

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HINXWORTH PARISH COUNCIL HELD
IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 5th SEPTEMBER 2024 AT 7.00 PM.**

Present:

Mr N. Tiffin (Chairman).
Mr R. Cobb (Vice Chairman).
Mr T. Lloyd
Mr T. Dawson
Mrs W Kitchener (Clerk)

Other persons present:- Steve Jarvis Hertfordshire County Councillor.

Apologies: Tom Tyson, District Councillor. Liz Oliver.

1. The Minutes of the last meeting: The minutes of the meeting of 4th July were agreed. Proposed by Tony Dawson and seconded by Dick Cobb

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 Tony Dawson and seconded by Nick Tiffin.

5. Planning: Nothing to Report.

6. Highways:

Overgrown Hedges and Verges: The Parish Councillors, as are local residents, becoming increasingly concerned no action has been taken on this matter since the last Parish Council meeting. Steve Jarvis has reported back that he has consulted Hertfordshire Highways who notified him that they have a different approach to the cutting of the hedges and grass verges. This being the hedge cutting in most cases is the responsibility of the local landowners and the grass verges (approximately one metre edge from a road) is Hertfordshire Highways responsibility, however, it is clear that this year this has not been done at all and with the increased growing due to the wet weather the verges are looking very poor indeed. Steve will endeavour to find out when they plan to do this and report back. For the hedges, Steve Jarvis is to provide the Parish Councillors with a map of the area showing the highway boundary lines of the land locally so we can see if we can approach local land owners to cut back the hedges where they have become dangerous or troublesome to cars. These roads are Ashwell Road (Hinworth to approximately Loves Lane Ashwell), New Inn Road (from the A1 to the junction with the High Street, Hinworth) and then north of that High Street (from Francis Road to the border with Central Bedfordshire). The Councillors will review the map to ascertain what further action is necessary.

Extension of the 30MPH limit in the High Street.: The public consultation for this project closed on 29th August. The Parish Council responded to support the project as it would be advantageous for the Village. Their letter of response is as follows:-

To whom it may concern

Regarding the extension of the 30 mph limit in the High Street at Hinworth. My fellow councillors and I would like to put forward this letter of support for the 50-meter extension at one end of our high street. The Village is encountering much more traffic nowadays due to the expansion of the towns around us and as a result, our community is under threat from the volume and speed of cars coming through the village. The extension is part of a bigger scheme to implement speed chicanes at either end of the village. We have carried out a census in the village and the response was outstanding with 61 of the 63 returns supporting the scheme.

We would urge the highways department to grant this extension so that the planned chicanes can be installed.

The result of the consultation is awaited.

7. Village Hall: Nothing to Report.

8. Recreation Ground:

Ashwell Accies: There has been no response from Ashwell Accies.

The Three Horseshoes Cricket Club: The Parish Council has been approached by the Club for them to use the recreation ground for home club matches. The Club is successfully up and running and the intention is for the Club to put forward a proposal for the use of the Recreation Ground for these matches for the following season. This requires further discussion between both parties and further consultation will take place in the coming months.

9. The Tennis Court: Nothing to report.

10. Allotments: The installation of improved and additional water facilities is well underway. To date the cost of this is around £2550.00 The allotment fund held for the specific purpose for such projects (made up of allotmenters subs and deposits) totals £5270.00 at present. After the expenditure for the installation of the water facilities, the balance of allotment funds will be circa £2720.00. This figure does not include the subs due on 1st September 2024.

Allotment Plots: Three plots have been vacated with them being taken up three applicants from the waiting list.

11. Any Other Urgent Business:

The War Memorial Clock: Graham Newman is to be contacted again to provide an estimate of the cost and when he will be able to commence the clock repairs. If these repairs are not done prior to the War Memorial repairs commencing it will need to be done afterwards.

Repairs to the War Memorial: The start of this project is imminent. It should take somewhere in the region of few weeks to complete.

12: Date of the Next Meeting:

The next Parish Meeting will take place at 7pm on the 3rd of October.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.