

Horringer-cum-Ickworth Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting Monday 16th May 2022

Present: Colin Knight (Chair), Peter Crofts (Vice Chair), John White (JW), Piers Fuller (PF) , Ruth Walker, (RW), Fiona Holliday (FH) Karen Soons (KS),Michelle Thompson (MT Clerk) and three Parishioner

Cllr Knight welcome everyone to Annual Parish Meeting 2022 including our SCC representative Cllr Soons. He outlined that he was pleased that we are back in the hall, after last year's meeting, which was via the Zoom network. He then went on to thank the W.I for preparing the refreshments.

The Chair reported that following the closure of the APM, there will be the Annual Parish Council Meeting.

1. Record Councillors' Apologies for Absence:

Apologies received and accepted from Cllr. Lewis

Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on 5th May 2021 via Zoom

The minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting held on 5th May 2021 were circulated and approved as a true and accurate record. Minutes were proposed by Cllr Knight and seconded by Cllr White. All were in favour and the minutes duly signed.

Other Report:-

Financial Report 2021/22

The Chairman went through the financial report which was circulated to those in attendance.

Cllr Knight gave a summary of Income and Expenditure for the year under review a copy of the report and summary of accounts of 2021/22 stating that there was Revenue of £29,393 and Spending of £34,968 He outlined that we had a Precept of £30,000 as we anticipated a major capital project of 2 SID's costing approximately £7,000, and a rental income of £ 1,200 (*an additional £1400 was received from last 'years income of £2,200*)

Most of the Expenditure was in:- Grants £13,000 Community Council £5,000 B. T. work £3,000 and Grass Cutting £2,500 Cllr Knight outlined that the Parish Council's closing bank balance was £34,819

Chairman's Report

Cllr. Knight outlined that this year the arrangements for the APM have been different in order to conform to COVID regulations. It is hoped, that when restrictions are lifted, we may be able to arrange a village meeting later in the year, perhaps, meetings in September/October

Play Area – Cllr. Knight outlined that the Play Area continues to be inspected on a regular basis. It has now a new surface. Some of the playground equipment, is in need of repair. He reported that there had been issues with footballs being kicked into surrounding garden areas and we have therefore taken the decision to erect some fencing to help prevent this happening again. He thanked Cllr. Soons for assisting once more with funding.

Grit Bins – The Chair expressed a very big thank you to all the volunteers who have helped with grit spreading during the cold periods. The PC are looking for volunteers.

Hedges and Parking – Most of the issues have now been addressed and we thank residents for their actions. We do live in a lovely village we would hope everyone will play their part in helping to keep the village looking, as it should.

Footpath A143

Cllr Knight outlined that the Parish Council has been concerned for a number of years about the footpath beyond the 6 Bells Public House heading South out of the village. This project is still on-going, we just wanted to give you an up-date on the progress so far.

Over the past year the PC has gained a quote and further discussions are taking place with Highways. The PC then received paperwork to request the funding for the Traffic Management work. These are now being completed.

Suffolk Highways have now been informed us that this section of the A143 will form part of a deviation programme until September 2022,

Footpath to Bury – Cllr. Knight confirmed that there has, after many years of debate, been a major step forward in a potential pathway through to the town. The parties who own the relevant plots of land have now agreed to allow the creation of a Bridle Pathway. Hopefully in the future this may be developed into a Cycle/Footpath. The Council will need to allocate a considerable sum to achieve this, but at least progress has been made.

School Patrol Crossing – After receiving feedback from parents the Council have agreed to advertise the post of school patrol crossing. This is being looked into.

WEST SUFFOLK PLAN to 2040/Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Crofts reported that West Suffolk Council have published it's draft plan for development of the county for the next 20 years or so and the public were asked for their view on a number of wider ranging topics concerning the growth and develop through to

2040. The Parish Council helped set up a village meeting in December 2021 with the aim of deciding the viability of setting up a Neighbourhood Plan (NHP) Committee. We had a number of residents put their names forward. There is now a committee of 8 who will be carrying forward the project in the future years.

Speeding vehicles in the village – Cllr. Knight outlined that as a Council we have looked into purchasing some SIDs sign which will record data that can be downloaded and given to the police in a format that will be more user friendly for them to follow up on.

We have also been able to take advantage of an offer from Highways to take part in a test scheme whereby ANPR equipment will be placed in the village for a period of time. This equipment has number plate recognition Unfortunately this type of equipment is far too expensive for the PC to purchase on its own. We look forward to some feedback on this trial placement.

Other Parish Matters.

Village Sign – Cllr Knight reported that the sign was blown down by the high winds in December 2020 and that we are still waiting compensation from the Insurance Company for damage caused.

Website – A new Parish Website is has been looked into by the Clerk and Chairman and Cllr Knight outlined that it will allow the Parish Council to be more flexible in posting information for the village. An on -going Process

Parish Matters

A resident has reported a rise in the amount of litter being accumulated around the Village and ask the Parish Council whether they could assist. this was being looked into.

Date of next meeting

The date of the next Annual Parish Meeting would be advised in due course.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting