



TO ALL ELECTORS OF HORNDEAN

**You are invited to take part in the
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

which will be held online:

on Monday 26 April 2021 at 6.30 p.m.

Under the Chairmanship of Councillor Mrs Lynn Evans
(Chairman of the Parish Council)

Please follow the link on the website to login.

Documents pertaining to the meeting are available to download from the HPC website.

The Parish Meeting may by law discuss all Parish affairs and pass resolutions about them.

The following matters have so far been placed on the agenda:

1. **Welcome**
2. **Apologies for Absence**
3. **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 08 April 2019**
4. **Annual report of the Parish Council**
5. **To receive a report from County Cllr Mrs M Harvey**
6. **To receive a report from East Hampshire District Councillors**
7. **To receive verbal updates on matters of interest to the Parish**
8. **General discussion of matters concerning the Parish of Horndean raised by those present.**

Cllr Mrs L Evans, Chairman of the Parish Council



HORNDDEAN PARISH COUNCIL

THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD AT JUBILEE HALL, ON MONDAY 8th APRIL 2019 AT 7.00 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillors Mrs L Evans (Chairman), D Evans, R Veitch, Mrs D Denston, Mrs E Tickell, P Beck, A Forbes, D Alexander, T Denton, Mrs I Weeks

IN ATTENDANCE: Carla Baverstock-Jones, Chief Officer; Cheree Garvey, Office Manager (Minute Taker), Matthew Madill, Grounds Manager

PUBLIC

ATTENDANCE: There were 7 members of the public, one member of the press, 4 members from Aquind Interconnector for presentation purposes

1. WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed all those present.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr M Burrridge, M Hyltoft, J Lay and Mrs C Jacobs.

3. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 09 APRIL 2018

Minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting on Monday 9th April 2018 were circulated.

Cllr P Beck note one amendment where he was referred to as Mrs P Beck.

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on 9th April 2018 be duly signed as a true record of the meeting.

This was proposed by Cllr Mrs L Evans and seconded by Cllr P Beck. All agreed.

4. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The reports listed below were circulated prior to the meeting and were each taken as read.

Chairman's Report - Cllr Mrs L Evans

Grounds Committee - Cllr Mrs E Tickell

Staff Committee - Cllr R Veitch

Finance & General Purposes Committee - Cllr D Alexander

The Chairman thanked all Committee Chairmen for their reports and invited members of the public to ask questions.

No questions were asked.

5. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR MRS M HARVEY

A report by County Councillor Mrs M Harvey was circulated and the Chairman invited members of the public to ask any questions.

No questions were asked.

6. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM EAST HAMPSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

A report by District Councillor D Evans was circulated and the Chairman invited members of the public to ask any questions.

Mrs Jean Reynolds raised concerns with regard to the public car park on Blendworth Lane. The Chairman explained that every councillor of Horndean Parish Council will fight hard to retain the carpark. The car park belongs to EHDC. Cllr Mrs L Evans proposed a professional survey is undertaken. This was seconded by Cllr Mrs E Tickell.

It was **RESOLVED** that a professional company will be engaged to conduct a survey of the car park usage to submit to EHDC. All agreed,

7. TO RECEIVE VERBAL UPDATES ON MATTERS OF INTEREST TO THE PARISH

The construction plans of the extension of Jubilee Hall are progressing with an expected occupancy of September 2020.

8. TO RECEIVE A PRESENTATION FROM THE HPC COUNTRYSIDE TEAM IN RESPECT OF COMPLETED, CURRENT AND PLANNED PROJECTS

The Countryside prepared presentation boards containing all the sites and projects in progress and completed. Current projects are the footpaths on Hazleton Common, steps on Catherington Down.

Future projects:

- Boardwalks at Dell Piece West
- Replacing the kissing gates at Catherington Downs
- Ash die back works on Catherington Lith
- Removal of Holly overgrowth in Yeoll's Copse
- Commemorative bench in the Village square
- Wildflower planting/sowing at various sites
- Bollard installation at various sites

We have volunteers every Thursday assisting with tasks such as pond clearance, shrub and bramble clearance, footpath maintenance etc. We get between 10 and 14 volunteers weekly.

9. **TO MEET WITH AQUIND REPRESENTATIVES FOLLOWING THE RECENT PUBLIC EXHIBITION EVENTS**

The Aquind representative explained that they have completed the weeks of public consultation. Councillors and members of the public had an opportunity to ask questions. The following concerns were raised:

- The impact on the traffic and roads leading up to the proposed building site
- The height of the converter station
- Electromagnetic radiation of the cable
- Timing of project
- Working hours (will they operate 24hrs per day?)
- Noise levels

The Aquind representative mentioned that an online consultation is open until the 29th April and request all feedback forms to be submitted.

The Chairman requested the press to urge the public to leave feedback.

