

HORMEAD ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting Tuesday 7 May 2013 at 8pm in The Church Room

PRESENT: Chairman: Cllr Robb Denham, Cllr Jayne Denham, Cllr D Ginn, Cllr E Harding, Cllr J Kilby, Rev K Peacock, and 16 other members of the public.

In attendance: Colin Marks (Clerk to Hormead Parish Council)

- 13/APM/001** Cllr Robb Denham welcomed everyone, thanked them for coming to the meeting and said it was good to see so many parishioners attending.
- 13/APM/002** The Reverend Kate Peacock opened in prayer.
- 13/APM/003** **To receive apologies for absence**
John Howell, Hazel Stride, Shane and Elizabeth Collery
- 13/APM/004** **To approve Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held Thursday 17 May 2012**
By a vote of 7:0 it was **RESOLVED that the Minutes of 17 May 2012 be accepted as a true and accurate record.** The Chairman signed the Minutes.
- 13/APM/005** **To approve Minutes of the Parish Meeting held Wednesday 12 September 2012**
The Chairman asked for a vote on the Minutes taken by Independent Clerk Mrs Joan Diales, which had been published in the H&H Newsletter. By 4:0 it was **RESOLVED that Mrs Diales Minutes of 12 September 2012 be accepted as a true and accurate record.**
- 13/APM/006** **To receive the Chairman's review for 2012-2013**
Due to ill health, the Chairman's personal annual review was read by Cllr Jayne Denham.
Clerk's note: Anticipating a transcript of the review, no notes were taken. However, it transpired later that the transcript was not available for inclusion in the Minutes.
- 13/APM/007** **To receive parish group leaders' reports**
The Chairman explained that although a number of reports are published in the H&H Newsletter, this item was intended to give parish groups an opportunity to share with the meeting.
Rev Kate Peacock said the Church would put a report of its AGM into the next edition of the H&H Newsletter.
Len Rogers, on behalf of the Hormead Community Group, said that during the year several incorrect statements had been made regarding the Newsletter. He said that the Editor is not influenced by any individual or group, and that there is no evidence of editorial bias. He emphasised that a full page in every issue is given over to the Parish Council.
The Chairman responded that at least two of the Parish Council's items had copy deleted, and that there was evidence of the Editor being "instructed" to not include a certain statement that had been received from a reliable source.

Len Rogers said that the Parish Council had reported the resignation of a councillor as being for personal reasons, but did not specify what they were. The Chairman replied that he had been aware of the reasons but was not prepared to go into print because he did not have permission to repeat them.

13/APM/008 To receive a financial report for the year ending 31 March 2013

The Chairman presented the meeting with an overview of the past financial year supported by an accounts summary. He pointed out that amendments had been made due to the departure of HHFC. The accounts sheets provided the detail.

HHFC did not actually generate income; the extra costs were reflected in income and the income was entirely offset by costs. Matthew Reeves-Hairs said that at the September Parish Meeting it was mentioned that an increase would be approximately £5,000, which is not £1,200 as subsequently stated. The Chairman said the figures stated were not his own, but had been produced as the total costs of additional requirements of the club by a councillor and a former Parish Council clerk four years previously; they had remained unchanged ever since. He explained that in reality the additional costs paid for amounted to £3,600 each year, leaving any excess of the true costs to be borne by the council. The negotiations were based on playing fees of a minimum £1,200 per year for normal usage, with additional fees for extra usage. If additional costs were still needed, they would be paid for separately. All the Parish Council was looking for was at least £1,200 for the community.

Grants for the Diamond Jubilee celebrations had been received from East Herts District Council: £300; Councillor Jane Pitman: £500; and a parishioner donation of £10, which were most welcome and for which we were very grateful. All grant money had been spent on Jubilee events. The profit of £474.43 from the parish Celebration Day had been donated to R.A.T.S. at the request of parishioners attending.

13/APM/009 To consider Neighbourhood Plan options

Cllr Robb Denham gave an explanation regarding the local newspaper article where Buntingford Town Council were offering neighbouring parish councils to join with them to create a joint Neighbourhood Plan. During the ensuing discussion concerns were expressed that Buntingford would be calling the shots and making the decisions that will affect Hormead Parish. The alternative of doing nothing would be to hand all control to East Herts, which was considered to be the worst possible option. Hormead's neighbouring parishes forming a cluster to create their own Plan was also discussed, but no other parishes had shown any interest in exploring that avenue.

The question of grant availability was raised and it was agreed to investigate the possibility.

The predominant view expressed by parishioners was that it was essential to secure the future of the Parish for the generations to come; therefore a Neighbourhood Plan was important. However, it was recognised that it would require trust and a great deal of hard work by as many people as possible willing to get involved.

It was agreed that a public meeting should be arranged in the near future to consider the matter fully.

13/APM/010 Open forum for public discussion and questions

Kay Jones enquired whether the New Millenium book was still available. Len Rogers said it had been reprinted four years later, but without the coloured photographs.

Stuart Taylor said that with regard to a public meeting for a Neighbourhood Plan, he was prepared to organise publicity and to help.

Questions were asked about how much a Plan would cost and whether the parish could afford it.

It was noted that CPRE had published some useful reference information.

Cllr Robb Denham reminded the meeting that it was a *Parish* Plan – not a Parish *Council* Plan.

Cllr Robb Denham said there had been no response to repeated appeals for help printed in the Newsletter and made at Parish Council meetings. Len Rogers suggested that may be because no one knows what is involved. He asked whether more details be made available for the Newsletter?

Stuart Taylor said the information should be compiled and printed in the June Newsletter with a view to having a late summer/early autumn public meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9pm.

Signed..... **Dated**