

# HORMEAD PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Hormead Parish Council Meeting Thursday 18 October 2012 in the Meads Pavilion at 8pm

**PRESENT:** Chairman Cllr Robb Denham (RED); Cllr Dave Baseley (DB); Cllr John Kilby (JK); Cllr H Morgan (HM)

Clerk: Colin Marks

District Cllr Rose Cheswright and 11 other members of the public.

### 12.159 Apologies for absence

**ACTION**

1. **Apologies received from Councillors:** Cllr David Ginn (work); Cllr Jayne Denham (work); Cllr Elaine Harding (family duties)
2. **Other Councillor absences:** None
3. **Other apologies:** None

### 12.160 Declarations of Interest

Non-pecuniary interests were declared in respect of the Village Hall by Cllr Kilby (as Chairman of the VHMC), and by Cllr Denham in respect of the school (a Governor).

### 12.161 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting, 20 September 2012

Cllr Kilby objected to the Minutes overall because he said they were biased against the Village Hall, and that he found them unacceptable for other reasons. Cllr Baseley said he could not comment because he was not present at the meeting. Following a vote it was **RESOLVED by 2 votes to 1, with 1 abstention, that the Minutes of 20 September be accepted as a true and accurate record.** The Chairman signed the Minutes.

### 12.162 Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting, 10 October 2012

Cllr Kilby said he did not accept the Minutes because the £100k quoted as being funds once held by the VHMC seemed to be a comment against the VHMC. He also contested it was not true that the land title belonged to the Custodian Trustee for Charities, to which the Chairman replied that it was an accurate statement. Cllr Kilby also said the Minutes did not contain the reference by Cllr Ginn to another deed that prevented the sale of the Village Hall land, to which the Clerk replied that he had omitted it because he had no idea what Cllr Ginn had been referring to when passing the comment. Cllr Kilby also objected to other comments included in the Minutes. Following a vote, it was **RESOLVED by 3 votes to 1 that the Minutes of 10 August 2012 be accepted as a true and accurate record.** The Chairman signed the Minutes.

12.163 **PCSO Report:** PCSO Higham was not present and did not send in a report.

12.164 **Chairman's Announcements:** None

### 12.165 PLANNING

#### 1. Applications

3/12/1520/FP 2 Layston Cottages, Hare Street  
*Single storey rear extension*

NO OBJECTIONS

Clerk

#### 2. Decision Notices

3/12/1171/FP/SE The Thatched Cottage, Conduit Lane  
*Insertion of new windows*

PERMISSION APPROVED SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS

**3/12/1132/FP Meadowlands, The Street, Little Hornead**

Raise roof ridge with dormer windows, 2-storey rear extension and replacement garage

DECISION AWAITED

**3. Other Planning matters:** Plans and other matters arising since the Agenda was issued.

**3/12/1657/FP:** Cllr Morgan had made the Council aware of the Buntingford Action for Responsible Development (BARD) Group's public display on Saturday 20th October to raise awareness of Taylor Wimpey's proposed 160-house development on Hare Street Road, Buntingford. Councillors expressed concerns about the resultant increase in traffic that will have an impact on the parish, especially Hare Street village. The Clerk said posters advertising the meeting had been put on the Parish Council's notice boards.

**12.166 FINANCE**

1. The report of the Council's finances for 1 to 30 September 2012 was received (Appendix A).

|                                    |                  |
|------------------------------------|------------------|
| Finance Summary:                   | £                |
| Opening available balance 30/8/12: | 7,215.08         |
| Plus income to 30/9/12:            | 8,250.00         |
| Less expenditure to 30/9/12:       | <u>2,329.85</u>  |
| Available to Council:              | <u>13,135.23</u> |

(Reconciled with bank statement to 28 September):

