

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Little Horwood
at The Recreation Ground Hall, Little Horwood. 8pm, Monday 4th April 2016**

Present: Cllr. M.Cowdrey presided as Chairman, K.Odedy acted as Clerk. About 35 residents attended along with AVDC Councillor B.Stanier and BCC Councillor J.Chilver.

Apologies: none

Minutes of Previous Annual Parish Meeting (held Monday 30th March 2015): The spelling of Mr Donlon was corrected and the minutes were agreed to be an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

Chairman's Report: the Chairman for the Parish Council, Cllr Cowdrey, gave the following report:

Welcome - Little Horwood Parish Council Chairman's Report 2015/16: 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.

There were several changes in the Parish Council, Mary Arnold, Mike Trim, Helen Shaw and Stephanie Seddon all resigned and many thanks for all of their contributions. The new members were, Jane Davey, Mark Bull, and Paul Burke who were successful in the May election process and Chris Hooper who joined shortly afterwards by Co-option. In June 2015 Paul Burke announced that he is moving his family back to Manchester and resigned from the Parish Council. Paul had done a great job in documenting the assets and their condition for the village, he also refurbished the old bus shelter. We embarked on recruiting a replacement and Alex Keeling was co-opted to the Parish Council at our January 2016 meeting.

Thanks to Mike Jones, his family and fellow volunteers who help to maintain the village green spaces for us and will make a report to this meeting. Thanks to Bob Curtis (Recreation Ground Trust) & Margaret Dickson (Little Horwood Trust) who will make their reports at this meeting.

Social Media and the Parish Council Web site: The Village Facebook page continues to be well used by many of the residents and is a great place to find information about what is going on in the village. In addition, copies of meeting agenda's and minutes can be found on the Parish Council Web site along with other statutory information.

Devolution of grass cutting and related services – Peter Nickoll has lead this piece of work and we have signed an agreement for contractors to cut the village grasses which were previously cut by Bucks County Council. The contractors are known to us as they already cut some grass for us, and have completed a successful year of grass cutting for Winslow Council.

The Parish Council precept (Community Charge) is carefully costed. It has had to be increased this year to make provision for the devolved grass cutting and now stands at £11,870.

Flooding - The work in Wood End was completed in 2015; that saw ditches cleared and drainage pipes jetted and has been successful in reducing any flooding through very heavy rains this winter. The last few months of 2015 highlighted the flooding issue by the railway bridge on the Winslow Road, the AVDC Transport for Bucks team were persuaded to attend the site and speak to the owners of the White House. The short term solution was to jet out blocked pipes and clear trenches

to allow free drainage into the stream on the Winslow side of the bridge. The transport team have a final solution to re-route the drainage pipe under the road following the inside curve under the bridge linking to the pipe which feeds into the stream, this will also mean that the dreadful road surface will be repaired at the same time.

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. This was identified last year, but is yet to be completed.

Projects - This year seems to have involved footpaths and stiles quite a bit. An afternoon was spent with the owner of the land containing footpath 27; looking at each of the stiles on his property and agreeing repairs required. He has undertaken to carry out the work in the spring of 2016 when his fencing contractor is on site for other works. The stile at Wood End has been strengthened and the dog access has been made safer. New kissing gates have been obtained through a grant from BCC, Winslow and District Local Area Forum, these are replacing the stiles on the footpath from Shucklow hill to the sports field. The gate to the allotments was changed to open inwards, so that cars can now pull off the road while opening the gate to gain entrance.

For 2016 we have reviewed the Aims and Aspirations which were identified in the Village Plan completed in 2010. To distil items which have not been achieved and are still relevant, the Parish Council intend to push through on an agreed list to be published soon.

Events organised in the village:

- The annual Village footpath walk on 25th October was well attended on a lovely day.
- Annual Village Litter Blitz. Will take place last Saturday 9th April 2016. It was well supported again in 2015. A thank you to everyone who took part.
- The Play around the Parishes enjoyed another successful year in 2015, Peter Nickoll is the organiser and 2016 is in the planning.
- The 2015 Remembrance service was held in Little Horwood, although the weather was unpleasant it was well attended and the wreath laying in the Garden of Peace went very well.
- This year also saw the demise of the Jack Ash tree on the green, there is no plan to replace it.

Views regarding various planning applications have been sought by AVDC:

- Well Field is awaiting another application to get automatic permission to convert a large barn into residential accommodation.
- Three new houses are being constructed on a site opposite the junction of Church Street and Mursley Road, We are still awaiting an agreed drainage solution for surface water, which the developers have not yet submitted to AVDC.
- The Parish Council have objected to a request for a huge new grain store at The Hollows. Permission was granted for a grain store at a different location in 2012 and the one in previous use, which was described as uneconomical to repair, has been changed to industrial units.
- South West Milton Keynes Development: MKC are being far more helpful in providing updates than AVDC. MKC are looking to address transport related issues and will attempt to give further consideration to the application before the May 2016 Elections.

Pub - The Shoulder of Mutton appears to have been let to a new tenant who intends to open an organic pub / restaurant. We have requested that the heritage team at AVDC ensure that any changes made to the structure of the listed building is authorised.

Allotments: Following a review of the Allotments in early 2015 and a subsequent recruitment campaign we are pleased to say the majority of allotments are now rented. There are still a small number available so if you know anyone who would like an allotment please contact the Clerk. (We have 41 allotments, 38 are rented and 3 are still vacant)

Annual Reports:

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

During the report Mr Curtis thanked the Parish Council for their support.

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.

Questions from the floor and any other business:

Closure of a Public House: a resident raised this issue with AVDC Cllr Stanier who explained that the pub was expected to find new owners.

Footpath across Mr Keane’s farmland: a resident expressed concern with the condition of footpaths crossing the farm’s fields. The situation would be monitored and discussed at the next Parish Council meeting.

Village Litter Pick: a summary of the plans for the annual litter pick was provided Parish Councillor Nickoll.

Footpath from the Rec to Shucklow Hill: a resident noted that the path was overgrown. This would be addressed by the Parish Council as part of the devolved grass cutting services.

The thanked AVDC Cllr Stanier and BCC Cllr Chilver for attending the meeting and also thanked everyone who had contributed to the meeting.

The Chairman invited those present to remain for a glass of wine, donated by personally by Mr Cowdrey.

The meeting closed at 9.34 pm.

Signed: Chairman,

at 2017 Annual Parish Meeting on