

**HORLEY PARISH COUNCIL – MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
HELD ON
THURSDAY 27TH MAY 2021 7.30pm IN THE OLD SCHOOLROOMS**

**PRESENT ON BEHALF OF THE COUNCIL: Chairman Cllr John Tite, Cllrs Graham Curd, Martin Hamer, Simon Attfield, Kate Wythe, Bob Barnwell, Duncan Raper, Clerk to the Council David Beck.
Three members of the public were also in attendance**

Item 1. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Ms.A.Baker – Rector, Mr.D.Morris Landlord of the Red Lion Public House and Mr.C.Harris, resident.

Chairman Cllr Tite welcomed all to the meeting

Item 2. Introduction of Parish Councillors

Each Councillor and the Parish Clerk introduced themselves and informed of their roles within the Parish Council

Item 3. Michael Hardinge Trust Annual Report

Interim Chairman of the Trust John Tite presented the report

Michael Hardinge Trust Annual report 2020-21

Like so many organisations the last year has been difficult for the Michael Hardinge Trust. However, we have managed to carry on the business of the Trust and make significant progress. All the Trustees have improved their virtual meeting skills in numerous Zoom meetings during the year.

One of our principal tasks is to maintain the Old School Hall as an important hub in the social life of the village. Obviously, we have not been able to open for most of the year. However, we did manage to open in a Covid safe way for one week at the beginning of November last year and the Ladies Guild actually managed to hold their meeting. Within two days lockdown prevented any further use of the Hall until May this year. We were fortunate to receive grants from Cherwell District Council which have enabled us to meet the ongoing running costs of the Hall. Many of you will now have been able to return to the Hall for the local council elections. Since then, we have been able to open for some activities with the hope of returning to something like normality at the end of June.

Those of you who have walked down past the school hall will have noticed building work on the cottage. The cottage is a very old building and has suffered some deterioration in recent years. The Trust decided to review the condition of the structure and to invest in essential work to stabilise the building with a view to giving it a new lease of life. This is particularly important as the rental from the cottage is an important financial contribution to the Trust. This work is now nearing completion and we are grateful to the tenant for putting up with the inevitable disruption. Our aim is to carry out a similar project on the School Hall itself as soon as possible.

Supporting the children and young people in the village to meet their educational goals is the primary function of the Trust and we were delighted to be able to make the appropriate universal grants at the start of the educational year. We were also able to provide financial support to

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*Hornton School in the continuing development of their library facilities. In the new year we realised the continued lockdown could be putting additional pressures on local families as a result of home schooling and other issues. As a result, we advertised additional grants to help out and we were very pleased to provide funds which among other things helped to provide laptops and other IT to help with distance learning to everyone who applied. We hope it helped!
Finally, you will probably have seen elsewhere that after many years of dedicated service Mike Patching has retired as Chairman and Trustee. For many of you Mike was the face of the Trust and it is hard to imagine him not being in the forefront as we move forward. Thanks for everything Mike - we hope you enjoy your retirement!
The Trustees: John Tite (Chairman), Graham Curd, Barry Moss, Julie Attfield, David Rowland (ex Officio)*

Item 4 Horley Cricket Club

Chairman of the Club David Beck presented the report

As for us all, it was a strange year last year. Because of Covid restrictions we only managed 9 Saturday games, normally 18 and a handful of Sunday games. Our popular Tuesday night Junior coaching sessions had to be cancelled.

Clearly this all had an effect on our Finances and we were grateful to receive two emergency grants which just about covered us.

However, looking forward we were ready for the new 2021 season, again under Covid restrictions and then the rains came. To date we haven't played any weekend games! I cannot remember the ground being so wet! Our Junior coaching sessions were also affected by the rain, but on a positive note we have now managed one session and surely soon we will hear through the village the sound of bat on ball and the occasional 'howzthat'?

We are now in a position to have limited access to the pavilion to the pavilion, again under Covid guidelines and restrictions. I would say and bearing in mind we are all volunteers, that the English Cricket Board's latest Covid guidelines and instructions was 31 pages long, but we are sure we are ready.

