



Great Horwood Parish Council

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Minutes of an Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 14th December 2015 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, 5 members of the public.

1. To receive apologies for absence
Sir Beville Stanier sent his apologies.
2. To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held on 9th November 2015
No amendments were made.
3. To receive declarations of interest
None were received.
4. To consider matters arising from the Minutes of the last meeting
 - Ian Walker was asked to do a trial for strimming but his response is still awaited. **(Action Clerk)**.
 - Cllr JS confirmed that the Great Horwood and Singleborough Recreation Trust page on the Charities Commission website had been updated to reflect submission of their financial report.
 - Information about the Thornborough and Coombs Enterprise Trust Community Woodlands has been placed on the GHP website by the PC Clerk.
 - The Horwood Pece Budget was completed and circulated by Cllr JG.
 - Cllr JRH received spare copies of the Parish Plan 2016 consultation document for the consultation event on 22nd November. JS thanked him for all his hard work in preparing the document and for organising the consultation event. He said the turnout was disappointing but at least the public had had the opportunity to make their views known.
 - A link to the (Aylesbury) Vale Lottery was placed on the GHPC website by the PC Clerk.
 - A detailed response to the VALP consultation was emailed on 30 November by the PC Clerk.
 - The LAT was informed by Cllr AM and the PC Clerk about the sign for the North Bucks Way off Nash Road. JS had checked himself and did not think it was an urgent problem.
 - Cllr JH investigated the purchase of a new ground screw for the MVAS but it was decided the cost of replacement was prohibitive (between £200 - reconditioned - and £670 + VAT – new).
5. Public Participation Period
No issues were raised.

JRH requested that discussion about recipients of donations to worthy organisations (15) and the budget (13) be brought forward to allow the Great Horwood CE Combined School Headmistress Mrs Paula Shaw to leave the meeting early.

15. Decide Recipients of Donations to Worthy Organisations
Six applications were received for the three donations – comprising 1 x £1000 and 2 x £500 donations. The merits of the applications were discussed at a special meeting held on 7th December and attended by all councillors and the proposals for ratification at the meeting were:

- £1000 donation to the Great Horwood CE Combined School for the building of a climbing challenge which will be open to other local organisations using the site.
- £500 donation to the Great Horwood Silver Band for the purchase of new uniforms
- £500 donation to the Winslow & District Community Bus for help towards running costs.

The PC also proposed an increase the donation to Focus by £250 to fund two colour pages in each edition of the magazine. The Village Hall request was unsuccessful as it was felt that the minor maintenance work described could be paid for from Hall reserves. However, it was agreed that the PC would look sympathetically at any future requests for funding of specific projects (such as outside maintenance) from the parish precept. A vote was taken and the proposals were carried unanimously.

13. Budget
JRH reported that of 30 responses received after the Parish Plan consultation:
 - 77% supported the Parish Council's policy of donations to local worthy organisations.

- There was support for funding of Horwood Pece, general maintenance of facilities and the potential provision of amenities such as a School Crossing Patrol.
- There was a general feeling that such amenities should be provided as a priority.

To achieve all of this, £6000 of additional expenditure would be required with £3000 earmarked for the school crossing, £1000 for donations and £2000 for general maintenance. The draft budget reflected these changes and, with an amendment to the Horwood Pece budget, the final budget would be circulated for approval (**Action Clerk**). It was proposed that the new precept be set at £25,685 (proposed by JS, seconded by JRH and carried unanimously). The Clerk was asked to advise the AVDC Finance section of the new precept request. (**Action Clerk**).

6. Planning Issues

Councillors were provided with an updated Planning Report which was ratified at the meeting. Eight new application had been received and three applications had been determined. The planning report is attached to, and forms part of, these Minutes.

An application to develop land at Horwood Mill (planning permission rejected 18 May 2015) has now gone to appeal. As a result the PC was asked at short notice to decide on an S106 project. It was agreed to propose that any funds should be spent on equipment for Horwood Pece. (**Action Clerk**)

The discussion then digressed to cover the S106 requirements for the Weston Road project. All previous proposals had been rejected by AVDC due to their narrow interpretation of what is actually allowed. It was decided to reaffirm the PC's request for a public footpath from the development to Horwood Pece with a Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) and Village Hall refurbishment as alternative proposals. (**Action Clerk**)

7. Report from the Recreation Committee

The report is attached to these Minutes.

8. Footpaths Report

Robert Deuchar had nothing new to report to the meeting.

9. Reports

- Report on the AVDC New Homes Bonus Panel of 18th November 2015. (JWG)
- Report on the AVALC Executive members meeting with Senior Officers of AVDC on Thursday 3rd December 2015. (JWG)

JWG said there was little to report in addition to the information already contained in his reports except to say that £1.1.million had been distributed by the AVDC New Homes Bonus Panel and that the focus of the AVALC meeting was on the importance of selling Neighbourhood plans.

