

Minutes of Horseheath Parish Council Meeting held on  
Monday 9 January 2012 at 7:45 p.m. in the Village Hall

**Present:**                 **Stuart Miller (Chairman)**                 **Tori McKillen**  
                              **Ninian Bickerton**                                 **Dawn Gouldstone**  
                              **Denise Lindsell**                                     **Christine Newman**  
                              **Richard Southwell**

**In Attendance**       **John Batchelor (County Councillor)**   **Two Parishioners**  
                              **Bernard Yallop (Parish Clerk)**

The meeting began at 7:48 pm.

Actions

- 1. Apologies for Absence** Richard Barrett sent his apologies.
- 2. Parishioners' Question Time.** At this stage of the meeting there were no questions.
- 3. District and County Council items of Interest**

**3.1 County Councillor**

John Batchelor said that there was not much new to report. On 25 January another independent panel would be set up to consider increasing councillors allowances. The previous panel had agreed on a 24% increase, but it was not legal. All the opposition parties voted against there being an increase on the grounds that it was the wrong time and insensitive in the current financial situation.

The position on buses has been revised. Only half the routes will be taken away. Horseheath will lose the No.46 Bus, which goes to Newmarket on Saturdays.

At the request of Tori McKillen, John said that the A1307 consultation meeting will take place on 17 January, starting at 7:00 pm in Linton Village Hall.

Tori confirmed that the road surface at the Withersfield turn-off on the A1307 had not been dealt with yet. John said he would check again with Highways. He would also report the small pot hole on the old railway bridge at Cardinals Green.

The Chairman asked John if he would give a quick report on the district council in the absence of a representative. Without rehearsal John gave an informative reply. He said the big issue was the outstanding debt of £205 million from Housing Stock that had to be paid back to the government. Fortunately it was possible to loan the money over 30 years at an interest rate of 3.75%. There is the added advantage that in this situation 75% of sales and 50% of rent can be retained by the district council. The district council still has good reserves because it has always been careful with its money otherwise it could loan more money at the same low rate of interest.

**4. Minutes of Parish Council Meeting on 14 November 2011** The date of the next meeting in item 13 was corrected. The minutes were agreed and signed.

**5. Matters Arising**

**5.1 Repairs to Wooden Bus Shelter**

Ninian has already had the roof repaired by a carpenter. He has received delivery of timber to repair the base when the task will be completed. NB

**5.2 Horseheath Notice Board** The notice board has been installed. The clerk pruned back the bush that was overhanging this area. The task has been completed.

**5.3 Cardinals Green Notice Board** Ninian said that he would get a carpenter to design and install a notice board that is open to the weather for public use. It will be designed to be attached to the existing notice board for the parish council which is closed to the weather. NB

**5.4 Horseheath Memorial Sign**

The clerk said that Ivett & Reed have produced a quotation and a report on the damage to the base, but he would now like a second opinion. Ninian agreed to inspect the site and give a second opinion as soon as he had time. NB

**5.5 Cycle Racks** The racks have been installed. An invoice is now required. Shudy Camps have agreed to pay half, but they need to know the amount due at their next meeting at the end of January. JB

**5.6 Dog Bins** The clerk said he would try to contact Heidi Duffett the Street Cleansing Supervisor to find out if there was a cheaper collecting scheme. BY

**5.7 Salt Bins** The clerk pointed out that at present there is still no one trained to spread salt on the pavements or highways; also salt bins are not a pretty sight. The clerk was asked to order a salt bin BY

and install it by the Post Office. The clerk needs to establish the exact location and certain other facts like: who are the owners of that piece of land; that no one will raise any objection such as owners of the piece of land or owners of the adjoining property; does it need to be anchored down. When the salt bin is ordered and it arrives a temporary storage place will have to be found in Horseheath before it can be installed and filled with salt grit that Highways will supply.

5.8 *Advertising Boards* Fortunately this matter was dealt with entirely by the planning department from beginning to end. The advertisement displays no longer exists.

5.9 *Overhanging Hedges in Howards Lane* The clerk and Christine Newman will carry out a site survey next week to see which land owners are involved and what needs to be done.

BY  
CN

5.10 *Affordable Housing* Hastoe Housing Association is making progress on an affordable housing scheme at Audley Way. They have been invited to run through the proposals at the start of the next parish council meeting in March.

## 6. Planning

### 6.1 Parish Council

S/2476/11 Two-storey rear extension and side porch at Mallards, Haverhill Road for Hirst is in hand.

### 6.2 District Council

S/2039/11/dn Certificate for lawful use or development of land at Limberhurst Farm, Haverhill Road was refused.

## 7. Finance

### 7.1 Receipts

Date	Drawee	Amount	Remarks
30/11/11	Interest	£382.50	Saffron Burial Fund A/c #2

Please Note: Most of the money for the Burial Fund Access is held in a Saffron Building Society Savings Account in the form of 2.5% one year fixed corporate bonds. This account was first opened early in December 2010. Interest was added on the anniversary of the opening date. At the same time the opportunity was taken to transfer £1,000.00 from the Treasurer's Account to the Saffron B/S Savings Account.

