

DRAFT
HORSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2012

Minutes of meeting held at St Margaret's Hall, Horsington on Thursday 12th April 2012

1. Present: Mrs J Wood, Mrs J Pyne, W Candy, Mrs A Clayton, C James, Mrs A Jones, Mrs R Wigley, Mr D Norris & D Chapman (Clerk).

Apologies: County / District Councillor W Wallace, District Councillor T Inglefield, Mrs B Mann, S Hawkins, PCSO J Winfield, Mrs J Gripper, Mr K Norman & I Rumbelow

2. Approval of minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 14th April 2011

proposed by Mrs J Pyne and seconded by Mrs A Clayton.

3. Matters arising from previous minutes – None

4. Questions and answers session with David Norris, Development Manager, South Somerset District Council

- Parish Councils should still consider applications with a view to highway safety, design and in keeping with surroundings.
- List of items covered by Permitted Development still increasing.
- When considering the size of extensions Planners have to consider what harm is being caused.
- Under the National Policy Framework the presumption is in favour of granting permission. Affordable or agricultural worker's dwellings are more likely to be passed.
- Retrospective application are judged by the Planners on whether they would have been granted if an application had been made before the work started.
- The recent permission at Woodside was discussed. There is no policy against the knocking down properties and building new.
- Cases of a possible change of use were discussed. It was stated that these cases are looked at on a case by case basis. The parking of vans at houses does not always constitute a change of use. If a change of use is applied for and granted the information is passed to the Rates Department at SSDC so that charges can be adjusted accordingly.

5. Chairman's Report

- We have a non eventful year with no major capital costs and the precept has been kept at £9,500 for another year.
- Maintenance costs fairly constant thanks to our volunteers, particularly S Jackson.
- Thank you for all the efforts of the Parish Councillors. Attendance has been excellent with members being very conscientious.
- We still precept £500 per year towards a major update of the Play Area, which when required will be very costly. The play area equipment will be repainted this year.
- SSDC have agreed that the Parish Council can continue maintaining the Church yard as we have done for many years.

- 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.
- The Parish Council has received an number of complaints about planning applications that are granted but are not in keeping with the surroundings or previous similar applications have been refused in the past.

6. **Draft Accounts for 2011 / 2012**

- The precept remained at £9,500 for the year 2011 / 2012.
- 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 Mrs A Clayton.
- Mrs A Jones asked if the accounts were audited. Clerk confirmed that the accounts were audited by an independent external auditor and a firm of accountants that were employed by the Audit Commission. There were no further questions.

7. **Village Reports:**

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

- ‘Our school has had another successful year on the sports field including the best results in the local federation for cross country with three of our teams taking overall first position along with four out of the possible 8 medals.
- We have also won the Federation Football Competition, Federation Golf Competition and have progressed to the South Somerset Area Finals for tag rugby.
- We won the Federation Indoor Athletics Competition, came first in the South Somerset Finals and came third in the County Finals – not bad for a small school!
- We have hosted a Hungarian language student from Romania through the auspices of the British Council who provided the funding. We are one of the smallest schools nationally to receive such funding. She has taught Romanian and shared Romanian culture with our children.
- We also exchanged a culture box with a village school near Tirgu Mures in Transylvania. Miss Szigetzi, our student, also organised a very successful Romanian Day.
- Recently all our older pupils undertook first aid training and are now all Rookie First Aiders. Our Year 6 children have been fund raising for Positive Steps who support children in Malawi to have prosthetic feet to enable them to attend school. They achieved a staggering total of £551!
- Visits by our pupils have been made to King Arthurs School for a Civil War Day, just for our pupils, Bridgawtewr for a caving and canoeing day, London to visit St Paul’s Cathedral, Farmer Giles Framstead, Dorchetser County Museum and Maiden Castle, Westhay Nature Reserve, the Bristol Hippodrome to watch Peter Pan as well as walking back from Charlton Horethorne along the Monarch’s Way to observe the changing seasons.
- In our school grounds we are beginning 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’.

