

HORNTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting Held on **Monday, 13 November 2023** in the Pavilion

Present:

Councillors:
 John Offord (Chair) - **JO**
 Callum Harris (Vice Chair) - **CH**
 Paul Burden - **PB**
 Andrew Overton - **AO**
 Chris White (new councillor co-opted during meeting) – **CW**
 Steve Woodcock - **SW**

Clerk: Al Mills - **AM**
RFO: Kirsty Buttle - **KB**

1. Apologies for absence – none, all present.
2. Members’ declarations of interest for items on the agenda – none received.
3. **JO** signed and approved the accuracy of the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday, 11 September 2023
4. Outstanding matters/actions from previous meeting
 - 4.1 New Clerk **AM** has been appointed and was welcomed. He asked for a printer/scanner to enable him to fully conduct his new role and will provide some quotes.
 - 4.2 Thanks were extended to the outgoing clerk, **Fiona Donaldson**, who remained in post far longer than expected - until a new clerk was appointed.
 - 4.3 **KB** will forward to **AM** new service level details received from the council’s IT service provider, NetWise, for consideration.
5. Councillor vacancies following resignation of Martin Jones and Holly Busby
 - 5.1 **CW** was enthusiastically co-opted as a as new councillor.
 - 5.2 Still a vacancy though. It was felt advantageous to try and encourage some female involvement on the council, as it is currently very male dominated.
6. Finance
 - 6.1 Payments and Receipts:

6.1.1 The following payments made using delegated powers were approved:

Date	Payee	Description	Amount	Account
08.09.23	BT	Pavilion telephone	£40.21	Pavilion
25.09.23	NetWise	Website 22/09/23-21/09/24	£420.00	PC
29.09.23	Monika Cleaning Services	Pavilion cleaning - 4 visits September	£152.00	Pavilion
29.09.23	Fiona Donaldson	Salary and office Sep	£314.42	PC
29.09.23	Kirsty Buttle	Salary and office Sep	£199.12	PC
29.09.23	HMRC	Tax Sep	£115.20	PC
30.09.23	Unity Bank	Bank account fee	£18.00	PC
04.10.23	Ian Donaldson	Mower for JUMPA	£595.00	JUMPA
04.10.23	Clear Councils	Parish Insurance	£794.88	PC
04.10.23	Fir Tree Falconry	Mole control in play area	£110.00	Playground

09.10.23	BT	Pavilion telephone	£39.90	Pavilion
13.10.23	Julian Philcox Planning	Professional services re planning	£5,976.00	PC
19.10.23	OALC	Training re planning - Clerk	£66.00	PC
19.10.23	OALC	Training re agendas and minutes - Clerk	£72.00	PC
26.10.23	Cherwell District Council	Emptying 4 dog bins - 6 months	£267.70	PC
26.10.23	Monika Cleaning Services	Pavilion cleaning - 4 visits October	£152.00	Pavilion
26.10.23	Fiona Donaldson	Salary and office October	£314.42	PC
26.10.23	Kirsty Buttle	Salary and office October	£198.92	PC
26.10.23	HMRC	Tax October	£115.40	PC
23.10.23	CPRE	Annual membership	£36.00	PC
03.11.23	Moore	2022-23 external audit	£252.00	PC

6.1.2 The following receipts were noted:

Date	Payment submitted by	Description	Amount	Account
13.09.23	CDC	Precept	£7,500.00	PC
18.09.23	Post office cash deposit	Croquet funds	£403.50	Pavilion
20.09.23	Southern Electric	Refund re meter reading	£141.67	Pavilion
27.09.23	Post office cash deposit	Hall hire	£165.00	Pavilion
27.09.23	Triforia	Keep fit	£45.00	Pavilion
30.09.23	Unity Bank	Interest	£247.97	PC
03.10.23	COIF	Interest	£122.80	Playground
06.10.23	Credit 103	Croquet funds	£22.50	Pavilion
18.10.23	Anonymous	Donation	£5,976.00	PC
31.10.23	Post office cash deposit	Prog. dinner & hall hire	£540.00	Pavilion
02.11.23	Triforia	Keep fit	£60.00	Pavilion
02.11.23	COIF	Interest	£137.23	Playground

6.1.3 The bank balances as at 6th November 2023 were noted:

PC Current	£3,262.54
PC Savings	£37,773.66
CCLA fund (playground)	£30,000.00
Total	£71,036.20

6.1.4 The committee balances as at 6th November 2023 were noted:

	HPC	Jumpa	Pavilion	Playground	Grand Total
Balance b/f to 04/09/2023	£18,310.42	£8,337.90	£6,055.71	£33,219.67	£65,923.70
Total Payments	£9,205.06	£595.00	£384.11	£110.00	£10,294.17
Total Receipts	£13,723.97	£0.00	£1,422.67	£260.03	£15,406.67
Balance to 06/11/2023	£22,829.33	£7,742.90	£7,094.27	£33,369.70	£71,036.20

- 6.2 The Proposal to contribute up to £120 towards a replacement laptop for use by the RFO was approved. This will not be an asset of Hornton Parish Council as the cost is shared with 8 other councils.
- 6.3 A meeting on **Monday, January 15th 2024** - to review the draft budget for 2024-25 - was 'pencilled in'. The fact that the budget must be submitted and approved soon after was highlighted.
- 6.4 It was noted that the updates to the bank mandate relating to Cllr Busby, and Cllr Jones are no longer required due to the resignations of both councillors. Cllr White will need to be added.
- 6.5 A contribution previously received from village May Day stallholders was given specifically to help fund illuminated, forthcoming 20 mph (see **11.3**), speed limit warning signs. As such signs are unlikely to be installed it was thought prudent to contact the stallholders to see what they would now like to happen to their donation.
- 6.6 At this point **KB** left the meeting, with the council's thanks.

