

HORSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2017

Thursday 13th April 2017, 7.15pm at St Margaret's Hall, Horsington

MINUTES

1. Present and apologies

Present: J Pyne (Chair and Acting Clerk), I Snowdon, J Macdonald, C James, A Clayton, A Jones, M Tucker, D Gray and Mrs Joan Palmer

Apologies: B Mann, I Rumbelow and R Wigley

2. Approval of the draft minutes of the Annual meeting 14th April 2016

Proposed by C James, Seconded by I Snowden

3. Matters arising from minutes - None

4. Chairman's Report

April has come around again and it is time for the ever popular APM and rash of April Fools.

I was very grateful to see a proof copy of the Villager Magazine, as their April Fool generated quite a few conversations!

In the last year we saw our longest serving councillor, Steve Hawkins resign and welcomed Deborah Gray to our midst.

Our replacement Parish Clerk did not work out, and I have been covering the position on an unpaid basis until we can find a new one.

Our ongoing responsibilities are keeping the villages, play areas, churchyard, cemetery and village hall neat and tidy. The maintenance of these went out to tender and Richard Peters has taken on the contract. He is currently recuperating from an operation and we hope he will be back on top of things soon.

Steve Collins continues to keep the cemetery up to a very high standard and we are very grateful for the TLC he puts into it.

We have made a list of user-friendly do's and don'ts for cemetery. This will be available for all to see, to clear up any confusion.

This last year has seen the loss of many familiar faces in the parish. The Parish Council were particularly sad to lose District Councillor Tim Inglefield. He did a lot of work for the parish and surrounding ward and we shall miss him at our meetings.

The big thing that we did this year was, of course, The Pond Project. My thanks to Ian for securing the funding and to Charles for over-seeing the project. Charles has prepared the following for me.....

This year we took on the major project of restoring Horsington Pond. Guidance was sought from DEFRA and the Pond Conservation Trust, a plan was duly drawn up then subsequently discussed at meetings and a way forward agreed.

A stand was taken at the village fete to present to the parishioners where their views were welcomed and the proposal explained.

Applications were presented to SSDC and to Lottery Awards for assistance with funding which was successful. Our thanks go to Ted Banks who made a collection at the local music event which also added to the project funds, we would also like to thank those individuals who donated to the fund in addition to that collection. Thanks also go to William Wallace and Tim Inglefield for their support in obtaining the community grant.

After due discussion Crestmoor Construction were engaged to undertake the project. Chris Bailward was approached and we are grateful to him for his permission to deposit the silt onto fields in Broadmoor Lane once the correct permissions were granted.

We would like to thank Crestmoor Construction for their excellent work which entailed additional aspects of the project which was undertaken without further charge, we are grateful for this consideration.

Contact was made with the Highway's Agency regarding the scouring of the roadside, after subsequent meetings and discussions they agreed to rectify the damage and to complete the stone wall at no cost to the PC. This work was carried out by their chosen contractors Crestmoor Construction Ltd.

The project is near completion and we have a sustainable wildlife pond with a safe low level pond and dipping platform coupled with a silt trap to control the build-up of silt in the main pond and to enable easier and more cost effective removal of silt deposits in the future. The pond is already showing signs of creature inhabitation with minnows present as well as freshwater shrimp etc. and a breeding pair of moorhens.

We are pleased to have presented and achieved this project within our budget proposals and with no additional cost to the parish.

The raising of the precept by £500 will enable us to put this money aside each year for future silt removal.

Planning permission has been obtained to top the tree in the churchyard and this will go ahead now that the ground is drying up.

The purchase of replacement parts for the play area means that we should be able to extend its life a bit longer. Our next project will be the onerous task of fundraising to replace the now ageing equipment.

I would like to thank my fellow councillors for their support and patience while I bumbled my way through this busy and sometimes fraught year.

5. Presentation of draft accounts for 2016 / 17

- Precept £9980 – raised by £500 to allow a fund to build up for on-going silt removal.
- Total funds remain similar to 2015/16 at £ £15,459.58
- The Parish Council contribution towards the Pond Project of £1125.40 is off-set against savings made by not having a clerk for most of the year and also savings in grass-cutting due to the re-tendering of contracts.

