

MINUTES of the ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING of LITTLE HORWOOD PARISH COUNCIL (LHPC) held on Thursday 21st March 2024 at 8 pm in the Memorial Hall			Action
<p>Present: Chair, Steve Simpson (SS), Cllrs. Robbie Macpherson, vice chair (RM), Jane Davey (JD), Amanda Digne-Malcolm (ADM), David Foster (DF), Chris Hooper (CH), Andrew Kane (AK), Clerk Mrs M Cliffe (AC) and Dist. Cllr. Sir Beville Stanier. 1 member of the public was present.</p> <p>Please note: to comply with new data protection rules, names (other than councillors or persons who have previously given their permission) will not be used in Little Horwood Parish Council Minutes.</p>			
24/20	1	Apologies None	
24/21	2	To receive declarations of personal or prejudicial interest None.	
24/22	3	Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 18th January 2024 to be approved and signed It was resolved to agree and sign the minutes without amendment.	SS
24/23	4	To consider matters arising from the Minutes of the previous meeting (and not covered elsewhere on the agenda) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public participation - the 2008 report on flooding in the spinney has not been located. However, a copy of the registration of the village green has been. The final registration was in August 1972. Item 15f – the leak on Winslow Road above the allotments has been checked by Anglian Water. AW say there is no leak in the pipes and suggest it is a drainage problem. This will be referred to Bucks Highways. Item 16 – the review of policies has begun. Cllr. ADM has the information required for a review of Financial Regulations. The asset register is also being reviewed. 	AC ADM & AC
24/24	5	Items deferred from Previous Meeting (and not covered elsewhere on the agenda) There have been instances where part of a fence near an old cattle bridge has been pulled aside in the NW corner of the Spinney. This is not a public footpath. This problem will be resolved as part of Spinney maintenance.	DF
24/25	6	Correspondence sent and received – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The recurring problem of dog excrement has raised its head again. This time, complaints have been received about full poo bags being left at the side of the road. Dog owners are asked to ensure that their bags are placed in the 5 bins provided. Puddles have been reported on Winslow Road/Church Street, adjacent to the new houses on Hill Farm Lane. The matter will be reported to Buckinghamshire Council (BC) although, unfortunately, there is no quick fix. BC has no money and all work on the roads is done on a priority basis. 	
24/26	7	Planning and Development Report No new applications have been received. One application was determined 23/02863/APP. Horwood House was planning new staff accommodation but this has been turned down.	
24/27	8	Planning and development matters arising if any. None.	
		Public participation – None	
24/28	9	Buckinghamshire Council News <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dist. Cllr Stanier advised that the Buckinghamshire Council budget was £530 million of which 71% was devoted to adult and child social care. The increase the 2024/25 financial year is 4.9% (2% for social care) which is slightly above inflation. As a Dist. Cllr. and a Whaddon Parish Cllr. he is worried about the effect on the A421 of the developments at Shenley Park and Saldon Chase. As there is no money to improve the road there will be traffic problems. Whaddon is holding regular meetings with affected local parishes. Cllr. Stanier further advised that the unification of Buckinghamshire councils has resulted in a £100 million plus saving with reduced staffing and the Council is continuing to achieve efficiencies. Cllr Stanier was asked to help confirm that all footpaths affected by EWR are now open. He will look into this issue. 	
24/29	10	To consider the new Devolution Contract and confirm approval of continuation with the scheme and associated map The new devolution contract was signed and the associated map agreed with minor alterations.	AC
24/30	11	To discuss the need to have separate email accounts for Cllrs PC business and to consider whether to change to a gov.uk domain name.	

