

HORNINGSHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of a meeting of Horningsham Parish held on Thursday 15th May in Horningsham Village Hall

Present: Chairman Councillor Elizabeth Glover, Councillors Paul Jones, Stephen Crossman, George Williamson, Bruce Martin, John Radley, Sophie Mustafa, Gardening Club, Hugh Hitchings Longleat Estate, James Osborne Chairman Cricket Club, Horningsham News, Annemarie Green, Chair Village Hall.

Clerk Stephanie Storrar, Unitary Councillor Bill Parks and one member of the public was also present.

Chairman: Councillor Elizabeth Glover.

01/25 Apologies for absence

Councillor Ken Windess, Helen Taylor, Parochial Church Council, Andy Dean, Horningsham Residents Action Group, Rick Gunning, Horningsham Tree Warden, Longleat Enterprises, the Police Community Support Officer, Lesley Trollope, Luncheon Club, Matt Simpson, Simpsons Seeds

02/25 Approval of minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 30th May 2024

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of 30 May 2024, were approved as a true and accurate record.

03/25 Matters arising from the last meeting.

None

04/25 Reports for Consideration from the Unitary Councillor

None

05/25 Chairman's Report

Chairman Councillor Elizabeth Glover read out the report to the meeting, which detailed the work of the Parish Council during the last year.

Planning applications - We reviewed 39 planning applications. We expressed concerns regarding the widening of the entrance to Center Parcs, near Heaven's Gate. a decision is pending at the time of writing.

Community Traffic Management – We are still waiting for an update on the village speed assessment. Wiltshire Council have agreed to repaint a number of white lines and to add SLOW in a number of locations round the village.

New Grounds Contractor - The new team is now regularly visiting. Their efforts seem to be enhancing the village's appearance. As this is our most significant expenditure, we aim to ensure its effectiveness.

Verges - We are working with Wiltshire County Council (WCC) to protect our verges, especially on the common.

Bulb Planting Scheme - A three-year project to plant bulbs aims to finish this autumn.

Village tidying – appreciation is extended to all who participated in this effort.

Litter pick - Overseen by Councillor Stephen Crossman, it was well attended.

Street signs – A few more to go.

Benches - The new bench by the pub is made of durable material and should last longer. The orchard bench was removed due to wear; a replacement depends on donations. We can budget for one next year if the village wants. Let us know.

Teenage Recreational Provision Project - grant funding was received from the Warminster Area Board, Community Land Fill, and the Fudge Trust. Further grants will be explored in the future. The village currently offers tennis, basketball, cricket, and football facilities, along with excellent cycle paths. The council aims to try to provide additional sporting opportunities and welcomes suggestions.

Hollybush Bus Stop – Rebuilt with an active bus service. Please use the buses to help maintain the service.

Rights of ways project – This project is nearing completion; appreciation is extended to all who have supported and contributed to this effort.

New Co-options - Bruce Martin has joined us.

Christmas Tree on the Common - Longleat donated a Christmas tree for the community along with a permanent fixing for future years. We extend our gratitude to Longleat. Our village pub, along with the friends and residents of Horningsham, collaborated to host a wonderful carol service.

BT Phone Boxes –we are now seeking suggestions for their potential use. Kindly submit your proposals to our Clerk at clerk@horningshamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Community Emergency Plan Update: Salt grit has been bought and distributed around the village for use during icy weather. Keep your Parish Councillors' phone numbers handy for assistance.

Parish Steward – This service provides one day a month for planned village maintenance tasks. Please inform us of any tasks that may require attention. The most efficient way to have potholes repaired is by using the WCC App [MyWilts online reporting - Wiltshire Council](#) online reporting.

Councillor Ken Windess – As a dedicated volunteer Parish Councillor, Ken significantly contributes to many village organisations. We are grateful for his willingness and invaluable service. Thank you, Ken, from all of us.

Gullies – A team of councillors identified all of these in the village and arranged for them to be cleared. This task may need to be repeated annually due to frequent rain.

New Clerk – Welcome Stephanie Storrar, our new parish clerk.

Defibrillator training – Councillors and residents attended a training session, I wonder if as a village we might be able to say at the end of 2025 we as a whole village know about CPR and the defibrillator and would know what to do if ...

A copy of the full report is available on the Parish Council website.

06/25 Police Report

PCSO Lukasz Kolasinski 70901 Police Community Support Officer had sent a report which was read by the Clerk.

From 1st of April 2024 – 11 of May 2025.

