

HORSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2018

Thursday 12th April 2018, 7.15pm at St Margaret's Hall, Horsington

MINUTES

1. Present and apologies

Present: J Pyne (Chair), I Snowden, J Macdonald, J Hodges, B Mann, A Jones, M Tucker, D Gray, Hayward Burt, R Wigley and D Chapman (Clerk)

Apologies: A Clayton and I Rumbelow

2. Approval of the draft minutes of the Annual meeting 13th April 2017

Proposed by Mark Tucker and Seconded by I Snowden

3. Matters arising from minutes

None

4. Chairman's Report

The last year saw us saying goodbye to Charles James and welcoming Judy Hodges to our midst.

We also welcomed back David Chapman as our Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer.

The other change is that Steve Collins has retired from looking after the cemetery and we have awarded the 3 year maintenance contract to Steve Hawkins.

Apart from viewing planning applications, keeping up with our ongoing maintenance responsibilities and trying to deter dog fouling, our main topic this year has been the Play Area.

After failing the Annual Safety Inspection, we made the unpopular decision to remove the potentially dangerous pieces of equipment in case a child were to be injured.

A lot of work has gone into getting us to where we are now. Work to fit new equipment and surfaces is due to start on the 16th of this month.

Thanks to the Village raising almost £4,400, donations of £1,000 from the Lion's Club, £500 from the Clark's Foundation and a promised grant of £5,000 from SSDC, along with the Parish Council Capital Fund and Contingency, we are only £650 short of target.

We have taken advantage of extra discounts on the purchase price of the equipment by ordering it by 31st January.

We were unfortunately unsuccessful with Lottery funding and as the SSDC grant is only payable on completion of the project, we have had to put the purchase of a roundabout on hold for the time being.

We propose to replace the swings next year when funds allow.

My thanks to my fellow councillors and to David for their continuing support in what is sometimes a thankless job.

5. Presentation of draft accounts for 2017 / 18

- Precept £9,980
- Total funds £22,594.37, including £11,788 towards Play Area project.
- No further questions.

6. Village reports:

a) Horsington Primary School – read by D Chapman

The school still strives to provide the children with an exciting and inspiring curriculum. We have worked with the Sherborne School for Girls to complete our interactive sculpture project. The pupils from Horsington worked alongside the secondary GCSE art students to design a sculpture for our grounds that could be used as part of our play environment. The final design has now been selected and a full size sculpture has now been commissioned from a designer in Sherborne. We are hoping to install our sculpture during the summer term. As part of this project we also commissioned a shepherd's hut to our specific design which was built by a craftsman in Shropshire. This is now used as an additional teaching and learning space. I wonder how many schools have such a unique learning space?

Our children have enjoyed a very exciting, snow laden, wintery residential visit to Kilve Court. We have never seen such deep snowdrifts! Children have also visited Dorchester, Glastonbury and Taunton. They have also been walking back to school from Charlton Horethorne each season to observe the changes to the countryside.

We have completely refurbished the children's toilets and installed new windows alongside the road which has made the building much warmer and we seem to no longer be suffering from condensation and damp on some walls which can be a problem in such an old building.

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

The Clerk expressed his thanks to Chris Bailward for kindly uploading the Parish Council agendas, draft minutes and other documents to the website.

b) United Charities – read by D Chapman

At their annual meeting on the 29th November 2017, the trustees agreed to distribute £495 - £45 to 7 single people & £60 to 3 married couples.

c) Church – read by Mrs Ann Jones

As usual another busy year with plenty going on.

The Electoral roll stands at 44 and the weekly attendance at services is 18.

The Carol Service was well attended and welcomed 160 adults and 10 children.

We held 6 funerals plus one at the crematorium 3 weddings and 4 Baptisms.

A Lent Course was held at Henstridge Vicarage.

