

**HORLEY PARISH COUNCIL – MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 11<sup>TH</sup>  
MAY 2023 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. Six village residents were also in attendance**

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**1) Apologies for Absence**

Cllr Duncan Raper and District Councillors G.Reynolds and D.Webb

**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 Tite had been elected as Chairman and Cllr Curd elected as Vice-Chairman for the coming year.

- 4)** The meeting opened with a presentation by Ms.Robin Aitken representing Hanwell Parish Council on the Vistry Homes Planning Application on Warwick Road. The matter was then discussed with Parish Council members and the village residents in attendance expressing views. Cllr Tite confirmed that the Parish Council had decided to object to the proposal and a statement of objection would be written on the CDC planning portal. It was noted that Banbury Town Council at their recent meeting had confirmed their objection. A village resident in attendance agreed to contact Horley residents to ask for their support in objecting.

The discussions then moved on to the subject of the proposal by Elgin Energy to build a solar farm on both sides of the Warwick Road. Cllr Tite stated he had attempted on various occasions to contact a representative of the company for them to attend an open meeting in Horley, but there had been no response. Cllr Tite also confirmed to the meeting that the Parish Council had agreed in principle to object to any planning application and should any developer money be made to Horley Village, the decision where to spend those monies would be in the interests of the village. It was noted that only Shotteswell village had been officially offered any monies to date. The residents in attendance expressed their views on the subject.

**5) Michael Hardinge Trust Annual Report**

John Tite presented the report as..

Despite operating in ever more challenging times the Michael Harding Trust continues to do its best to meet its charitable obligations. A notable highlight is that over the last year the Trust has given over £14,000 in grants to village children to help with their education, particularly on the big step to further education. Jane Williams has now taken on a lead role in managing the grants and was instrumental in arranging a donation to Hornton School to make a big difference in the development of reading skills. The awarding of grants is a key part of the Trust's work – you can read more on the Horley Views website.

The rental from the School cottage is a significant part of the income to the Trust. However, being an old, listed building means we have continued to spend to maintain the structure and improve habitability. We consider this an investment for the future sustainability of the Trust and an essential part of our work. The School House itself also needs continual maintenance and this year we have had to replace two of the characterful old windows, which were in danger of collapse. We still have plans for major investment in the School Hall to secure its future although this is reliant on being able to secure grants or donations and we are being careful not to invest until we can identify a clear way forward for funding. The hall continues to attract local groups and for many weeks the hall hosts at least one local class every weeknight, as well as special events like the summer fete.

It was with much regret that the Trustees accepted the resignation of Barry Moss as a Trustee and Treasurer. Barry has been a key figure in the development of the Trust over the last fifteen years or so and has had a major impact on improving the financial state of the Trust as well as improving the facilities in the hall by obtaining a number of grants. Happily, the other trustees have stepped up to the mark and we are gradually coping with the gap Barry has left in the organisation. I am pleased to say that he is keeping an interest in the Trust and has continued with the Horley Cinema Club. The vacancy for a trustee has been ably filled by David Shaw, who has a wealth of relevant experience. We are very pleased to welcome him onto the team. The trustees were finally able to honour the work of Mike Patching, chairman of the Trust for so many years and his wife Sue, also a long serving trustee. A Gala Dinner was held with past and present trustees, where the couple were presented with presents to mark the occasion, and for Mike an album of pictures, thanks and comments from many local children.

As can be seen, fundraising has been even more important. Huge increases in insurance, and energy costs among other things have meant that reluctantly we have had to increase the hire fees. We have tried to ease these in as gently as possible and we are still comparable to other local halls. The village Lottery continues to be a big help and thank you to all who take part. Participation levels are at an all-time high and it does make a difference. Cinema Club has restarted again for a full season, although sadly the Toddlers Group has ceased operating – however if anyone is interested in re-starting it please let us know. – we do provide support if village children are involved. Many of you supported us recently through the Village Breakfast which we were pleased to start up again. Last but not least we mustn't forget the support we get through generous donations and this year we were blown away by a massive donation of £2,900 from the proceeds of the café at the Hadsham Farm lambing event. As Fiona Taylor said 'we couldn't have done it without the help of so many volunteers who gave their time for what turned out to be very hard work'

So, thanks to everyone who supports us – we will continue to do our best for the village. We look forward to seeing all of you at some stage during the coming year.

