



Minutes of the Hanborough Annual Parish Meeting

At the Hanborough Annual Parish Meeting held at 7.15pm on Tuesday 17th April 2018 in the Pavilion Main Hall, the following were present:

Ms Ellen Armitage	Mr Peter Brittin	Mr Niels Chapman (Chair)	Dr Michael Franklin
Mr Steve Page	Mr Michael Rogers	Ms Lucy Tritton	

In attendance: Mr Adrian Edwards, Responsible Financial Officer (RFO), Mr Jon Gammage (Clerk), County Councillor Liam Walker, District Councillor Colin Dingwall.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Rod Fraser, Penelope Marcus and Thomas Pringle.

Members of the public attending: 16 members of the public were present.

1. The Chair opened and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Network Rail: Representatives from Network Rail presented plans for extending the platform at Hanborough station to be completed later in the year. It is part of a programme to extend 7 station platforms ahead of rolling out new trains. The works will be either completed during over night or with day time bus replacement services. It is anticipated to take place in October and Network Rail will communicate plans with residents once confirmed.

3. Approval of the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 18th April 2017.

Minutes of the meeting of 18th April 2017, were approved and signed as a correct record.

4. Matters arising from the minutes: None

5. Report from District & County Councillors.

5.1. District Council Report.

Cllr Dingwall reported as follows:

Wodc finished 2017/8 with a small surplus and have a balanced budget for 2018/9.

This means only a £2.73p per year rise in council tax keeping WODC as the 2nd lowest charging shire council in England without cutting any of our services since the financial crash and retaining free parking across the district.

Waste & Recycling:- WODC started a new in house collection service in the autumn which after some initial issues is now performing well and keeps our recycling rates among the best in the country.

Super fast Broadband:- WODC's £8million contract is under way providing fibre to the door with 1 gig speeds for over 5k residents and businesses in a network bringing total coverage up to 99.6% across the entire district making us one of the best in the UK. The Church Hanborough cabinet and cabling is under construction now and commuters can enjoy Wi-Fi at the station in the autumn.

Local Plan:- WODC's local plan has been found to be sound by the Inspector and should be adopted in June which will put an end to the unwanted, speculative development we have suffered across our district.

The Cantay Homes development on Church Road was rejected by the planning inspector and we still have the opportunity to stop Pye Homes south of the A4095 due to major archaeological issues.

The Oxfordshire Growth Board deal:- The deal is excellent news for Oxfordshire because government recognises the need for infrastructure and affordable homes in the county and has provided £155 million for infrastructure and £60 million for affordable housing based on all 5 councils existing local plans for 100k homes up to 2031.

WODC's local plan is for the smallest contribution of 15k houses which recognises our rural setting that we have particular infrastructure issues with the A4095 and A40.

There is a lot of speculation and false news regarding this deal which I can confirm does NOT require any more development than is already included in our current local plan.

Affordable housing & homelessness:- As the cabinet member with responsibility for this area I have instructed we purchase a large property with flexible accommodation to house those in need of emergency housing to stop sending families out of the district or use B&B wherever possible.

I have also negotiated a new affordable housing policy with Blenheim where they can offer affordable housing at LOWER rents than housing associations. These homes will be allocated by WODC and will not be available on the general register but prioritised for local families, those with a local connection and key workers. We have suffered enough from speculative development so am pleased to have created some benefit for the local community.

The future:- WODC will continue to provide full services at the lowest costs and become more actively involved in the provision of truly affordable housing.

Locally there are many projects to evaluate and work on including:-

20MPH speed limit

School pelican crossings for Church Rd and Wroslyn Rd

Community hubs for Hanborough & Freeland

Cycle/footbridge across A4095 at Hanborough station

Community bus Witney Hanborough Freeland Eynsham.

Questions:-

Why is the local plan not in place.

WODC prepared its local plan for 7600 houses which would have been in place up to 2026 but when Land owners and Witney residents fought and won the campaign to stop the CLR (Cogges Link Road) the local plan had to be redrafted.

During this delay a new SMHA (strategic housing market assessment) had to be carried out across Oxfordshire which increased housing numbers.

Oxford City also required all districts to build 15k houses, under our duty of care, (2.5k in WODC). This left WODC and other councils with insufficient 5 year land supply and open to speculators.