10. **GENERAL DISCUSSION OF MATTERS CONCERNING THE PARISH OF HORNDEAN RAISED BY THOSE PRESENT**

Mrs Jean Reynolds raised the issue of the notice boards around the Parish being untidy.

Cllr A Forbes mentioned that the traffic lights at Padnell road was not working. Cllr S Shillemore suggested a letter be sent to HCC to have the traffic lights removed as they are no longer serving a purpose.

Cllr Mrs L Evans informed members and the public that EHDC has made £1,600 available for litter clearing and smartening up the village. She requested that suggestions on how this can be used is to be sent into the office.

The meeting closed at 8:27pm.

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Chairman

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Dated

Chairman's Report April 2021

With so many people having received the first of their vaccinations perhaps we are nearing the end of the terrible illness and disruption that Covid-19 has caused.

Councils are expected to return to face to face meetings after May 7th but this conflicts with the requirement for the number of people who can meet together so Horndean Parish Council has brought forward the Annual Meeting of the Council to 5th May 2021 and it will be held virtually. As a precautionary measure we have also put into place the scheme of Delegation we used during last year. For clarity this is: **Decisions have been delegated to the Chief Officer, Chairman and Vice-Chairman together (not singly) after comment upon the issues has been gathered from Councillors.** Hopefully, this will not need to be used and we will be able to resume meetings at Jubilee Hall shortly.

During the last year Mrs Baverstock-Jones and our staff have ensured that all essential functions of the Council have been carried out, as well as ensuring that all our facilities have been open for use as often as possible within all the guidelines. I would like to thank all our staff for the efforts they have put in during these strange times.

When I reported last year, we were in the process of felling many trees on the Lith due to Ash die-back. This year we can tell you that over 900 trees, of varying sizes, have been planted during spring, often in the most uninviting weather. These were planted by the Countryside team and a band of hardy volunteers – many thanks to you all.

Despite Covid-19 the Jubilee Hall extension was completed and has been in use since mid-January. Tyfield and Lucky Lite leases have been surrendered and both moves were achieved without too many hitches.

The Reserved Matters Application of the Care Home element of Land East of Horndean has been lodged with EHDC. The big development area is awaiting completion of the S106 after which Outline Permission will be confirmed and then the Reserved Matters Application will come forward in due course.

Thank you to Carla Baverstock-Jones and the whole team for all their hard work this year in managing the restrictions and difficulties due to the pandemic and for “keeping the show on the road” so effectively.

And finally, thank you to the Councillor team for their work this year.

Finance and General Purposes Committee Report to Horndean Parish Council for the Financial Year 2020-21

I am happy to report continued stability in the Council's finances and its financial management, despite the considerable challenges due to the government's lockdowns over the past year.

Budget Report 2020/21

This has been a challenging year for the Parish finances, with lockdown reducing hall rental income, completion of the Jubilee Hall extension, relocation of the Parish operations, and the cost of the ash tree removal (which was not in the budget). These costs have been covered out of reserves and are not expected to recur. The Countryside Team also replaced one of its vehicles with a tipper truck.

Budget for 2021/22

The 2020/21 budget was developed and delivered on time to EHDC. Having increased the precept by 4% in 2019, the committee recommended no increase again for 2020/21, with confidence that the Parish can maintain sufficient reserves through the coming financial year.

Halls

The new linked building project for Jubilee Hall was completed with only a few weeks delay (due to site lockdown restrictions) and most importantly was accomplished **within budget**. The new Jubilee offices and workshop have now brought together all Council staff on one site. Savings made from moving out of the previously rented spaces for the office and Countryside Team are expected to cover the monthly cost of the loan repayments going forward.

Hall rental income, usually the major source of Parish revenue outside the precept, was reduced significantly this financial year compared to recent years. This was also due to lockdown restrictions.

Grants

A total of £2,275 in grants was made for community projects in the 2020/21 financial year. The committee carefully considers each request in relation to how many residents will benefit and what other funding sources are available. The Parish grant budget for 2021/22 will be £5,000.

And finally...

I would like to express appreciation on behalf of myself and the Committee to our RFO, Simon Ritson, for the continuing excellent work he does and the high quality of advice he provides to the Council. The quality of his work was noted in the most recent Auditor's report, and his successful management of the budget for the building work this year deserves a special mention.

Thanks also to the Chief Officer, Carla Baverstock-Jones, and all her staff, for the hard work that goes into preparing reports for the committee and implementing the decisions made.

Lastly, my thanks go to the members of this committee for your contributions.

Cllr David Alexander, Chairman, Finance and General Purposes Committee, 8 April 2021.

GROUND'S COMMITTEE REPORT; ANNUAL PARISH MEETING- 12TH APRIL 2021.