- Great Horwood and Singleborough Recreational Trust vision plan. (JH)

JH outlined a Five Year Plan for the Trust

- Arrange a separate Trust account.
- To ask the PC annually which projects they will sponsor with the MC deciding the priorities.
- Access professional advice on perimeter landscaping.
- Better quality equipment surrounds whilst repairing old for old.
- Tarmac further into the field for better disabled access.
- Explore ideas for self-funding of the Trust.
- Look into the purchase of a marquee to loan out at minimal cost throughout the village
- Legal documentation to be updated

- Development of sites within NP. (JH) Discussion was deferred to the next item.
- Report from devolution event in Amersham. (JH)

JH felt there was a lot of discussion to very little effect at the Amersham event, especially at the concurrent workshops. JS then offered a vote of thanks to councillors for all the time they have spent attending meetings.

10. Weston Road Planning Application and Ideas For Section 106 Project

With reference to the call in of the application by the Secretary of State, the Planning Inspectorate has imposed a deadline of 18th December for the submission of statement of case, statement of common ground and comments from interested parties. The enquiry will be held on 15th March 2016 at a venue to be decided. JS said he had agreed with Neil Homer, the development consultant appointed by the PC, to focus on the conflict with the Neighbourhood Plan. David Saunders said there would be three parties to the case – AVDC, Great Horwood Parish Council and the Developer. Formal witnesses will be called who would have to give their evidence in advance whilst informal witnesses are those people who ask to make representation. The latter are not formally time limited and can choose whether or not to be questioned on their evidence. David Saunders also said the S106 arrangements would be discussed. The Inspector's recommendation for a decision is then laid before the Secretary of State who should then give an explanation for his final decision.

11. Update on the Neighbourhood Plan

The first development proposal has been put forward to Cllrs JS & JWG for the site to the north of the Little Horwood Road. It has been very well planned and developed in line with the NP requirements. It encompasses 15 homes, with open space and play areas with 33% affordable homes, possibly in conjunction with a housing association. In this case, the developer will explore the possibility of restricting affordable homes to local residents. Councillors were impressed with the care taken to reduce or eliminate problems such as parking, road constriction and with their efforts to preserve the village character. Time wise, work is not expected to start for at least 3 years assuming planning permission is granted. There has also been a tentative enquiry about the Nash road site but no details have been forthcoming as yet. **(Action Clerk)**

12. Parish Plan 2016

No further update

13. Budget

Dealt with earlier.

14. Devolved Services

Motion proposed by JWG

"It is proposed that Great Horwood Parish Council registers an interest with Bucks County Council before the deadline of the end of December 2015 in taking over the devolved service of grass cutting etc that is currently on offer for three years from April 2016 with a view to making a final decision before the deadline of the end of February 2016."

The subject of Devolved Services has polarised Council opinion, however, it was decided that a final decision on whether or not to express an interest in Devolution Tranch 2 must be taken. JWG said that in reality, money for grass cutting in the next 3 years was not guaranteed unless the council accept the fixed price 3 year contract of up to £1800. After that period there would be no money provided by BCC for this service at all. Councillors then discussed the implications of accepting devolution. A vote on the motion was proposed by JWG and seconded by JRH. The motion was carried with only JS dissenting and the Clerk was asked to relay the decision to Jacqueline Austin Lavery Senior Business Improvement Officer at BCC. **(Action Clerk)**

15. Decide Recipients of Donations to Worthy Organisations

Dealt with earlier

16. To agree items for payment

- Ian Walker Thomas Redding Contracts, mowing - £140.00 - BACS
- Community Impact Bucks subscription – £50 – BACS
- Mandy Cliffe McAfee Anti-virus renewal - £49.99 – cheque
- Cheques for recipients of donations to worthy causes total to be decided at the meeting.
- Payment was also authorised for the Heady Plants Invoice - (received on 14th December) £180 – BACS

Councillors JWG and AM agreed to authorise the payments.

17. To receive and note correspondence

- Email from Angela Lawley re speeding through the village.

18. Items for the next meeting

Devolved Services.

Presentation of Donation Cheques.

Parish Plan 2016.

Weston Road Planning Application.

19. Confirmation of date and time of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday 8th February 2016 at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm.

Signed _____ **Draft** _____

Date _____

Planning Committee Report - for meeting on 14th December 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 McArthur	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	Demolition of existing sheds and construction of a new detached dwelling to "Passivhaus" criteria.	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	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		
10/12/2015	15/04115/ALB	Mr T Storey	Blue Gates, 1 Church Lane GH	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		
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.	
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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