



Minutes of the Hanborough Annual Parish Meeting

At the Hanborough Annual Parish Meeting held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 22nd March 2016 in the Pavilion Greenway Room, the following were present:

Dr Lidia K. Arciszewska	Mr Mike Baggaley (Chair)	Mrs Gill Battams	Mr Peter Brittin
Mr Hugh Burton	Mr Philip Earnshaw	Mrs Karen Howe	Ms Nicki Richardson
Mr Phillip Richardson			

In attendance: Mr Adrian Edwards, Responsible Financial Officer (RFO), Mr Jon Gammage (Clerk), District Councillor Colin Dingwall, County Councillor Ian Hudspeth and representatives from HPFA, HAG and HAPI.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Niels Chapman and Cllr Vicky Field. Apologies also received from Mr Steve Nicholls, PCSO Tina Townshend, County Councillor Louise Chapman and District Councillor Toby Morris.

Members of the public attending: Around 20 members of the public were present.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Approval of the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 28th April 2015.

Minutes of the meeting of 28th April 2015, were approved and signed as a correct record.

2. Matters arising from the minutes: No matters were raised.

3. Finance Report.

The RFO reported that there will be an increase in the precept from £71,700 to 73,000 this year, which, allowing for a small increase in the number of households, represents a 1.8% increase on 2015/16 for Council Tax payers. The latest figures show that the Council has a surplus on the budget of around £23,000 in the year ended 31st March 2016. This is due to the following major factors:

Expenses under budget included:

Grant received for the tennis courts of £6,545 that was not budgeted for.

Special Projects Fund of £11,000 not spent in the year. Deferred until the forthcoming year.

Professional and audit fees (£1,155), Repairs (£3,724), Grass Cutting (£3,685).

Expenses over budget included:

Tennis Court Refurbishment (£1,728 not budgeted at all), Grants to other organisations (£1,167).

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 2016 total around £60,000, ring fenced funds representing around half of that total. The Council has set a deficit budget of £5,000 for 2016/17. This, together with the Special Projects Fund of £11,000 deferred from 2015/16 will reduce general reserves to below £20,000 at 31st March 2017.

4. Report from District & County Councillors.

4.1. District Council Report.

Cllr Dingwall reported that the District Council is financially sound and working with a reduced budget. There will be no council tax rise for the 6th year running. And the 202 vision project continues to bring savings. A new leisure

centre in Witney is being considered. The Local Plan is under review due to disputes over the SHMAA number for the region.

4.2. County Council Report.

Cllr Hudspeth reported that the county continues to have funding cuts from central government meaning that difficult decisions have to be made. Improvements to the A409 have been agreed but there will be cuts to bus subsidy in July.

5. Chairman's welcome and summary of the years activities.

The Chairman presented a summary of the large planning applications and then went on to talk about the achievements of the various working groups.

The Community and Leisure Working Group has focused attention of developing the parish website. They continue to develop the site to include information about parish council activities and is hoped to become a central resource for parish groups and businesses.

Cllr Earnshaw reported a report on behalf of the Environment Working Group which has six members, including three parish councillors and three co-oped members, and meets monthly. Last summer, the group put together a list of 30 'environment improvement' ideas that could be tackled in order to improve the parish of Hanborough. These ranged from 'Hanborough in Bloom' to 'A Crazy Golf Course.

The group prioritised this list and set itself the task of tackling some of the ideas at the top of the resulting list. In time it is hoped that the community can come to together and tackle all 30 ideas, and more besides, as part of a 'community led plan'. Somewhere near the top of the working groups list was, and still is, is an attempt to get mobile phone providers together to improve the mobile telephone reception in the village - which, to say the least, is patchy. That remains a prime objective but to get the service providers together is proving difficult.

Also high up on the list each was a general improvement of the village square i.e. the shopping area often called the Parade including the provision of adequate Notice Boards for Parish and general usage. Also, for this area, plans are close to being agreed for Flower/Shrub Planters to replace the bollards. The Working Group is hopeful that these will be in place in time for the early summer.

Parking in the parish remains a concern and was also high on the working groups list of priorities, to this end a survey was carried out with the aim of improving/making better use of Car Parking in the village. Safety concerns for cyclists and speed on Lower Road has resulted in a request to Oxfordshire County Council to consider the lowering the speed limit on this fast road.

Lastly, the group has been working with a handyman. Although early days, parishioners may have noticed the general appearance of the top of Reily Close has improved with the removal of weeds and debris. If parishioners notice any 'general maintenance' jobs that are needed, please get in touch with the working group via the parish clerk.

The chair finished by reminding attendees that this is an election year and if anyone would like to put themselves forward to become a councillor, there were application forms available at the meeting.

6. Police report

PCSO Tina Townshend submitted the following report.

Apologies that none of the Woodstock Neighbourhood Policing Team are able to be present at this year's Annual General Meeting of the Long Hanborough Parish Council. There were 62 reported incidents in the Long Hanborough area. 35 of which are non crime incidents, for example Adult Protection, Child Protection, Domestic Incidents, and Missing Persons.

Burglary Non Dwelling	2
Burglary Dwelling	1
Criminal Damage	3
Theft Other	14
Theft from Motor Vehicle	1
Assault	5
Nuisance	1
Miscellaneous	35

7. Reports from Community Groups & Organisations

7.1. HAG

Stuart Brooks presented the following report on the status of the large planning applications in the parish.