7.2 *Payments* The following payments have been made since the last meeting:

Date	Ch No.	Payee	Amount	Remarks
15/11/11	482	Age Concern	£75.00	Mobile Warden Scheme
01/12/11	484	B Yallop	£465.30	Clerk's Salary (Oct, Nov, Dec)
01/12/11	485	HMRC	£116.30	PAYE Oct, Nov, Dec)
01/12/11	486	Village Hall CA	£70.00	Hire of Village Hall (01/04/11 to 31/03/12)
05/12/11	487	K Potter†	£420.00	Grass Cutting
14/12/11	488	Kleen	£30.00	Clean Two Bus Shelter Windows
03/01/12	489	County Council§	£502.74	Street Lighting Energy and Maintenance
Total			£1,679.34	

†Grass Cutting consisted of 8 cuts of the two bits of Village Green and 8 cuts of the Church Green and Burial Ground.

§Street Lighting Energy charge is £412.87 for period 01/01/11 to 31/12/11. Street Lighting Maintenance charge is £89.87 for the period 01/04/11 to 30/06/11.

7.3 *Account Balances* On 21 October 2011 the balances were:-

Petty Cash (11/10/11)	£55
Treasurers Account (01/12/11)	£15,181
Burial Fund Account #1 (10/10/11)	£1,024
Burial Fund Account #2 (01/12/11)	£18,382
Village Sign Maintenance (01/04/11)	£4,424
Total	£39,066

### 7.4 Precept 2012 to 2013

The Chairman suggested that the precept should be reduced this year. If there were extra funds it was not best practice to try and find ways of spending them. He asked the parish council if they wanted to keep the precept the same as it had been for the last five years or reduce it as we had plenty

of money in reserve. All the councillors preferred the idea of keeping the precept the same for another year. A resolution was proposed by Dawn Gouldstone and seconded by Christine Newman that the precept be set at £7,700 for 2012 to 2013.

There was then a long discussion about how the Queen's diamond jubilee might be marked. Richard Southwell suggested that more bulbs and trees could be planted in the village. It was proposed to use The Venture to find out where parishioners would like these extra trees and bulbs to go. Another idea suggested was to provide the Village Hall Community Association with money so that it could present mementos of the diamond jubilee to each household with children. The clerk had previously confirmed with CPALC that the parish council is allowed to do this and this was agreed. John Greenwood pointed out that if a hedge was planted on the A1307 between Mill House and the Horseheath turn it would have other benefits because it would prevent snow drifts from forming on the road. It was agreed to ask the Tree Warden, Nita Miller, to investigate.

The large sum of money saved towards building pedestrian and vehicular access to the burial ground was then raised by the Chairman. He will write to the Ely Diocese to ask for the condition that would cancel our right of access across the Churchyard to be lifted. He will also consult the County Council to get an update of the amount of money needed to be earmarked for this project. He will also ask whether we really need vehicular access right up to the burial ground, or could we just provide enough space to park a hearse and turn it round in? The latter would be a great saving.

Action  
SM

#### 7.5 Internal Auditor

The parish council approved of Val Seeking acting as its independent internal auditor. She recently audited the CPALC Accounts for its AGM.

7.6 *Lloyds Bank Mandate* The mandate has been successfully updated.

### 8. Horseheath Website

Tori said that progress has been made with Word Press the Website Tools Provider. It is now possible for owners of pages to edit them. The initial design costs are £300 so far and annual costs of around £50.

### 9. Footpaths

The Rights of Way Access Team has informed the parish clerk that the footbridge on FP 21, which is a bridleway, at Mark's Grave will be replaced and minor surface repairs to the approach to the ford will be carried out. Dawn Gouldstone has inspected the site and noted that the site was in its usual poor state as it has been for many years. Karen Champion is off sick at the moment; she is the best person to talk to on this subject.

### 10. Correspondence

The Chairman drew the attention of the meeting to the latest edition of the Standards Committee Newsletter, which lists all the changes to our Standards Code required by the Localism Act. The new wording will be sent to the Parish Council in order that arrangements may be in place by 1 July 2012.

### 11. Any Other Business

11.1 *Speeding* There was a long discussion on speeding through the village and what could be done to reduce it. The question arose because John Greenwood has recently observed an unpleasant accident outside his house, which involved his daughter, whose car was stationary and a speeding car. It was agreed that we should think in terms of road changes and not just speed measures.

The following solutions to the problem were suggested:

- Install Road Pinching
- Install Road Obstructions with car parking areas
- Install Cushioned Triangles
- Apply to SCD for 20 mph speed limit
- Install halt signs at end of slip road from A1307 and junction by Bromley House

The main problem was that no one had any idea what these items cost. The clerk to find out costs.

11.2 *Emergency Planning Committee* The Chairman asked the clerk to invited Lawrence Green to give his talk at the Annual Parish Council Meeting on Monday 14 May.

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12. **Date of Next Meeting** The next meeting will be on Monday, 12 March 2012 at 7:45 p.m. The meeting ended at 9:15 pm.