

DRAFT
HORSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2015

Minutes of meeting held at St Margaret's Hall, Horsington on Thursday 9th April 2015

1. Present: Mrs J Wood, Mrs J Pyne, I Snowden, S Hawkins, County / District Councillor W Wallace, Mrs R Wigley, Mrs A Jones and D Chapman (Clerk).

Apologies: Mrs B Mann, Mrs A Clayton, R Cotes- James, J MacDonald, District Councillor T Inglefield, PCSO J Winfield, Mr K Norman & I Rumbelow

2. Approval of minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 10th April 2014:

proposed by Mrs J Pyne and seconded by S Hawkins

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.
- Main non maintenance costs were for repairing the wall at the Churchyard and dealing with the fallen tree.
- Maintenance costs fairly constant thanks to our volunteers, particularly S Jackson.
- The wall at the Chapel at the Cemetery was discussed.
- The state of the car park at the school was discussed.
- Disappointed at the lack of Parish Councillors at this meeting – it is only once a year.
- We still precept £500 per year towards a major update of the Play Area, which when required will be very costly.

5. Draft Accounts for 2014 / 2015:

- The precept remained at £9,500 for the year 2014 / 2015 and for the year 2015 / 2016.
- The carried forward balance contains money for remedial works at the Play Area 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 included £7,500 for works to the wall at the Churchyard and £1,050 to remove the fallen tree at the Horse pond and fell the remaining trunk.
- 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 number of local federation sporting competitions and did particularly well in the athletics, swimming and cross country competitions, which is excellent considering the size of the school.
- We have now been an academy within the Bath & Wells Multi Academy Trust for more than one year. This has meant lots of changes in our school systems and developing working relationships with other academies within our Trust. We also work closely with our neighbouring schools with the Tower Learning Community.
- The school still strives to provide the children with an exciting and inspiring curriculum. Please do look at

our website to see the range of activities the children undertake as part of the time at the school. Later this year our whole school production will be 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 the school. There have been a wide range of visits to numerous places such as Salisbury Cathedral, Ham Hill Country Park and Carymoor Environmental Centre as well as visitors in school to work with the children. We have also undertaken local visits to Wincanton as well as walking back from Wincanton and Charlton Horethorne.
- In our school grounds we are continuing to develop an additional outdoor area for our Year 1 / 2 class following the provision of a grant to promote health and wellbeing.
- 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 3rd December 2014 and agreed to distribute £495 in total to three married couples and seven single people.

c) Church - read by Mrs Ann Jones

- ‘This year we had six Baptisms, four Weddings and two funerals, beside the usual pattern of worship.
- We held four events including , a talk on Africa by our ex Rector Jessie Sage, a talk on European Union, then Who Do You Think You Are by Nick Barrett and finally on 27th March Brigadier Deverill gave a talk on people and events in eth Middle East.
- The work carried out to the fabric included the very good and much appreciated repair to the Church boundary wall which the Parish Council undertook. Hammonds the builders from Sturminster Newton renewed the floor on the north side of the nave as the timbers had rotted.
- We have obtained a revised faculty for the server and toilet project, as the drawings were considered lacking in clarity for builders to tender. We are now awaiting the building regulation drawings, then after retendering for the work, we can reapply for grants, which can take a while.
- The ladies lunch club is still going strong on the first Monday of the month and is run by Rosemary Wigley and Susan Maltin.
- We are very pleased that four local children have taken up bell ringing on Monday nights with Anna Piechna and various people from the Church help look after the children between their turns. This gives the children the opportunity to learn varying craft skills. During the year we held 2 Baptisms and 2 Funerals.

d) Football Club – read by D Chapman

- 1st Team 4th in league.
- Reserves 8th in league and semi final of cup.
- The Under 16’s 6th in the league and semi final in cup.
- The Under 13’s 9th in the league.
- The Under 12’s finished 2nd in the league.
- The under 11’s won the league.

- The under 7, 8 & ('s playing in Fair Play League.
- In all we have played 146 games , winning 78, drawing 24 and losing 44.

e) Village Hall – read by D Chapman

- ‘We continue to maintain our Hallmark 1 category which covers all the aspects of management, forward planning and development.
- In respect of improvements to the Hall we are hoping to upgrade the heating in the hall and to redecorate the main hall this summer.
- The Hall is used for Pilates, upholstery, Badminton and Art classes. There is also a monthly WI meetings and monthly Parish Council meeting.
- The trustees have been bolstered by three new recruits, Charles James, Jean Handy and Hannah Wilkinson. Paddy Hughes and Sarah Warren have retired and we are grateful to them for their long years of service.
- St Margaret’s Hall continues to maintain a healthy financial position. We retain a sensible amount (£12,000) in reserve. This was reduced in the previous financial year when the exterior of the Hall was refurbished. The Hall held a successful fund raiser in November with our popular Village Hall dinner which raised considerable funds (£750) for the reserve. My thanks 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 fall in price for heating oil has helped. We continue to maintain our charges set at the level in 2008, which remains very competitive with our immediate neighbours in teh surrounding villages.
- The Hall Management Committee is very grateful to the Parish Council for its continued monitoring and maintenance of the Hall surrounds.’

f) Women’s Institute – no report received

g) Footpaths – Mrs J Pyne

- There are issues with damaged bridges that are being dealt with by Somerset County Council Footpaths Department.
- People report various faults on the internet but seldom offer to help put the faults right.
- There is an ongoing need for walkers to trim brambles etc as they are walking the paths but it is difficult to get volunteers.
- Chairman thanked Mrs Pyne, S Hawkins and Mrs Mann for their help.

h) Play Area – Mrs Wood

- 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.
- One of the rails alongside the Play Area had been repaired by S Hawkins.
- The play area is inspected regularly by South Somerset District Council and their reports are discussed at Parish Council meetings.

7. Public Forum

- Mrs A Jones thanked the Parish Council for the good job at the Church and s P Collins work at the Cemetery.

Meeting ended at 8.30pm