- Councillors felt that the school should be congratulated on the good results.
- b) **United Charities** – read by D Chapman
- The Trustees of the Horsington United Charities met on 25th November 2011 and agreed to distribute £430 in total to three married couples and five single people.
- c) **Church** - read by D Chapman
- ‘The Reverend Peter Hallett with the occasional help from Reverend Ian Coomber have covered the weekly services as usual, with a core congregation of twenty eight.
 - Extra services held included four Baptisms, three Weddings, two Blessings and two funerals.
 - Our social calendar consisted of two talks, one by John Blashford about deepest Africa and another by Anthony Goodenough about the life of a diplomat in Ghana. Both were well supported and very interesting.
 - Mr Peter Longman of The Grange gave a very generous cheque to cover the new bell ropes and some change left over went into the toilet and server fund. Unfortunately the roof on the south side is leaking and on further examination the under felt was found to be disintegrating into dust. Now we have an urgent project to repair the roof. The cost of the repairs will be around £140,000 and although grants are available an appeal will be launched to raise the outstanding amount which is likely to be in the region of £75,000.
 - As always we extend heartfelt thanks to all those in the village who help in any way in the running of the Church. Also we would like to thank Friends of ST John’s who help with making refreshments for events. All such help is very much appreciated.
 - Thank you too to all the bell ringers for their dedication and hard work, the bells sound lovely.
- d) **Football Club** – read by D Chapman
- ‘It has been our most successful year so far with our under 13’s 14’s and 15’s winning their respective leagues. T
 - The Under 13’s were undefeated.
 - The Under 10’s team won their Cup Final.
 - The Sunday morning senior side look like winning the league and are unbeaten this year.
 - In all we have over 120 players playing for the club.
- e) **Village Hall** – read by D Chapman
- ‘In this the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee year, and the year in which London hosts the Olympics, it was appropriate that the annual village dinner celebrated flags from around the world and posters of Olympic sporting heroes. It was a great success, supported strongly by the community with ticket sales increased and hosted as always by an enthusiastic team of volunteers. Our new co-opted member, Sonya James, was a must with the catering arrangements and we hope to welcome her as a full member of the committee at the AGM in May.
 - As new members arrive so some leave and now we lose Emma Carnell who is moving away from the village. Emma has been invaluable at all the fund raising events and will be greatly missed. I myself will also be standing down as Chair, after five years, at the AGM. John McDonald has been my right hand man during my period of office and would be my recommendation to the Hall Management Committee, but they must select as they see fit.

- The Hall floor has had a disappointing period of buckling due to the warm damp period over Christmas when the classes were on holiday. The previous year had successfully survived on the increased frost protection of 7 degrees, as suggested by the heating engineer, but as we can all remember last winter was much colder and the frost protection kicked in more regularly, keeping the floor dry. It is slowly returning to normal and next year we shall have to monitor both humidity and temperature. The committee thanks all the Hall users for their patience.
- Oil is a very expensive commodity at the moment and we are investigating ways of reducing the Hall's expenditure on fuel. Charges will be reviewed for heating but we are conscious of trying to keep the Hall affordable for all.
- The Hall Management Committee is very grateful to the Parish Council for its continued monitoring and maintenance of the curt ledge.

f) Women's Institute – Mrs J Pyne

- 'The WI's new logo is about inspiring women.
- In February, Julia went home after a workshop on felting, to boil one of Albert's jumpers.
- In March, Fran decided that marzipan made better eating than cake decorations.
- We were all very relieved that we weren't married to April's speaker, as his Air Force career had caused his wife to move about fifteen times before he retired.
- We enjoyed WW2 memories and music at the Half Moon in May and we were luck enough to have dry weather for a picnic in Elfriede's garden in June.
- Bonny Sartin entertained our guests in July and we learnt about the life of Charles Dickens in August.
- September saw us on our outing to Athelhampton House.
- Somerset Carnival was the topic in October, which made us think about cold, wet evenings!
- The best inspiration of all came in November, December and January, when we did waht we enjoy most – SOCIALISED!
- You are more than welcome to join us!

g) Footpaths – Mrs J Pyne

- There are several issues that are being dealt with by Somerset County Council Footpaths Department.
- Any help with walkers taking snippers when walking and cutting them back brambles when they see them would be greatly appreciated.

h) Play Area – Mrs Wood

- £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 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.

8. Open Forum

- Mrs R Wigley asked about the request for a Church notice board by the Horse Pond. Some Councillors felt that

the notice board should be up by the Church. A smaller notice board on the stone pillar by the pond was also discussed.

- Mrs A Jones asked what the Parish Council was doing to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee. It was reported that a new Parish Council notice board was to be erected to replace the old one in Horsington.

Meeting ended at 8.40pm