

**DRAFT**  
**HORSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2013**

**Minutes of meeting held at St Margaret's Hall, Horsington on Thursday 11th April 2013**

**1. Present:** Mrs J Wood, Mrs J Pyne, W Candy, C James, Mrs B Mann, S Hawkins, Mrs R Wigley, and D Chapman (Clerk).

**Apologies:** County / District Councillor W Wallace, District Councillor T Inglefield, Mrs A Clayton, Mrs A Jones, PCSO J Winfield, Mr K McDonald, Mr K Norman & I Rumbelow

**2. Approval of minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 12th April 2012**

proposed by C James and seconded by Mrs J Pyne.

**3. Matters arising from previous minutes – None**

**4. Chairman's Report**

- We have had a reasonably quite year, with no major problems. The precept has been kept at £9,500 for another year.
- Maintenance costs fairly constant thanks to our volunteers, particularly S Jackson.
- The loss of our volunteers on footpaths (particularly John Cross) causes comment about footpaths. Please spread the word for walkers to carry secateurs and snip brambles as they walk the footpaths.
- We have always enjoyed great cooperation with landowners and residents.
- The Village Hall committee should be congratulated on their work , not just for the upkeep of the Hall but also for their success in encouraging the whole community. Volunteers have the holes in the car park.
- Thank you for all the efforts of the Parish Councillors. Attendance has been excellent with members being very conscientious. Unfortunately our District / County Councillors have a continuing clash of meeting dates and commitments, but attend when they can and are always available on the end of the telephone or via email.
- We have not had any additional controversial Planning Applications. The Woodside house replacement is now completed. The additional garage and wall removal at Ananda Kuti in South Cheriton did not require permission and so the Parish Council were not notified.
- We still precept £500 per year towards a major update of the Play Area, which when required will be very costly.
- SSDC have agreed that the Parish Council can continue maintaining the Church yard as we have done for many years.
- There have been problems with potholes in Goat Hill Lane and Marsh Lane.
- Charles James is looking after the Horse Pond and is doing a very good job.
- We have been congratulated many times over the season over the improvement at the Cemetery and Churchyard.

**5. Draft Accounts for 2012 / 2013**

- The precept remained at £9,500 for the year 2012 / 2013.
- The carried forward balance contains money for remedial works at the Play Area and works to the Church Wall and a contingency for further work that needs to be done at the Cemetery, to cover any work at the bus shelters

and a capital fund to cover the replacement of equipment at the Play Area when required.

- The costs of grass cutting and maintenance were in line with last year.
- The accounts were proposed by Mrs J Pyne and seconded by S Hawkins.

**6. Village Reports:**

**a) Horsington Primary School – read by D Chapman**

- ‘The school has entered a wide variety of sporting competitions and took first place in the Federation Rounders, Athletics, rugby and football competitions, which is excellent considering the size of the school.
- This is the first anniversary of our school dog Bob who has worked wonderfully in school and we hope to shortly give him a page on our website. Please do look at our website to see the range of activities the children undertake as part of the time at the school.
- The school still strives to provide the children with an exciting and inspiring curriculum and we have now fully established a skills based curriculum. This term saw our whole school production called Minibeast Mania held in the Village Hall.
- We are forever continuing to look for new ways to provide the best learning experience possible for all the children in our school. We continue to work with Dorset SCITT as teacher training provider. One of our school staff is on a research project looking at aspects of support for gifted and talented children, but this has also proved very useful for all our children.
- In our school grounds we are continuing to develop an additional outdoor area for our Year 1 / 2 class.
- Thank you to the Parish Council for their support of our school, which is much appreciated.’

**b) United Charities – read by D Chapman**

- The Trustees of the Horsington United Charities met on 25th November 2012 and agreed to distribute £480 in total to three married couples and six single people.

**c) Church - read by D Chapman**

- ‘One again a very challenging year with the roof needing urgent repairs. We held a launch party on May 18<sup>th</sup> 2012 to appeal to the village for financial help towards the cost, which was around £89,000 + VAT and surveyor’s fees. The response from the village was helpful and we were given grants from Viridor Waste Management for £40,000 also £5,000 from Somerset Churches and Chapels and £6,000 from the Wolfson Foundation. We were turned down by National Heritage Fund as we were less urgent than some other Churches. We shall borrow money from the toilet and server fund to make any shortfall and continue to hold events to recoup the money.
- The work commenced at the end of October and is nearly complete. Services have been taking place as usual despite the roof work and we held 4 Baptisms, 1 Wedding and 1 Funeral service in 2012.
- The number of the people electoral roll totals 50.
- Fundraising events included a voluntary brass band from HMS Heron, Strobe Theatre, a Race Evening which was put on by both the Church and School and Tea & Chat afternoons in May, June, July and August. All in all some good times had by all those taking part.
- We thank the villagers for their continued support with the busy life of the Church and for all the marvellous help

with supplying food for the various functions.