7. Nominating the Dun Cow public house as an 'Asset of Community Value' (ACV) will not be pursued at this time.

- 7.1 At this point members of the parish who were in attendance, including the current publicans, were invited to address the meeting.
- 7.2 It was felt regrettable that this point was not discussed with the publicans before the agenda was published and apologies were extended.
- 7.3 Although the registering of the Dun Cow as an ACV will not be pursued – as the benefits an ACV affords are likely to have a negative effect on the current situation - the Parish Councillors were keen to promote the fact that they regard having a thriving pub in Hornton as a major asset to village life. They also recognise and applaud the significant efforts the current publicans have made (and are still pursuing) to improve the property.
- 7.4 It was also felt that the repeating cycle of owners selling the Dun Cow after a few years will likely continue if the pub is not fully valued and supported by the parish. We could easily lose the pub completely if it cannot consistently function as a profitable business.

8. Planning Report:

8.1 New planning applications received since last meeting:

Reference	Location	Proposal/ Description	Validated	Status
23/02882/TCA	Barn Cottage Eastgate Hornton OX15 6BT	T1 Oak, T2,T3 +T4 Ash Reduce removing up to 5m in height and 3m from tips in spread. 10% thin of remaining canopy. These trees form a composite canopy and are causing excessive shading into my clients house and back garden. T5 Holly. Fell With its dark foliage and congested canopy this tree causes excessive shading. My client feels that removing this tree will make a significant difference to the light in the garden and house.	17/10/2023	Case Officer Assigned
23/02754/DISC	Formerley Varneys Garage Quarry Road Hornton Banbury OX15 6DF	Discharge of Condition 7 (vision splays) of 22/01758/REM	13/10/2023	Under Consultation

23/02836/TCA	Street Record Millers Lane Hornton	T1 x Holly Removal. Holly branches are dangerous and are hanging at eye level on a frequently used public path. 02: The tree roots are destabilising a large stone dry wall belonging to The Gables. 03: The tree is excessively shading my daughter's bedroom located on the west side of our house. 04: The tree roots are on the public path thus not on anyone's property but either the OCC or CCC.	06/10/2023	Case Officer Assigned
23/02653/DISC	Starveall Barn Quarry Road Hornton Oxfordshire OX15 6DF	Discharge of Condition 3 (schedule of materials and finishes - roof) of 22/02066/F	26/09/2023	Under Consultation

6.2 The only item of real concern on this list was the 'vision splays' at the new development on the Varney's garage site - [23/02754/DISC](#). It was felt adequate and safe traffic access to the new dwellings needs to be assured.

6.3 It was agreed that forthwith the parish clerk will distribute any new planning applications as and when they are received, rather than waiting for the next council meeting.

6.4 The Planning Application [22/02935/FUL](#) re-submission – Anaerobic Digester at Tysoe - was discussed but, as this was not an item the council had formally been asked to consult on, it was thought to be up to individual villagers whether or not they wanted to object to the re-submitted application.

7. Motocross update. The 'Stop Notice' has now expired, and it is suspected meetings will be attempted again. The situation will be closely monitored.
8. Bus service survey update. A weekly bus service will be re-introduced in March 2024 and, despite some reservations about the frequency and timings, seems to be widely thought of as a positive thing.
9. Pavilion Report. Funds have improved and the possibility of installing some acoustic improving roof inserts is to be investigated.
10. Allotments Report. It's been a good year at the allotments and all plots are now allocated. The allocated mower needs some attention though.
11. Roads & Highways Report including Speedwatch.
 - 11.1 Quarry Road and Millers Lane mud and water issues continue to be a concern. The only viable course of action appears to be pushing Oxfordshire CC to come up with a better solution.
 - 11.2 Following the resignation of Cllr. Jones the whereabouts of the Speedwatch equipment is currently unknown. Clerk will contact him.
 - 11.3 The proposed 20 mph speed limit in the village has reportedly been applied for. In a survey of villagers 89% of respondents were in favour of this new limit. Clerk will contact ex-Cllr. Jones to try and ascertain details of the application.
12. JUMPA Report
 - 12.1 The payment of £100 to local builders who dug a trench to alleviate the flood water situation is approved – but they need to provide an invoice!
 - 12.2 If the flooding continues to be a problem other solutions may need to be investigated.

13. Playground Report.

13.1 The recent RoSPA inspection went well.

13.2 Various items of maintenance have been carried out and more will follow.

13.3 Concern about the roots of a tree possibly affecting a playground wall. The situation is being closely monitored.

14. Proposed council meeting dates for 2024 have been circulated without objection and the Pavilion will be booked accordingly.

15. An annual review of the RFO and Clerk's pay and conditions has been conducted and there are no objections to the proposed actions.

16. Clerk to contact S&P Lettings regarding the tree at Thorn Cottage, which still hasn't been cut back.

17. Clerk to collate revised list of councillors' areas of responsibility. It was noticed that there needs to be a last 2 councillors allocated to the JUMPA, Playground and Pavilion sub-groups.

Meeting closed at 9:24 pm

Date of next meeting: Monday, 12th February 2024, 7:30 pm