It was noted that the second instalment of the precept (£8,250) had been received in September. The Chairman presented a revised budget forecast for the financial year. HHFC income had been lost for the remainder of the year, but that was offset by the consequent cost savings. Ware Cricket Club had pulled out at the last minute, and so their budgeted income had been lost during the summer, and an adjustment had been made due to insurance costs being less than budgeted. There have been additional costs relating to the solicitors who had prepared the Meads licences and the land title investigation. The overall budget surplus for the financial year would therefore be reduced by a modest £775, from £4,782 to £4,007. The Chairman said he would circulate the revised budget details after the meeting. *(Clerk's note following the meeting: the revised budget details can be viewed on the Parish Council's website).*

RED

Following a vote it was **RESOLVED that the Accounts Statement be accepted.**

2. The list of orders for payment was presented for authorisation to be signed (Appendices B1 and B2).

It was pointed out that following a request by Mrs Cater for the Council to consider donating Remembrance Day poppy wreath, the Chairman had already reimbursed Mrs Cater. It was therefore for the Council to consider whether to reimburse the Chairman in return. Cllr Kilby said that in view of additional expenses, together with the loss of income for the current year, he thought all councillors should themselves donate towards the wreath. The Chairman reminded council that this was in memory of the parish members who perished in the two world wars and was not a new matter. *(See Agenda item 12.174 below).* Following a discussion it was **RESOLVED by a majority of 3 votes with 1 abstention to approve all the invoices presented for payment.**

Clerk

It was agreed to defer the signing of cheques to the end of the meeting.

**12.167 Correspondence**

The list of correspondence was attached as an appendix to the Agenda. Cllr Kilby told the Chairman that he had not seen a copy of Mrs Quinney's second reply; the Chairman said he would forward it after the meeting. Cllr Kilby said he objected to the Clerk offering an opinion by referring to Mr Coltery's email as "intimidatory", to which the Clerk replied that he had found it to be so, and other councillors agreed.

RED

**12.168 Special Interest Groups Reports**

1. **Village Hall.** No report was made

2. **Highways.**

1. Cllr Ginn had left a message to say that he had checked stocks held by Mr Wyld and there were some bags remaining from last year. Following a discussion, it was agreed that the salt had been very useful last winter and it was **RESOLVED to re-order salt from Highways for the coming winter.** **Clerk**
2. The Clerk reported that the “Welcome to Great Hormead” sign had finally been replaced.
- 3. Footpaths and Byways.** The Chairman noted that there has been no progress to date on footpath clearance, and that Mr Johnson was looking into it for the Parish Council.
- 4. Website.** The Clerk had nothing to report **Clerk**
- 5. School.** The Chairman reported that the school was gearing up for its annual bonfire night on Saturday 3rd November; he said it was always a good evening and well worth attending. He also reported that the school had passed the recent Ofstead inspection with an improved rating on last year, which was very pleasing. **RED**
- 12.169 Meads:** The following matters were considered:
- 1. The Meads generally.** The Chairman asked for suggestions as to what could be done to encourage users, and proposed a discussion between councillors by email to float ideas. The play area continues to be well used. It was agreed that it would be good to have regular users for the Meads facilities. **ALL**
- 2. Disabled Access to Pavilion.** The Clerk reported that he had discussed with Claire Pullen of EHC what the required specification for the ramp should be, and after consultation, she had referred the PC to the Papworth Housing Trust, from whom a response was now awaited. EHC have said it may be possible to obtain a grant towards the cost of a new disabled ramp. **Clerk**
- 3. Warning and Disclaimer Signs.** The Chairman said that the replacement of the warning signs by the river was still necessary and should be done before winter for public safety. The Clerk also urged that the signs for the play area be done as soon as possible. It was agreed that the Chairman and Clerk would organise these. **RED/Clerk**
- 4. PHS contract update:** The Clerk reported that he had discovered the PHS contract for the hand drier did not expire until February 2016 and the cancellation penalty was prohibitive. The Sanitary bins had been cancelled and PHS is arranging their removal. In the meantime, Stephen Ruff has purchased replacement bins and liners. *(As identified on Appendix B1 under Finance, 12.166.2 above)* **Clerk**
- 12.170 Queen’s Diamond Jubilee recognition:** Members considered the draft Trust Deed and Land Title prepared by Fields in Trust and following a discussion, it was **RESOLVED to approve the Trust Deed as presented to the meeting.** **Clerk**
- 12.171 Village Hall:** The Parish Council Representative on the VHMC
- The Chairman said consideration should be given to raising a complaint with the Charity Commission as Cllr Ginn was still not being accepted as the Parish Council’s representative on the VHMC. It was untenable that the Committee will not accept the Council’s appointed representative. Cllr Baseley asked if the VHMC’s position was a general one or whether it applied only to Cllr Ginn. The Chairman replied that it was specific to Cllr Ginn, and then asked Cllr Kilby why the VHMC continued to refuse to accept him. Cllr Kilby replied it was an inflammatory appointment; Cllr Ginn wouldn’t help, and asked what the Chairman’s real objection to the Village Hall was. The Chairman responded that he was not against the Village Hall.
- There then followed a heated exchange of comments, opinions and accusations between the Chairman, Cllr Kilby and Mrs Marty Kilby, who had interrupted the meeting.
- 12.172 Parish Meeting, 12 September**
- The Chairman invited comments from councillors following the Parish Meeting on 12th September. Concerning issues related to the Village Hall, Cllr Baseley said everyone agrees

