



**Great Horwood  
Parish Council**

# Great Horwood Parish Council

Minutes of an ordinary meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2010 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)  
4 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 13<sup>th</sup> September 2010  
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
  - The issue of parking in Spring Lane was raised again. The situation hasn't improved much so the PCSO (who was present at the meeting) was asked to continue monitoring the situation.
  - After the previous meeting a letter was sent to Buckingham Town Council stating that the Parish Council had no comment to make on their Local Governance Consultation.
  - The tenancy agreements for the allotments in Church Lane have been sent out. Signed agreements have been requested to be sent back by the end of October.
  - Cllr Moulding stated he had received a comment from a resident that a new bench in the bus shelter could cause unwanted gatherings of young persons.
5. Public Participation Period  
PCSO Sue Crockett reported that there had been speed enforcement taking place on The Green and that a number of tickets had been issued – some to local residents.  
  
Additionally no problems have been reported recently from the Football Club.
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 no decisions made since the last meeting although there is currently one application pending. The Planning Committee have expressed concern with application 10/01856/APP and Cllr Moulding has agreed to provide some draft comments for circulation and approval before being sent to AVDC.
  - 6.2. Cllr Brocklehurst updated the Council on the recent developments at Horwode Pece.
    - Weekly inspections are continuing and there is nothing to report.
    - The RoSPA training session has taken place and information packs have been provided.
    - Adrian Buck has joined the Management Committee.
    - The Sustainability Grant has been received which is being used, in part, for payments to Kompan and RoSPA.
    - There is difficulty in getting the grass mown as the current Contractors are only providing an intermittent service.
    - The tunnel is now open.
    - The Management Committee have moved to quarterly meetings rather than monthly meetings.
    - A working party is being planned and more details will follow shortly.

Cllr Brocklehurst also updated the Council on the AVNSC meetings he has been attending. The chairman of AVNSC has expressed dissatisfaction with AVDC's participation and this is currently being investigated.

Cllr Gilbey thanked the whole group who inspect the equipment weekly as this is a requirement for Horwode Pece to be maintained.

- 6.3. Cllr Moulding updated the Council on the Parish Plan Committee. The Steering Committee has continued to work on the full-scale revision of the Parish Plan and at some point in the future public consultations will take place to ascertain latest views.

Cllr Moulding noted that AVDC Forward Plans Group has also offered Great Horwood (through the Planning Committee and the Parish Plan Steering Committee) participation as a pilot parish in the development of consultation for AVDC's replacement for the Core Strategy. This would provide early access to additional information and would help in getting our community's views accepted. The Parish Council are asked to agree to this in item 12.

7. Report on the LAF meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> September

Cllr Gilbey attended this meeting and had submitted a question in advance over funding for salt bins. BCC have denied they will be charging the Parish Council for salt this year and have also stated they will issue information about the rules for clearing snow outside the front of businesses.

Available budgets were also discussed but none of these affected the Parish. The delegated budget applications will be discussed at the December meeting.

A report from Inspector Emma Garside of Thames Valley Police stated that speeding was still a high priority as was Country Watch which is the rural equivalent of Neighbourhood Watch.

8. Report on the LCPLG meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> September

Cllrs Gilbey and Moulding attended this meeting. The main topic of discussion at this meeting was what the new planning system would be and what would happen now that AVDC have withdrawn the Core Strategy. The key question is "What do you want?" not "What don't you want?". There was also debate over how Parish and Town councils would be included in the plans and setup for the new system.

Other matters raised included the issue of Wind Farms in the area. Although the sensitivities of the impact of the turbines was appreciated, AVDC couldn't have a 'no wind farms' policy. It was also explained that any objections made by Parish Councils to wind farm applications would need to be specific and couldn't just rely on the fact that the turbines are highly visible.

9. Report on the AVALC meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> September

Cllrs Gilbey and Moulding attended this meeting as they are members of the Executive Committee.

A presentation was made by the head of the Localities and Safer Communities team which discussed devolved councils and the Local Area Forums. Also, due to funding it was announced that the management structure had been reorganised from 7 co-ordinators to 5 Managers.

10. Report on the Chairmanship training held on 30<sup>th</sup> September

Cllr Gilbey attended this half day course at the same time that Cllr Margerrison attended a half day course on Councillor training.

A lot of information was covered and Cllr Gilbey brought away a number of considerations including:

- Electrical equipment belonging to the Clerk should be PAT tested.
- It would be useful to provide an induction pack for new Councillors
- Consider how to handle correspondence at PC meetings.
- Include more background information on each item on the agenda in order to make decision making more efficient.

It was agreed that many of these were classed as 'nice to have' should the time arise.

11. Update on application 10/00680/APP (Nash Road, Great Horwood)

Cllr Moulding updated the Council on the Gypsy site in Nash Road. BCC have recommended refusal in view of road speeds and poor access visibility. Some responses to AVDC's request for additional information have been made by the applicants but these are not in the public domain.

