



**Great Horwood
Parish Council**

Great Horwood Parish Council

Minutes of an ordinary meeting held on 13th September 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)
5 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 12th July 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
 - Cllr Moulding asked for an update on the contracted work at the allotments in Willow Road. It was established that although the Contractor had contacted the Clerk in the middle of August stating he was back at work and the job would be completed within a couple of weeks, nothing had been done. It was agreed that a final letter would be sent to the Contractor stating the work or a refund had to be completed by the end of September and that this item would be put on the agenda at the next meeting.
 - Cllr Moulding also gave an update on the Parish Plan. It has become obvious from discussions with AVDC that community led plans are becoming more important in decision making and therefore the work of the Parish Plan Steering Committee is fundamental. However, the team is small and more support from volunteers is needed.
5. Public Participation Period
Mr Mick Wood suggested that one solution to the Willow Road Contractor problem would be to not have a fence.
Mrs Monica Gilbey reported that the Great Horwood & Singleborough Youth Club had now started.
6. Introduction to new PCSO Sue Crockett
The new PCSO for the village gave a short introduction to her background and stated that she was looking forward to her new role. Speed checks had already been carried out in the village and she was pleased to report that there had been no excessive speeders. She also stated that she would be visiting the Youth Club at some point in the near future as she felt it was important to meet the younger people within the village.

The parking issue at the top of Spring Lane was once again raised and PCSO Crockett agreed she would go and look at the problem and leave more letters to those cars which were being parked illegally. Cllr Gilbey showed a proforma of a letter which could be left on offending vehicles by members of the public but the PCSO didn't advise this course of action. The PCSO will report back once she has visited the top of Spring Lane.

Cllr Gilbey also raised the issue of unauthorised use of the football ground. Again, the PCSO agreed that she would visit the site to see the situation for herself as soon as she was advised that there was a problem.

Cllr Moulding asked about whose responsibility it was to clear up glass after a road traffic accident. PCSO Crockett advised that it was the Highways dept at BCC.

Cllr Gilbey thanked PCSO Crockett for attending the meeting and also promised to send a copy of the minutes to her.

At this point Cllr Lamberton had to leave the meeting.

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. Only one application has been received since the last meeting and this is purely an extension to the timescale of an existing application. Consequently Cllr Moulding proposed that the comments made to AVDC were ratified. Cllr Brocklehurst seconded this and it was approved unanimously.

Cllr Moulding also stated that work was now being carried out on Old Vine Cottage in Singleborough. The works were being closely monitored by AVDC to ensure they conform to the enforcement order requirements.

- 7.2. Cllr Brocklehurst updated the Council on the recent developments at Horwode Pece.
- The maintenance tools are due to be received shortly. These will be kept in locked facilities within the village and will only be able to be used at The Rec.
 - It is hoped to arrange a training visit by RoSPA for October. Members of the committee will attend.
 - Playground Facilities have finished all the work at Horwode Pece. The only item of equipment which is not open yet is the toddler tunnel and this is to allow the grass to grow over the top.
 - A working party is planned in October to tidy the land between The Rec and the road.
 - The rec committee are to meet next month and hopefully will move to quarterly meetings going forward. There is one prospective new member but more volunteers are still wanted for both the management committee and the inspection team.

8. Report on the AVALC meeting held on 20th July

Cllrs Gilbey and Moulding attending this meeting at Pitstone. The Executive Committee met first where they prepared for the meeting to be held with AVDC on 8th September.

There was also a presentation from Jim Cannell who discussed Section 106 agreements, the community infrastructure levy, planning appeals, enforcement, garden grabbing and the Regional Spatial Strategy.

9. Report on the AVALC meeting with AVDC held on 8th September

Cllrs Gilbey and Moulding attended this meeting and met Tracey Aldworth who has just moved from her role as Assistant Chief Executive to a new position as an interim director of AVDC. The aim of this meeting was to get some direction from AVDC as to their future plans for budgets and priorities and to ensure that the parishes within AVDC had an opportunity to provide feedback to the District Council via AVALC.

A number of results were achieved from this meeting including a representative of AVDC will regularly attend AVALC meetings. The News for the Parishes, which is currently produced on an ad-hoc basis, will be produced on a more regular basis and AVALC will have an opportunity to contribute to each edition. Andy Barton, from AVDC, will attend the AVALC AGM which is to be held on 6th November.

There will also be a follow up meeting with AVDC on 16th December.

Cllr Moulding updated the Parish Council on localism. A number of questions were asked of AVDC on this topic and it didn't seem to be recognised that this was soon to become an Act of Parliament. There is a lot of emphasis from the Department of Communities and Local Government about devolution of additional powers to local councils.

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

Cllr Moulding explained that this application is still continuing. AVDC have requested extra information from the applicants but no answers have yet been provided. A speed survey has also been carried out but doubts have arisen about the validity of the survey due to obstructions in the road. However, AVDC and BCC seem to have these issues in hand and the application is unlikely to get to the Development Control Committee until 14th October or even 4th November. At the DCC, Cllr Moulding will attend if possible and in his absence Cllr Gilbey will attend. It was agreed that Great Horwood Parish Council must be represented.

11. AVDC Core Strategy including NBPPC representations

At a recent meeting of the AVDC full Council it was unanimously agreed to request permission from the Secretary of State to withdraw the Core Strategy. This is likely to be granted so now the AVDC planning strategy is back at the start.

At this meeting NBPPC asked AVDC to assertively renew its opposition to any expansion of Milton Keynes into Aylesbury Vale district, to strongly defend the District's existing administrative boundaries, to support the villages of the Vale in retaining their character and identity, to engage affected communities in proper public consultation and finally to put in place a new housing growth agenda which is properly based on evidence.