		As it is best practice to have dedicated email addresses for councillors, Cllrs. AK & SS will look into the best way to achieve this and will cost a gov.uk domain name. The Clerk was asked to look at other parishes websites and to research providers.	SS AK AC																																				
24/31	12	To receive a report on meetings attended - No meetings attended.																																					
24/32	13	To consider greenspaces management proposals as outlined in the report provided by Cllr. Foster Please see Cllr. DF's report at the end of these Minutes. His initial proposals are attached at Appendix A. It was agreed that the PC implement the proposals with the exception of planting bought in trees and snowdrops into the wood. The majority of the funding will be obtained from outside sources.																																					
24/33	14	Parish Maintenance – To consider progress with ongoing issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a). footpaths issues – as mentioned earlier, Dist. Cllr. The Stanier will check whether all footpaths affected by EWR are now open. b). the spring litter pick on 14th April 2024 will be publicised on WhatsApp, Pete's Post and with leaflets at the Breakfast Club. c). flooding at the brook – a working party dug the ditch at the bottom of Hill Farm Lane and rodded the drains to see if this would help. Highways have been asked for advice on whether anything can be done to alleviate flooding near the pedestrian footbridge. This is a very long-standing issue. d). the water leak on the Winslow Road above the allotments is not an Anglian Water issue and has been reported to Highways. The leak on the allotments is being monitored and the stop cock on the top trough has been tied up to see if this temporarily resolves the issue. e). Cllr. DF asked for increased mowing in the meadow area. The Clerk will speak to the contractor. 	AC																																				
24/34	15	Administration a). the Annual Parish Meeting (APM) will be held on Thursday 9 th May in the Memorial Hall.																																					
24/35	16	Finance a). the bank reconciliation and receipts and payments were reviewed and ratified by Councillors. The following receipts and payments since the last PC meeting were noted and authorised: Payments Clerk's ref <table border="1"> <tr> <td>LH 23.51</td><td>Sparkx inv 5202</td><td>FPO</td><td>969.60</td></tr> <tr> <td>LH 23.52</td><td>Sparkx inv 5264</td><td>FPO</td><td>601.80</td></tr> <tr> <td>LH 23.53</td><td>BMKALC training demystifying planning Cllr ADM</td><td>FPO</td><td>60.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>LH 23.54</td><td>Information Commissioners Office</td><td>DD</td><td>35.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>LH 23.55</td><td>Bucks Council dog waste inv. 2205075605</td><td>FPO</td><td>350.52</td></tr> <tr> <td>LH 23.56</td><td>Window cleaner March 2024</td><td>FPO</td><td>15.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>LH 23.57</td><td>Mem Hall Rent January & March 2024</td><td>FPO</td><td>40.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>LH 23.58</td><td>Anglian water</td><td>DD</td><td>32.42</td></tr> </table> Receipts <table border="1"> <tr> <td>NIL</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> b). budget actuals were received and noted.	LH 23.51	Sparkx inv 5202	FPO	969.60	LH 23.52	Sparkx inv 5264	FPO	601.80	LH 23.53	BMKALC training demystifying planning Cllr ADM	FPO	60.00	LH 23.54	Information Commissioners Office	DD	35.00	LH 23.55	Bucks Council dog waste inv. 2205075605	FPO	350.52	LH 23.56	Window cleaner March 2024	FPO	15.00	LH 23.57	Mem Hall Rent January & March 2024	FPO	40.00	LH 23.58	Anglian water	DD	32.42	NIL				
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24/36	17	Items for the next meeting – Annual Village Meeting Minutes, roles and responsibilities, Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2023/24	All																																				

24/37	18	Next Meeting – The meeting closed at 21.42. The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Thursday 16 th May 2024 at 8.00 pm in the Memorial Hall	
		Signed: Date 16 May 2024	Chairman of the Meeting

Planning and Development Report - for meeting on 21st March 2024

Below are current and recent Planning Applications. The Parish Council is invited to ratify the comments made to AVDC on behalf of the Planning Committee since the last meeting.

CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Date Received	Application Number Respond by	Site Address	Details of Application	Parish Council Response	AVDC Decision
Determined					
21/09/2023	23/02863/APP 19/10/2023	Horwood House Mursley Road Little Horwood Buckinghamshire MK17 0PH	Erection of staff accommodation building and related works	No Objection	Refused 26/01/2024
Pending					
13/08/2019	19/02910/APP 10/09/2019	Harefields Winslow Road Little Horwood Buckinghamshire MK17 0PD	Installation of 12 x 100w LED flood lights erected on 4m high scaffold poles to illuminate a 30m x 50m domestic riding arena. The riding arena is already in situ.	No Objection	Awaiting decision
15/01/2021	21/00146/COU AR 11/02/2021	Clare Farm Winslow Road Little Horwood, Buckinghamshire, MK18 3JW	Determination to whether prior approval is required in respect of transport & highway impact, noise, contamination risk, flooding and locational considerations for the conversion of agricultural barn into dwelling house (Class Q(a)) and in relation to design and external appearance of the building (Class Q(b)).	Passed to Planning Committee for comment	Awaiting decision

NB Future Meetings will be held in the Memorial Hall at 8.00 pm on 18th July, 19th September, 21st November, 2024 - 16th January 2025

Annual Parish Meeting 9th May in the Memorial Hall at 8.00 pm

Report on Spinney Proposals from Cllr. David Foster

Cllr. DF reflected on discussions had with Mike Jones and on his response to the proposals. MJ was keen the PC should note that what was being proposed was a change of direction for the PC's management of the Spinney. It had previously been managed with a light touch and minimal intervention. It was fair to say MJ was cautious about there being more intervention. The PC discussed this and felt that a slight change to the management was now appropriate for a number of reasons: the increased numbers and frequency of people now using the paths due in part to greater working from home, increase in dog ownership; the changing expectations of residents and their greater appreciation and valuing of their local environment following covid; the need for public bodies to have a defensible approach to risk management; the changing climate and pests and diseases. The light touch had led to the meadow areas and woodland becoming too overgrown with bramble and blackthorn.

The PC thanked DF for his report and the working party for their work over the past 10 months. It was agreed that the PC should seek to implement the majority of the proposals except the planting of bought in trees and snowdrops into the wood.

The replacement of the old sleeper bridge in the northwest corner of the wood would need to be put on hold until Mr Thorogood had given his permission to formalise the footpath connection with the path on his land. DF reported that Mr Thorogood had kindly agreed to the new hedge being planted on the west and north sides of the recreation ground.

DF was asked to work up the estimates for the work and submit an application to the Community Board for around 80% of the funding, the remainder to be sought from the village trust and from the PC's own reserves.

David Foster

Appendix A

Spinney Proposals (separate .pdf document). Pages 5 to 14 of this document.