

**HORLEY PARISH COUNCIL – MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 12TH
MAY 2022 7.30pm in the OLD SCHOOL ROOMS, HORLEY.**

**PRESENT: Cllrs John Tite, Graham Curd, Martin Hamer, Simon Attfield, Kate Wythe, Bob Barnwell,
Clerk to the Council David Beck. Two village residents were also in attendance**

1) Apologies for Absence

Cllr Duncan Raper

2) Declarations of interests

None to record

3) Introduction of Parish Councillors

The individual Councillors and Parish Clerk were introduced to the meeting and confirmed their responsibilities. It was confirmed Cllr Curd was to be Vice-Chairman for the year.

4) Michael Hardinge Trust Annual Report

John Tite presented the report as..

The last year has been a period of rebuilding following the difficulties of operating during the pandemic. As you will know Mike Patching decided to retire last May after many years service as Chairman of the Trust and certainly this last year has demonstrated how much time and effort he dedicated to ensuring the trust is a real benefit to the village.

Mike's departure left us with two vacancies as we already had one. We have been very fortunate to have found two excellent new full trustees, namely Jane Williams and Jenny Smith.

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 continue to be able to make the appropriate universal grants, mostly at the start of the educational year. Following the appointment of a new Head teacher, we have also re-established financial support to Hornton School. Building on our support for the development of their library facilities, we have also assisted with the provision of resources for early reading skills for the pupils.

Our other principal task is of course to maintain and improve the Old School Hall as an important hub in the social life of the village. Maintaining the Covid precautions for the Old School took significant time and resources from the Trustees and our thanks also go to Caroline Pearce who kept the Hall in good order. We are pleased to report that many regular users returned to use the Old School from last Summer, as and when Covid restrictions eased. Tap dancing, Zumba and Yoga classes all successfully restarted. Unfortunately, the Toddler group has had to pause their activities due to low attendance, but we hope they can return in the future. The cinema club has also taken a rest, but it will return later in the year. The hall has also been well used for both private and public events. Notably, the Ladies Guild held a successful post Covid Village Tea in September and Sue Patching and the Ladies Guild organised a memorable coffee morning in support of the Ukraine Appeal, where it seemed as though the whole village turned out.

Unfortunately, the costs of maintaining the fabric of an old building like the School Hall are never-ending and increasing. We had a major problem with renewing the insurances to cover the School Hall and cottage, which in addition to requiring a higher premium, also added more safety and maintenance costs. We also hope we can cover the huge increases in Energy costs which will hit this year.

However, we are determined to maintain and improve the Old School Building and facilities and we intend to identify a scheme of major improvements. Delivering these will of necessity be dependent on obtaining grants and may also need support from the village. For now, we would like to put together a vision for the Hall which will then allow us to estimate costs. It would be great if we could enlist the help of residents from the village to generate ideas. If you would like to help us on this please contact any of the Trustees.

Thanks for your continuing support.

The Trustees: John Tite (Chairman), Graham Curd, Barry Moss, Julie Attfield, Jane Williams, Jenny Smith, David Rowland (ex Officio)

5) Cricket Club

David Beck presented the report as..

The 2022 League cricket season opened last Saturday, with the Club running two teams in the Cherwell Cricket League which has now increased to 180 teams across 5 counties. We are also running an Adult Sunday side.

We have entered four teams, u-11,u-13,u-15 and u-19's in the Oxfordshire Cricket League so there are many matches and opportunities to watch and enjoy a game of cricket. We now have many social members from the village and surrounds who do this. Social Membership is paid by a donation to the Club and of course new players are most welcome.

Our Junior coaching sessions for kids from 7 to 15 have started again on a Tuesday night – you may have noticed the noise from the ground - We have up to 70 youngsters signed on.

In the next couple of weeks we start an early session for 5 -7 year olds.

This season should see us free from any covid restrictions, so getting back to normality. As you are aware Cricket teas during a game are a great tradition. During covid times the provision of Club teas was stopped. Post covid, all the League Clubs were asked to vote on the re-introduction of the cricket tea. Unfortunately, in our view, the clubs voted by 2 to 1 not to re-introduce teas, so a tradition has disappeared. We do continue to supply hot drinks and cakes.

This year the club celebrates its 75th anniversary. On Friday June 3rd we are holding two special commemorative games with a celebration afterwards. The Club has volunteered the ground for the Village Jubilee celebrations on June 5th. On July 17th, the Annual Village Games Day is re-introduced after Covid. All are welcome to all these events.