with a new Hall, but the contention is whether the current plan is the best way forward, and he enquired whether a less expensive option had been considered. He continued that the main problem seemed to be that it was a large plan that necessitated selling off part of the car park to fund it. In response, Cllr Kilby invited Cllr Baseley and Cllr Morgan to meet with him and look at the details of the approved proposals.

DB/HM/JK

**12.173 Neighbourhood Plan**

It was noted that EHC have postponed looking at the Neighbourhood Plan proposals for a few months. The Chairman suggested that an outline of what needs to be done should be prepared in an attempt to get people involved. No-one had responded to the invitation for a meeting apart from Cllr Morgan and Mrs Fremantle. The Clerk suggested EHAPTC might be of some help, as would Brickendon Liberty because their plan is well advanced.

RED

**12.174 Remembrance Day Poppy Wreath**

This item was dealt with under the Finance Agenda item 12.166.2 above

**12.175 Summons and Agenda for future meetings**

Following the adoption of the new Standing Orders at the last meeting, there was a discussion and vote and it was unanimously **RESOLVED that the Clerk may send summonses and agendas of meetings to members by email, without the need to post or hand deliver an additional hard copy.**

Clerk

**12.176 Councillor Training**

It was agreed that the Councillor training evening would take place in the Pavilion on Tuesday 6th November at 7.30pm. Carina Helmn, County Officer of HAPTC, was present at the meeting and confirmed that would be acceptable to her.

Clerk/ALL

**12.177 Precept 2013/2014**

Cllr Ginn, who had proposed leading a discussion on alternative ways of funding the Village Hall rebuild, was absent and the discussion was therefore postponed until the next meeting.

**12.178 Items for future agendas**

- 1. Cllr Morgan wanted to discuss a dog-waste bin for Hare Street and said she would bring her researched information to the next meeting for consideration.
- 2. Other items for consideration: *No other items were suggested.*

Adjournment for public comments

Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED that the meeting be suspended to allow public comments.**

- Mrs Kilby asked that since Cllr Ginn had said he would pay the solicitor's fee himself if it was found that the Parish Council did not own the Village Hall land, would the Clerk now write to Cllr Ginn for the money.

- Mrs Kilby also said she found the Chairman's accusation earlier in the meeting offensive and not in keeping with the Code of Conduct signed up to by councillors, causing further heated exchanges.

*The meeting was resumed.*

**12.179 Date of next Parish Council meeting:**

Thursday 15 November at 8pm in the Meads Pavilion.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.15pm.

Signed ..... Dated.....