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

## **6) Cricket Club**

David Beck presented the report as..

The wet weather in the last few weeks has certainly hampered our preparations on the field for the start of the season. The 2023 League cricket season should have opened last Saturday, but of course in typical English tradition it poured down and the game was cancelled. Interestingly out of 87 League games due to be played only one was.

As well as the 2 Saturday League sides, we run a Sunday side for adult cricket and have also arranged independent Charity Days this year to support charity causes. Clearly there are no charges to the Charities for these games as we wish them to raise as much money as possible. We have four junior teams, from u-9 upwards, 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.

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 basically disappeared. However we will be doing teas for some games to restore the tradition within Horley Cricket Club and will always continue to supply hot drinks and cakes.

With reference to the proposed new pavilion, we are now using Project Management to prepare the tender documents which will go out to three nominated contractors.

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 enabling us to supply the youngsters with kit and equipment who might not have the opportunity to have their own.

A date for your diary ..... Sunday July 16<sup>th</sup> is the Annual Village Games day, lots of fun and games aimed at the youngsters and those not so young.

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

**David Beck – Chairman Horley Cricket Club**

## **7) Parochial Church Council**

Kate Wythe presented the report as..

The PCCC has been very busy this year. New windows have been fitted on the south side, and some stone work replaced. A map of the graveyard has been prepared by David Reynolds (and there is a copy in the church) to allow people to find graves of relatives more easily.

A new house for Duty Vicar, Rev. Guy Edwards, has been appointed and Guy has been particularly keen to get children involved in the Church. There were activities organised by Guy for Mothering Sunday (With great help from Sarah Allitt in setting up the activities). There was also an Easter Egg hunt and a child centred service on Easter Sunday. Both of these were well attended.

The PCC is, as always, enormously grateful to the Ladies Guild for the funds they raise, and for their hard work in keeping the church clean, the brass shining and creating beautiful flower arrangements.

The PCC is also grateful for the excellent working relationship with the Parish Council.

**Horley Parochial Church Council May 2023**

## **8) Ladies Guild**

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

After a couple of years when face to face events were limited because of Covid restrictions, the Ladies Guild were once again able to organise some of the usual village events this year, raising funds for the Church and other charities. The main events were

- Summer Fete in July
- Coffee morning in aid of Breast Cancer Now, in October

- Christmas Market in November
- Good Friday lunch in April

With proceeds from these events we donated £3010 to the Church funds, £705 to Breast Cancer Now and £115 to Christian Aid.

Throughout the year we provided ( and are still providing) a collection point for food, toiletries and other supplies to support the Ukraine appeal, and with members of the Ladies Guild regularly delivering car loads of items donated to the distribution centre in Banbury. We also joined forces with other village groups to organise Horley's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations, including baking a mountain of home made cakes for everyone to enjoy. As always, the Ladies Guild also kept the Church clean and decorated with flowers throughout the year.

**Alison Tite - Chairman, Horley Ladies Guild**

## 9) Red Lion Public House

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

The report will be 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 now back playing as well.

Whilst not fully a Pub thing, the introduction of the Pop Up Pizza and the Khan's Kitchen nights have proved very popular, we are told that over 70 pizzas are made and sold at those nights with the pub buzzing as people enjoy their food and drink. We are still introducing various different beers for a limited period before the next new ones appear for the customers to try.

We are still 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.

The recent Coronation Cocktails party was a great success attended by lots of villagers – indeed we sold out of various cocktails!!

We expect no major changes in the next 12 months and thank you for your custom – we look forward to seeing you regularly in the pub.

**Dave & Natasha Morris**

## 10) 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 received notification that the boundary changes they proposed had been accepted by CDC and would come into force after the May 2024 local elections. The changes were outlined.

As informed earlier, the Parish Council had stated their position on the Vistry Homes planning application and the proposed Solar Farm.

The Parish Council would continue to work towards a positive conclusion to the parking issues on Wroxtton Lane.

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

**11) Any other business**

There was a request by a resident in attendance that there be more 'joined up' messaging on village issues and looked forward to more communications within the groups.  
Cllr Tite thanked all for their attendance.

**Meeting closed at 8.25pm.**

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