Every speculative development across the district and some sites now forced into the local plan such as 1400 homes on North Witney to provide the WEL (west end link) as an alternative to the CLR are the result of the "Stop Cogges Link" campaign and not the fault of any WODC officer.

5.2. County Council Report:

Cllr Walker reported on local bus services and work to improve the school bus, expansion of the primary school, support for the A4095 railway bridge project, road conditions and new OCC equipment to make repairs and work to improve safety at the Church Road zebra crossing.

6. Chairman's summary of the years activities.

The Chairman presented a summary of some of the activities of Parish Council which included the following:

May: PC took on the parish grass cutting contract from OCC. This allowed us to increase the number of cuts where needed and saved money as the cost of the cuts was lower than the grant provided by OCC. Council agreed to continue with the contractor into 2018.

May: PC provided a grant to allow the Great Get Together to go ahead.

June: Final grants agreements were signed to allow the new playground development to go ahead. Councillors thanks the volunteer group for working so hard to make the project work.

June: Councillors worked with Countryfile organisers to avoid a repeat of the traffic chaos of last year and to negotiate free tickets for residents for last year and again this year.

July: Councillors welcomed 2 new coopted councillors to council.

September: Traffic danger points: Robert Courts MP visited the parish and was shown highways danger areas. He has since been supportive of the ongoing project to make a safer pedestrian crossing over the railway bridge. Councillors agreed to part fund replacement bollards on the bridge to improve safety.

September: Work started to install the new playground after Pye Homes kindly cleared and prepared the area for us.

October: PC supported local parents in their efforts to get improvements to the school bus services.

November: Cllr Rogers and Cllr Pringle represented PC at the Remembrance Sunday event.

November: The new playground was opened and after many years of service the old one was removed.

November: Internal and external audits for 2016/16 were concluded with no significant issues raised.

December: Councillors recorded their thanks to Sportif Suzuki for the beautiful Christmas tree that they provided again this year. Sadly there was no carol event as last year there was very low attendance.

December: Worked with local developers on traffic management plans to keep large vehicles away from Church Hanborough. Developers have also committed to making financial contributions towards enhancements in our recreation facilities.

January: Litter pick organised

February: Pledged support for a Speedwatch group and has campaigned for safer crossings.

7. Finance Report.

The RFO reported that there will be an increase in the precept from £76,102 to £78,406 this year, which, allowing for a small increase in the number of households, means there is no increase on 2018/19 for Council Tax payers.

The latest figures show that the Council had a surplus on the budget of £13,334 in the year ended 31st March 2018 (A deficit budget of £20,506 had been set and the Parish had an actual deficit of £7,162).

This is due to the following major factors:

Income from the Cemetery was £2,920 above budget and the Parish Council received a grant of £2,369 towards grass cutting from OCC which was not budgeted for.

Expenses under budget included: Professional and audit fees (£3,020), Grass Cutting (£3,987), Grants (£3,342)

There were no significant overspends on expenditure (above £1,000) except for the new playground. Total grants and funds received during the year towards the playground totalled £72,134 plus £10,423 received before 31st March 2017. Expenditure on the playground totalled £101,537 so the Parish Council has had to fund the balance of £18,980. £5,375 had been provided for in the budget and £9,000 will be met from s106 funds due to be received from the new developments. The balance of £4,605 has been met from reserves.

The Council continues to build reserves against any potential major expense, such as major repairs to cemetery walls, and is also setting money aside for the eventual refurbishment of the tennis courts so that the facility can be properly maintained for the community.

Reserves at 31st March 2018 total £69,773, ring fenced funds representing over half of that total at £38,730. The Council has set a balanced budget for 2017/18.

8. Reports from Community Groups & Organisations

8.1. Hanborough Welfare Trust

Gill Breakspear (Chairperson, Hanborough Welfare Trust) submitted the following report.

Earlier this year, the Trust was notified by the Charities Commission that as our income was below £5000 per year, we could no longer be classed as a charity.

They gave us two options:

1. The Charity could be completely and immediately wound up. This would involve selling the 2 plots of land which would be a very detailed and lengthy process.
2. Or the Trust could amalgamate into a bigger Trust so that together, the amounts received annually would be more than £5000.

