr Moulding was due to participate as a representative of NBPPC (North Bucks Parishes Planning Consortium). Due to illness this workshop was cancelled and although this workshop is not being rescheduled, written representations are being invited by the original attendees.

Issues that cause concern about Salden Chase are highlighted in part 3 of the planning report.

There will be further opportunity for the Parish Council to make comments at a general public consultation at a later date.

However an additional issue is that in a cabinet meeting of Milton Keynes council on 27th October a resolution was passed to take over Salden Chase. In response to this Cllr Moulding proposed the following resolution.

This council:

- Notes Minute CO65 of the 27 October 2009 Milton Keynes Council Cabinet Meeting and is mindful of the need described in Paragraph 9 to involve Parish Councils further.
- Deplores the land-grabbing ambitions of Milton Keynes Council set out in Paragraph 6, contradicting and negating as they do, the desire for co-operating with neighbouring authorities set out in Paragraph 3 and elsewhere.
- Expresses vigorous support for Aylesbury Vale District Council in any efforts they may make to maintain the territorial integrity of AVDC and the historic unity of Aylesbury Vale.

Cllr Brocklehurst seconded the proposal and the vote was unanimously in favour.

Cllr Moulding requested the resolution was sent to the following individuals:

- Chairman of AVDC
- Leader of AVDC
- Chief Executive of AVDC
- NBPPC
- County and District Councillors

13. Delegated Budget

At the previous Parish Council meeting the subject of the delegated budget was raised and councillors were asked to consider four possible options. In this meeting it was agreed that the Parish Council would apply for some of this budget specifically for dropped kerbs at road junctions

along Little Horwood Road and Spring Lane. Cllr Gilbey and the Clerk to liaise in order to submit the application.

14. Update on Willow Road Allotments
Tom Saunders has completed the first stage of ploughing and levelling and it is understood weedkiller has also been applied.
15. Flyposting
Cllr Moulding is concerned at the current level of flyposting. Cllr Gilbey will include this in his monthly report in Focus regarding taking posters down once an event has taken place.
16. To agree items for payment
 - Mazars £350.75
 - Buckingham Community Action Membership Renewal £30.00
 - Clerks Expenses £78.04 (Broadband £46.94, Gifts £27.50, Stationery £3.60)
17. To receive and note correspondence
 - A booklet and CD relating to the Core Strategy was passed to Cllr Moulding.
 - BCC have advised that slurry surfacing of footways in the High Street and Spring Lane/Greenway is due to start shortly.
 - The next Winslow Local Area Forum will be held on 10th December at Newton Longville Village Hall
 - A Community Governance review is underway by AVDC and a notice relating to this will be placed on the Parish Council notice board.
18. Items for the next meeting
A discussion over the maintenance of the War Memorial is requested along with the possibility of having a tablet for the Second World War.

The next Ordinary Meeting of the Council will be held on Monday 11th January 2010 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

The meeting closed at 10.03pm

Signed _____ **Draft** _____ Date _____