There was a talk by Dan Bucknell for Tusk Trust in February which raised £205

A talk on WW1 by Patrick Mileham in May which raised £311

A coffee morning in aid of the Children's Society in May raised £100

A concert with Janet Coles in July raised £278

A coffee morning on December 5th in the Half Moon Inn, courtesy of Andrew Tarling raised £150 in aid of Crisis at Christmas.

A retirement party was held on 20th October for Peter and Bridget Hallett in conjunction with Templecombe Church.

Peter left at the end of October, so we now are in a Vacancy. Retired Clergy have been stepping in to take services meanwhile.

We are working on a combined Benefice Profile at the moment and hope to complete that by the end of this month.

We hope to welcome a new incumbent by October, all being well.

In the Church we have replaced the heating pipes with new steel finned pipes as the old ones were leaking. We are waiting for a Quinquennial Report due anytime now.

Our Annual Meeting is on April 23rd 2018 to which all Parishioners are welcome.

Our thanks go out once again to all who have contributed in any way to the life of our Church. We welcome any newcomers with open arms.

d) Village Hall read by John Macdonald

The Pilates classes continue under the instruction of Carol Pirie. Upholstery classes are held on a Tuesday which is followed by Badminton in the evening. The very popular art classes run on Thursdays and Fridays.

The monthly meeting of the WI continues to be held in the hall as do meetings of the Parish Council.

The Hall trustee members have been bolstered by a representative of the South Cheriton Football Club, Oliver Franklin, which has brought 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 over £8500) in reserve. Day to day classes kept our current account in surplus. The renting of the changing rooms to the SCUFC has been suspended for one season to allow the football club to regularise their financial position. We continue to maintain our charges set at the level in 2008, which remain competitive with our immediate neighbours in the surrounding villages.

The continuing problem of our floor has been a significant cost and solutions provided in the past exacerbated the situation rather than cured it. We have recognised that the probable cause of the warped floor was a damp wall adjacent to the tarmac on the road side of the hall. As a result we installed a French drain. At the same time all the drains were checked and cleared. The offending part of the floor has been relaid as a floating floor with a gap under the skirting board to allow the floor to expand. Extra air bricks have been installed in the field side of the building to increase the airflow under the floor. All these actions appear to have had the desired effect and to date the floor has not deformed this winter. Unfortunately, before the floor was relaid last year an accident occurred and a lady was injured. Our insurance company is still dealing with the claim.

Rupert Martin, the owner of Dextra Lighting was approached with a view to giving us some advice on the lighting in the hall. One of his lighting engineers visited the hall and as a result the hall as well as the kitchen, store rooms and toilets were fitted out with the latest in LED lighting. Mr. Martin very kindly donated the luminaires, for which we are extremely grateful. The website horsingtonvillagehall.co.uk continues to be edited by the Deputy Chair and provides a platform for information, feedback and occasional bookings, as well as Minutes of Parish Council meetings since 2013.

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. Our electrician, who carries out the inspection, informs us that the check is now required every five years instead of three. Routine maintenance is carried out on the heating boiler and kitchen electrical equipment on an annual basis.

We continue to maintain our Hallmark 1 category which covers all aspects of management, forward planning and development. The triennial inspection by the Hallmark assessors was carried out in June and the assessors were very happy with our standards.

The Hall Management Committee is grateful to the Parish Council for its continued monitoring and maintenance of the Hall surrounds.

The Clerk expressed his thanks to Chris Bailward for kindly uploading the Parish Council agendas, draft minutes and other documents to the website.

e) Women's Institute Read by Mrs J Pyne

Horsington WI has survived another year, doing what we do best...good food and good company.

We went on a Vietnam Adventure, viewed ten Terracotta Warriors and learnt about Brightstones as well as having a humorous sneak View Behind the Scenes with the National Trust.

We enjoyed a lovely day out to the Museum of Somerset followed by a private visit with afternoon tea to Cothlestone Manor.

Hopefully this year's programme will just as exciting!

New members would be very welcome.

7. Public forum

None.

Meeting closed at 7.35pm