

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HINXWORTH PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
THURSDAY 6th JULY 2017 IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.00 PM.

Present:

Mr R. Cobb (Chairman)
Mr R. Lewis (Vice- Chairman)
Mr D. Osmond
Mr E. Sore
Mr N Tiffin
Mrs W. Kitchener (Clerk)

Other persons present:- Steve Jarvis Hertfordshire County Councillor

The Chairman opened the meeting and thanked Steve Jarvis for attending and congratulated him on his recent election as County Councillor. Likewise the Councillors are pleased to know it is his intention to attend every Hinxworth Parish Council meeting in the future.

1. The Minutes of the last meeting: The minutes of the meeting of 7th June were agreed by the Parish Councillors and signed by the Chairman. Proposed by Eric Sore and seconded by David Osmond.

2. Matters arising not elsewhere on the Agenda: Nothing to report.

3. Correspondence: Notification has been received regarding the Merchant Navy Flag Day on September 3rd. This will be passed to Graham White for him to arrange for the appropriate flag to be flown in the Village on that day.

4. Finance:

Current Parish Council Funds: The Councillors agreed to the expenditure for the current month. Proposed by Richard Cobb and seconded by Russell Lewis.

Locality Budget Funds: The Chairman thanked Steve Jarvis for the £250.00 funding towards the lawn mower for the Allotmenters. Also he thanked the Clerk for her help in arranging the funding.

The Salary Increase for the Clerk: A 2% increase backdated to April 1st 2017. Proposed by Richard Cobb and seconded by Russell Lewis agreed unanimously.

5. Planning: Nothing to report.

6. Highways:

Potholes: The Chairman met with the Clerk and the potholes were again identified to be reported yet again to Hertfordshire Highways. To ensure all potholes from Bury End to the Bedfordshire boundary, that were the relevant depth to be deemed a pothole, the Chairman photographed each of them and then sent a copy of the seven potholes to Hertfordshire Highways. Of these four were rejected as being "low priority".

Overgrown Hedges: The hedges in New Inn Road and Ashwell Road are overgrown. These were again reported to Hertfordshire Highways by the Clerk after last months' meeting. No response has been received regarding New Inn Road and the response regarding Ashwell Road is the area is "considered safe".

Speed Signs:- The Chairman reported the current 30mph speed sign at the entrance to the Village from Edworth has now been in place for about twelve years. Due the additional housing developments in Biggleswade. Hinxworth is now a "rat-run" for vehicles trying to avoid the congestion on the A1. Therefore there is the need for an additional speed sign/signs in the Village. Steve Jarvis suggested the "smiley faced" signs. These are mobile solar powered signs, to be placed as and where required in the Village. They also record the speed of the vehicles. Many local parishes have these installed. Help with funding is available along with a contribution from the Parish Council. The Parish Councillors will now consider this as a viable option. **Steve Jarvis is to investigate further on behalf of the Parish Council.**

Addition Highways Issues:- A number of further issues were discussed and Steve Jarvis agreed that he will now contact the appropriate Hertfordshire Highways engineers and Ringway, the Contractors, to get these problems rectified, The Councillors requested there be another “walk the Village” initiative with the appropriate Highways representatives and the Contractor to ensure all issues are identified and logged for action. **Steve Jarvis is to arrange.**

7. Village Hall: The Village Hall Management Committee continue to fund raise for the refurbishment of the kitchen along with other ongoing funding initiatives. The Chairman suggested a meeting between the VHMC and the Parish Council would be useful and should take place in the near future.

8. Recreation Ground: On Sunday July 2nd a vehicle was seen on the recreation ground doing “wheelies”. A local resident obtained the registration number of the vehicle and reported it to the Police. Due to this the Parish Councillors are to review to secure the access to the recreation ground to prevent any further incidents in the future.

9. The Tennis Court: Nick Tiffin reported the tennis court surface requires further attention. This in the long term made require resurfacing. To be investigated further.

10. The Allotments:

An Additional Allotmenteer:- The Chairman and the Clerk signed the licence agreement for Jemma Rayner from Sutton to take over plot number 4.

11. Any Other Urgent Business:

Hinxworth Parish Council Website: Russell Lewis reported Joe Perricone is building the web-site and this should be up and running in the near future.

Defibrillator Training: This took place in the Village Hall on Tuesday July 4th. All of the forty plus people attending felt it was very worthwhile. The Chairman thanked Russell Lewis for his efforts in arranging for the purchase, installation and training for this very important piece of equipment for the Village. It is hoped there will be no necessity for it to be used.

Steve Jarvis - Hertfordshire County Councillors Report:- Steve gave a brief report on the priorities of the County Council:- Highways, the elderly, housing and education.

Highways- his budget is £80K for 2017/2018. This has already been mostly allocated for this year. So between now and the end of the year patching potholes will continue with a view to looking at further resurfacing works in 2018/2019.

Elderly Care - is a major issue funds are stretched but this is viewed as a priority by County.

Housing – The local plan provides additional housing in the area. County are looking at how this should be funded. By County or in conjunction with developers.

Schools:- Changing demographics in the area throws up many challenges for County. But in respect of Ashwell and Hinxworth young people they will still be able to attend Ashwell and Knight Templars Schools.

12: Date of the Next Meeting: Thursday September 7th 2017 at **7.00pm** in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.