

HORTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON:

Date & Time: Monday 9th May 2022 at 6.30pm

Venue: Horton Village Hall, Broadway Hill, Horton

1. **ATTENDANCE** Cllrs Ann Winter – Chair, Ray Buckler – Vice-Chair, Julie Layzell, Richard Hutchinson, Peter Babbington, Dave Johnson and Mike Schmidt.

APOLOGIES Cllrs Ann Richards and Barry Mosley.

2. **TO SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** Minutes of the meeting held in May 2021 having previously been circulated were approved as a true record and correct record of the meeting. Cllrs approved, seconded and unanimously agreed.
3. **TO RECEIVE THE CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT** Please refer to **Appendix 1**.
4. **COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS ON THE CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT** None.
5. **TO RECEIVE THE REPORTS OF THE LOCAL ORGANISATIONS**
 - **Police** – Not in attendance of the meeting, no report received.
 - **Tree Warden** – Not in attendance of the meeting, no report received.
 - **Methodist Church** - Not in attendance of the meeting, no report received.
 - **St Peters Church** - **Appendix 2**.
 - **Mothers Union** - Not in attendance of the meeting, no report received.
 - **Neroche Primary School** – Not in attendance at the meeting, no report received.
 - **Ding Gardening Club** – Not in attendance at the meeting, no report received.
 - **Ramblers Walking Group** – Cllr Ann Winter provided an update. The walking group has been running 21 years and meets every 3rd Sunday of the month. 8-20 people are usually in attendance. Currently, all monies raised is being donated to Ukraine.
 - **Cricket Club** – Not in attendance of the meeting, no report received.
 - **Village Hall** – Cllr Ann Winter provided an update. Following COVID-19 the village hall reopened in July 2021 with regular groups and weddings hiring the hall. Currently, 11 weddings are booked for 2022, the August flower show is going ahead in 2022 and the monthly film club is resuming. Currently, no social events are planned for Easter or the Jubilee. All income will cover ongoing expenses with PVC cladding, replacement air conditioning units and exterior decorating organised for September.
 - **Women's Institute** – Not in attendance at the meeting, no report received.
 - **Scouts** – Not in attendance of the meeting, no report received.
6. **ANY PARISH ITEMS YOU MAY WISH TO DISCUSS, BY LAW AND PASS RESOLUTIONS ON THEM** There were no parish items to be discussed and therefore no resolutions passed.

As Chair I really am pleased that our meetings over the last year have been face to face.

During this last year we have said goodbye to some councillors, Pippa Woodman, Jon Tipping, and Richard Clifford and we thank them for their contributions. We have welcomed new councillors Rob Hutchinson, Mike Schmidt and Peter Babbington. We also said goodbye to Linda Vjeh our District Councillor who had been involved with our community for a significant number of years. Ray Butler one of our team has been appointed as our new District Councillor. Due to taking up this new role Ray has stepped down from being our vice chair and Barry Mosley has agreed to take on this role.

We have also changing our meeting venue to The Methodist Church so that we now have to have access to wifi.

Key agenda items over the last year have included:

- Various planning applications. Obviously the one which is considered very serious by our community is the proposal by Galion to build over 50 houses on Broadway Hill. We have not had any further updates recently but are aware that phosphate issues are impacting on housing developments in Somerset. No doubt this development will be a regular agenda item throughout next year.
- Replacing our defibrillator, a new one is to be delivered soon and arrangements to install will be made within the next few weeks.
- Continued development and management of the playing field. Ray Butler will update us on this. Certainly, it is good to see that the playing field is well used.
- Investigating the possibility of installing a Speed Indicator Device (SID) in Hanning Road and Broadway Hill.
- Flooding and sewage issues.
- Road issues including road repairs in Pottery Road and Pound Road, bridge repairs and the removal of road signs.
- Dualling of the A358. Some Councillors have attended meetings to discuss the various issues on our behalf and residents were encouraged by HPC to give their feedback on the proposals.
- The development of a Unitary Authority, (One Somerset). Some Councillors have attended meetings on this agenda and certainly a key focus will be local parishes working together.
- Maintenance around the village of verges and hedgerows; currently different options are being explored.
- New HPC website is up and running and there is a plan to expand the content with Councillors contributing on different agenda items.
- Environmental issues, including tree planting, wild seed distribution and wildlife issues.
- Liaison with other agencies for example, the Village Agent and Avon and Somerset Police.

Most of the above agenda items will continue to be the focus of HPC throughout the coming year.

Finally as Chair, I would like to thank my fellow Councillors for their varied skills, experience and expertise and their commitment to working to make improvements for the community of Horton.

Ann Winter.

Covid has dominated our lives at the start of the year, and we were not able to hold a live service until Easter Sunday. All services having been held by Zoom. St Peter's opened fully again on the 6th June for a special evensong service. Following Revd Philip Albrow's ordination we held a special communion on the 4th July followed by tea and cake. Our first Family service in September was well attended by Families, and our numbers have been swelled by Ilminster Methodists who have joined with Broadway Hill Methodist Church. It was so lovely to have so many in Church, - so our Church Family was well and truly present.

Our Church was opened every day from the beginning of August 10.00am – 4.00pm

Sadly, Rosie Reed passed away in July after a long illness – we have missed her.

A successful Harvest Festival was held at Broadway Hill on 10th October.

I am pleased to report that we raised £147 at the Quiz night

The meat draw started at the end of October, and raised over £500 for Church funds. Our Bazaar in December raised £311.

Our only fundraising in 2021 was a quiz, a bazaar, and our meat draw on the run up to Christmas. This has left our finances seriously depleted, therefore we remain grateful to Horton Parish Council for their continued support, in awarding us a £400 grant last year towards the upkeep of the Parish graveyard.

Our costs to run St Peter's Church, Horton is £15,000.00

We were pleased to hold our Christmas services including Advent Carols, Nativity, Christmas tree lighting, our Carol Service, collection of which was donated to the Children's Hospice South West, and our Christingle collection was donated to the Children's Society. Unfortunately, we had to cancel our Crib service, and Christmas Eve Communion once again because of the worsening effect of the virus.

Throughout the lockdown, and holding services once again St Peter's Church has been kept Covid secure.

It is a pleasure, and honour to be your Churchwarden, and I am happy to continue to be so all the while I am needed, and feel well enough to continue

Jan Allen. Churchwarden