

**DRAFT MINUTES OF HINXWORTH ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON
THURSDAY 30th MARCH 2023 IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 8PM**

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

Apologies: Mr Bryan Higgins

Other Persons Present: County Councillor Steve Jarvis
District Councillor Tom Tyson
13 Members of the public.

St Nicholas Church

Prior to the business at the Parish Council's Annual Parish Meeting the Chairman invited Geoff Burrows as Churchwarden of St Nicholas Church to provide an update on the current repairs to the church which are underway. Just for information to those present.

Geoff reported the current cost of the known repairs was approximately £140K. With donations, fund raising and grants there is a still a shortfall of a few thousand pounds. Geoff went on to notify the meeting of the uniqueness of the Church in as much it is owned by the Villagers. Therefore they have the responsibility for its upkeep and it is necessary to find a way to fund ongoing maintenance/repairs in the future. How this could be achieved requires further discussion which is ongoing. Therefore the Chairman suggested Geoff provides a written report on the Church for circulation to notify the Villagers what this entails.

1. The Election of Hinxworth Parish Council:

The Chairman notified the meeting the current Councillors remain in post until the Elections of 4th May.

2. The Minutes of the last Meeting: : Mr R. Cobb proposed the minutes of the 2022 APM be adopted, with the amendment noted as below, seconded by Mr N.Tiffin.

2022 APM Minutes Item 7

Simon Marlow requested that the APM minutes 2022 should read as follows as it intimates, in those minutes, that he attended the 2002 Annual Parish Meeting:-
Simon Marlow had previously asked the Parish Council if there is any likelihood of the Village Hall being able to apply for a grant for solar panels. County Councillor Steve Jarvis pointed out that the Village Hall Committee investigate the "bulk buy" scheme. The Village Hall Committee should look at this, obtain a quote, and report back to the Parish Council.

3. Matters arising from the minutes: There were no matters arising from the minutes.

4. Chairman's Report: See attached report.

5. Matters Arising from the Chairman's Report: Geoff Burrows had some concerns over the proposed High Street speed reduction plans. The Chairman said, that like all projects of this nature, there has to be full public consultation including people who don't live in the Village. The plans are not at this stage at this time. The Chairman underlined his view that the safety of the children of our village are his, and the Parish Council's, overriding concern.

6. County Councillor Steve Jarvis's Report: Steve Jarvis gave a verbal report to the meeting which included the following:

Pot Holes – These remain a major problem throughout the County and he recommends Village residents report any potholes to Hertfordshire Highways.

Chapel Street- The closure of Chapel Street recently was used as a trial area for Hertfordshire Highways to clear gullies/drainage more often and efficiently. It is intended in the future for residents to be informed that the work would take place during certain dates and would owners of vehicles remove them from the road during that period. If not the Contractors would safely remove the vehicles and replace them after the work was completed.

Place Farm- The proposed conversion of Place Farm into a Children's Home has now been passed from NHDC to the Hertfordshire County Council Children's Department.

7. The District Councillor Tom Tyson's Report: See attached report.

The Chairman thanked Councillors Jarvis and Tyson for attending Hinxworth Parish Council Meetings throughout the year.

8. The Adoption of the Accounts: The accounts for 2021/2022 were adopted. Proposed by Helen Donohoe and seconded by Alex Stephenson.

9. Planning: There were no outstanding Planning Issues. See Chairman's report.

10. Highways: The Chairman reported the hedges along the Ashwell Road were overgrown. Steve Jarvis reported not all of the hedges were the responsibility of Hertfordshire Highways many belonged to local farmers. He therefore intended the local farmers be contacted by Hertfordshire Highways to cut the hedges that belong to them. Geoff Burrows notified the meeting there were several gullies at Bury End that had not been cleared. Steve Jarvis is to follow-up.

11. The Village Hall: Solar Panels for the Hall was discussed. Simon Marlow again put forward the possible installation of Solar Panels for the Hall. Both the Chairman of the Parish Council and the Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee agree they do not have the funds for the installation Solar Panels. The cost being in the region of £15K. The funds the VHMC hold at present are for the ongoing maintenance of the Village Hall. Likewise any Parish Council funds are used for the upkeep of the fabric of the Village. The matter of the Solar Panels to be discussed further outside the meeting.

12. The Recreation Ground: Nothing to report other than previously given in the Chairman's report.

13. Allotments: Nothing to report other than previously given in the Chairman's report.

14. Any other Business: Nothing to Report.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending. The meeting then closed at 9.25 p.m.