



# HORSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL



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## DRAFT Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

Held on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at St Margaret's Hall, Horsington

**62. County / District Councillors Reports:** No reports received.

**63. Public Forum:** No members of the public were present.

**64. Present and apologies:**

**Present:** Adrian Pratt (Chairman), Angela Clayton, Judy Hodges, Belinda Mann, Gillian Miles and John Sansom. Barry Druce (Clerk)

**Apologies:** Mark Tucker.

**65. Declarations of Interest / Dispensations:** none

**66. The Minutes of the meeting held on the 19<sup>th</sup> October 2022:** were taken as read and approved.

Proposed by John Sansom and seconded by Judy Hodges.

**67. Matters arising from minutes**

a) Referring to Minute 61.c, the Chair stated that a local plan to provide a 'Warm Space' in the area was still being formulated; he stated that the possible use of a room at the Church was being investigated but doubt exists whether SDC funding could be sought for it as the room belongs to the church and church funds hold reserves which might render the grant ineligible. He has met with the PCC and agreed the room will nevertheless be identified as a 'Warm Space'

b) Referring to Minute 48.a, the Chairman stated that he had not yet written a letter in support of Mr Skinner's initiative for Cabbage Lane, but that would be attended to shortly.

c). Referring to Minute 52.a, the Chair reported that he had met with the local Headteacher and discussed the possibility of the school making a contribution towards the upkeep of the surface of the Parish Council car park opposite the school, which was predominately being used by them. The Head had stated that her limited budget made it impossible for her to offer any financial assistance towards the costs. The Head had gone on to state that they were still awaiting the promised yellow lines on the road in the area of the school to be carried out, and the Chair had undertaken to follow this up with the Highways Department. The Chair stated that he had been asked and had undertaken to discuss with the District Council the possible repair of the edge of the road surface on the Public present:

d). Referring to Minute 52.b, Angela Clayton stated that she had discussed with the Chair and agreed that the preferred version of new burials receipt book was the cheaper version, and that a personalised stamp should be purchased to over-stamp the simple design. Gillian Miles asked if Angela Clayton held any plans/records for the Churchyard, and Mrs Clayton stated that as far as she was aware the records were not in her possession but undertook to look back through old record books that she had.

e). Referring to Minute 60.a, the Chair reported that he had sought and received expert advice on the types of tree that had been proposed by Gillie Guy to be planted at the Horse Pond, and had received the go-ahead. He undertook to notify Gillie Guy accordingly. Judy Hodges stated that the top end of the river had happily been cleared, but was unaware of who had completed the work.

f). Referring to Minute 60.b, the Chair stated that he had been in contact with local land owner to discuss the possibility of cutting back the hedge along Lower Road, and that had now been carried out.

g). Referring to Minute 61.b, Angela Clayton queried if there is a need for an alcohol licence when there simply an intention to store alcohol as suggested. John Sansom explained and described how the owner intends to operate his sale process, and after general discussion the situation was accepted as outlined.



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## 68. Planning - a) : Applications:

22/02827/HOU Sandpit Horsington Road Horsington Templecombe - Construction of new outbuilding following demolition of existing to provide storage, garaging and home office space. The Chair stated that he had inspected the plan and visited the site. He described that what was being applied for was a simple replacement of the existing structure with a new building for storage, garaging and home office. After a brief discussion **IT WAS DECIDED that NO OBJECTIONS** should be raised other than making the proviso that permission should ensure the inclusion of a requirement that the new building should always remain part of the existing property.

22/02743/HOU Honeysuckle Cottage Cheriton Street South Cheriton Templecombe - Conversion of an Existing Outbuilding into a Home Office and Gym. The Chair explained the intended use of what was being applied for and after a brief discussion **IT WAS AGREED that NO OBJECTIONS BE RAISED.**

## b) : Decisions:

22/02448/FUL : The Hollies Cabbage Lane Horsington Templecombe - Erection of fence - **APPROVED**

## c) : Other: none

**69. Play Area** – Review Play Area Inspection Report. The Chairman stated that there was nothing pressing included in the report and it was agreed that this matter should be deferred until he Mark Tucker returned.

**70. Footpaths** – Angela Clayton reported that her reservation for the recent on-line talk on Footpath Legislation had been cancelled due to over-subscription. The Clerk confirmed that his too has similarly been cancelled. An alternative date for an on-line talk had been arranged, but as the original talk had been recorded and placed on the website it was agreed that it would probably be the best solution to tune in to that recording.