d) **Football Club – read by D Chapman**

- ‘We started a Saturday senior side and entered the Dorset League Division 1 and are on course for promotion. T
- Our Sunday morning Senior side are currently second in their league and have reached one final and are in two semi finals.
- Our Junior side are having another good season.
- The Under 18’s are second in the league in their first season.
- The Under 16’s are having gained promotion last season are 3<sup>rd</sup> in division1.
- The Under 11’s are top of their league and the Under 9’s and Under 10’s teams are mid league.’
- It was reported at the meeting that cars attending games were causing problems with parking at the Village Hall and that drivers of cars attending games were not always considerate to other road users.

e) **Village Hall – read by D Chapman**

- ‘Mrs Julie Gripper stood down as the Chair of the Hall committee at the last Annual General Meeting in May 2012. Julie had been Chair of the committee for 5 years and Secretary prior to that for the previous 5 years. We are very grateful for her invaluable leadership during that time.
- Another member, Robert Neave, stood down after 10 years on the committee. His practical skills in helping to maintain the fabric of the Hall will be greatly missed.
- We have been joined on the committee by 2 new trustees, June Wood (June has been involved with the Village Hall committee for many year as a representative of the Parish Council) whose experience in local government will be put to good use and Keith Norman, the representative of South Cheriton Football Club: a role long required of the committee since the SCUFC is the most prominent user of the hall.
- Even though we have had some recent heavy costs in maintenance, the Hall maintains a healthy financial balance.
- The floor which had buckled the previous year (2011/12) was rectified prior to this winter. A new schedule for heating procedures including the addition of a boost switch in the main body of the Hall obviates the necessity for Hall users to adjust the heating programmer. This appears to have been successful a level of heat and humidity to preclude the distortion of the floor.
- Oil continues to be a very expensive commodity at the moment and we are investigating ways of reducing the Hall’s expenditure on fuel. Charges were reviewed for heating but we are conscious of trying to keep the Hall affordable and we continue to keep our charges at the level set in 2008. This allows the Hall to be competitive with our immediate neighbours in the surrounding villages. We feel that this decision has been vindicated in that we have had slightly more interest in the hiring of the Hall.
- Our Deputy Chair, Chris Bailward was instrumental in setting up the Horsington Village Hall website which is now up and running. <http://horsingtonvillagehall.co.uk> has proved its worth in that we have enquiries already.
- The car park has had the potholes filled in. We must thank Wessex Water for providing the material and South Cheriton Garage for providing the manpower to do so.
- The Hall triennial electrical inspection has already been carried out and apart from a few small discrepancies was

satisfactory. The Hallmark inspection by the Community Council, also triennial, is due shortly.

- Our fundraiser this year took place on the day before St Patrick's Day so it was appropriate that the theme was the Irish National Day. The Hall was decked out in Irish colours and the dinner menu was appropriately Eirean.
- The committee is constantly amazed and gratified by the generosity of our community of Horsington and South Cheriton who attended and contributed to the evening. We raised in excess of £500 for Hall funds which will help to cover some of our costs. My thanks must go to the other members of the committee for all the help in everything from cooking to the organisational skills required for the successful evening we undoubtedly had.
- The Hall Management Committee is very grateful to the Parish Council for its continued monitoring and maintenance of the curtilage.

**f) Women's Institute – Mrs J Pyne**

- 'The most memorable event of the 2012 calendar must have been the day the sun shone on our outing to Swanage via the steam train. It made the perfect day out.
- Over the year our membership has stayed the same, as has our committee and officers.
- We were reminded about fire safety, saw brilliant photos of the Somerset Levels, learnt about the funny side of researching family history and spent a happy hour trying on hats.
- We entertained guests with supper and music, shared the memories of a lifetime trip to Mauritius and learnt how to make Christmas crackers.
- A busy year for Horsington WI.'

**g) Footpaths – Mrs J Pyne**

- There are several issues that are being dealt with by Somerset County Council Footpaths Department.
- Eve Wynn from SCC Footpaths Department had installed a new gate on the entrance to a footpath on the Marsh.
- It was reported that there was a lack of liaison with the public when the Footpaths Department are doing work on footpaths.
- Clerk reported that Eve Wynn was investigating a reported hole alongside the road in Cabbage Lane.
- Mrs B Mann reported that some walkers at the Half Moon had praised the footpaths in the area.

**h) Play Area – Mrs Wood**

- Not much to report.
- Chairman thanked Mrs B Mann for performing regular checks and reporting back to the monthly Parish Council meetings.
- £500 was included in the precept each year to cover the capital cost of the play area.
- The play area is well used.
- The play equipment is in need of repainting and this will be done shortly, when the weather permits.
- The play area is inspected regularly by South Somerset District Council and their reports are discussed at Parish Council meetings.

**Open Forum - none**

Meeting ended at 8.15pm

