

UNAPPROVED

HORMEAD ANNUAL MEETING of the PARISH

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Thursday 19 May 2016 at 7.30pm in the Meads Pavilion

PRESENT: County Cllr Rose Cheswright, Rev Kate Peacock, and 7 other members of the public

In attendance: Colin Marks, Clerk to the Parish Council

16/APM/001

Welcome and opening comments

Cllr Jayne Denham, Chairman of the Parish Council and being present, chaired the meeting. She apologised for the delayed start, welcomed everyone, and opened the Meeting at 7.45pm. In opening, she said:

This meeting fulfils a statutory requirement for all parish and town councils and as such, there are some procedures to be followed.

The agenda aims to give parishioners a voice on any topic to do with or affecting the Parish during the last year or indeed looking forward to the future. Anyone - and hopefully everyone - present who is a parishioner, but not necessarily an elector, will be able to ask a question or merely make a statement of concern or a viewpoint that they would like air. Understandably, only parishioners are allowed to speak and any disruptive behaviour may lead to adjournment of the meeting.

I will endeavour to answer all questions but will pass you to one of my colleagues when needed. I will take one request at a time. Thank you for listening

Reverend Kate Peacock opened in prayer

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Apologies for absence

Cllr Robb Denham - unwell

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To receive and sign as correct the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 30 April 2015

Copies of the Minutes of the 2015 Annual Parish Meeting were distributed and following a vote, **the Minutes were approved as an accurate and true record.** They were signed by the Chairman.

16/APM/004

To receive a personal review of the year 2014-2015 from Cllr Jayne Denham, Chairman of the Parish Council

Chairman's disclaimer: The following remarks are my own views and opinions and do not necessarily represent those of the Parish Council.

I would like to start with a big thank you to all my fellow Parish Councillors who have supported me in my third year as Chairman.

Last year after the election of the Council we were for a short time a full council, sadly in June last year Councillor Denis Madden resigned due to personal reasons. This was a great loss to the Council as Denis was very proactive and an excellent Highways lead. This left us with a vacancy that was filled in February by Matthew Reeves-Hairs, we were very pleased to welcome him to the Council and we once again have a full complement of councillors.

As a Council we have been busy this past year and have tried to address the points raised by residents and to look after the villages. We also held two parish events last year, one to mark VE Day, which was held in May. £130 was raised and donated to the British Legion. The second event in October was to celebrate the Queen's longest reign and to mark VJ Day. This started with tea and cake and in the evening a BBQ. £40 raised from the raffle was donated to RATS. At both events a local jazz band played for us and proved to be very popular with all. They have been booked to play again, along with the Braughing Choir, at the event organised for 11th June to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday.

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Thanks must go to Councillor Richard White for his maintenance of the repairs on the Meads and pavilion, and to Councillor Teresa Marks for her able management of getting grants to help with the play area.

I myself have been honoured to represent the Council on several occasions over the last year, I always feel especially proud and honoured to lay the wreath at the War Memorial on behalf of the Parish Council.

I was asked by Reverend Kate Peacock to organise the making of the Christingle candles for the local school, the money raised for this goes to a very worthy cause and many thanks to the Council for a donation to purchase the materials for the making of the candles. I was then invited to the school service at St Nicholas' Church, which I was pleased to attend.

In December we had the issue of the "dog bin" and I personally would like to thank my fellow councillor Robb Denham for helping me to empty three and a half bags of dog waste, this clearly above and beyond the duties of a councillor! My thanks must also go to the parishioner who has taken on the role of emptying this bin on a weekly basis, and I am sure that all members of the "dog walking community" would say the same. Thanks must also go to his stand-in for holiday cover for this duty. East Herts District Council has still not come up with a viable solution for this bin.

My hope for the future is that the Council will work together for the good of the parish and the parishioners.

And last but not least I want to thank our Clerk, Colin Marks, for his hard work and conscientious attitude, we are lucky to have him and without him, much of the work would not be carried out. Colin, as always, continues to go above and beyond his duties as our very able Clerk.

Finally, for the parishioners who attend almost all of our meetings, a big "Thank You"!
Cllr Jayne Denham, Chairman of Hormead Parish Council

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To receive reports from Parish group leaders

Hare Street and the Hormeads Cricket Club *(abridged version)*

Hare Street and the Hormeads had another very enjoyable and successful season in 2015, though it took a little while to get going. The first four fixtures were cancelled - one due to our opponents managing to double-book themselves, two due to weather, and one when the opposition cancelled on the morning of the match because they were unable to get a team. Our first match finally took place away to Grantchester in mid-May, and ended in a fairly comprehensive defeat. Grantchester also triumphed in the return fixture in July, and we were beaten in away matches at Aspenden, Barley and Hertford. But we won all the other matches, with some outstanding performances along the way.