The current year started in lockdown and meant a very different year for Parish Councillors, staff and Horndean residents. Within the confines of Covid restrictions, the Parish Open Spaces and Recreation Areas proved invaluable for enabling access to nature, open spaces and (when allowed) play area and recreation areas. Lock down is now being eased and we continue to operate within any continuing restrictions.

The Head Ranger and his Grounds Team very quickly adapted to the new regime to ensure the continued management and enhancement of the Open Spaces and Conservation Areas.

We lost a valued member of the team, Mark Iglesias, but were happy to wish him well in his new life. We were pleased to welcome two new team members, Duncan McKenna and Max Emery. The team comprising Matt Madill, Derek Barham, Duncan and Max have bedded in well and residents will see their work across the Parish. We thank all of them for their contribution in a difficult year. Finally, we extend a very big thank you to the volunteers who assist the Grounds Team with works across the Parish often in very inclement weather.

Thank you to the office staff who carry out the administration that enables the committee and the grounds team to function well.

This year, perhaps one of the greatest challenges was the felling of the majority of the ash trees at Catherington Lith because of the dangers and problems posed by ash dieback. Thankfully, in the same year, we also saw the planting of over 900 trees of varying sizes by way of replacement. A few trunks were retained on the Lith and they will be carved into memorable designs providing a lasting legacy of their past.

The major tasks undertaken by the Grounds Team are as follows:-

1. The ash felling and planting at Catherington Lith.
2. Two new members of the team who have both settled in well and understand our sites very well.
3. Play area repair works comprising mainly wet pour surface repairs being carried out in-house.
4. The provision of wildflower areas in some areas.
5. The ongoing general maintenance such as hedge cutting and scrub clearance.

Horndean is very lucky to have access to the open spaces that are owned and maintained by the Parish Council for the benefit of residents and visitors.

Report on the activities of the Planning Committee of Horndean Parish Council for 2020-2021

During this year to date, a significant number of Planning Applications were dealt with – often upwards of 10 per meeting. As the committee meets every three weeks this demonstrates that, despite the pandemic, new building work is still very active. There have also been a large number of applications for extensions, possibly reflecting householders inability to travel this year.

The pandemic conditions mean that all meetings have been held online and this has generally worked well albeit with occasional technical issues. I think it fair to say that we are all looking forward to the resumption of face-to-face meetings when possible!

Our committee has grown during the past year by the joining of Councillor Derek Prosser, and the re-joining of Councillor Peter Little

There are two major projects that will have a significant impact on Horndean, these being the proposed Land East of Horndean development and the Aquind electricity supply from France and I would like Councillors Mrs Lynn Evans and Peter Little respectively for keeping the committee appraised of progress by regular updates

It is noted with a little concern that there have been an increasing number of works of various natures carried out without the required planning permission, and this, in particular, relates to the unauthorised erection of high front fences and gates, and it would appear that some householders feel that a retrospective application might be approved more readily, and I hope that the planning officers at EHDC do not allow this to happen

It is important to remember that our planning committee is a consultation body, not a decision making one. Our role is to consider planning applications against a set of guidelines and to make recommendations as to the suitability of an application against those guidelines, without bringing external issues into the decision making process leading to our recommendation to the District Council

Councillor Paul Beck

Chairman, Horndean Parish Council Planning and Public Services Committee

April 2021

Horndean Parish Council

Staffing Committee Chairman's Report for 2020-21

With a very difficult year behind us, the staff and officers have performed very well.

Office staff were, for the most part, working from home very effectively and being well led by our Chief Officer.

The Countryside team performed exceptionally led by the Grounds Manager.

Our Responsible Financial Officer has performed so well that it has been noticed by our external auditor as an example of best practice.

Councillor Richard J Veitch – Staffing Committee Chairman

AGENDA ITEM: 5

SUBJECT OF REPORT: COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

Many thanks for the opportunity to give this report

As many of you will remember, I have been asking for the weeds to be attacked at the Morrisons roundabout and I was very pleased to see that they were doing this a couple of weeks ago, but they obviously got fed up as they left quite a lot of the land unweeded! I have reported this and hope that they will come back and finish the job!

I have also been informed by the officer that the swale at the Horndean Road development will be maintained regularly twice a year and I spoke to the officer and told him that during the growing season, they would need to cut it more often. He has said that I just need to contact him and he would arrange it, so let's just hope this works.

There have been many issues throughout Horndean and Lovedean which I have dealt with and will continue to try and keep up with all issues, but as usual, if there are any issues that I can help with, just let me know through the usual way and I will do my best to get them sorted out. Sometimes I am unable to get everything done, but I will always come back to residents to let them know why and try to help.

Keep safe and well and enjoy going to your favourite pub, restaurant or cafe, but please keep to the rules to keep us all safe.

Cllr Mrs M Harvey
12.04.2021