The Club has attracted many new adult and Junior members and that is great to see. Again because of regulations we have had to restrict the number of Juniors at Coaching, but we do have a full compliment.

The Club is pleased to announce three new sponsors signed up on long term deals. SCR Financial Services, John Nicholls Builders Merchants and Bailgate Clothing.

The Annual Games Day with all the youngsters (and many of the Oldies) will take place on Sunday July 18th. Further details to be announced.

Many have asked the position regarding our new pavilion. We have had to overcome a challenge on ownership of the ground dating back to the 1950's, but on a positive note the car park is working well and keeping cars off Banbury Lane and Lane Close. Main funding has all but disappeared meaning we may have to look at alternative building options which are less expensive, but will still be fit for purpose and a credit to the Club and Village itself. More news on that to follow.

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Item 5. Parochial Church Council

In the absence of Alicia Baker, Rector, Kate Wythe reported

Report for Parish Council from Horley PCC: May 27th 2021

The main parish news is the arrival of the new rector for Ironstone, Rev Alicia Baker. Alicia has moved into the Rectory in Wroxton. Her first service at Horley was well attended and she has organised an outdoor service at Hadsham farm on Sunday 30th May at 5pm, so that we can sing. Alicia has a musical background, so we may see more benefice music.

Many of you will have seen the scaffolding up over the West Door. The West Window, which blew in during a storm, has now been refurbished with new leadwork and contains much of the original glass and the stonework around it has been restored. The PCC is very grateful to those in the village and beyond who have helped to fund this restoration. As ever with an old building, once the work for that window was underway, a window on the South side was identified as needing repair so we are once again looking for funds.

Wedding season starts in June and we have several weddings over the summer – some postponed from last year. We are having a Big Clean on 5th June to clear up after the window works and get the church looking its best for the weddings. The first one is on 12th June.

An oak tree has been planted for Pete Meirs 90th birthday and a small ceremony was held last weekend. Several trees have had to be removed over the past 18 months, with more still to be done. The PCC is grateful for the support of the Parish Council with the churchyard maintenance.

We are actively looking for new members. David and Glenys left last year, and Tim will be returning to his work in Luxembourg, so anyone who might be interested in joining the PCC would be very welcome.

Item 6. Ladies Guild

Chairman of the Ladies' Guild, Alison Tite, reported

In spite of lockdown preventing the Ladies Guild from organising their usual events, I'm pleased to say we adapted and managed to continue to raise much needed funds for the Church and other charities. During the unusual and sometimes difficult times in 2020 and early 2021, we organised:

- *A virtual Summer Fete last Summer, including a plant stall, a virtual cake sale, a lockdown quiz and a children's art competition.*
- *A Christmas Market in November/December, with a range of virtual 'stalls' selling chocolates, greetings cards and gin from local suppliers as well as Horley apple juice and Christmas wreaths – as well as a very successful raffle.*
- *A virtual Cake Stall in October in aid of Breast Cancer Now.*

With proceeds from these events we donated £1,550 to the Church funds, £100 to each of Katherine House Hospice, Warwick Hospital, Horton Hospital and Christian Aid and £430 to Breast Cancer Now.

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Even though the Church was closed completely for a time and subsequently only opened on specific days, the Ladies Guild saw to it that there were flower arrangements in the Church porch and an Easter garden too. A small rota of Ladies Guild members continued to keep the Church clean, brasses polished and everything in good order ready for services when these were allowed.

Members of the Ladies Guild also joined forces with the Parish Council to form a Coronavirus Support Group during the first lockdown last year, doing shopping, collecting prescriptions, making scrubs and face masks and generally keeping a friendly eye out for those in the village in the vulnerable category. (And also sharing news on the availability of flour and other key items in short supply!)

Alison Tite - Chairman, Horley Ladies Guild

Item 7. Red Lion Public House

Dave Morris, Landlord, sent his apologies and in his absence, the Clerk read out his report.

