

HORMEAD ANNUAL MEETING of the PARISH

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Thursday 24 May 2018 at 7.30pm in the Meads Pavilion

PRESENT: Cllrs R Denham, J Kilby, R White, T Marks, Angus Batey of Hare Steet & The Hormeads Cricket Club. No other members of the public attended.

In attendance: Colin Marks, Clerk to the Parish Council

18/APM/1 Welcome and opening comments

Cllr Jayne Denham, Chairman of the Parish Council and being present, chaired the meeting. She welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 7.30pm

18/APM/2 Apologies for absence

None

18/APM/3 To approve and sign the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 11 May 2017.

Copies of the Minutes of the 2016 Annual Parish Meeting were available and following a vote, **the Minutes were unanimously approved as an accurate and true record.** They were signed by the Chairman.

18/APM/4 To receive a personal review of the year 2017-2018 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.

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

This 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 to 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.

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

Special thanks go especially to Councillor Richard White for his maintenance of the repairs of the meads pavilion and Councillor Teresa Marks for her able management of getting grants to help with the play area, for which we hope to be able to purchase a zip wire as requested by a young resident.

For most of the past year we have been a full complement of councillors until Matthew Reeves Hairs resigned at our April meeting, as he wished to concentrate on the Village Hall of which he is chairman. Councillor Marty Kilby sadly passed away on the 27 April 2018, after a battle with illness. Both will be missed.

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. The speeding and the lorries through Hare Street are a concern to most parishioners, County Councillor Jeff Jones came to our meeting in March and has agreed to fund two speed monitors for each end of Hare Street. The Parish Council funded speed signs for the wheelie bins, which has proved popular with residents.

We have also supported the residents who have allotments plots to register the allotments as an Asset of the Community Value after they approached the council for help and support with

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the possibility of losing their plots at the allotment.

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 Council.

In December I was again asked to read at the annual carol service at St Nicholas Church on behalf of the Council, which I once again felt privileged to do.

Special thanks go to the volunteer and his helper, who continue to empty the dog waste bin that the District Council team cannot get to. On behalf of the "dog walking community" we are extremely grateful.

Last weekend we had a party to celebrate the Royal Wedding, we were blessed with good weather and were able to put up the newly acquired marquee. Thank you to all my fellow councillors and our Clerk, for your support with this event. Thanks also to the parishioners who made cakes and gave raffle prizes and supported on the day. We received a donation of £500 from County Councillor Jeff Jones for this event. A very kind parishioner donated the burgers and sausages for the BBQ.

As a Council, we have been able to purchase the marquee due to the very generous donation from the newsletter team; this is an asset that can be enjoyed by all the parish.

The past year has seen more parishioners attend council meetings, which is good to see and of course still have the regular attendance of two parishioners who also support the council as volunteers. This is very much appreciated.

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

Jayne Denham, Chairman of Hormead Parish Council

18/APM/5

To receive reports from Parish group leaders and Hertfordshire Police

Village Hall: No report received.

Police: No report received.

Cricket Club: Angus Batey gave an impromptu report.

The Club had a very successful year. We are incredibly grateful for the support of the Parish Council and especially to John [Kilby] and to Godfrey for getting the roller to work. It is a vital piece of equipment for pitch preparation that was coaxed back to life; and without it we would simply not be able to play. As a small club of only 15 or 16 members, a new roller is totally beyond our means.

Our main 2017 fund raiser was a Quiz Night which raised a fantastic 2¹/₂ – 3 times more than the previous year. The fact that we were able to run our own bar made a huge difference. The winter 2018 Quiz Night had to be cancelled at the last moment due to heavy snow; we are looking to re-schedule it for the autumn.

We have a good maintenance programme going this year and we are trying to keep the perimeter nettles down to reduce the considerable number of balls that are lost. We also might tackle the undergrowth around the shed. We have been very fortunate to be able to replace the stolen strimmer. We realize that the ground is given us at a very preferential rate and we would like to do a bit more to help keep things tidy, if you would let us know what we want to do – but obviously we will be sensitive to the arrangements you have with Earthworms.

The Council thanked Angus and said the play area was always in need of further tidying because the schedule/cost only allows for cutting/strimming twice a month and the grass grows very quickly. This is also a problem on the main field, but again, cost is the defining factor. The answer would be to cut every week. The Clerk was asked to see if Earthworms are able to fit

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grass-collecting boxes on to their mower, although when this was discussed last year, it would add to the time and therefore cost – even more so due to regulations covering the carrying and disposal of the grass cuttings if they had to be taken off-site.

The Chairman thanked Angus for his input.

18/APM/6 Parish Council's Financial Report for the year ending 31 March 2018

Report given by the Parish Clerk

The Clerk said that, despite financial pressures, the Parish Council had performed well against its budget. Net expenditure was £21,923 against a budget of £23,602. Net income was £23,638 against a budget of £22,565. The year-end cashbook balance was £7,584 against £5,922 anticipated in the budget. With unpresented cheques of £584, the year-end bank balance was £8,168. A VAT reclaim for the year of £1,090 was received after the end of the financial year.

It had been anticipated that preparation the new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) would impact the 2017/18 accounts, but things moved more slowly than had been forecast which inevitably means more GDPR related costs will be felt in this current 2018/19 year. The Clerk is monitoring this and the Council has made contingencies in the new budget.

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

18/APM/7 Open Forum – open session to receive questions and motions

No questions or comments were raised from the floor.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.10 pm.

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