There was a hat-trick for captain Chris Hammond in our win away at Sandon - the first time anyone can remember a Hare Street player completing the feat. Chris finished with best-ever figures of 6-1-22-6 as Sandon subsided for 44, chasing our massive 291 (built around another century for Kallum and an excellent 91 from Reece Fitzgerald). Reece also recorded the second-best bowling figures of the year - with what was considered the best bowling spell of the season - in taking 8-2-13-5 in an emphatic away win at Graveley.

The Bob Hammond memorial fixture was again a highlight, with Matt Hammond's team triumphing over brother Chris's side in a high-scoring match on the August bank holiday weekend. Reece struck an unbeaten century for Chris's side while brother Lewis replied with his own undefeated ton for Matt's team. We again repaired to the Blind Fiddler where Bob's memory was toasted. As in the previous editions of this fixture, match fees and individual donations were given to the British Heart Foundation in Bob's memory.

Reece dominated our presentation night, picking up the awards for best batting average (85.86), most wickets (14) and most catches (9), as well as being presented with a special award for his bowling at Graveley and winning the Player's Player of the Year award, voted for by his teammates. Kallum won the awards for most runs (659) and most sixes (44), while Lewis picked up the best bowling average trophy (12.69). But perhaps the most important

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statistic to come from the night was that no less than nine members of the club received votes from their teammates in the Player's Player category. We are a very small club, with only 16 members playing in more than a couple of matches: that so many of them were considered exceptional by their teammates tells the story of the season, and of the club as a whole, more tellingly than any statistics or match reports can convey.

As ever, we wish to convey our thanks and deep appreciation to the Parish Council for your help and support throughout the season and beyond. Your commitment and generosity is absolutely fundamental to the club's survival, and is not taken for granted. The club welcomes any and all PC members, or parishioners, to any of our matches - fixtures are attached - and if anyone would like to play cricket for the club, we are always on the look-out for new members.

Angus Batey
Chairman, Hare Street and the Hormeads Cricket Club

Police report from Sgt Duncan Wallace for Hormead Annual meeting 2016

The annual meeting provides opportunity to reflect on the past year whilst also giving consideration to the year ahead. The current strategic policing plan focuses on three main threads namely;

- Reducing crime and Anti-Social behaviour (ASB)
- Catching criminals
- Keeping people safe

Our policing style for the rural areas has always been tailored towards preventative measures, and going forward, prevention will continue as an objective, keeping people safe and reducing potential victims of crime and ASB.

Public service will continue to be subject of financial constraint and challenges but the Constabulary has reaffirmed its commitment to the retention of a neighbourhood policing style which can only be good for rural communities. Ultimately, my aspiration, that of the area Commander and statutory partners is to ensure East Herts continues to evolve in a manner making it desirable for people to reside, work and visit.

I remind all how important a part we all can play in delivery of this aspiration, be it ensuring our shed or garage is properly locked, our cycle secured when left, not to leave valuables or high value power tools in our vehicles overnight. Our newly re-elected Police and Crime Commissioner, Mr Lloyd shares this ethos and his vision for the period 2015 to 2020 is entitled 'Everybody's Business' which reinforces the responsibility we all share to reduce criminality.

By way of reassurance, the Chief Constable and Mr Lloyd have reaffirmed their commitment to maintaining a neighbourhood policing style which can only be positive for rural areas and communities.

In September, staff from the neighbourhood team conducted Operation STOMP in the parish. This operation is aimed at identifying and safeguarding vulnerability, be it vulnerable people or property. This event was well received and it was also pleasing to engage with several visitors who attended the village hall to seek further information on crime prevention. We were supported on this initiative by the dog warden from East Herts and colleagues from Herts Fire and Rescue.

The last year did see an increase in reported crime, the parish trend being in line with that of East Herts and indeed, the county. Some of this increase can be attributed to changes in how offences are now recorded. There was also a series of shed breaks in August over one night which also contributed to this increase. However, encouragingly, offences of domestic burglary were down to just 2 incidents.

This year (Since 1st April 2016) has started with low reported crime, although there has been a high value theft of lead from the church in Little Hormead. Such offences, classed as heritage crime, are impactful, as the cost of repair or restoration is often disproportionate. Other recorded incidents are, 1 x Fly Tipping, 1 x Criminal Damage and 1 x Hare Coursing for

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which the offender have been summoned to court.

Finally, may I take the opportunity on behalf of myself and the team at Buntingford, to extend our thanks for the support of the parish council and its residents, and look forward to continued working with you all to overcome those challenges and realise those aspirations identified.

Police Sgt Duncan Wallace, East Herts Rural Policing Team

Village Hall Report for 2016 Annual Parish Meeting given by Matthew Reeves-Hairs

I joined the Village hall management committee as a Trustee in 2013 shortly after that became the treasurer during the build of the hall and finally becoming chairman in Jan 2016. Over the last year there have been a few changes; Firstly, I am pleased to say that in Oct 2015 the Village Hall re opened after being closed for nearly 2 years. On behalf of the VHMC I would like to express my thanks to Dave Beasley, the previous chairman for overseeing and running the build during that time. We would also like to express our thanks to Chris Rogers, D4 Development, SJG and Mark Wyld for their hard work, to name but a few.

