

HORNINGSHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of a meeting of Horningsham Parish held on Thursday 28th May in Horningsham Village Hall

Present: Councillors Elizabeth Glover, Paul Jones, Stephen Crossman, George Williamson, Ken Windess. Hugh Hitchings: Longleat Estate, James Osborne: Chairman Cricket Club, Horningsham News, Annemarie Green: Chair of the Village Hall Committee, Jon Evans: manager at The Bath Arms, Sara Rothwell: Panto and Theatre group

Clerk Stephanie Storrar, Unitary Councillor Bill Parks

Chairman: Councillor Elizabeth Glover.

01/26 Acceptance of apologies for absence: Councillor Bruce Martin, Councillor John Radley, the Police Community Support Officer, Lucasz Kolasinski, Lesley Trollope, Luncheon Club, Helen Taylor, Parochial Church Council, Tim Moore, St. John the Baptist, Sophie Mustafa, Gardening Club. Written reports can be read in the minutes and reports section on the website <https://www.horningshamparishcouncil.gov.uk/council-information/annual-parish-meetings/>

02/26 Approval of minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 15th May 2025

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 15th May 2025 were approved as a true and accurate record.




03/26 Matters arising from the last meeting

None

04/26 Chairman's Annual Report

The full Chairman's report can be read in the minutes and reports section on the website <https://www.horningshamparishcouncil.gov.uk/council-information/annual-parish-meetings/>

Councillor Glover reported that the council are a small group of willing volunteers who work hard to maintain Horningsham as a peaceful and supportive place. She explained that each of the councillors has a unique set of skills which are used to action tasks willingly, before we then go to an external source for support, spending money wisely. She reported that over the past couple of years the council has welcomed Stephanie Storrar as the new parish clerk. Councillor Glover reported that the Clerk is getting to grips with the rigours of running a local parish council, proving a complimentary asset to the team, allowing us to work efficiently. She outlined the future plans of the council:

-  Working with the children from Horningsham Primary School to make a minibeast habitat in the memorial orchard.
-  Purchasing a further six apple trees for the memorial orchard to ensure that the orchard continues to represent those from the village who died in the two World Wars.
-  Purchasing a planter for The Common to commemorate 40 years of the village fayre and 60 years of Longleat.

- 🏘️ Working with Longleat to improve the area around the well.
- 🏘️ Continuing to ensure that the bus stops and benches are well maintained and that our grounds contractor continues to keep the village looking tidy and cared for.
- 🏘️ Repairing the fence on the tennis court, one of our objectives from our precept meeting
- 🏘️ Making a clear path to improve access to the tennis court.
- 🏘️ Working with the village hall to develop their resilience plan.
- 🏘️ Providing grants to village organisations to support the community.

Councillor Glover stated that Horningsham is a very special place, recognising that residents are very fortunate. She highlighted the need to value and respect our surroundings so that they endure for generations to come. She finished by thanking Horningsham.

05/26 Unitary Councils Report

Unitary Councillor Parks noted that this was his 5th annual parish meeting this year and that he had thoroughly enjoyed working with the parishes he represents. He outlined some of the changes that Wiltshire Council were making such as the change to food and residual waste collections next year and the proposed increase in car parking charges in Warminster. Councillor Parks asked residents to let him know if there was anything he could do to help.

06/26 Police Report

PCSO Lukasz Kolasinski 70901 Police Community Support Officer

had sent a report for the period 11th May 2025- 19th May 2026

which can be read in full in the minutes and reports section on the website

<https://www.horningshamparishcouncil.gov.uk/council-information/annual-parish-meetings/>

There have been a total of 20 crimes recorded:

- 0 burglary offences
- recorded 3 theft related offences
- very low level of antisocial behaviour: 0 reports of this nature has been reported during this time frame.
- 4 reports of RTCs
- 2 instances of criminal damage reported,
- 2 instances of fraud reported,
- 2 instances of animal/wildlife where a deer has been hit by a vehicle causing injury.

07/26 Clubs and Groups Reports

Longleat Estate

Hugh Hitchings spoke on behalf of Longleat Enterprises Limited, (LEL) and the Estate LEL – Hugh reported that it had been a busy year and thanked those who came to the anniversary party, celebrating 60 years of Longleat. He emphasised the importance of Longleat continuing to work with the Parish Council and the village. He explained that there were new additions to the park: Tiny Titans and a new walkway, included in the Wallaby walk through. The new food and drink manager, Paul Jackson, has overseen the refreshment of the café and is improving the standard of food available. The animal team will be attending the Village Fayre with a selection of the small animals from the park. The Longleat Motor Show will be taking place on 27th and 28th June. It will be a contained, small event. Visitors will be given the opportunity to test drive a rally car up Highwood out onto Cock Road, the cars will be travelling

at 30 mph, with marshals at every turn and point. One car will start every 30 minutes. Hugh reported that Longleat will be passing on the 'Great British Summer Savings' with 15% savings on entry fully transferred to guests. The Festival of Light 2025 was one of the best years regarding the numbers attending and positive feedback. This year's theme is the Best of the Best. David Leverett will contact Cllr Williamson before the planning application is submitted. Hugh went on to say that he looked forward to continuing to work with the parish and Wiltshire streetscene to keep the village looking tidy and cared for. Longleat will take responsibility for maintaining some areas of the village verges in the year to come.

The Estate

Hugh explained that he looked forward to continuing to foster the relationship between the estate and the village, particularly through cricket! He stated that there had been good long-lasting repairs completed on several properties. He explained that the estate want to know of any problems and encouraged residents to contact them. He reported that the Longleat had been instrumental in approaching Wessex Internet so that every single property in the village will be fitted for fibre ahead of time. Stage 1 has been completed. Hugh thanked everyone who had helped with the house fire in Anchor Barton. It was lovely to see how the community worked together, with The Bath Arms offering a place to stay, and food and drink. Hugh thanked Councillor Crossman for digging out the fire hydrant. In response to questions Hugh explained that the car parking charges at Heaven's Gate have been delayed and that the work on the dam at Shearwater has been completed and signed off by the Environment Agency.

