

**Minutes of the
Annual Parish Meeting for the Parish of Horsley
Held in Horsley Village Hall on Monday 17 April 2023**

Present: Councillors B Beasley (Chair), B Broomhead, D Haslock, J Holden, S Pykett, D Pinion

Also present: One member of public.

001 APPOINTMENT OF CLERK FOR THE MEETING

Resolved: To appoint Mrs K D Greaves

002 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD 25 APRIL 2022

Resolved: That the Minutes of the meeting held on the 25th April 2022 were approved and signed by the Chair.

003 ANNUAL REPORT 2022/2023

Councillor Beasley read the Annual Report.

The last Annual Parish Meeting was held in April 2022. At the time, our Clerk Mrs Laura Storey was in post. She successfully obtained a position as Clerk to a town council in Cornwall and subsequently resigned from Horsley Parish Council. In order for us to continue our work, Laura joined our meetings via zoom until a new clerk was in post.

We were very fortunate to appoint Mrs Kerry Greaves in July. Kerry took full control in September, and we are happy that she is working with us.

PLANNING

Every year the Parish Council receives numerous planning applications. The final decision on these applications is made by Amber Valley Borough Council. Most applications for minor projects have been dealt with quite quickly, but it seems that decisions on larger projects are taking longer. There have not been any significant developments in our parish, but we are always very mindful of the rural nature of our parish and the conservation area status when making recommendations to Amber Valley Borough Council.

VILLAGE HALL

The Village Hall continues to be very popular. There are many regular group bookings, and it has become very popular as a venue for larger meetings, parties and wedding receptions. Horsley School uses the hall for indoor sport during the winter months. Fund raising events continue, as the Village Hall Committee aim to pay off the Public Works Board loan as soon as possible. Another £20,000 was paid off this year.

Last year to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II, a strawberry tea was offered to the Over 60's of the Parish. A BBQ with live music took place on the evening of the same day. This year something similar is planned for the Coronation of King Charles III.

RECREATION GROUND

The recreation ground is mowed fortnightly during the growing season by Fox Landscapes and the areas around the play equipment are cut by Chris Gregory.

After the goal posts were removed last year to allow for the grass to grow in the goal mouths and also to make space for the carnival, some damage was done to the supports which hold the nets in place. Repairs were carried out to make them safe and new goal nets were purchased. We plan to have the areas under the slide and swings and some of the play equipment power washed this spring to remove the green algae which has accumulated over the winter months.

Amber Valley Borough Council carries out an annual inspection of the play equipment. Last Year Tudor Landscapes did the minor repairs which were recommended by the inspectors.

A new lockable five bar gate has been installed by the Parish Council between the Bowls Club and the recreation ground. This makes access to the recreation ground easier for large vehicles, as the access from French Lane is too narrow.

The installation of a larger litter bin has helped to reduce the littering on the recreation ground, although there are always some people who see fit to leave litter for someone else to pick up. The dog waste bin is well used and regularly emptied.

The trees which were planted to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee continue to grow and thrive.

FOOTWAYS FOOTPATHS AND HIGHWAYS

Councillor Holden is our Footpaths Liaison Officer, and Chris Gregory our Footpaths Officer. They both keep up to date with the state of the footpaths by walking them regularly. Chris Gregory reports footpath issues and carries out minor maintenance work. We are in receipt of a Minor Maintenance Scheme Grant which helps to pay for this work. More serious maintenance is the responsibility of the landowner. Councillor Holden liaises with Derbyshire County Council over more serious issues, which are dealt with by the authority.

Our footpaths are well used and like everywhere the large amount of rain we have had recently have left them muddy. Hopefully the condition will improve over the summer. By signing up for the Snow warden Scheme, our grit bins have been kept filled all winter, but fortunately have not been overused as the weather has stayed reasonably mild.

Councillor Pykett, our flood warden, is always kept busy in Lower Kilburn. Although there have not been any serious flooding problems, there are always issues with Bottle Brook and the maintenance of the same and the land surrounding it. She is in regular contact with the Environment Agency and appropriate personnel at both Borough and County Councils to try to improve the situation with the brook and its environs.

Potholes are a continuing problem on our roads, and they seem to be worse this year. Once reported, small ones are usually dealt with quite quickly, but where resurfacing work is required, it takes much longer. Almost two years ago Smalley Mill Road was surfaced dressed, but not the triangle at the junction of Church Street and Lady Lea Road. We were promised that it would be done last year, but this did not happen. The surface there is really slippery and potentially dangerous. We are hoping it will be done this year.

