

HORMEAD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Hormead Annual Parish Council Meeting Thursday 12th May 2016, 8pm in the Meads Pavilion

PRESENT: Cllr Jayne Denham, Chairman (JD); Cllr John Kilby (JK); Cllr Teresa Marks (TM);
Cllr Richard White (RW)

Eight members of the public

Colin Marks, Clerk to the Parish Council

All members of the Parish Council had previously signed their Declaration of Acceptance of Office, witnessed by the Clerk

Councillor Jayne Denham welcomed everyone to the meeting at 8pm and announced the first item of business.

ACTION

16.051 Election of Chairman for the ensuing year

Following a proposal, second, and vote of 3 to 1, it was **RESOLVED that Cllr Jayne Denham be elected as Chairman for the ensuing year**

16.052 Chairman's Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Cllr Jayne Denham duly signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, witnessed by the Clerk as the Proper Officer of the Council

**JD/
Clerk**

16.053 Apologies for absence

1. Councillors: Cllr Robb Denham - unwell; Cllr Marty Kilby - working
2. Others: None

16.054 Consideration of the appointment of a Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year

It was considered and unanimously **RESOLVED that it was not appropriate to appoint a Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year.**

16.055 Review of delegation arrangements to committees, the Clerk, and other local authorities

It was noted that the relevant Standing Orders sections were sections 6 and 26. The arrangements were considered and it was unanimously **RESOLVED to continue the existing delegation arrangements as set out in Standing Orders.**

16.056 Review and consideration of the members and Terms of Reference for committees

1. Staffing Committee: It was **RESOLVED that Cllrs R Denham, R White, and J Denham be the members of the Committee, and the Terms of Reference be affirmed.**
2. VHMRC Representative: It was agreed that Matthew Reeves-Hairs be the representative.
3. School Governor representative: The Chairman said a Parish Council representative was no longer permissible under the current rules that regulate the membership of Hormead Primary School's board of Governors.

**RED/RW/
JD**

MRH

16.057 Review of Council's complaints/grievance procedure

It was unanimously **RESOLVED to continue with the procedures incorporated in Standing Orders Sections 8 and 27, and the Staffing Committee Terms of Reference as reviewed**

16.058 Review as appropriate the Financial Regulations

It was unanimously **RESOLVED that the Financial Regulations are appropriate as reviewed**

16.059 Review as appropriate the insurance cover and asset register

Subject to adding the large planter to the asset register, was unanimously **RESOLVED that the insurance cover and asset register are appropriate as reviewed**

Clerk

16.060 Review of Council's and Clerk's membership of other bodies

It was unanimously **RESOLVED to continue the Council's membership of HAPTC/NALC, and the Clerk's membership of CPALC, SLCC, and Clerks & Councils Direct, and also for the Council to join the membership of CPRE**

Clerk

16.061 Review of the Council’s FOI Policy and Procedure, DPA Policy and SAR Procedure
It was unanimously **RESOLVED that the FOI Policy and FOI Requests & Complaints procedures, the Data Protection Policy and Subject Access Request Procedure stand unchanged as reviewed.**

16.062 Review of the Council’s policy for dealing with the press/media
It was unanimously **RESOLVED that policy for dealing with the press and media stands unchanged and as set out in Standing Orders sections 29, 11.5, and 11.17, as reviewed**

16.063 Dates, times and place of meetings for the coming year
Following a discussion and by a vote of 3 to 1, it was **RESOLVED that the Parish Council continue to meet on the third Thursday of each month, except August when there would be no meeting, as set out in Standing Order 14.2**

The Chairman announced that the normal business of the Annual Parish Council Meeting was concluded and that an urgent planning application would now be considered as per the Agenda.

16.064 3/16/0710/FUL Land off Park Road, Gt Hornead: Erection of 3 detached houses, associated landscaping and balancing pond and erection of village shop.

In view of the public interest in this application, at 8.20pm it was unanimously **RESOLVED to suspend Standing Orders and open the meeting for public participation.**

Graham Fisher, planning adviser to the applicants, explained the plan, which was for the applicants’ family. He said that the first proposal had been for five houses, but after review it was considered to reduce the scheme to three houses with a buffer screen of trees, a balancing pond and virtual village shop. Cognisant that this was situated in a Category 3 village in the Rural Area Beyond the Greenbelt, he said he believed the emerging District Plan would probably support more small housing development in Category 3 villages. The houses proposed in the scheme had high sustainability specification and the virtual shop would further enhance the sustainability of the project.

Parishioners present questioned the viability of the access to the site via Park Road and whether the large construction vehicles would have enough room to enter it because it is so narrow, both from Willow Close into Park Road and from there into the development site. Graham Fisher said the all access widths and splays had been fully assessed and there would be no problem. Also expressed was the concern that the road and verge and War Memorial kerb at the junction of Horseshoe Hill and Willow Close would be further damaged by the numerous HGVs coming into and leaving the site. There was considerable public debate on these points.

The Chairman summarised by saying that the Parish Council had a duty to consider the views of all parishioners. It was acknowledged that the applicants had lived and been active in the village for very many years and that they still had strong connections and some involvement in the community. It was also acknowledged that intense feelings had been expressed on both sides of the argument.

Cllr Kilby proposed objecting to the application, seconded by Cllr White and in the ensuing vote there were 2 votes for and 2 votes against the motion. The Chairman then exercised her casting vote and by 3 to 2 it was **RESOLVED to comment with No Objections to the application.**

Cllr Kilby asked for his objection to be recorded. Cllr Marks said it had been a difficult decision because of the emotions expressed on both sides.

In submitting the Parish Council’s No Objections comment to East Herts Planning, the Clerk said he would highlight the concerns that had been expressed by local residents so that due consideration would be given to addressing them.

Clerk

The Chairman called the meeting back to order at 9.47, thanked everyone for attending and closed the Meeting at 9.47pm.

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