An emergency meeting with the present Trustees was called and it was decided to seek amalgamation with the Eynsham and Long Hanborough Medical Care Trust as their aims and purposes are similar to those of the Hanborough Welfare Trust.

I wrote to the Eynsham Medical Trust and have received a promising letter from them but will have to await confirmation of a merger until the end of this month when I have a meeting planned with Dr Paul Coffey. Details will have to be discussed but I foresee 2 of the present committee becoming Trustee's of their Trust.

The land at Bletchingdon now has a new tenant and we are in the process of drawing up a tenancy agreement with him.

Throughout last year we have continued to help out when required with urgent requests for financial help. This has been a difficult few years but I do feel that we are now able to move forward and use the land and its rent in the way for which it was intended.

8.2 Hanborough Playing Fields Association: No report received.

8.3 Dementia and loneliness group: Cllr Franklin reported that a group is evolving and starting to organise events at the Methodist Hall. It was reported that the Village Voices have made a grant to help the group form.

8.4 Elderberry's day centre: Gill Battams reported that the group has 24 members and is limited by the number of volunteers. They welcome visitors for lunch and are organising an event with the local school.

8.5. Police report

PCSO Phil Workman from the Woodstock Neighbourhood Policing Team submitted the following report.

Thames Valley Police Report for Hanborough Parish

1) Recorded crime figures in Hanborough indicate that crime has risen slightly although only by around 9 offences during the last 12 months. These figures obviously take into account Church and Long Hanborough. The main offences were Theft (including Shopliftings), Burglaries other than a dwelling, Criminal Damage (especially to vehicles) and Road Traffic Offences (including Bilkings). No drug offences recorded in the Parish, but the team have received lots of intelligence regarding several persons who are using drugs, as well as locations where it is happening, therefore we are working to crack down on this.

2) The Woodstock Neighbourhood Team was part of a shift in emphasis in June last year. Whilst the parish still has our PCSOs Phil Workman and Chris Jones, there are now four police officers looking after Woodstock, Eynsham and Kidlington, as well as the rural areas in between. The police officers are stationed at Kidlington Police Office and therefore are spread a little thinner than we were before. We are making more use of the Thames Valley Alert system which is a great way that the police can communicate with the public as well as receive messages back. We can send out messages that are relevant only to Hanborough and of interest to different community groups such as Shop watch, Countrywatch, Pubwatch, Business watch etc. – there are many more categories that are on the system which allows us to send out Crime Alerts, Witness Appeals, Crime Prevention Advice and good news stories when they happen! We encourage people to sign up for this and they can do so at www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk or speak to one of the officers.

The situation with Woodstock Police Station has remained the same. Thames Valley Police rent the building from Blenheim Estates, but moves are still afoot to re-locate the team to another building in the town, we have not been given a timescale for this. We are happy to occupy the current building for as long as possible, especially now as we seem to have it all to ourselves.

3) The Neighbourhood Team are now more of a problem solving team, which means that we will act upon current intelligence, crime trends and issues that affect our community the most. We can call upon other Neighbourhood Teams to assist us with warrants and enforcement and recently the Woodstock team has been in Witney and Banbury helping to stop the supply of drugs into those towns.

The current Local Policing Priorities are Domestic Abuse, Child Sexual Exploitation, Dwelling Burglaries and the Exploitation of Persons for the supply of drugs. The first two are mainly 'hidden crimes' which mean that they don't come to the public attention as much as the more traditional crimes and this is where the police are concentrating their efforts in reducing the risk to vulnerable children and adults. Again we rely on information from a number of sources; schools, parents, youth clubs, general info from around the parish etc. – so if you notice something that is out of the ordinary, or you are concerned about the welfare of a child or adult, there are ways to report it to the police and the relevant agencies. Call 101 or report anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. The message to the public remains the same – be vigilant, ears to the ground and "keep 'em peeled", as a famous fictional copper used to say.

4) Finally, look out for your Woodstock officers during the Royal Wedding on May 19th. We've all had our leave and rest days cancelled in order that we can assist with the smooth running of the event. We'll all be busy polishing boots and ironing the creases in our trousers that week just in case we appear on camera!

9. Any Other Business

No further items of business were raised.

The meeting was closed at 8:40pm with an informal opportunity to meet Councillors.

The Chairman. 21st May 2019.