

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HINXWORTH PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
THURSDAY 2nd NOVEMBER 2017 IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 8.00 PM.**

Present:

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

Apologies: Mr Russell Lewis- Steve Jarvis Hertfordshire County Councillor.

1. The Minutes of the last meeting: The minutes of the meeting of 5th October were agreed by the Parish Councillors and signed by the Chairman. Proposed by Nicholas Tiffin and seconded by Eric Sore.

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

3. Correspondence: Nothing to report.

4. Finance:

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

The Precept 2018/2019: To be discussed further at the December Parish Council Meeting.

5. Planning:

Planning Application ref: 17/02495/1HH Rosemary Lodge, High Street, Hinxworth, Baldock SG7 5HF. Hinxworth Parish Councillors agree unanimously to object to the above planning application on the following grounds:-

North Hertfordshire District Local Plan No.2 with Alterations *Policy 30 - Replacement or Extension of Dwellings in the Countryside*

For existing dwellings anywhere in the countryside outside excluded or selected villages, the Council will normally refuse proposals for their replacement or extension if a materially greater impact would result. A landscaping scheme related to the surrounding countryside will be expected. Also, extensions will normally be refused if they result in a size, scale and design out of keeping with the original building and give the effect of a new dwelling."

6. Highways: A meeting was held on October 16th with Richard Cobb and Eric Sore, Hinxworth Parish Councillors, Steve Jarvis Hertfordshire County Councillor and Gary Henning Hertfordshire Highways Assistant Highways Manager- North Herts. This was to "Walk the Village" to identify the outstanding highways problems.

Richard Cobb reported back to the Parish Council meeting as follows:-

Hedges:

New Inn Road – Gary Henning is to investigate who is responsible for cutting the hedges at the turn-off at the A I. Likewise he will write to the owners of the land along the remainder of New Inn Road requesting them to cut the hedges they are responsible for.

Cuckoo Corner Ashwell Road- It was agreed the hedges in this area required cutting back. Subsequent to the meeting Richard Cobb has spoken to Sam Wallace the owner of his land in the area and he kindly agreed too and has cut back the hedges on his land. The Parish Councillors thank him for his co-operation and the Parish Councillors hope there will be similar co-operation from other land owners in the area.

Likewise Gary Henning will write to the other Landowners whose land borders Ashwell Road to cut the hedges bordering their land.

By default, rightly or wrongly, Hertfordshire Highways has always cut back these hedges in the past but with the tight financial constraint on their budget this is no longer the case. So with Hertfordshire Highways having always carried out the work in the past it has blurred the line as to whom is actually responsible for the cutting of the hedges.

Potholes:

There many potholes in the area that do not meet the revised criteria of a depth of 50mm (recently revised upwards from the original depth of 40mm) before they can be repaired. It is also unlikely any further funding for repairs will be available until the new financial year.

In respect of the both of the above items, hedges and potholes, this work is not being carried out by anymore by either Hertfordshire Highways and or Landowners due to the “cut backs” in funding over the past ten years from Central Government to both parties. This includes the cuts in the grants to help Landowners keep their hedges in good order.

The “Smiley” Face Speed Sign:

The siting of the sign at the Ashwell Road end of the Village was also discussed at the meeting as the sign is solar-powered. This decision will be made nearer the time of its installation.

Bridleways/Footpaths: There is a Hertfordshire County Council initiative for local Councils/ Parish Councils to take over responsibility, should they wish to, for the upkeep/maintenance of these areas with funding available. Hinxworth Parish Councillors agreed unanimously to leave this responsibility with Hertfordshire County Council.

7. Village Hall: Nothing to report.

8. Recreation Ground:

The Car Park Barrier: The Parish Councillors will discuss at a later date the possibility of a barrier to be installed at the far end of the car park at the entrance to the recreation ground.

The Playground Inspection Report: To be carried out in December.

9. The Tennis Court: The surface of the tennis court is likely to need some maintenance in the future. The Parish Councillors intend to monitor this on an ongoing basis.

10. The Allotments: Nothing to report.

11. Any Other Urgent Business:

Hinxworth Young People: Karen Mills, Chair of HYP, and two young members of HYP George and Thomas attended the meeting for this item. They attended to show the Councillors the nine poppies HYP had made in respect of Remembrance Day. They intend for them to be placed at the War Memorial after the Remembrance Day service. The Chairman advised Karen should liaise with Patrick Forbes as he will be conducting the service. The Councillors were very impressed with this HYP project and thank these young people for their intention to carry on the tradition of Remembrance Day.

Hinxworth Parish Council Website: A report is awaited as to when the website will be up and running. Hopefully this will be in the next few weeks.

12: Date of the Next Meeting: Thursday December 7th 2017 at **7.00pm** in the Village Hall.
The meeting closed at 9.15pm.