

**DRAFT MINUTES OF HINXWORTH ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON**

**THURSDAY 4<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2024 IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 8PM**

**Present:** Mr N. Tiffin (Chairman)  
Mr R. Cobb (Vice Chairman)  
Mr T. Lloyd  
Mrs E. Oliver  
Mrs W. Kitchener (Clerk)

**Apologies:** Mr T. Dawson.

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

**1. The Election of Hinxworth Parish Council:**

The Chairman notified the meeting the current Councillors will remain in post for 2004/2005.

**2. The Minutes of the last Meeting:** : Mr David Osmond proposed the minutes of the 2023 APM be adopted, with the amendment noted as below, seconded by Mr Martin Shaw.

**3. Matters arising from the minutes: Solar Panels:** It had subsequently been agreed these would be too costly.

**4. Chairman's Report:** See attached report.

**5. Matters arising from the Chairman's Report:** Nothing to report.

**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.

**Children's Services-** These still remain a priority for the County Council.

**Traffic Calming-** This is underway and hopefully will be completed in 2024/2025.

**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 2022/2023 were adopted. Proposed by Harry King and seconded by Russell Lewis.

**9. Planning:** The Chairman reported there had been a number of Planning Applications during the year

There remained two applications outstanding requiring a response to NHDC.

1) **Application 24/00669/FPH 22 Francis Road** – The Councillors voted unanimously to “no objection” to this Application.”

2) **Application 24/00569/FP at Land Adjoining to Christy's Yard-** Much discussion took place regarding this application. The applicant Mr Les Whitfield was present at the meeting.

Each Councillor provided the meeting with their views. These are as follows:-

Mr N. Tiffin – declared his position as being “neutral”.

Mr R Cobb- declared a “conflict of interest” and left the meeting for this item.

Mr T. Lloyd – declared the application as not in keeping with the area and objects.

Mr T. Dawson (by email) - declared the application as is not in keeping with the area and objects.

Mrs E. Oliver- declared her agreement to the application and supports the application.

Initially, we declared that we would **object** to the application, but Mr H King from the floor objected and said that the vote from T Dawson could not count as he was not present at the meeting. The following day we consulted the 1972 schedule 12.18.3 on voting and agreed that this was exactly the case (COVID rules do not stand anymore). As a result, we agreed that Mr Dawson's vote could not be taken into account and in the case of equality in the votes and again in

accordance with the 1972 schedule regulations “the person presiding at the meeting shall have the casting vote, in addition to any other vote he may have.”

So Mr Tiffin as Chair has the casting vote and Hinxworth Parish Council will post a neutral position regarding this application,

Ultimately the NHDC Conservation Officer and Planning Officer would be better qualified to decide on the impact of the new building to Chapel Street and the conservation surrounding area.

The above vote will be conveyed to the appointed NHDC Planning Officer as Hinxworth Parish Council’s response to the application.

**10. Highways:** Due to the adverse weather conditions over the past year Hinxworth had experienced flooding to the roads, fields and footpaths. Due to this the maintaining of grass verges, hedges and drains has not been completed.

**11. The Village Hall:** Nothing to report as this was dealt with during the VHMC meeting prior to the Annual parish Meeting.

The Parish Council Chairman thanked the VHMC for their continuing support for the Hall.

**12. The Recreation Ground:** This area along with the rest of the Village has encountered flooding. Hinxworth Archers have renewed their agreement for their use of the Recreation Ground for the 2024/2025 season. The gate entrance area has now been repaired.

**13. Allotments:** The allotment continues to flourish and they are reviewing quotes to help with summer water collection.

**14. Any other Business:** Geoff Burrows thanked the Parish Council for arranging for the road entrance to the St Nicholas Church which was resurfaced. Likewise, he has some concerns regarding the “Traffic Calming” initiative and its impact on the car parking for the Church. Road parking in the road could be impacted by the traffic calming scheme. Street parking is not guaranteed and although the traffic calming scheme will have some impact on street parking it is our opinion this will be minimal, Steve Jarvis supported this. Should the church wish to seek further financial support for improving parking within the church boundaries it should be done independently.

**The Chairman thanked everyone for attending. The meeting then closed at 9.15 p.m.**