

NORTH HUISH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meetings held on 7th May 2019 at St James's Church, Avonwick

ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

PRESENT: Councillors Bell, Gabriel, Grevatt, Hunt, Luscombe, Seager-Berry, Steer, District Councillors Pannell and Smerdon and County Councillor Hosking

ELECTION: The clerk called for nominees to take the chair for the year ahead. Councillor Gabriel was proposed by Councillor Seager-Berry seconded by Councillor Luscombe.

There being no other nominees Councillor Gabriel was elected.

The Chairman called for nominees for Vice Chairman. Councillor Grevatt was proposed by Councillor Steer seconded by Councillor Bell. There being no other nominees Councillor Grevatt was elected.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Chairman's Report: Councillor Gabriel reported on the progress of the Parish over the preceding twelve months. He said that the year had not been marked by many major events in the parish.

Councillor Gabriel noted that quite a few properties had changed hands and that there had been the sad loss of some of our older parishioners.

The issue of the play park continued to exercise the attention of the council. SHDC monthly inspections and recommendations seem to have been neglected over the last year and whether we should pay for a service that we have not received has yet to be resolved. Ongoing into the next year the indemnity of the park will be covered by the Parish Council's insurance policy.

Councillors will be responsible for the monthly health and safety checks on a rotational basis. This will save the parish money and the PC can contract any repairs required giving us more direct control.

Unfortunately there have been instances of inappropriate use of the park by persons unknown. There has been evidence of drug and alcohol use in the area and litter and human waste has been left behind.

The Parish Clerk and Councillors have kindly cleaned up the toxic and dangerous waste but it is difficult to know how the area can be policed in the future.

Thanks are extended to John Widdicombe for his diligent work in buddle hole and general highways maintenance.

Thanks also to Rob Northmore for grass/hedge maintenance in the Play Park.

Councillor Gabriel wished to acknowledge the contributions of County Councillor Hosking and District Councillor Steer in keeping us up to date with developments at County and District level.

The Avonwick defibrillator was pressed into service this year. Sadly the outcome was unsuccessful but it emphasised the fact that the investment made by the parishioners and especially patrons of the Avon Inn was very worthwhile. The Parish Council will continue to financially support this facility and have an ongoing project to secure a second defibrillator for North Huish.

Thanks as usual were given to the Clerk for his tireless efforts on behalf of the Council and the Parish that he undertakes without remuneration. It should be noted that we have to make provision by way of the precept for the clerk's salary should Tony be unable or unwilling for any reason to continue to fulfil his duties.

Thanks also to Councillors for their work over the past year and indeed over the past 4 year term.

It has become fashionable in some quarters to be rather sneery about the work of Parish Councils and to imply that they are unaccountable and out of touch. Councillor Gabriel is pleased to say that it is his experience that as a group of people they give up their time and effort for no personal gain and try to improve the parish with little or no direction from the parish at large.

Feoffees Report. Councillor Luscombe reported that the trustees of North Huish Feoffees, Bowden and Perring Charity – Mrs M Luscombe Chairman, Mr J Bell Secretary/Treasurer, Mr A Mitchell, Mrs V Pearce and Mrs M Seager-Berry met twice in 2018.

The rent and conditions for Mary Park field have been updated as the rent had not been increased for many years. The lack of water during the summer was being investigated.

The Pemberton Trust now gives the proceeds as a gift to any child baptised in the Parish. Money from the Feoffees was given to two residents at Christmas.

The Feoffees are always open to receiving notification of anyone in need of a small grant to help in difficult times.

Flood Group Report. The flood group has met twice a year since 2012. It continues to monitor the situation.

Parish Tree Warden. Councillor Bell reported that there are three tree wardens within the parish. A major concern for them at the moment is the presence of Ash die back.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

OPEN FORUM: There were no members of the public present. Malicious damage was reported to a 10 metre section of fencing on the permitted pathway. The cut wire could be a danger to children and temporary repairs have been made. The Police have been informed and The Higher Moor management group, Pentland First Port, will be replacing the fence. Anyone with information concerning this is asked to contact the police by 'phoning 111 and quoting CR 027992-19

The Council is looking at ways of funding a defibrillator for the village of North Huish . It is hoped to obtain some funding from District and/or County locality budgets.

It was reported that Gara Bridge had been damaged by a passing vehicle.

The Council was asked whether it was possible for an individual to place a notice on the parish notice board. It was stated that notices from other sources could be considered only if they are from local non-profit making groups wishing to bring something to the attention of parishioners. Council approval should always be sought before notices are put on the board.

The **MINUTES** of the meeting held on 19th March 2019 were confirmed and signed. Proposed Councillor Hunt, seconded Councillor Seager-Berry.

MATTERS ARISING: It was stated that the Council had received no response from its email sent in reply to an email concerning fox hunting

REPORTS: County Councillor Hosking reported on various forms of fund raising available within the county. He also said that he would report concerns over speed of traffic through North Huish village to the highways authority for their consideration. (See correspondence below).

District Councillor Pannell introduced himself to the Council. He thanked Councillor Steer for all of his work at SHDC. He would attend Parish Council meetings whenever possible in order to support Councillors in their work.

PLANNING: The Council agreed to support an application for the change of use of a redundant barn at Lukesland, Diptford to a dwelling. Proposed Cllr Steer, seconded Cllr Bell.

The Council agreed to support a request for changes to plans for a dwelling at Barnford, Avonwick. Proposed by Councillor Cllr Steer, seconded Cllr Seager-Berry.

The Council was informed that approval had been given to a request for a dwelling at Lower Greenslade Farm, Avonwick.

CORRESPONDENCE: An email had been received from a parishioner in North Huish voicing concern over the speed of traffic through the village. This was thoroughly discussed by Councillors. County Councillor Hosking agreed to take this matter to the highways department for their consideration.

FINANCE:

Balance c/f	£6,979.34
Inc. Interest	£ 0.55
Inc. Precept	<u>£1,516.00</u>
Balance	<u>£8,495.89</u>

The Council agreed to pay for the DALC subscription and for the Chairman and vice chairman to check the new premium for insurance and to accept it if it was found to be satisfactory. Proposed Cllr Bell seconded Cllr Hunt

The Council accepted and approved the Parish Accounts for 2018/19. Proposed Cllr Hunt seconded Cllr Bell.

The Council considered approved and signed the Annual Governance Statement 2018/19

The Council then considered, approved and signed the Accounting Statement for 2018/19

The Council agreed to certify itself as exempt from a Limited Assurance Review and signed the Certificate of Exemption.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 5th June 2019 at 7.30pm at St James's Church, Avonwick.