- There has now been 5 major planning applications for Hanborough
- All applicants have sought to build a case around WODC's housing targets which they believe are too low. If this is the case then, in simple terms, WODC does not have a planning policy and national policy applies. This states that any development should be approved if its benefits do not outweigh its impacts
- Unfortunately the strength of their case increased when a planning inspector as part of his evaluation of WODC's new planning policy, requested WODC to re-examine its housing targets
- The result is that the process of approving a local plan has stalled until WODC does this work
- But of course numbers are one thing, housing has to be built in suitable locations and be proportionate, in the words of the planners "sustainable." Thus the balance of benefits with adverse impacts is central to the debate and is the basis of the cases being put forward by HAG and HPC when objecting to the developments

Now, dealing with the individual applications let me first consider Church Road

- Corpus Christi were granted outline permission to build 50 homes, 18 of which are affordable and there is a commitment for them to be allocated to people who have a local connection
- In addition they committed to provide 1.8 hectares of land for educational purposes and relocate the pre-school based on the site of the Manor School
- They now have to produce detailed proposals and obtain full permission but we are unaware of any further progress

Turning to the proposal to build 120 dwellings and an industrial building down by the station, the outline application was refused by the Planning Committee at the end of February. Before it went before WODC the applicants amended the application by withdrawing any reference to a station car park or station improvements, rendering the application predominantly for housing

- It was refused on the basis of site issues, namely how it related to Long Hanborough, how it would urbanise the countryside in this location and impact on the open nature of the countryside in this area
- WODC's decision may not of course be the end of the matter. It is highly likely that the applicant will appeal and Hanborough has to be prepared to support WODC when it comes to any appeal hearing

Indeed the applicants have not given up and we were informed only yesterday that they have asked for permission to participate in the Pye/ Blenheim appeal that I will now talk about. Three applications relate to the Pye/ Blenheim proposed development on land south of the Witney Road

- The history is complex but you will remember that their initial application to build 169 homes, with up to 50% affordable and a new health centre was refused in the spring of 2015
- The applicants then put in an appeal but also submitted a new, near identical application
- They also submitted an application to build a new school playing field south of Riely Close, thus releasing land on the main school site to expand the school
- The second housing application was unanimously refused by WODC who also indicated that they would have refused the playing field application if the decision had been left to them. However the applicants referred determination to the planning inspectorate on the basis that WODC were too slow in considering the application. The playing field decision will now be considered as part of the appeal relating to the Witney Road housing scheme

In consequence we are now left the appeal

- Summarising, the appeal will be for permission to build 169 homes, up to 35% affordable housing (reduced from 50%), a new health centre (this time fully complete, not the shell) and the new school playing field
- The appeal was due to start on 16th February but the applicants lawyer was unable to attend and the start was postponed until 17th May
- Both the Parish Council and HAG will participate in the appeal and they are obviously closely co-operating
- The applicants have engaged a top-flight planning lawyer and WODC will also have legal representation. We have a case to make and its strength is indicated by the applicant's documented threat to WODC to claim appeal costs should their second application not be granted. To their credit the planning committee ignored this pressure when determining the second application

- HAG and the Parish Council will endeavour to put the community's case at every opportunity such that the discussion will not be solely based on legal technicalities
 - Unfortunately, at this late stage, we now have another participating party in the appeal process, the applicants for the station scheme. They will be making their own arguments on housing numbers
- Obviously, the more parties to the inquiry, the less time we will have to make our case to the inspector
Be assured, we will do our best

I have spoken so many times at planning meetings in the last couple of years. Whenever a Hanborough application has been on the agenda, residents have attended in unprecedented numbers. As the three minute clock has started you will not know how much I personally value you being there. On behalf of HAG thank you for your support.

- The Pye/Blenheim appeal will run for 5 days, beginning on 17th May. HAG will publish a timetable which exists in draft form
- The process will consist of opening statements and then each party in turn will summarise their case and be cross examined by the other parties on the documents they have previously submitted
- Finally there will be closing submissions by each of the four participating parties
- If you can spare a couple of hours at any time during the appeal period, especially on the opening day and for the closing submissions then your support will be most appreciated
- The Inspector has not as yet given a date when his decision will be published but HAG and HPC will let you know as soon as it is announced

Once again thank you for your support

7.2. HPFA

Ken Field reported that hall use is up with further growth forecast. Maintenance plans include refurbishing the toilets and there is now a defibrillator on site. The new dog waste bin is well used. He reported that the committee is at full strength and that they are under pressure from local planning applications and possible site for school expansion.

7.3. HAPI

Clare Martin reported that the group is submitting applications for grants and holding fund raising activities. Designs for the site have been reviewed by children at the school. The group do have concerns about where the facility may end up being build due to the uncertainty around the large planning applications and school expansion.

7.4. Dementia Group

Cllr Nicki Richardson reported on the groups activities which are intended to raise awareness of dementia. The next key event is a Tea Dance which is open to all. Posters are displayed in the parish to advertise the event.

7.5. Day Centre

Cllr Battams reported that the group has around 25 members with a waiting list. There are concerns about cuts in funding but the group are committed to keeping the group running and are looking for new funding opportunities.

8. Any Other Business

No further items of business were raised.

The Chair closed the meeting by thanking everyone who has helped throughout the year including Parish Councillors, District and County Councillors, the volunteers who help the working groups and the Parish Council officers and environmental assistant.

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

The Chairman. 18th April 2017.