The last 15 months have presented the most unusual trading circumstances and it was thought appropriate that the business reports to the village on this matter. Many in the village may be concerned as to the viability of the business in these pandemic times, but I am happy to report that the pub looks like emerging from this period in a healthy and sustainable state.

Although turnover was well down, the pub has managed to make many improvements thanks to Government grants, the 'Bounce-Back loan' and most notably to having plenty of time on our hands to complete projects. The main improvement is that the pub, for the first time in its history, now has central heating. Even the infamous Gents toilets are no longer akin to stepping into the Artic!

I am also happy to report that during this period we have had many visits from Cherwell District Council and we were always praised for the Covid secure measures we had/have in place.

It will be interesting to see how trade returns, but it is expected that people will be more cautious and therefore use our outside space rather than sit inside. With this in mind the TV is now in the Garden for customers' preference and primarily for Covid safe reasons. I am very much aware of the potential nuisance to our neighbours but I can assure everyone that any amplified sound will be kept to a minimum and will cease by 10pm at the very latest.

From June 21st it is hoped that fairly 'normal' trading practices will resume. There may be a Beer Festival this Autumn as many patrons have bemoaned the fact we lost two due to the closures. There may well be more garden based events as well.

Natasha and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the village for their support through these strange times. The collecting of take-away ale and also putting up with 'substantial meals' made us feel very wanted. To that end. It looks like you may be stuck with us for a while yet.

Item 8 .Parish Council

Chairman of the Parish Council John Tite reported

No Parish Council meeting have been missed – whilst in person due to Covid restrictons, 'Zoom' has been used.

Glenys Stacey retired from the Council, and Kate Wythe came in as her replacement.

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The previous Parish Clerk David Marriott moved from the area and therefore resigned. He has been replaced by David Beck.

Many planning applications had been considered by the Parish Council.

The major topic the Parish Council is currently pursuing is the parking issue at the bottom end of Wroxton Lane and the effect of this on the verges. This project was proving hard work to progress with the original Planning Pre-Application turned down by CDC Planning and excessive fees. However, the Parish Council have re-launched the project and some progress has been made. This matter would be discussed further here under 'Any other business'

Any other business

The Parish Council had received various communications from residents asking for topics to be discussed. These included the parking issues on Wroxton Lane, the proposed changes to the Motocross site, the closed footpath along the old railway line and the verges along the length of Wroxton Lane.

These were discussed at length with involvement from the Parish Council and the members of the Public in attendance.

Wroxton Lane parking. The Chairman had already commented in his report on the current position regarding the parking issues on Wroxton Lane. The Council were grateful for the support communicated to them by in total 31 residents. As stated some progress had been made on a 'different approach' following the turning down by CDC Planning of the original Planning Pre-Application.

The verges would be a natural follow-on from the parking project.

Motocross Site, Stratford Road, Wroxton Planning Application. The application included for change of use, associated camping site, private practice sessions for up to 65 days per year. The matter was discussed at length, and whilst it was noted the site was not in the Horley Parish, the noise pollution did affect the village and would become much more of a problem with the proposed increased number of events. After the discussion, the Parish Council agreed to **object** to the application based on the following..

- a) the proposed increased intensity of usage of this site.
- b) The Parish Council are extremely concerned about the proposed increased number of events to 65 days per year, an average of over one per week.
- c) Noise pollution from the existing site is already a major concern and can be heard throughout the village. This will only increase if the application is approved.
- d) The Parish Council has received many individual complaints from residents regarding the existing site.

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Closed footpath along the old railway line. The matter was discussed and it was noted that the Parish Council had contacted the tenants who ran the Scout Camp. The land itself is owned by Trinity. The tenants had said they had a Duty of Care towards the youngsters who used the camp and an obligation to uphold Safeguarding principles. After the discussion, whilst it was a great shame, it was felt there was nothing that could be done in the short term. However the Parish Council would continue to monitor the situation.

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