

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Little Horwood
at The Memorial Hall, Little Horwood. 8pm, Monday 30th March 2015**

Present: Cllr. M.Cowdrey presided as Chairman, K.Oddey acted as Clerk. Thirty residents attended along with AVDC Councillor B.Stanier and BCC Councillor J.Chilver.

Apologies: none

Minutes of Previous Annual Parish Meeting (held Monday 24th March 2014): The titles of Cllr Stanier and Chilver were corrected and the minutes were agreed to be an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

Chairman's Report: Welcome - Little Horwood Parish Council Chairman's Report 2014/15:- The report covers Parish Council Activities over the past 12 months. We have held 8 meetings during the last year. We have had a busy year as usual. Apart from these meetings councillors have attended various County Council, District Council and Local Area forum cluster meetings, meetings of the North Bucks Parishes Planning consortium have also been attended.

We welcomed Karen Oddey as Clerk to LH Parish Council. This May 2015 will see the departure of Mary Arnold, Mike Trim, Helen Shaw and Stephanie Seddon from the Parish Council, each has made tremendous effort to help maintain, develop and support the village during their tenure. My thanks to all fellow councillors for their support throughout the last year. Recruitment for the new four year term of the Parish Council is in progress and we are awaiting news on nominations. I would like to remind everyone to apply.

Some projects from the previous year were completed, the bus shelter is something to be proud of which was driven through by Helen and the new noticeboard which was a joint effort by Helen and Stephanie.

We have purchased a defibrillator for the village which will be installed on the outside of the village hall soon, Stephanie has driven this through and is also arranging for training for anyone in the village. Thanks go to the Claydon Masonic Lodge and the Trust for donations they have made to make this possible.

The Play around the Parishes enjoyed another successful year, Helen is going to hand this over to some safe hands before departing from the village.

Facebook & Twitter – Tara has very kindly set up a Facebook page for the village and a Twitter account, where we can post items of interest and events and get comments from anyone who wants to share our experiences.

Green Spaces: The Parish owns approx. 11 Acres of land for the benefit of the village. Thanks to Mike Jones his family and fellow volunteers who help to maintain this for us.

Devolution – We are delaying taking up the offer from BCC to take responsibility for the grass and hedge cutting within the village. We are watching the progress of our neighbours, and will make decisions of who to work with in the future to ensure we maintain the look of the village in the most cost effective way. Peter Nickoll is leading this piece of work for us, his patience is to be admired.

The Parish Council precept (Community Charge) is carefully costed and has had to be increased this year to make provision to be able to pay for the grass cutting that we are expected to take over from the devolution exercise is now at £9,870

We experienced some flooding again this year, the Wood End skating rink was caused by the blocking of the drainage ditches at the far end as well as the pipe which should spill into the field ditch after the end gate. We have persuaded some of the landowners to clear the ditches, and Transport for Buckinghamshire will clean the pipe if the other landowners in Wood End would clear the ditches which they are responsible for and trim the hedges. The cottages opposite the Shoulder of Mutton will have the kerb raised a small amount to encourage surface water into the drains rather than through front doors. The work will involve raising the dropped kerbs and installing additional gullies. We also want to improve the gully at the side of the pub.

Events organised in the village: The annual Village footpath walk in October and the Annual Village Litter Blitz. The latter took place last Saturday 14th March 2015. It was well supported again this year and the huge difference was acknowledged even by passers by. A thank you to everyone who took part.

Views regarding various planning applications have been sought by AVDC:

- The site 9-11 Mursley Road had two appeals dismissed after a very lengthy investigation.
- Well Field is awaiting another application to get automatic permission to convert a large barn into residential accommodation.
- Salden Chase, has been renamed South West Milton Keynes development, a consortium is seeking to build 1850 new homes and associated facilities on the site.
- Permissions have been granted for 4 new homes to be developed as in-fill within the village.

Walk around village

New road narrows signage on Church Street has been ordered as well as the removal of the old direction sign assembly at Great Horwood Road junction, the crew will also re-set the leaning give way sign.

The vegetation clearance at the Shucklow Hill / Great Horwood Road junction will be carried out by our area maintenance gang, however this is not likely to happen until the spring due to other outstanding work.

With regard to roads requiring resurfacing, we had our meeting with the Asset Management Team and Cllr John Chilver and we highlighted Mursley Road, The Green and Clays Lane. Once the potential schemes have been priced up and the 3 year programme confirmed, I will be in touch.

The area maintenance gang will also be siding out the footways on Mursley Road and Winslow Road and this work will be done at the same time as the work at the Shucklow Hill junction.

The section of road side ditch running between No.22a and 'Hemmingford House' requires digging out. The pipe at the headwall end (opposite No.22a) has been exposed and ditch dug to a sufficient depth to allow the water to flow to the outlet and into the pipe in the adjoining field. There will be quite a lot of vegetation for the land owners to remove before digging the ditch, so it would probably be better if they get started sooner rather than later before spring growth.

Pub - The Shoulder of Mutton has been put up for sale with the offer to sell a lease, the Parish Council is considering the best way to support the ongoing success of the pub.

Community Right to Bid for the garages in Wood End – The nomination forms have been submitted awaiting acceptance by AVDC.

Thanks also to :- Margaret Dickson re LH Trust

Annual Reports:

Recreation Ground Trust Report from B.Curtis – see attached.

Little Horwood Trust Report from M Dickson – see attached.

Little Horwood Nature Reserve, Millenium Wood and Garden of Peace Report from M Jones – see attached.

The Chairman joined residents in thanking Mr Jones for all his work supporting the village.

Shoulder of Mutton Public House (PH) Update

Mr F Donlan provided an update on the situation since the PH had been placed on the market for sale or lease with Florets. It was noted that the Parish Council had agreed to submit an Expression of Interest in response to a Community Right to Bid on the Property. Mr Donlan and Mr Curtis had spoken to the current landlords and they believed the PH was viable as a business. Florets had received an offer to buy the PH and had accepted the offer in principle. The prospective Buyer (Mr Garricks) had spoken to Mr Donlan about his plans and Mr Donlan summarised the plans at the meeting. It was agreed to accept the offer of Mr Garricks to meet with villagers to discuss his plans. The Clerk agreed to organise the meeting.

Questions from the floor and any other business:

Diversity on the Council: a resident noted that it was encouraging to see several women on the Council and hoped that this would continue.

Defibrillator: it was noted that a nearby village had a protocol for the use of the Defibrillator should a 999 call be made, and that this may be worth considering in LH.

Mobile Vehicle Activated Cameras (MVAS): a question was asked about the frequency of moving the MVAS and whether there had been any improvement in the results. The Chairman confirmed the MVAS would be moved shortly and that after an initial improvement results had stabilised, high speeds were typically occurred in the early hours of the morning.

East West Rail: it was noted that the train would route through Bletchley to provide access to other routes.

The Chairman invited those present to remain for a glass of wine, donated by Cllr Cowdrey (not the LHPC).

The meeting closed at 9.28 pm.

Signed: Chairman,

at 2016 Annual Parish Meeting on