Speeding traffic everywhere is a concern and our parish is no exception. However, we are taking steps to monitor the speed of vehicles through our village by having a Speed Indicator device installed. One of the conditions of purchase is that it has to be moveable. The intention is for it to be moved between Lady Lea Road approaching the village from Horsley Woodhouse and Church Street at the other end approaching from Kilburn. The device will be solar powered, and we have to have a registered contractor to move it between the two locations.

The Parish Council has secured a £3,000 grant to pay for the device. It is anticipated that during this financial year, the speed limit will be reduced in Lower Kilburn. The speed of traffic along the B6179 is quite frightening. A refuge will be constructed in the centre of the road to make it easier and safer for pedestrians to cross

The parking issue in this village never gets any easier. There are limited parking places available and residents with small driveways often need to park their vehicles on the road outside their properties. This is quite legal unless there are parking restrictions in place.

Residents who buy a property here know what the parking situation is and should therefore try to show tolerance and understanding, and those parking vehicles need to be respectful and park responsibly without being a nuisance to others.

Each year we put up lamppost poppies around the parish ahead of Remembrance Sunday. A councillor lays a wreath during the remembrance service at the war memorial in Kilburn.

PARISH COMMUNITY

Last year saw the withdrawal by Trent Barton of the hourly Amberline bus service between Heanor and Derby. This was a blow to many parishioners who used the service to attend hospital appointments in Derby and also access the shops. Despite a petition and pressure from the County Council this service stopped. An alternative service provided by Notts and Derby was introduced. This runs every two hours between Langley and Belper. Whilst this is not an ideal solution, it is better than nothing and Belper has a good selection of shops. It would be a tragedy if our community was left without public transport.

Litter is a concern everywhere, and our parish is no exception. We have a regular litter picker who keeps the main streets tidy, but the worst thing is the fly tipping in lay bys and on the lanes round our parish, especially near the A 38. Once reported to Amber Valley Council it is usually quickly removed.

After a break of three years because of the pandemic, a band concert was finally held in the church in December. This event is paid for by the Parish Council and any monies made at the event goes to the church. Last year the attendance was a little disappointing. A different band, Shirland Welfare Brass Band, has been booked to perform this year on Friday 8th December. We are hopeful of a more varied programme of music and larger audience numbers on the night.

Cuppa with a Copper continues in the Village Hall every two months. This gives parishioners a chance to discuss with the Police Community Support Officers any issues or concerns they may have which are of a policing nature.

The defibrillators in our parish have been serviced this year and new batteries installed. They are inspected regularly to make sure they are in good working order.

After a few years of inactivity, largely due to the pandemic, the John Lockoe Charity Committee has been reformed. Our representative is Councillor Pykett. The charity is able to give a small donation annually to help those in need in the parish.

Last year the Kilburn, Denby and Horsley Carnival Committee organised a successful carnival which was held on the recreation ground in Horsley. A similar, but smaller event, will be held on Sunday June 11th this year in Horsley.

Councillor Haslock cleared out the debris from the fountain on the village green and left it running for a while. It is intended for it to be switched on for a period of time during the Fun Run and also the Coronation. As the water goes straight down the drain and is not recycled, it is not deemed prudent to leave it running all the time.

Chris Gregory continues as our Grounds Maintenance employee. He keeps the verges looking tidy during the growing season. The display of spring bulbs around the parish looked outstanding this year.

Russell Vallance cuts the village green during the growing season. He also plants and maintains the borders round the green.

The Parish Council is purchasing a new bench with plaque to commemorate the coronation of King Charles III. The final position of the bench is yet to be decided. It will be in situ before the Coronation.

Councillor Holden continues to oversee the website. She is working with our clerk Kerry to keep it up to date.

DONATIONS

This year The Parish Council gave a donation of £500.00 to St Clement's Church towards the upkeep of the churchyard, and £150.00 towards the Derbyshire Children's Holiday Centre in Skegness

PRECEPT

The precept remains the same at £12,777.

This April marks the end of the latest four year term of office for Councillors. I would like to thank all Councillors for their hard work over that time, with Covid, one of the most challenging times to be in office. I would like to thank Councillor Pinion, who is retiring from office this year, for his commitment and dedication to all parish matters. His work ethic is second to none.

Thanks to our new clerk, Kerry who has seamlessly taken over the reigns from Laura, and is a pleasure to work with.

I now present my report to the meeting, and ask for a proposer and seconder for acceptance.

004 BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX PRECEPT FOR 2023/2024

RESOLVED: To note the agreed Budget and Council Tax Precept which remains unchanged this year at £12,777.

005 CONSIDER OTHER PARISH MATTERS

There being no other business raised, the Chair thanked those present for their presence and closed the meeting.

Signed:
MARGARET BEASLEY (CHAIR)