There have been 22 crimes recorded in your area: 1 burglary, 2 theft related offences,

3 reports of anti-social behaviour, 4 reports of RTCs and 4 instances of criminal damage reported

Please be aware of the Bobby Van Trust, a registered charity who work alongside Wiltshire Police and offer a completely free service to anyone over 60 (or over 18

and registered disabled). Their contact number is 01225 256867 and their website is BobbyVanOnlineSafety@wbvt.or
A copy of the full report is available on the Parish Council website.

07/25 Clubs and Groups Reports

Longleat Estate Manager

Hugh Hitchings read out his report as well as one on behalf of Longleat Enterprises a Following a discussion about the time capsule to be placed in the new hippo house it was agreed that a copy of The Horningsham News would be provided for inclusion.

Hugh also noted that discussions with Wessex Internet were ongoing, and he hoped to have an update by the end of the summer.

In response to a question about the number of empty properties, Hugh explained that the priority was to bring the properties that have been vacant for long periods back into use as soon as possible.

A full copy of the report is available on the Parish Council website.

Gardening Club

Sophie Mustafa explained that the gardening club was set up as a community initiative to share a love of gardening and nature, and to share resources like practical skills, knowledge, seeds and plants. The gardening club has also taken over the running of the plant stall at Horningsham Fayre from Carole Hill. Carole is still giving some guidance as well as growing and propagating plants, but she is no longer responsible for administering the whole operation on her own.

The club is also working on securing a site or sites for a community allotment / garden / orchard - to grow food, enjoy and use for range of activities that could include things like workshops and community meals. This would benefit the whole village including children who are home-schooled and children from the Primary School as well as the village community as a whole. Following a discussion with Hugh Hitchings it was agreed that the club would meet with Longleat to identify possible sites.

A full copy of the report is available on the Parish Council website.

Parochial Church Council Report

Helen Taylor had sent a written report. Councillor Jones read the report.

The Benefice has been vacant since October 2023, and the post is about to be advertised for a second time. The number of services continues to decrease. The Christmas Day congregation was small and we had no service at Easter. The one service that continues to be a great success is Plough Sunday. The Morris men are very popular and attract a large congregation. We host a Benefice service occasionally when there are five Sundays in the month and this is well supported by all the villages. The building is in good order. The churchyard looks very tidy and, as always, we are grateful to the Parish Council for funding the mowing of the grass. A number of people visit graves to leave flowers, and it is good to be able to demonstrate that the churchyard is well cared for. The sum of money we receive from the Village Fayre each year is also much appreciated.

A full copy of the report is available on the Parish Council website.

Luncheon Club Report

Lesley Trollope had sent a written report. Councillor Williamson read the report.

The Luncheon Club has 36 members, three of the lunches are delivered to Horningsham residents who are house bound. The Club is open to anyone over the age of 60 and new members are made very welcome. We are open 42 weeks of the year on a Thursday between 12 and 2pm. The price per lunch was raised in January to £5 due to the higher cost of ingredients. All the cooks and helpers give up their time for free and we are very grateful to them all. We also have a Christmas Meal each year for all the members. We are very fortunate to receive a donation from the Village Fayre and are grateful to the Village Hall for the favourable rent charged to the club. We believe the Club is an asset to the Village and hope we can continue. A full copy of the report is available on the Parish Council website.

Tree Warden

The Tree Warden had sent his apologies. He had nothing to report.

Fayre Committee Representative Stephen Crossman

Councillor Stephen Crossman gave a verbal report. The fayre is the biggest fundraiser for the village. It supports seven organisations in the community: the Church, Chapel, Horningsham Primary School, Village Hall, Horningsham News, Luncheon Club and Cricket Club.

The Fayre is on the 8th of June; the theme is Rural Life. Councillor Crossman explained that any village organisation could apply for funds. He stated that it was becoming increasingly difficult to find volunteers as well as support from the village to ensure that the Fayre was a success. While there is a good team organising the event, they need a lot more people to offer their time to help on the day.

Councillor Crossman stated that the increase in short term lets in the village has resulted in fewer residents being available. The village benefits from the fund raised by the Fayre and in return everyone needs to help to ensure its success. Councillor Glover suggested that a leaflet explaining village events and useful contacts could be added to the welcome pack given to new tenants on the Longleat Estate. Hugh Hitchings agreed that this would be possible.

Horningsham Village Hall

The Chairman of the Village Hall Committee, Annemarie Green, attended and read her report.

