



**Great Horwood
Parish Council**

Great Horwood Parish Council

Minutes of an ordinary meeting held on 13th December 2010 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 Russell Margerrison, Cllr James Samways.
Monica Gilbey (Acting unpaid Clerk due to maternity leave.)
2 members of the public

1. To receive apologies for absence

Karen Francis (Clerk) on Maternity Leave.
Cllr Moya Berrill had sent her apologies via Cllr. Moulding

There was a unanimous vote to send congratulations to Karen and Mark on the birth of Ella Phoebe.

2. To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th November 2010

These were approved with 2 minor corrections.

3. To receive declarations of interest

Cllr. Moulding declared a possible personal and prejudicial interest in item 17.

4. To consider matters arising from the Minutes of the last meeting held on 8th November 2010

All the allotment tenancy agreements have now been returned to the Clerk and all rental payments received for 2011. An article has appeared in Focus advertising the remaining spare plots.

Cllr. Moulding confirmed that he had provided some wording that had been used by the Clerk to respond to the AVDC consultation on whether AVDC should have a Mayor or remain with a Leader of the Council as at present.

5. Public Participation Period

Mr Fairbairn questioned the Council's decision to spend more than £4,000 per annum in maintaining the Horwode Pece Recreation Ground. Cllr. Brocklehurst explained that during the consultation for the preparation of the Parish Plan residents had expressed a willingness to contribute to this level of funding through the Council Tax in order to maintain any recreation ground that was created in the village.

Mrs. Nicholls reminded everybody that there were many volunteers giving their time and effort to maintain the area, without which even higher charges would be incurred.

Cllr. Gilbey thanked Mr. Fairburn for his question and contribution to the debate.

6. To receive and consider reports from Committees of Council

6.1. Cllr. Moulding presented a report on the work of the Planning Committee which is attached to these minutes.

6.2. Cllr Brocklehurst updated the Council on behalf of the Recreation Committee. He reported that weekly inspections of Horwode Pece were continuing by the volunteer team and that no problems had been noted. The committee is still finalising the purchases to be made with the Sustainability Grant. One of the items will be a mower and Cllr. Brocklehurst requested that when the final decision is made on which mower to purchase, approximate cost £570, a cheque could be made available by the Council. This was agreed as the Council was already in receipt of the full grant.

7. Report from the Parish Plan Steering Committee

Cllr. Moulding suggested that the Committee should take on the role of working with AVDC on the Parish's contribution to The Vale of Aylesbury Plan. This was formally proposed by Cllr. Brocklehurst and seconded by Cllr. Gilbey and unanimously approved subject to ratification by the Council when prepared.

Cllr. Moulding explained that discussions were ongoing with AVDC on the most appropriate way of carrying out an Affordable Housing Needs Survey for the village.

8. Report from the Planning Policy Workshop held on 29th November

Cllr. Moulding had represented the Council at the first workshop on 29th November and his report is attached. Cllr. Gilbey will represent the Council at the second workshop on 16th December.

Cllr. Gilbey took the opportunity to advise that the Department of Communities and Local Government had issued a consultation document on its proposal for a New Homes Bonus policy. It was agreed that the Council should respond to this consultation and to lobby for a change to the proposed distribution of the bonus so that some of it came direct to the Parish Council. A draft response will be circulated for comment by Cllr. Gilbey and a final version prepared in liaison with Cllr. Moulding.

9. Resolutions for amendment to Standing Orders regarding Electronic Signatures and emailed documents

The following resolution was unanimously adopted.