We have also seen a change in some of the committee members, and on behalf of the current committee I would like to thank John Kilby for his hard work and support over the years, John stepped down in Jan 2016, during his time on the committee he has served as Chairman and Treasurer. We would also like to express our sincere thanks to Mandy Irons, who has only recent stepped down from the committee, Mandy was a key member of the committee and organised many successful fund raising events at the hall, she will be missed by all. I would also like to welcome Danny Antoniou as the new Treasurer, Danny joined in Feb 2016 and is a very enthusiastic member.

As reported in the 2015 Village Hall AGM the closing balance for the year end March 2015 was £76,857 approx. and at year end March 2016 is £13,643 approx.

The costs for this year are as follows:

Final B&D costs came in at £70,015

S106 £8,000

Running and Start-up costs £2,796 (Fire Risk Assessment, Elec, Gas, Water, Insurance, Cleaning and supplies) – NOTE 6 months of usage during build.

Income £1,681 (Hall Hire and Sale of Harris Fencing)

VAT Reclaimed £15,916

Total debits £80,811

Total credits £17,597

A rough estimate of monthly hall running costs (Gas, Elec, Insurance, Water) is approx. £300pcm.

So far we have had 12 paid for bookings from Oct –Mar and held 2 Public events

I would also like to express my thanks to the over 60's and the Garden club for returning to the hall.

Ongoing: There has been a complaint made regarding the crossover for the hall main gate, having gone back through the paperwork, a cheque and application were submitted to the highways agency in March 2014, and the committee were under the belief that we were waiting for Highways to complete the work and submit a final invoice. Following the complaint, I have been in touch with highways and they did not receive the application and therefore did not process the cheque. This is now in the progress of being rectified. In the meantime, the main gate will remain out of action, except in the event of emergency services requiring access, and for pedestrian access.

The main driveway run up does not appear to have been done as per the original plan and needs to be re-graded.

There has also been a comment regarding the stage stairs being too narrow and will again be addressed at a later point in time.

All told we have had some great feedback and comments from everyone that has used the hall and bookings are increasing, and whilst there are a few teething problems, that is just what they are - teething problems, and will be addressed in time.

Matthew Reeves-Hairs, Chairman, Hormead Village Hall Management Committee

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Reverend Kate Peacock said that a full report of the church's activities for the year was given at the AGM in April and this was published on the website.

16/APM/006 Parish Council's Financial Report for the year ending 31 March 2016
Report given by the Clerk

In simple terms, the Parish Council opened the year on 1st April 2015 with a bank balance of £4,939 and ended the financial year on 31st March 2016 with a bank balance of £4,056.

Income for the year, including grants, totalled £28,130 and expenditure for the 12 months including funds from grants, was £29,013, a deficit of £883. Excluding the New Homes Bonus, £3,982 was received in grants for the replacement playarea equipment and from the Government's Fund to offset extra costs as a consequence of the new Transparency Act, and the expenditure against those grants was £6,216, the balance coming from East Herts New Homes Bonus payment.

A slow but steady undetected water leak beside the cricket table in the winter and early spring resulted in additional water bill costs of almost £400.

Income against budget was £28,130 against £21,978 budgetted.

Expenditure against budget was £29,013 against £22,189 budgetted

The net cost to the PC of the VE Day celebrations in May was £305 and the net cost of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations in October was £278. Proceeds from the raffles were donated to RATS, by agreement with parishioners attending.

A detailed breakdown of the monthly transactions is included in the Minutes of each Parish Council Meeting, which may be viewed on the PC's website. The audit finances will be available for inspection upon request under the exercise of public rights from 17 June to 28 July and the approved audit, due by 30 September, will be displayed on the notice boards and on the website.

Colin Marks, Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer, Hornead Parish Council

16/APM/007 Neighbourhood Plan: *An update of the present position was given by the Chairman*

Graham Waite of the BCANP Team had visited Cllr Robb Denham and confirmed, in a letter, that a 6-week East Herts public consultation on the Neighbourhood Plan and its supporting documentation was commencing on 19th May and will run until the 30th June when any comments received will be summarised by EHDC Planning Policy before being passed to an Examiner. Hard copies of the documentation have been delivered to Cllr Robb Denham and are available for viewing on appointment. Copies may also be viewed at Buntingford Library and The Manor House.

The NP Team expressed their heartfelt thanks to all of those who have been involved in the production of the plan regardless of in what capacity.

16/APM/008 Open Forum – open session to receive questions and motions

- A parishioner asked if the draft minutes of this Annual Meeting of the Parish could be available within, say, two months of the meeting. This was agreed.
- A parishioner said they very much hoped the three villages of the parish would get back together in future and work for the community as a whole.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.30 pm.

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