Village Hall

The full Village Hall report can be read in the minutes and reports section on the website <https://www.horningshamparishcouncil.gov.uk/council-information/annual-parish-meetings/>

Annemarie explained that the Hall had been successful in attracting a more varied range of users, like the opera (La Traviata) in July 2025, and the revival of the Horningsham pantomime tradition in January 2026, while also maintaining its regular users. In addition, the events held by, or in conjunction with, the hall committee have thrived – the Spring and Autumn village meals, bonfire night (in conjunction with the cricket club), the village Fayre (in conjunction with the Fayre committee) and the Rural Voices monthly Saturday breakfast talks, raising funds for the Regeneration Project. The monthly village coffee mornings have recently benefitted from an uptick in attendance, because the informal Horningsham gardening group now use this as an opportunity to meet in the Hall. Businesses have also hired the Hall for a range of activities, from an antique valuation to a pickling workshop. The current economic climate means that running costs have increased alarmingly (utility bills are up 30%) and the Hall is struggling to cover these from rental income. Annemarie thanked Wiltshire Council for the Area Board grant, the Fayre committee, for donations to both the hall upkeep and the regeneration project, and SEN for their grant for the regeneration project. This project uses the impending centenary in 2030 as a target to update the hall and make it fit for the next 100 years. Looking ahead, the committee want to expand the range of people using the hall and extend committee membership further (it has gone up by 50% this year), ensuring all the key user groups are represented. We hope to submit a premises licence application soon, move regeneration project on to next stage – i.e. tender for first works, and have another panto, and

possibly more theatrical events. It was suggested that the Wiltshire Community Lottery is a good fund raiser that might be of use to the Hall.

The Bath Arms

Jon Evans, General Manager, explained that he had just completed five months at The Bath Arms. He highlighted the importance of the village pub, recognising that it is key to the local community. He reported that it had been a quiet year so far, acknowledging that we are living in difficult times. The discount of 10% for locals and Longleat workers will continue. Jon explained that the pub has a room available if necessary, and that he is happy to host free of charge. There is now a monthly pub quiz on the last Sunday of the month from 6.30-9.30; there is a £10 entry fee which is placed into charity pot for village causes. Jon reported that the pub has been nominated for the National Bar and Pub Awards, one of 4 Wiltshire pubs, the award night is 10th June. He explained that the pub employed several local young people and welcomed applications from young people over 16. Jon reported that the pub was providing a bar at the Village Fayre, purchasing drinks at cost; this is not a money-making venture. The pub is also supplying 100 scones and jam and cream for the cream teas. The pub will be holding a BBQ on the Sunday of the Motor Show weekend (28th June). On 1st August they are having a Beer and Cider Festival with products from local producers, together with live music. The pub is also hosting a wedding on 22nd August, although most of the pub will be closed for the event, the bar will remain open to locals. Jon reported that he is also planning to hold an event during the Icons of the Sky and hopes to set up a monthly wine club at a cost of £15 for 5 small glasses of wine. Jon recognised that it is important that the pub is part of the community and that he is keen to help with village events. Councillor Windess thanked Jon for the plans which are making the village vibrant once more. He suggested that the pub have a noticeboard to let people know about upcoming events. Unitary Councillor Parks added that Warminster Community Radio were keen to promote community events.

Cricket Club

James Osborne explained that the club has been helped by many organisations: Longleat, the Village Hall and the pub. The club started in 1861, and its second game was against Longleat, so it is good to see that the tradition has been revived. The Club now has 50-60 people who play, including unaccompanied teenagers. This has necessitated a formalisation of the club's constitution and policies which are now in place to ensure the young people are safeguarded. James explained that the club would like a pavilion for changing rooms. The club has 60 fixtures a year and is the busiest small team in the UK. This year they will be touring Northumberland and Yorkshire. The Captain toured in Australia and Switzerland. He thanked the village for their support. The club are holding an open day and BBQ on 27th June,

Panto

The full Panto and Theatre report can be read in the minutes and reports section on the website <https://www.horningshamparishcouncil.gov.uk/council-information/annual-parish-meetings/>

Sara Rothwell reported that the pantomime had drawn on many local skills. It was an inclusive production; everyone was welcome regardless of age, background or neurodiversity. It is hoped that the next panto will be Cinderella. The next production will be A Midsummer Night's Dream

with Horningsham Primary School. Sara explained that it was important to keep the momentum going. She highlighted comments from those attending the panto: 'so good for the soul, it was joyful,' 'not really my vibe, laughed from beginning to end, my cheeks hurt by the end.'

Village Fayre

Councillor Crossman reported that the Fayre were celebrating their 40th anniversary year. The Fayre is the biggest fund-raising event in the village. It is estimated that over the 40 years, £250-£300,000 has been distributed to village groups. There will continue to be free parking and entry. Councillor Crossman explained that it was planned to have a rest year in 2027 but that there is now a very enthusiastic Fayre committee, so it looks as though it will continue next year. He stated that he has lived in the village all his life and that currently there is a fantastic community spirit which has returned after a period a lull. He continued that it was good to see the panto, the hall regeneration, the continued success of the school and the cricket club, all bringing a sense of community.

8) Matters raised – for discussion only

None

9) Chairman's Closing Speech

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and commented that it had been a very positive year, hoping for even better next year.

The date of the next meeting will be the 20th of May 2027

Elizabeth Glover