



## Great Horwood Parish Council

# Great Horwood Parish Council

Minutes of an Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on  
11th November 2013 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, Great Horwood.

Present: Cllr John Gilbey (Chairman), Cllr John Scholtens, Cllr Ian Lamberton, Cllr Angela Mayne, Cllr Russell Margerrison, Karen Francis (Clerk)  
6 members of the public

1. To receive apologies for absence  
Cllrs Porritt and Bennett-Coles couldn't attend due to other commitments.
2. To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2013  
No amendments were made.
3. To receive declarations of interest  
No declarations of interest were received.
4. To consider matters arising from the Minutes of the last two meetings
  - There is no money in the current BCC budget for the footpath repair along Ernie Ridgeway Path. However, it remains with BCC and will hopefully be completed in the next financial year.
  - No update on the supply of electricity to John the Barber. Cllr Scholtens is yet to speak with John.
  - The village freighter did not come as planned and although AVDC did send a caged vehicle it was late. The Clerk spoke to AVDC who provide the service and has agreed the freighter will return on 9<sup>th</sup> December. The Parish Council will not be charged for the caged vehicle.
  - Cllr Scholtens investigated whether the Parish Council are responsible for providing car parking within the village but stated there is no legislation that makes the Parish Council liable.
  - The BCC Budget Consultation is underway. Members of the public can take part in this online. Cllr Scholtens studied the consultation sent to the Parish Council and has provided draft answers. The remaining Cllrs approved these and the Clerk will send this off.
  - Cllr Gilbey will be attending a workshop on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November to discuss the priorities of the Local Area Forum Budget. He has proposed the priorities from the Parish Council are Youth Services and supporting vulnerable and isolated elderly residents.
  - Groundscrews have been installed in two of the sites in the village for the MVAS. There were problems with the two remaining sites, one has been resolved while the other is still in discussion. Training is planned for Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November.
  - Cllr Scholtens investigated the purchase of a projector screen. While this would be purchased from the Neighbourhood Plan funds it would be available for use by hirers of the village hall. The cost of the screen was £130 + VAT and all Cllrs were in favour of the purchase. The Clerk will arrange this.
  - The planters have been replanted with winter plants and the planter at the entrance to the village on the Winslow Road has been raised.
  - The Conifer tree which is growing over the street lamp and bus stop in Little Horwood Road is to be removed.
5. Public Participation Period
  - No members of the public raised any issues.
6. Planning Issues
  - 6.1. Councillors were provided with an updated Planning Report which was ratified at the meeting. One new decision has been made and two new applications had been received. The planning report is attached to and forms part of these minutes.
  - 6.2. The application to register the Recreation Ground has finally been completed. A query has been raised by the legal team regarding the Charges Register but the land is now registered to the Parish Council.
7. Report from the Recreation Committee
  - The search for a type of BBQ to be installed at the Rec goes on.
  - The damp and cold weather makes the ramps to the play areas very slippery. A number of solutions are being investigated.
  - The seat of the Zip Wire has unscrewed itself to give some cause for concern. The bolt has been re-tightened but it does raise the question of the longer term implications and sensibility of this design.
  - Compliments have been received on the neatness and tidiness of the Rec, this month, which is testimony to the endeavours of all volunteers.
  - The arrival of wetter weather has exposed the hollows and muddier patches which, being much less than in previous years, have been identified for future attention.

- The current spend of the annual budget is being reviewed and may now include fencing, more wood chip, the hire of a digger and a possible mower upgrade.
- Adrian Buck has now taken over the responsibility of Treasurer for the Trust. The Trust would like to express many thanks to Liz Nicholls for many years of diligent work in this role.

8. Footpaths Report

There is nothing to report this month.

9. Neighbourhood Plan

Prior to the meeting Cllr Gilbey had circulated, to all councillors, a proposal from Community Impact Bucks to prepare a Neighbourhood Development Plan for the parish using external consultants. Also circulated with the proposal was a "State of the Village" document which had been prepared by David Saunders mainly from information pulled together by the Neighbourhood Planning Team and a revised terms of reference document for the Great Horwood Neighbourhood Planning Team.

The cost of preparing the plan would be £11,700 excluding VAT and the proposal anticipates that the Neighbourhood Development Plan process can be completed within six to seven months. The end point of this project will be submission of the Neighbourhood Development Plan to Aylesbury Vale District Council for external examination. Payment for the work done by the consultants would be in 3 stages.

Several Councillors contributed to the discussion and were mainly concerned that we would be paying for work that had already been done by the Neighbourhood Planning Team. Cllr Gilbey explained that the consultants would take a step back and would be using the "State of the Village Report" as the starting point for their work.

Cllr Gilbey had proposed a new membership for the revived Neighbourhood Planning Team. However Cllr Lamberton withdrew his previous offer to be part of the team and this unfortunately left Cllr Gilbey as the only elected member of the team.

The other members approved were:

David Saunders

Rita Jenkins

David Mayne

Jo Waggott.

It was noted that all the members were from the eastern end of the village and it was agreed that every effort would be made to co-opt additional members from the western end so as to ensure that there was no bias in the team.

After further discussion the Council voted unanimously in favour of the proposals.