12. Letter from Buckingham Town Council re Local Governance Consultation

A letter has been received from Buckingham Town Council asking if Parish Councils are content with the services provided by AVDC and whether they would support a change in the District Council system. The topic was debated among Councillors and it was established that while there are some issues with AVDC, there would be more concern if departments were devolved to smaller areas.

Consequently the Clerk was asked to respond to the letter but with no comments.

13. Review of Licensing Policy

All Councillors have received a copy of this consultation and it was agreed that there was no comment to be made.

14. Cleaning of War Memorial and wreath holder.

Cllr Moulding updated the Parish Council on the current situation. There have been no claims of ownership of the War Memorial and therefore the Parish Council are empowered to carry out work on it. Cllr Moulding believes that the Memorial can be cleaned without outside help and therefore will put together a working party so that this can be carried out.

A number of suggestions have been made to stop the wreaths blowing away once they have been placed at the Memorial on Remembrance Sunday and the solution liked most by the Council was a cradle which would hang over the wall. A solution needs to be in place by Remembrance Sunday this year and it was agreed that Cllr Moulding would liaise with Cllr Margerrison and Mrs Monica Gilbey in order resolve this issue.

15. Financial Review

Prior to the meeting, the Clerk had circulated details of the current financial position of the Parish Council and the forecast position for the end of the financial year. No questions were raised and the Parish Council were happy with the current financial position.

The Clerk also confirmed that the external auditors had signed off the accounts and these will be published on the website.

Cllr Brocklehurst highlighted there had been a recent consultation on a referendum to veto excessive council tax increases. The idea is that Central Government will specify a maximum percentage increase and if a Council goes over this there has to be a local referendum which the Council would pay for. Although this may not be in place for the next round of precept requests, the Council need to be aware of this for the future.

16. Precept Timescales

A document has been circulated to Councillors with the proposals and explanations of precept timescales by AVDC, which advised that the Council's precept requirement for 2011/12 must be advised to AVDC by Friday 21st January 2011 at the latest. Comments have been requested but it was agreed that the Council had no issues and therefore no comment to make.

17. Village Allotments – rental charges and tenancy agreements

Further to the discussion at the previous meeting, an updated tenancy agreement had been circulated prior to this meeting. Only one comment had come back which asked whether the Council would allow non-residents to have an allotment plot. It was agreed that this wasn't advisable and that only local residents would be permitted.

Cllr Moulding asked whether new agreements would have to be issued if rents are increased. Cllr Brocklehurst advised that this would be the case and would also be sensible as it provided proper confirmation that the tenant had agreed to the new rate.

A resolution was then proposed by Cllr Moulding to introduce the tenancy agreements. This was seconded by Cllr Brocklehurst and agreed unanimously.

18. Offer from Doctors Car Service to provide a bench for the Bus Shelter

Cllr Gilbey explained there accumulated funds from the Doctors Car Service could be used to provide a bench in the bus shelter as requested by residents. BCC have been consulted and they have no issue with a bench being fixed to the pavement. The Parish Council were asked whether this was a good idea and there was unanimous agreement to go ahead. Cllr Moulding suggested that the Parish Council could contribute if necessary and Cllr Gilbey agreed to investigate further.

19. Maternity Cover

The Clerk advised that she wouldn't be able to attend the December meeting due to the arrival of her baby. Mrs Monica Gilbey has offered to take the minutes for that meeting (and the November one too, should there be an early arrival). According to BALC, temporary clerk cover needs a resolution so Cllr Brocklehurst proposed this, Cllr Berrill seconded it and it was agreed unanimously.

The Clerk confirmed she would continue with the day to day actions over her maternity period. The only question was the timing of the budget and so it was agreed that a preliminary budget would be provided by the next meeting in order to get the process started.

20. Receipts

- Interest from Fixed Term Deposit £19.95
- John the Barber £15.00
- Funfair Rent £275.00
- VAT Reclaim £6,925.22

21. Items paid since previous meeting

- BALC Training Courses £90.00

22. To agree items for payment

- Clerks Expenses £60.92 (Broadband £40.00, Stationery £12.96, APM Refreshments £7.96)
- Playground Facilities £6,466.58
- EON Light Maintenance £108.39
- SLCC £82.00

23. To receive and note correspondence

- A letter received from CAB requesting funding assistance. Unfortunately none can be given at this time.
- A letter from Simply Walk asking if the Council would like a presentation at the next meeting. It was decided that this was already well publicised and wasn't necessary at present.
- A letter regarding Community Payback. This project has already been used within the village and it was agreed to keep the project in mind.
- A letter from the Winslow and District Community Bus thanking the Parish Council for their donation.
- A letter from the Village Hall Trustees asking for financial assistance with the replacement of the floors in the hall toilets. It was acknowledged that the Trustees had recently done a great deal of fundraising of their own and that it was now appropriate for the Parish Council to make a donation of £250 towards this work. Cllr Gilbey proposed a formal resolution to donate £250 to the Village Hall fund and this will be approved at the next meeting.
- An email regarding the hedges around The Green. Some residents have asked for these to be cut lower and it was agreed this would be put on the agenda for the next meeting.
- A letter from Community Impact Bucks with an invitation to their Showcase Event and AGM. Unfortunately no Councillor is able to attend but the Clerk will reply back.

Cllr Gilbey reminded the Council the next LAF meeting was on Wednesday 15th September where there may be some discussion on whether Parish and Town Councils will be asked to pay for salt and to contribute to clearing the High Street of snow. Cllr Gilbey has already raised an objection to this and will report back at the next meeting.

24. Items for the next meeting

The Parish Plan is to be added to the agenda as a regular item.

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Monday 11th October 2010 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

The meeting closed at 9.38pm

Signed **Draft** _____ Date _____