Whilst planning permission was obtained for a new pavilion off the Banbury Road, it was found there were too many conditions/complications with planning and funding. Of course, covid got into the way with many funding streams suspended, therefore a decision was taken to make a new application to knock down the existing pavilion and rebuild on the same site. A decision on that planning application should be with us in the next 14 days. Having recently had meetings with ECB and OCB, funding streams are now available and we have received positive vibes. A new sight

screen system has been installed on the road side boundary and thanks to the generosity of a member, a new electronic scoreboard is due to be unveiled at the 75th Celebration day.

Thanks go to our three main sponsors – SCR Finance, Nichols Building Merchants and Bailgate Clothing – along with the Michael Hardinge Trust who support our youth system.

Finally, we look forward to seeing everyone at one or all of our events or to watch a game.

6) Parochial Church Council

Kate Wythe presented the report as..

Parish of St Etheldreda's, Horley. Churchwarden Annual report - 2021

2021 reflected the wish of the PCC to continue to allow our Church to be accessible to our community and the Church remained open bi-weekly during the year. We introduced Zoom services, which began in February and regular services in the autumn as the restrictions relaxed.

We welcomed the arrival of Rec Alicia Baker in May and she celebrated first service with us on May 16th.

A late Spring Clean was held in the Church on Saturday 5th June; we also were able to hold the Horley Ladies Guild Christmas Fair on 27th November. An outdoor Nativity play took place in the grounds of Rowarth House (courtesy of the Hendry family) on 18th December, which was well supported. We were also delighted to welcome back the popular Ironstone Festival in September after the break imposed by Covid restrictions. In terms of maintenance works, the major work that took place was the restoration of the stonework undertaken by our craftsman, Trevor Dean. We also replaced the glass panels with all new leadwork. Other work included the removal of the Stove, which was starting to collapse, and the old redundant coal bunker. Several tiles were replaced in the roof above the nave.

In the Churchyard we removed several diseased trees, the saplings by the Hornton road and began a tree planting programme. We also held a churchyard clean-up to engage with the village in the autumn. We also were grateful for the support of Dave Reynolds who completed the work started by Sue and Brian to map the graves.

Finally, the Ladies Guild were again able to sustain a regular cleaning programme throughout the year and made sure the Church was cleaned and adorned with flowers to help welcome our visitors, who always comment on this aspect of their visit.

Horley Parochial Church Council April 2022

7) Ladies Guild

Kate Wythe presented the report on behalf of the Ladies Guild as..

The Ladies Guild organised several events this year, raising funds for the Church and other charities as well as providing opportunities for villagers to get together when Covid allowed.

These included:

- A cake sale in July and a long-running plant stall in Lane Close (instead of a Summer Fete).
- Village tea party in September
- Coffee morning in aid of Breast Cancer Now in October.
- Christmas Market in November

- Coffee Morning in aid of the DEC Ukraine emergency appeal in March
- Good Friday frugal lunch in April

With proceeds from these events we donated £2,870 to the Church funds, £750 to Breast Cancer Now, £2,011 to the DEC Ukraine Emergency Appeal, £180 to Christian Aid and £200 to Guide Dogs for the Blind.

The Ladies Guild also kept the Church clean and decorated with flowers throughout the year.

Alison Tite - Chairman, Horley Ladies Guild

8) Red Lion Public House

David Beck presented the report on behalf of Dave and Natasha Morris as..

The report will be quite brief!

Normality has returned to the pub post covid! It is good to see the pub busy and the chatter and noise back. The dominoes team and darts team are back playing as well.

Covid did give us the opportunity to instal central heating and re-decorate making a more comfortable environment to socialise.

Whilst not fully a Pub thing, the introduction of the Pop Up Pizza and the Khan's Kitchen nights have proved very popular as was the re-introduction of the Annual Beer Festival.

We are very conscious there is some feeling in the village about the parking outside the pub. We do endeavour to try and control this and ensure this does not become an issue. We would add that not all the cars parking around the pub are using the pub.

Finally thank you for your custom – we look forward to seeing you regularly in the pub.

Dave & Natasha Morris

9) Parish Council

Chairman Cllr Tite wished to thank the fellow Councillors and the Parish Clerk for the work they do on behalf of the Village and it's residents.

The Parish Council had formally entered the District Community Review with a request to extend Horley Parish boundaries further into Hanwell and Wroxton, forming more obvious boundaries.

There were three stages to this and at this stage the request had been recommended to proceed to stage two. A final decision would be available around October 2022.

Meanwhile the Parish Council would continue to work in the best interests of the Village.

10) Any other business

Following a request from an attendee, Cllr Attfield gave the update on the Wroxton Lane Car Park.

The Planning Application and relevant documents had been sent into Cherwell District Council. The resident stated he would contact the village residents to encourage their support for this project. He would be informed as soon as the planning portal number had been sent to the Parish Council .

Cllr Tite thanked all for their attendance.

Meeting closed at 8.05pm.

DRAFT