10. Report from the AVALC AGM held on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2013

Prior to the meeting Cllr Gilbey had circulated a report which gave details of the meeting. He had expressed disappointment that the meeting had been sparsely attended by representatives from the 105 parishes in Aylesbury Vale despite the fact that AVALC had been fortunate enough to obtain the services of the Rt. Hon. John Bercow MP Speaker of the House of Commons as the guest speaker.

At the meeting Cllr Gilbey was re-elected as Vice Chairman and was also confirmed for another year as one of the two Parish Representatives on the AVDC New Homes Bonus Advisory Grants Panel.

11. Replacement of the Parish Council Laptop

The Clerk explained that the current laptop was currently 7 years old and she was experiencing problems with it freezing and running slowly. She explained the options which were to continue to maintain it by purchasing more memory or to upgrade to a more modern machine.

Cllrs agreed that it was time to upgrade the laptop. The Clerk provided costings for a number of different laptops and it was agreed that the Clerk could purchase a new laptop, updated software and antivirus. The maximum amount to spend was approved at £650 including VAT but the Clerk hoped that it would be less than that.

12. First Draft of Budget 2014/2015

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated a draft budget for discussion. Cllrs agreed that the numbers that had been proposed were sensible but there were a small number of amendments.

- An annual subscription of £15 for AVALC needed to be added.
- £500 should be included for the replacement of the noticeboard in Singleborough.

Cllr Gilbey will ask the Local Area Technician about the costs of creating a short path to the footpath off the Winslow Road.

A budget submission is also required from the Recreation Committee for the maintenance of Horwode Pece.

It is hoped that the budget submission will be approved at the December meeting in order to meet the deadline for the precept which is 24<sup>th</sup> January 2014.

13. Flooding in the corner of The Green

Cllr Lamberton explained that after heavy rain a corner of The Green flooded. Cllr Gilbey said he would discuss this with the Local Area Technician. It was also suggested that some of the budget should be allocated to this.

14. Report from the Village Walk  
Cllr Mayne met with the Local Area Technician and walked around the village to identify any road or footpath issues.  
Her report is attached to these minutes
15. Receipts
- Allotment Rent £35.00
16. To agree items for payment
- Paul Landymore (Horwode Pece) BACS £7.78
  - Community Impact Bucks BACS £50.00
  - Village Gardens (Graham Burns) BACS £170.00
  - AON Insurance BACS £174.86
  - Donation to Winslow & District Community Bus £250.00
  - Donation to Great Horwood Silver Band £250.00
  - Donation to Focus £250.00
  - Donation to Great Horwood Village Hall £250.00
  - Donation to Great Horwood Youth Club £250.00
  - Donation to Medical Detection Dogs £250.00
17. To receive and note correspondence
- A request from CAB for funding. This was turned down.
  - An invitation to participate in Music in Quiet Places. This will be forwarded.
  - Holiday activities programme invitation. The Parish Council agreed to fund two sessions.
  - A consultation on youth services in the Parish. Cllr Gilbey took this.
18. Items for the next meeting  
MVAS, Singleborough Noticeboard, Draft Budget, Report from NAG meetings, Village Freighter
19. Confirmation of date and time of next meeting  
The next meeting will be held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ **Draft** \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Planning Committee Report - for meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2013**

1. The customary listing of current and recent Planning Applications follows. 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**

31/08/13	13/02280/ APP	Miss Y Crum	77 Spring Lane	Single storey front extension and single storey rear conservatory	No Objection	Approved
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**Pending**

31/08/13	13/02235/ APP	Mr & Mrs Crabtree	54 Little Horwood Road	Single storey front extension	No Objection
24/09/13	13/02549/ APP	Mr & Mrs Malarkey	16 Townsend Cottages	Single storey front extension	No Objection
11/10/13	13/02570/ ALB	Mr P Morris	Mulberry Cottage	Rethatching of cottage with a mixed heads and butts cereal straw spar coat in the long straw style and raising of eaves and raising left-hand side chimney	No Objection
23/10/13	13/02843/ AEL	Western Power	Pilch Lane	Connection of third conductor	
31/10/13	13/02943/ AEL	Western Power	Land off Spring Lane	Rebuilding and Reconductoring Overhead Lines	

## Results of the village walk with Stuart Campbell from TfB (15.10.2013)

- Pot holes. One of the holes in the road in front of the church is big enough for repair and should be done this week. All other holes (eg. Greenway) do not meet the criteria. (a category 1 pothole has to be 40mm deep and 300mm in either direction, with sharp edges)
- The diversion sign near the green will be removed. (Also an old one hiding behind the Nash Road sign) He is looking into another diversion sign that has appeared!
- He has lopped off branches that were hiding the direction signs by the village hall. He suggested that we contact AVDC and ask for a replacement sign for the faded Willow Road sign.
- An order is in for the footpath improvements in Nash Road, however there is no money in the council's budget for footpaths this year. It still may get done, but could happen next year.
- He is looking into the road flooding in Nash Road. This was solved last year so may just need the drain clearing out.
- The white lines where the bridge works were done earlier this year on the Winslow Road should be done soon. The sign indicating no white lines can then be removed at last.
- Granborough has had its ground screws for MVAS installed today, so they are happening. Utility plans have held them up.
- Regarding unnecessary clutter of signs in the village. It was suggested that we could request AVDC look into removing the three signs outside Ivy Cottage on the green and replacing them with one sign with them all on?

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