That the Standing Orders of the Council be amended to delete the words 'To sign and issue the Summons to attend meetings of the Council' from paragraph 1.5, to re-number paragraph 1.5 as 1.5.1, and to insert three additional paragraphs 1.5.2, 1.5.3 and 1.11.10 to read as follows: '1.5.2 In the case of meetings convened in accordance with Standing Order 1.2.1 **the Clerk shall sign and serve on councillors by delivery or post at their residences a summons confirming the time, date, venue and the agenda of the meeting of the Council at least 3 clear days before the meeting.**' '1.5.3 In the case of all other meetings and if the Council has agreed an appropriate resolution in accordance with Standing Order 1.11.10 and save in respect of any councillor or committee member or sub-committee member where consent has been given by the Council the Clerk shall electronically serve on councillors and on other members of committees and sub-committees as appropriate a summons confirming the time, date, venue and the agenda of a meeting of the Council and a meeting of a committee and a sub-committee at least 3 clear days before the meeting provided that any such email contains the electronic signature and title of the Clerk.' '1.11.10 To resolve that service by the Clerk of summons on councillors confirming the time, date, venue and the agenda for a meeting by delivery or post at their residences at least 3 clear days before a meeting is not expedient save for meetings convened under Standing Order 1.2.1. Should such a resolution not be agreed at this or any other meeting or, in respect of any councillor or committee member or sub-committee member, if the Council otherwise consents the provisions of Paragraph 1.5.2 will apply *mutatis mutandis* to all meetings of the Council and of committees and sub-committees.

The following resolution was unanimously adopted.

That service by the Clerk of summons on Councillors confirming the time, date, venue and the agenda for a meeting by delivery or post at their residences at least 3 clear days before a meeting is not expedient and that this Resolution shall remain valid only until the meeting immediately prior to the next Annual Parish Council Meeting held under Standing Order 1.2.1.

10. Report from NBPPC meeting of 11th November.

See report attached

11. Report from BALC AGM of 12th November

See report attached

12. Report from Buckingham South NAG Meeting of 24th November.

See report attached.

13. Willow Road Allotments and Tom Saunders

Since no response has been received from Tom Saunders to the letter sent by the Clerk on 11th November 2010 it was agreed that the Clerk should be asked to pursue action to recover the monies owing to the Council through the Small Claims procedures in liaison with the Chairman and subject to reasonable costs. All correspondence on the matter to be sent Recorded Delivery.

14. Community Contingency Plan

Cllr. Gilbey gave an overview of a request from BCC for all parishes to prepare a Community Contingency Plan. As there was no enthusiasm from any of the other Councillors for the Parish

Council to be involved in the preparation of such a plan no further action will be taken by the Council.

15. Developing Libraries for the Future in Buckinghamshire.
Cllr. Gilbey explained that under proposals published in a consultation document entitled "Developing Libraries for the Future in Buckinghamshire" BCC will stop running the Winslow Library and if it is to stay open it will need to be supported by volunteers and voluntary donations. The other Councillors did not express any desire to support any action to keep the library open and so the Council will take no further action on the matter.
16. Report on the BRAG Annual Conference held on 29th November 2010
Cllr. Moulding had attended this meeting as a representative of Great Horwood and reported that the agenda was dominated by HS2, including presentations by HS2 Ltd and by a former HS1 campaign co-ordinator from Kent. Other topics covered were the rural agenda under the new Government and some discussion of Milton Keynes expansion plans.
17. Dropped Kerbs
Cllr. Gilbey reported that the Clerk had written to BCC pointing out the issues with the dropped kerbs installation in the village especially those at the crossing of Wheathouse Copse in Little Horwood Road. Since no response had been received Cllr. Gilbey had emailed Simon Dudley to expedite the matter but again no response had been received and so he had submitted a question for the BCC Winslow and District Local Area Forum taking place on Wednesday 15th December.
18. Tree on The Green
Cllr. Gilbey confirmed that the new oak tree had been successfully planted on The Green on 19th November as planned. Full instructions for watering the tree had been received from the suppliers and no action is necessary before May 2011 as the tree is currently dormant. St James PCC has agreed that water from a tap in the Church Yard can be used to carry out the watering when this becomes necessary. It was agreed that Cllr. Gilbey would prepare a letter to be sent by the Clerk to thank Clare and Simon Terkelsen and their family and friends for their generosity in fully funding the purchase of the tree.
19. Confirm dates for the Village Feast and agree charges for 2011.
It was agreed that the correct dates for the Village Feast 2011 would be 8/9th August and the Clerk will be asked to write to the Smith family to confirm these dates and to advise that we will make the same charge of £275 for 2011 but would review this charge for 2012.
20. Finalisation of Budget and Precept for 2011/12
After some discussion the draft budget previously circulated was unanimously agreed including the setting of the precept at £20,000.00
21. Receipts
 - VAT rebate £2155.54
22. To agree items for payment
 - Robert Tuckwell £705.00 for seasons grass cutting on Horwode Pece.
23. To receive and note correspondence
 - Letter from the editor of Focus thanking the Parish Council for their kind donation.
 - Letter from Winslow and District Community Bus asking for continued financial support in the coming year.
 - Letter from the Smith family re the dates for the Village Feast 2011 – see item 19 above.
 - AVDC Touring Arts and Holiday Activities Programmes
 - Cllr Moulding to make application for Music in Quiet Places
 - Cllr. Gilbey to apply for Play Around the Parishes.
24. Items for the next meeting
 - Recovery of monies from Tom Saunders
 - Update on the Governments Localism Bill
 - Report of Local Area Forum activities.