6. Village reports:

a) Horsington Primary School – read by Mrs J Pyne

The school has entered a number of local federation sporting competitions and did particularly well in the athletics, swimming and cross country competition which is excellent considering the size of the school. We have taken first place in the cross country. We also came 1st in the South Somerset Final for Futsal (indoor football) with our Under 10 team and now represent South Somerset in the County Final later in April. We also represented South Somerset in the County Finals for Under 10 tennis.

The school still strives to provide the children with an exciting and inspiring curriculum. We have received grants from the All Churches Trust and Ernest Cook Trust to develop our outdoor spaces along with a substantial grant from Tesco for outdoor art work which we will be undertaking in partnership with GCSE art students at Sherborne Girls School.

We are forever continuing to look for new ways to provide the best learning experience possible for all the children in our school. There have been a wide range of visits to numerous places Salisbury Cathedral to re-enact a pilgrimage; the Dinosaur Museum in Dorchester; the Natural History Museum in London; Haynes Motor Museum; the Octagon to watch the pantomime; as well as a residential visit to Kilve Court.

In our school grounds we are installing a shepherd's hut to act as an arts learning space to develop outdoor art. We have also benefitted from working with a teacher in training from Bremen in northern Germany who spent three months working and teaching in the school.

Thank you to the Parish Council for their support of our school, which is much appreciated.

b) United Charities – read by Mrs J Pyne

At their annual meeting on the 5th December 2016, the trustees agreed to distribute £480 - £45 to 8 single people & £60 to 2 married couples. Rosemary Wigley

c) Church – read by Mrs Ann Jones

We enjoyed a very exciting year as our toilet, servery and the new floor in the south aisle were completed in October.

The new facilities were opened and blessed by The Venerable Nicola Sullivan on 10th August and attended by representatives from Viridor Waste Management, Somerset Churches Trust and the Fund for Church Growth as well as the Parish Council and approximately 75 local people.

We thank all those who made the evening an enjoyable event.

Average weekly attendance slightly down. We held 6 Funerals plus 4 at the crematorium. Five fundraising events were held at the church plus a stall at the Fete.

We thank all those who help keep the life of the Church running.

Also the Parish Council for the care of the churchyard.

d) Village Hall read by John Macdonald

- The object of the trustees is to provide a Village Hall for the use of the inhabitants of the parish of Horsington, County of Somerset. The trustees are pleased to report that these objectives continue to be met.
- Weekly events include Pilates, Upholstery classes, Badminton & Art Classes. The monthly meeting of the WI & the Parish Council continues to be held in the hall.
- The Hall trustee members have been bolstered by a recruit from the WI, Ann Franklin. Unfortunately, the representative of the South Cheriton Football Club, Tim O'Keeffe, had to relinquish his position on the management committee, as the senior team which he trained, no longer played and as a result he left the club. We are hoping to recruit a representative for the club, which will bring our numbers up to an ideal of twelve Trustees.
- St Margaret's Hall continues to maintain a healthy financial position. We retain a sensible amount (just under £11000) in reserve.
- Day to day classes and the renting of the changing rooms to the SCUFC keep our current account in surplus. We continue to maintain our charges set at the level in 2008.
- The continuing problem of our floor has been a significant cost and the solutions provided in the past appear to have exacerbated the situation rather than cured it. In recognition of the problem we have installed a French drain and the offending part of the floor is to be relayed as a floating floor with an expansion joint.
- The website horsingtonvillagehall.co.uk is edited by the Deputy Chair and provides a platform for information, feedback and occasional bookings.
- The fire risk assessment is carried out each year at the time the fire extinguishers are inspected by an outside company. Our triennial electrical inspection was carried out in April 2016 and this is now required every five years instead of three. Routine maintenance is carried out on the heating boiler and the kitchen electrical equipment.
- We continue to maintain our Hallmark 1 category which covers all aspects of management, forward planning and development.
- The Hall Management Committee is grateful to the Parish Council for its continued monitoring and maintenance of the Hall surrounds

e) Women's Institute

- Horsington WI has 16 members.
- Last year we enjoyed a day out on a riverboat trip, learnt about pandas and life as a 16th century kitchen maid at Glastonbury Abbey.
- Twice last year we held joint meetings with North Cheriton.
- Our future is in danger though. Without the willingness of members to take on officer's posts, we may not be able to carry on.
- This would be a shame as we have been meeting since 1925.
- New members would be very welcome.

7. Public forum

- Mrs Jones thanked the Parish Council for their work through the year

Meeting closed at 7.40pm