**71. Cemetery** – a). The Chair reported that Steve Hawkins had been tidying up the cemetery recently and all was looking good. The trees had not been cleared as yet but they were due to be attended to shortly. It was generally agreed that Steve does a good job. The Chair stated that there was a dangerous dead tree there which needed to be inspected, and undertook to make appropriate arrangements.

b). Angela Clayton reported that she had received a request to raise a headstone on a grave in the cemetery, and that the £100 fee had been paid. She explained the restrictions that the Parish Council apply to headstones and confirmed that the submitted design suitably conforms. After a brief discussion, it was DECIDED THAT THE APPLICATION BE ACCEPTED and the Chair signed the application form in authorisation.

c). Angela Clayton stated that there was now a need for the Parish Council to have its own Permissions Form which could be sent to interested parties in matters associated with the cemetery. The Clerk undertook to design a new form and explanatory details page, in liaison with Angela.

d). Angela Clayton reported that the latest interment of ashes that had taken place had not included the placing of a commemorative plaques and expressed her concern that even though the location of that interment was recorded in the cemetery records, its position in the cemetery would not be easily identifiable on site when visitors attended. She stated that she was considering what would be the best course of action to follow.

## 72. Finance

a. The accounts as at 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022 were reviewed and noted.

b. The following cheques were authorised for payment:-

1315 - £196.35 – B Druce – Clerk Salary and expenses to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022

1316 - £44.00 - HMRC – Payment of PAYE deduction from clerk's salary

1317 - £515.00 – RJ Peters – Grass cutting and strimming play area and around the village – October 2022

1318 - £487.50 – S Hawkins – Cemetery Maintenance October 2022



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c. Monies Received: none

## 73. Possible Speed Indicator Device for Parish

The Chair reported that he had contacted the interested parties and informed them that due to the lack of financial support from the village, the Parish Council are reluctantly shelving further progress until more support has been obtained, and advised that he has advised the public generally by writing a letter to be displayed in the 'Villager' magazine, explaining the situation. The Chair stated that he was to write to the Department of Transport and describe the nonsensical situation that exists within the villages and make recommendations for the implementation of a 30 mph speed limit throughout. He stated that he was also going to contact the police and request that speed checks should be carried out in the area more regularly. The Clerk undertook to contact the local police contact and invite them to the next meeting.

## 74. Clarke Foundation Community Grants

The Chair explained how the scheme works, and suggested that the improvements to the verge in Lower Road might be a possible candidate for support from them. General discussion followed on the cost involved with resolving the problem and where the responsibility for carrying out the work lies. Belinda Mann recalled that the Clarke Foundation had been contacted for support in the past and undertook to speak to the previous Parish Clerk to clarify, so it was decided that this matter should be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

## 75. Correspondence:

a). The Clerk referred to the letter that had been received, and circulated, from the Leader of the Somerset County Council which laid out the impact that the current economic crisis was having on local authority finances and the anticipated deficit that was forecasted, together with the squeeze that was being placed on them by Government in 2023/2024.

b). The Clerk referred to the letter that had been received, and circulated, from the SCC Director of Finance which set out the timetable and payment process for next year's precept. It was noted that the precept had to be submitted before the end of January 2023 so would need to be confirmed at the January meeting at the latest. The Clerk undertook to produce and distribute comparative projections for discussion at the meeting in December for later ratification.

## 76. Any other business of importance:

a). Judy Hodges requested that £40.00 be made available to purchase this year's Christmas tree, and reported that last year's tree had not actually been paid for. Belinda Mann recommended Mole Valley for the best pro=iced trees. After general discussion it was **DECIDED that payment of £40 be authorised to purchase a tree** subject to advice on where to purchase; Chairman to advise.

b). John Sansom advised that although it was not a Parish Council responsibility, there was a growing sense of opinion that there is a need for a second Defibrillator within the Parishes, and suggested that the phone box at South Cheriton was being considered. It was pointed out that there would need to be an electricity supply and that would need to be investigated. General discussion followed, and Gillian Miles undertook to place an article in the 'Villager' In order to identify support for the project.

c). It was reported that the commemorative bench that had been positioned outside the village hall had gone missing and no-one appeared to know the reason why. It was agreed that enquiries should be made asap.

d). The Clerk reported on the state of repair of two of the Parish Council notice boards and it was agreed to defer the matter for further consideration.

e). The Chair suggested that the Parish Council should change the meetings' starting time and sought everyone's opinion. After a brief discussion it was **DECIDED that commencing in December 2022, all future Parish Council meetings should start at 7:00 pm.**

**The Meeting closed at 21:17**