



# HORSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL



## Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting

### Held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2023 at St Margaret's Hall, Horsington

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

Barry Druce (Clerk) Sarah Dyke (Unitary Councillor) No members of the public were present.

**Apologies:** No apologies were received.

**Public Forum** – No matters were raised

**25. Unitary Councillors' Report** – The Unitary Councillors' written report having been circulated, was taken as read and noted. Sarah Dyke added that the first meeting of the Local Community Network was to be held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2023, at Queen Camel Village Hall, and urged members to attend, and the Chair stated that he was hoping to so do.

**26. Declarations of Interest / Dispensations:** None.

**27. The Minutes of the meeting held on the 10<sup>th</sup> May 2023:** were taken as read and as PROPOSED by Gillian Miles, SECONDED by John Sansom, approved unanimously.

**28. Matters Arising:** (a) Referring to Minute 24, the Chair reported that he had written to Mr Tonks and clearly stated the neutral stance of the Parish Council over the AVC process in respect of the Half Moon Inn at Horsington. A member stated that they believed the results of an appeal against the AVC were being received by the owner of the property that day. This was noted.

(b) The Chair referred to Minute 19(c) and reported that Paul Phillips had been approached and that he was intending to visit and discuss the security problem issue with the member involved and the owners of 'Jump & Go', on site.

(c) The Clerk referred to Minute 22(d) and reported that the new auditor was undertaking the audit currently and that all reports would be submitted by the due date as required.

### **29. Planning - a): Applications:**

**23/01287/AGN** - Notification of intent to erect an agricultural steel portal framed building to be used for the storage of straw and hay - **Land OS 6642 Hull Lane Charlton Horethorne** The Chair reported that this application had been recently withdrawn and no discussion ensued.

**23/01389/OUT** – Outline application for all matters reserved except access for the erection of 1no.self-build dwelling - **Land to the east of Barley Lands, Cabbage Lane, Horsington.** – The Chair stated that every indication is that this would be approved. Discussion ensued on previous applications that had been made, and it was eventually DECIDED to submit the following comment : *What arrangements are being made for access to the site.* The Clerk undertook to so submit.

**23/01538/PAMB** - Prior Approval Notification for change of use of agricultural building to form 5 No. dwellings - **Southland Farm Marsh Lane South Cheriton** - Members discussed the merits of the development of this site being changed from agricultural use to dwellings, and the general proposals that had been submitted. The Chair stated that notification of the application had only come through that day and that he needed time to look through the application in detail; it was agreed that the Chair should look through the application and formulate a response which would be circulated to members for approval before being submitted by the Clerk.

**b): Decisions:** No planning decisions had been received since the previous meeting.

**c) : Other Planning :** No other planning issues to be discussed.

**30. Footpaths** – The condition of the footpath and signage on the footpath adjacent to the Benjafields' property was discussed and the Chair undertook to discuss the matter with that family.

**31. Cemetery** – a). A member stated that the receipt book over-stamp had now been received and was ready for use.



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(b) A member reported that the details for a headstone for Richard Case's grave had been received, and circulated a copy to members for their approval which was duly given. The member undertook to notify accordingly.

(c) Referring to Minute 21(d), the Chair stated that he had visited the cemetery at Henstridge to observe how their wild flower area looked and considered that it had an untidy appearance. He had spoken with our maintenance contractor and had learnt that to introduce such area in the local cemetery would inevitably result in more work in restoring the area once the flowers had gone over. The Chair stated that if this Parish Council was to introduce such an area in the local cemetery, it would require careful planning and it was decided that this should be looked at over the next 12 months with the intention that if it was to happen, introduce it next year.

(d) A member stated that the hedge at the cemetery needed to be cut, and with overall agreement, undertook to notify the contractor.

## **32. Finance**

(a) The accounts as at 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023 were reviewed and noted.

(b) The following cheques were authorised for payment:-

1340 - £233.27 – B Druce – Clerk Salary and expenses to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023  
1341 - £45.00 - HMRC – Payment of PAYE deduction from clerk's salary  
1342 - £615.00 – R J Peters Invoice No. 086  
1343 - £50.00 – Chloe Palmer – Audit Fee 2023

(c) Monies Received – None

(d) The Annual Governance Statement Form and Accounting Statement were signed by the Chair ready for submission once completed by the Internal Auditor.

**33. Correspondence** - The Clerk reported that items of interest that had been received through email had been circulated to all councillors, and referred to the other items that had been similarly distributed.

(a) The Chair referred to the letter that had been received from the Quicksilver Community Group in Yeovil which outlined the proposed intention to merge the Yeovil District Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and Somerset NHS Foundation Trust to create a new trust called Somerset NHS Foundation Trust. The problem foreseen with such a merger was the potential removal of Hyper Acute Stoke Care, and Acute Stroke Care facilities from Yeovil Hospital and relocate those services at the Musgrove Hospital in Taunton, and it was requested that the Parish Council should register their objection to such a move being made. General discussion ensued (including comments from Sarah Dyke) on the impracticalities and danger to public health that moving these services to Taunton would create for the residents in the Horsington area, and it unanimously AGREED that the Parish Council should write to the appropriate bodies and register their objection against such a move taking place. The Clerk undertook to act accordingly.

(b) Referring to the correspondence from Gallagher the insurers, the Chair stated his disappointment that the policy covered damage to property caused by falling trees, but did not cover the cost of removing the fallen tree. He stated that there also existed an excess charge of £250 on each individual claim, and that this made it impractical to consider making a claim for the repairs needed to the fencing that was so damaged. A member undertook to discuss the cost of repair with a local contact.

**34. Any other business of importance:** a) Members discussed the need to review and redraw a comprehensive schedule of works for the annual maintenance contracts, and a member undertook to prepare a document to be submitted at the meeting to be held in October, following which advertisements can go out calling for tenders for the work to commence for a period to be determined, from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024.

(b) The Chair drew members' attention to the need to keep the grass cut around the Village Hall, and the existing reciprocal agreement between the Parish Council and the Village Hall Committee. During discussion it was revealed that the Parish Council were now attending to a much larger area of grass cutting than was originally the case, incurring



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higher costs, and it was suggested that it would be more economic to revert to paying the rental fee instead. It was AGREED that the Village Hall committee should be contacted and the subject discussed before any decision made.

(c) A member reported that there is a dead tree by the phone box in South Cheriton which needed to be removed and replace. The Chair undertook to contact a tree surgeon and obtain a price for removal, and look into the cost of a replacement.

(d). The Chair reported that the old bench at South Cheriton was in sore need of renovation and suggested that the wood from the defunct old pews in chapel could be used. It was agreed that this was a favoured landmark in the village and should be undertaken, with a brass commemorative plaque placed on it on completion. A member undertook to discuss renovation costs with a local tradesman, and this was referred for discussion at the next meeting in July 2023.

(e) A member stated that a large ash tree at the end of the Village Hall car park was showing a large amount of ash die-back and was therefore potentially dangerous. A member undertook to discuss this problem with the landowner concerned.

(f) A member stated their concern over the dangerous situation that was being created with young school children now not being allowed into or onto school premises until 9 am. The result of this is that families are congregating around or on the roadway close to the school and it was foreseen that someone will eventually get injured. The Chair undertook to write to the Head Teacher and raise these concerns with her.

(g) The date of the next meeting is the 12<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

**The meeting closed at 20.40.**