

**HORLEY PARISH COUNCIL – MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
17 November 2016**

PRESENT: Chairman Simon Attfield, Cllrs Martin Hamer, Duncan Raper, John Tite, Graham Curd, Bob Barnwell. Clerk to the Council David Marriott. District Councillor Douglas Webb

Item		Action
1	Apologies for absence Councillor Jennifer Cross. County Councillor George Reynolds also sent his apologies.	
2	Declarations of interests None	
3	Minutes of the meeting held on 25 August. Agreed, proposed by Cllr Barnwell, seconded by Cllr Hamer.	
4	Matters arising The Chairman thanked the Clerk for the work undertaken to minimise the impact of the Warwick Road temporary road closure on traffic in the village.	
5	Verge Maintenance The Clerk reported on the quotation obtained for the cost of undertaking some verge cutting next year, which would comprise approximately £90 per cut for the verges currently cut by the County Council within the village, and £15 per kilometre for a one metre wide strip along the verges outside the 30 mph speed limit. The Council indicated that it was minded to make provision for up to three cuts next year, and would allocate funds for this purpose in the draft estimates for next year. It was also suggested that the contractor employed also be invited to undertake any hedge maintenance required.	Clerk
6	Finance (a) 2016/17 budget monitoring report Report approved. It was noted that the outcome of the audit of the 2015/16 accounts had been received, and that no recommendations had been made. (b) draft budget for 2017/18 It was agreed that the draft budget presented be approved subject to the addition of an item comprising £450 for verge maintenance, and a precept of £6,750. The anticipated surplus of £4,065 to be allocated to contingencies. It was also agreed that the balances held by the Council be allocated to the proposed playground scheme.	Clerk
7	Land Adjoining the Old Council Houses, Wroxton Lane The Clerk reported on discussions with Oxfordshire County Council regarding the possible creation of parking spaces on the highway land adjoining the Old Council Houses. The County Council are concerned about the possible impact on the alder trees on the land, and a further meeting had been arranged to discuss the proposals further. It was noted that any works should address the issue with a blocked drain which currently causes flooding on the carriageway. It was also noted that if replacement tree planting is required, there is potential for this along the Banbury Lane.	Clerk

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8	<p>Requests for charitable donations</p> <p>Two requests for charitable donations had been received, from Oxfordshire Association for the Blind, and the Banburyshire Citizen Project. It was agreed that £25 be donated to both charities.</p>	Clerk
9	<p>Planning report</p> <p>The report setting out applications received was noted. Vic Smith was in attendance and had requested the opportunity to address the Council regarding works being carried out at Keepers Cottage, off Little Lane. He commented that an access road had been constructed some time ago without planning permission, and that building works are now taking place which are significantly larger than the original structure. He also stated that there are 5 water meters on the land. He noted that the land is situated within the Horley conservation area, and said they should not be permitted. He also reported that Cherwell District Council had served a Temporary Stop Notice on 16 November, although the copy posted at the entrance to the site had subsequently disappeared.</p> <p>District Councillor Webb said that he was seeking to discuss the situation with the planning officer dealing with the case, although that officer was currently on leave. Consequently, he could not advise as to whether or not the works being undertaken could comprise permitted development.</p> <p>The landowner Roger Freeman was also in attendance, but declined to comment, other than to say that there are no spare water meters on the site.</p> <p>The Council noted that Cherwell District Council have served a Temporary Stop Notice, and are understood to be preparing an Enforcement Notice. Currently the matter is for the District Council, and the Parish Council has not been consulted on the matter. Consequently it is not able to take any decisions unless it is consulted.</p>	
10	<p>Water Leaks in Wroxton Lane</p> <p>The Chairman reported that there have been several recent mains water leaks in Wroxton Lane, and questioned whether Thames Water should be asked to replace the water main. It was noted that they will respond to the leaks swiftly if advised that the leak was affecting water pressure. It was agreed that the position be monitored for the time being, and considered again next year if further leaks arise.</p>	
11	<p>Proposed removal of the telephone box</p> <p>The Clerk reported that the Council has been consulted by the District Council on BT's intention to remove the public telephone kiosk. It was noted that the telephone does not accept cash, and has not been used at all during the last year. The Council accepted that there are no grounds for objecting to the removal of the telephone, and asked the Clerk to forward a request that the grass verge be properly reinstated following the removal of the kiosk.</p>	Clerk
12	<p>Reports from external organisations</p> <p>None</p> <p>The Clerk was asked to invite the cricket club to update the Council on their new pavilion project at the next meeting.</p>	Clerk

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13	<p>High Sheriff's Awards for 2016/17 It was noted that the Council has been invited to nominate candidates for the High Sheriff's awards for 2016/17. It was not considered that there was anyone who met the criteria set out by the High Sheriff this year, and consequently did not wish to make a nomination.</p>	Clerk
14	<p>Date of next meeting Thursday 16 February 2017 – 7.30 pm</p>	All
15	<p>Any other urgent business</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cllr Barnwell reported that he had been asked to obtain a copy of any record which may exist of non-statutory public footpaths. It was not known whether such a plan exists, and the Clerk was asked to investigate 2. Cllr Hamer mentioned that the University of Surrey are seeking to test badgers in this area for bovine TB. If any dead badgers are found in the parish, Cllr Hamer would like to hear of them so he can collect the bodies and arrange for them to be forwarded to the university. 3. The Clerk mentioned the District Council's ongoing public consultation on revisions to the Local Plan. It was noted that there are no additional housing sites being considered in the parish, although there are sites in Hanwell and Wroxton. The District Council are holding a workshop for parish councillors on 12 December, but no Members indicated a wish to attend this. 4. A query was raised about the route Heavy Goods Vehicles should take to access the village. It would appear that currently some are being routed, possibly by sat navs, via Wroxton Lane. The Clerk was asked to make enquiries of Oxfordshire County Council. 	<p>Clerk</p> <p>All</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>

MEETING CLOSED AT 8.30 pm