The application is currently scheduled to go before the Development Control Committee on 4<sup>th</sup> November and Cllr Moulding will arrange to attend and comment as discussed previously.

12. Participation in AVDC Strategy Consultation as a pilot

Further to the points made in item 6.3, Cllr Moulding asked the Parish Council to agree to participate in the Strategic Consultation of AVDC's Forward Plans Group as a pilot. This was agreed unanimously.

13. Electronic Signatures and emailed documents

Cllr Brocklehurst explained that he had asked the Clerk as to whether electronic signatures could be used to send out agenda. The Clerk had contacted BALC and had been advised that this was possible but the standing orders would need to be amended to reflect this and an electronic signature was set up.

The Councillors agreed in theory but as notice is needed of a resolution to change standing orders it was agreed to consider this at the next meeting and that Cllr Brocklehurst would provide the wording for the resolution.

14. Willow Road Allotments and Tom Saunders

A letter was sent to Tom Saunders asking for either a refund or the work to be completed at the allotments by the end of September. No response has been received.

BALC have been asked what the next step should be and it was recommended that a final letter was sent via recorded delivery asking for a refund within 7 days or that the PC would consider taking the matter to the small claims court. The Clerk agreed to send this letter and the situation would be discussed at the next meeting.

15. Cleaning of War Memorial and wreath holder

It has been agreed between Cllr Moulding and some members of the PCC that Mrs Gilbey will arrange a working party to clean the war memorial and that Cllr Moulding would construct a wreath holder. Both of these would be completed before the Remembrance Day service on the 14<sup>th</sup> November.

16. Village Hall Funding

At the previous meeting a resolution was proposed to provide a donation of £250 to help fund the replacement of toilet floors in the Village Hall. A vote was taken and the donation was unanimously agreed.

17. Tree on the Green

Cllr Gilbey explained that the supplier of the tree for The Green was now happy it could be installed and the provisional date for installation was week commencing the 8<sup>th</sup> November. It is expected most of the funding would be provided by the Terkelsen family in memory of their son Toby but Cllr Gilbey stated he would find out exactly what contribution needed to be made by the Parish Council.

Cllr Gilbey also agreed to speak with the Terkelsen family to ensure that whoever plants the tree checks that there are no utility pipes or cables that may be damaged.

The topic of the hedges around The Green was also discussed as a complaint had been received that they were too high. It was agreed that the hedges were currently fine and therefore no action would be taken.

18. Funds on Deposit

The funds on deposit is due to mature on 18<sup>th</sup> October and Councillors were asked whether they wanted this money to be reinvested. The Clerk explained that, in her opinion, the cashflow was there to support reinvestment and therefore it was agreed to reinvest this money for a further 3 months.

19. Preliminary Budget

The Clerk had provided an early draft of the provisional budget for 2011/2012 for discussion.

Cllr Brocklehurst provided some figures for the maintenance of Horwode Pece which will be included in the next draft.

Cllr Moulding suggested the following was also taken into consideration:

- Insurance for new tree
- Remove donation to Village Design Statement
- Add a £250 donation for the Parish Plan

- Increase the precept to £20,000
- Add a £250 donation to the Village Hall

As next year will be an election year, the Clerk was asked to find out about possible election costs.

Cllr Brocklehurst also suggested a donation of £250 was included for the Youth Club.

20. Receipts

- Groundworks Grant for Horwode Pece £2,688.00
- Parish Precept £8,500.00

21. Items paid since previous meeting

- Browns of Buckingham (Horwode Pece) £1,261.18

22. To agree items for payment

- Mazars £646.25
- Kompan (Horwode Pece) £427.16
- Walt Whitehall £100.00
- Village Hall Donation £250.00
- Village Hall hire for RoSPA training £135.00

23. To receive and note correspondence

- Notice of the BRAG conference was given. Details have been emailed to Councillors.
- A letter from a resident regarding piles of soil in Church Lane. Cllr Margerrison confirmed that Heritage have been contacted to request that excess soil is redistributed around the burial ground.
- Notice of the AGM of AVALC. Cllrs Gilbey and Moulding are already aware of this meeting.
- Notice that Jackie Wesley, the area co-ordinator for the Winslow LAF would be moving on and Mark Grindall will be the new Localities and Communities Manager.
- Acknowledgement from Nick Green of our letter supporting the protesters of Windgrave Wind Farm.

24. Items for the next meeting

Cllr Moulding suggested the appointment of a new auditor was discussed. The Clerk responded to say that there was more required on the internal audit requirements and that this should be discussed in the new year.

Dropped kerbs also needed to be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2010 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

The meeting closed at 9.24pm

Signed  Date \_\_\_\_\_