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

The meeting closed at 9.10pm

Signed _____ **Draft** _____ Date _____

Great Horwood Parish Council

Planning Committee Report

for Ordinary Meeting on 13 December 2010

1. The customary listing of current and recent Planning Applications follows. No responses have been submitted to AVDC on behalf of the Council since the last Report.
2. Application 10/00680/APP (the retrospective traveller site application for Nash Road) having been refused at the 4 November 2010 meeting of AVDC's Development Control Committee, AVDC Development Control has decided to issue an Enforcement Notice to secure the cessation of the use and the reinstatement of the land. The notice will set out the steps which the owner/occupier(s) is required to take to remove the breach of planning control and the period within which these steps should be undertaken. The notice, once issued, normally takes 28 days to come into effect. Prior to the issue of the notice, there are a number of legal steps that have to be carried out which can take around eight weeks. AVDC will notify us when the Notice is served and again if an appeal is lodged.
3. On your behalf I attended the first of AVDC Forward Plans Group's briefing/workshop sessions on possible changes to the planning system to support the Coalition Government's localism agenda. This is covered in a separate report.
4. The continuing liaison with AVDC Forward Plans Group on the pilot parish consultation proposal is covered in a further separate report.
5. AVDC Forward Plans Group is continuing to negotiate with Community Impact Bucks to explore our idea of combining rural Housing Needs Surveys with Parish Plan / Pilot Parish consultations, but no conclusion has yet been reached.

Rod Moulding

Chairman, Planning Committee

Great Horwood Parish Council

Report: AVDC Planning Policy Workshop (The Vale of Aylesbury Plan)

1st Round, Parish/Town Council Workshops, Aylesbury, 29 November 2010

1. I attended this first of two sessions of this event and represented Great Horwood.
2. Attendance on 29 November was about 45; a number of parish councils failed to turn up.
3. Proceedings commenced with a short introduction by Cllr Carole Paternoster, AVDC Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning, who remained for the entire event. This was followed by a presentation by John Byrne, Head of Planning, under the title "What changes have happened to planning?" John outlined what has happened, what is yet to come (new Localism Bill, Community Infrastructure Levy, new planning policy regime (presumably), new Statements of National Planning Policy to replace PPSs), and what the current situation is (unclear, mainly). He emphasised the need to avoid a planning policy vacuum.
4. John discussed the new localism, and the stages of preparing the replacement for the Core Strategy. This will be The Vale of Aylesbury Plan, and will proceed in four stages: technical work, throughout; informing and listening, during most of 2011; pulling it together, into 2012; the formal process, depends on Localism Bill. The urgent need is to get started now.
5. John noted that AVDC would take advantage of the new approach and was enthusiastic about the new challenges and responsibilities, and is anxious to find a different way of working with local councils and communities.
6. Andy Barton, Forward Plans Group Manager, then presented on "How will localism work?". He defined and described localism, emphasising the need for information and opinions to be evidence-based. AVDC will be working with parish councils, town councils and local members (of AVDC) to inform them and to elicit decisions. AVDC recognises that, of 113 parishes and towns, only limited locations will be appropriate for significant (allocatable) growth. Andy expects 30 to 40 parishes to move on to consider matters further; I anticipate Great Horwood being one of these.
7. AVDC will want each parish to answer four Key Questions:

- Do you want new homes and jobs in your community? Why?
- What numbers and/or locations in broad terms do you see possible? Why?
- What are the infrastructure needs that your community has to enable this? Why?
- Anything else you wish to add?

8. AVDC will help by providing Fact Packs (we have the prototype), by visiting each parish, and in other ways. In return they will need a willingness to engage, local knowledge, time and effort, and informed answers.

9. The eventual aggregate sets of figures and other information will be brought together as The Vale of Aylesbury Plan which will run until 2031.

10. After a break, each of the six tables of attendees had a facilitated discussion covering early thoughts on community views on growth, the four Key Questions, the contents of the Fact Packs (the Great Horwood prototype was used throughout), the guidelines, and other appropriate subjects such as the need to “sell” the approach. I was fortunate in that I shared a table with Cllr Michael Edmonds (Chairman, Strategic Development Control Committee) and our facilitator was John Byrne.

Rod Moulding

2 December 2010

Reports for the Great Horwood Ordinary Parish Council meeting on Monday 13th December 2010

NBPPC Meeting of 11th November.

NBPPC is a lobbying organisation representing 20 local councils in the north of the county.

At the meeting which both Rod and I attended we discussed:-

AVDC District Plan Developments

Salden Chase update

Winslow Development Updates

Buckingham Development Update

Milton Keynes Revised Core Strategy:

It was agreed that a submission would be made commenting on this revision – this was subsequently prepared and submitted by a small work group and a full copy is available if requested but below is a critical paragraph from the response.

Text included in the MK strategy document

"The revocation of the Regional Spatial Strategy (South East Plan) removes the requirement for the SW Strategic Development Area in Aylesbury Vale. However, if any new development sites are promoted and allocated on sites adjoining the city but in the area of a neighbouring local authority, they will require proper planning as sustainable urban extensions to the city."

NBPPC comments submitted

We consider that the second sentence is totally unnecessary and unjustified. It effectively invites developers to promote sites which are no longer appropriate for development (e.g. Salden Chase) and suggests that cross-boundary development is still acceptable as a means of extending Milton Keynes. The CS should make it clear that all requirements for cross-boundary development are removed by the revocation of the RSS and the centrally imposed targets.

Various other matters.

Report on BALC AGM of 12th December

Following the formal business of the meeting we had a presentation by Cllr. Michael Chater Chairman of the National Association of Local Councils.

He spoke about the Governments plans for the Big Society initiative and the introduction of the Localism agenda. His views were that these initiatives gave local councils i.e. Town and parish Councils great opportunities for taking on the running of local services and having a much greater influence on the direction of policies and services for local government. He also made it clear that such opportunities to influence would mean local councils and councillors taking on much more responsibility than had previously been available or necessary up to now.

Report from Buckingham South NAG meeting of 24th November.

The meeting was also the AGM and saw the re-election of Phil Gomm as Chairman.

No TVP representatives were at the meeting due to sickness and other duties and I noted that no TVP officers had attended at Great Horwood Village Hall for a pre-arranged "Have Your Say" session on Wednesday 24th November.

Other matters are reported in the December newsletter previously circulated.

John Gilbey

10th December 2010