Regular Activities: 'Wellbeing Tuesdays' (exercise and yoga), monthly coffee mornings, the weekly Luncheon Club for our over-60s. and games nights.

Events: Thai Night, Harvest Supper and Bonfire Night raised substantial revenue for the hall, cricket club and Horningsham News. Most recently we held a tea party to celebrate the 80th Anniversary of VE Day, attended by a pleasing number of children, and Lionel Marsh, whose brother was present at the original Horningsham celebration 80 years ago!

Rural Voices Series: This is significant new initiative launched last summer. These monthly breakfast talks on Saturday mornings have proved very successful, selling out almost every time. They attract attendees from well beyond Horningsham, putting the Hall on the map and raising funds for the Regeneration project. Rural

Voices has prompted tech upgrades, including a new projector and PA system repairs, increasing the amenity value of the hall for all, including the Parish Council. We were pleased to host the Wylfe Arts Trail for an exhibition and continue to support Horningsham Primary School's use of the Hall, along with the Village Fayre. We have actively worked to strengthen our relationship with Horningsham Cricket Club, and to support local businesses. This includes providing concessionary rates for local well-being class providers, focusing on locally sourced ingredients where possible for our Rural Voices menus and hosting some Maiden Bradley village hall classes when they were closed for maintenance. We also held a big community Spring Clean of the Hall, which attracted lots of volunteers and yielded a whole skip full of debris!

Building Maintenance & Finance: Maintenance remains an ongoing expense, and the long-term goal is to reduce this via our ambitious regeneration project. The finances have improved over the last 18 months as a result of increased effort being put into events which raise funds. The balance in the bank is gradually increasing, despite some sharp increases in overheads, such as electricity costs. One area of immediate focus is Hall lettings for private events. Wedding bookings are up this year, although we would like to see them rising more quickly.

Hall Regeneration Project: Timed for completion by the Hall's centenary in 2030, this project aims to secure the Hall for the community for the next 100 years. We have engaged with the free 'Design For Change / Neighbourhood Toolbox' initiative, which supports sustainable community hub development. Under this scheme, we are currently engaging with an architect, interior designer, and structural engineer to develop initial plans. The next step will be wider community engagement, planned to start at the Village Fayre. We are growing the fund for this project, which is primarily intended for match funding against grants. The Hall committee have been tasked with "improving the conditions of life of the inhabitants of Horningsham and surrounding villages" and are seeking to fulfil this by offering accessible community events and raising funds to allow us to take the necessary actions for the Hall's upkeep and long-term security. The committee is dedicated to ensuring Horningsham Village Hall remains a welcoming, well-maintained, and active centre for our community. We appreciate the support from the Parish Council and look forward to our continued partnership.

A full copy of the report is available on the Parish Council website.

Horningsham Cricket Club

The Chairman of the Cricket Club, James Osborne, attended and read his report. The club has 45 or 50 people playing: 10 residents of Horningsham, 9 former residents, 6 people connected to the village by work, family or school; and others: friends, who enjoy playing for Horningsham. 7 of the squad are under 18, and 4 are over 60. The club plays 60 games a year, all over England and all over the world. The club looks after the sports field: doing the grass cutting, drainage and keeping banks and hedges under control, spending £1,000 – £2,000 a year. This benefits the club and the village and means others don't have to pay for it. The club plays a part in village events and fund-raising activities: the village fayre, bonfire night, as well as

other events at the hall and introduces young teenagers to the sport. The Club is financially self-sufficient on a day-to-day basis. From time to time, it needs to address more expensive projects for which it may need extra funding. In certain villages, the cricket club seems to have a big place in village life. Crowds come to watch them play. This has not been achieved in Horningsham. The club would like to create a welcoming atmosphere at home games, so that people can enjoy refreshments, see people they know, and enjoy spending some time here. James shared these words from an umpire at one of their recent games: 'I wish more clubs were like you. You guys are' he said 'a shining credit to the sport of cricket. Rarely have I seen the 'spirit of cricket' so embedded as today. Thank you from both umpires.

A full copy of the report is available on the Parish Council website.

08/25 Matters raised – for discussion only.

Nothing was brought to the attention of the meeting.

09/25 Chairman's Closing Speech

The Chairman thanked everyone for such interesting reports and for their time and effort in attending and reporting to the community.

Councillor Stephen Crossman congratulated Unitary Councillor Bill Parks on his re-election.

The date of the next Annual Parish meeting will be the Thursday 4th June 2026

The meeting finished at 9.20pm