



## **DRAFT Minutes of the Hanborough Annual Parish Meeting DRAFT**

At the Hanborough Annual Parish Meeting held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2015 in The Pavilion main hall, the following Councillors were present:

Mr Mike Baggaley (Chair)	Mr Niels Chapman	Mrs Gill Battams	Mr Peter Brittin
Mr Hugh Burton	Mr Philip Earnshaw (Vice Chair)	Mrs Vicky Field	Mr David Tee

**In attendance:** Mr Adrian Edwards, Responsible Financial Officer (RFO), Mr Jon Gammage (Clerk), District Councillor Colin Dingwall, County Councillor Louise Chapman, Ken Field (HPFA) and representatives from the Hanborough Action Group Committee.

**Apologies for absence** were received from Mr Steve Nicholls and District Councillor Toby Morris.

**Members of the public attending:** Around 40 members of the public were present.

### **1. Chairman's welcome and summary of the years activities.**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited PCSO Workman to present his report which showed a small decrease in overall crime figures. Areas increasing within the incidents reported included bilking and adult protection. These are incidents where no criminal offences occurred but details of those spoken to/seen are recorded in case of future problems. They can be where police are informed of vulnerable members of the community and police pass details onto partner agencies such as Social Services.

The Chairman thanked PCSO Workman for his report and went on to thank Councillors and the many volunteers in the parish for their hard work over the year. He was pleased to report that Council is back up to full strength with a number of new Councillors recently coopted and volunteers joining our Working Groups. The last year has been dominated by the large planning applications but Council has also managed to facilitate resurfacing of the parking area in front of the parade of shops and redevelopment of the ageing tennis courts into a Multi Use Games Area. This has proved to be very popular. Projects close to delivery include a new WW1 memorial bench and a new Parish Council website [www.hanborough-pc.gov.uk](http://www.hanborough-pc.gov.uk). It is hoped that in time this will become a framework for other parish websites and groups to build a presence on. Thanks go to Karen Howe for volunteering her technical skills.

### **2. Approval of the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 18th March 2014.**

Minutes of the meeting of 18th March 2014, were approved and signed as a correct record.

**3. Matters arising from the minutes:** No matters were raised.

### **4. Finance Report.**

The RFO reported the Parish Council had frozen the precept this year although a small increase in income had resulted from the increase in the number of houses in the parish. Major expenses for the year included the works at the tennis courts and consultancy work in support of opposing the large planning applications. Reserves are within recommended limits and considered sufficient for unforeseen expenses.

### **5. Report from District & County Councillors.**

#### **5.1. District Council Report.**

Cllr Dingwall reported that the District Council is financially sound with a small surplus for the year. Efficiency savings continue to be made and shared services continues to deliver cost savings. There will be no council tax rise for the 5<sup>th</sup> year running and WODC is the 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest council tax charging shire. Council has also improved flood protection, increased recycling and supported extended high speed broadband rollout. The draft Local Plan has been completed and Council is meeting its affordable housing targets.

## **5.2. County Council Report.**

Cllr Chapman reported that this year was difficult for the county with a 1.99% increase in the budget required to support the vulnerable. Planned savings are back office rather than front line. She went on to clarify that the County proposal for a Unitary Authority had resulted from a City Council proposal. Cllr Chapman was asked about a promise from 5 years ago to remove the Riely Close recycling point but was unable to shed any light on this. She was also questioned about her non attendance at Parish Council meetings and lack of response to questions from the public.

## **6. Reports from Community Groups & Organisations**

### **6.1. HPFA**

Ken Field reported that finances and bookings were slowly recovering after the hiatus caused by the building redevelopment. Cllr Dingwall had helped with securing zero rated business rates last year and a large utility bill had been reduced as the provider had misread the meter over a prolonged period of time. He recommended the social club to the audience and also drew attention to the popular bingo evenings which are raising funds for a defibrillator. The football team is active and looking to develop a new junior team. It is hoped to provide cricket nets in the future. Ken also announced that he is retiring as Chair and subject to AGM approval, Steve Nicholls will take on this role.

### **6.2. Dementia Group**

Cllr Chapman reported on the groups activities and encouraged people to participate as volunteers. The group is not a professional service but provides support for early stage dementia in the community. They are also offering awareness training to local organisations and groups.

### **6.3. Day Centre**

Cllr Battams reported that the group has around 20 members with space for more from the parish and neighbouring areas. The group meets at the Recreation Hall on Wednesdays and is focused on social gatherings and trips.

## **7.1. Planning Working Group Report on the Pye and Savills applications.**

Cllr Chapman presented the following report on the Parish Council's Role in Planning for Hanborough.

“Planning decisions are made at district level (WODC), with input from above (OCC) and below (HPC and residents). Routine small scale planning applications are handled by a district planning officer; whereas controversial or large scale applications go to 12 district councillors who constitute the Uplands Planning Committee.

Like other district councils, WODC is required to produce a Local Plan with policies for sustainable development. The latest version is out for consultation now. Previous versions have been shaped by a Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment, which identified land suggested for development and highlighted the most suitable sites. Land east of Church Road, owned by Corpus Christi College, was the only site deemed wholly satisfactory for development in Hanborough; in the 2011 SHLAA, it was expected to take “about 50 houses” (70 in the 2014 SHLAA) As most residents will have heard, outline planning permission has just been given for those 50 houses, despite objections from HPC and at least 120 residents.

HPC was not opposed to having a smaller number of houses on the site, but we had serious concerns about lack of capacity in the school and the GP surgery, as well as fearing that nothing could be done to mitigate already bad traffic congestion. School capacity has been addressed: the pre-school group will have a new building and grounds on Corpus land, leaving enough room behind them for 12 or so extra pupils on the school site.

Mitigation will come via two routes: Section 106 agreements (in this case providing a pre-school and an extra school classroom, £25K for the surgery and £96K for leisure facilities) and (increasingly in future) via Community Infrastructure Levy payments. The trouble is, money does not solve everything; we are unclear about how £25K will enable the surgery to increase its capacity to accommodate 125 more patients.

Knowing Blenheim's land either side of the A4095 to the west of Long Hanborough was unsatisfactory for development according to the 2014 SHLAA, and that including a new GP surgery alongside 169 new houses would exacerbate traffic congestion to an intolerable extent, why did Pye Homes nevertheless think they might get planning permission?

In 2012 the Government introduced a National Planning Policy Framework, which weakened the constraints imposed by Local Plans that had not been updated to take account of Strategic Housing Market Assessments. In effect, this gave developers a window of opportunity to avoid previous levels of compliance with local policy, so

long as they could demonstrate that any harm would not outweigh sustainable benefits. Pye's application failed this latter test on 6th March 2015; there are still over four more months in which Pye could appeal against WODC's decision."

Cllr Chapman clarified, for members of the public who were not following Parish Council activities over the preceding months, that Council is opposed to the Pye Homes development on Witney Road and had asked for a deferral on the Corpus Christi application on Church Road.

He went on to thank the Hanborough Action Group for their hard work and noted that they had phenomenal support in the parish.

#### **8. Any Other Business**

Our County and District Councillors were asked questions about how 50 houses was arrived at for the Corpus Christi site. There was some dispute over the events leading up to this number being recommended by Planning Officers at WODC.

The meeting was closed at 9:30pm with an informal opportunity to meet Councillors.

The Chairman. Xxx April 2016.