

Minutes of Horseheath Parish Council Meeting held on
Monday 12 March 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**
 Lawrence Green (Council Safety Advisor & Emergency Planning Officer)
 Bernard Yallop (Parish Clerk)

The meeting began at 7:45 pm.

- 1. Apologies for Absence** Richard Barrett sent his apologies.
- 2. Parish Council Emergency Plans, a talk by an invited speaker Lawrence Green, Council Safety Advisor and Emergency Plans Officer**

Lawrence Green gave a talk on setting up Emergency Plans supposing that a major disaster were to occur in Horseheath. The parish council agreed to send their comments and suggestions to the clerk who in turn would fill in the electronic questionnaire and return it to the Emergency Plans Officer.

- 3. Parishioners' Question Time.** At this stage of the meeting there were no questions.

4. District and County Council Items of Interest

4.1 County Councillor

John Batchelor said that council tax rates would rise by 2.95% in this financial year. Although the Government offered councils a grant of 2.5% if they froze their tax, the offer would only apply for one year. In one year's time council tax will have to be increased again by about the same amount. This would be counter-productive because it would trigger off a referendum. The cost of a referendum could be of the order of a million pounds.

Cabinet will remove all bus subsidies over the next two years. The first tranche will be September 2012. The 13 on the A1307 will be safe. The rest, 19, 16A, 16 and 17 will all go. The 46 will go in April 2014. According to the regulations for removing bus services they were not to be removed without a viable alternative. This rule had never been put to the test and at present it was a mystery as to how it would be applied. For example one route could be replaced by a mini-bus. It had one passenger and the annual cost would be £100,000, which is not viable.

The parish council took the opportunity to ask John about the cost of anti-speeding techniques. He said that with the new localism bill you can do it but you have to pay for it. Thus Streetley End installed a lower speed limit. That is one of the cheapest methods at £3,000. Sleeping policemen cost over £3,000 each. Pinch points cost between £6,000 and £7,000. He recommended that the parish council contact David Lines to obtain the full list of items and installation costs.

The parish council asked John if he would ask Highways to repair potholes on the bridge at Cardinals Green, on the A1307 opposite Limberhurst, and replace the broken road sign on the A1307 close to the Haverhill Road entrance.

- 5. Minutes of Parish Council Meeting on 9 January 2011** The minutes were agreed and signed.

6. Matters Arising

6.1 Repairs to Wooden Bus Shelter It remains for the rotten internal timber at bottom of the shelter at the rear and sides to be replaced. Ninian is in the process of installing concrete within the sides of the shelter to make this part sound. He will then deal with the internal timbers. Finally he will replace any rotten external side panels.

6.2 Damage to Horseheath Notice Board The clerk first noticed on Friday 24 January that the new notice board had been damaged in some way. A few days later a resident told him that they had seen a street cleaning machine drive into the notice board. With this evidence the clerk and Ninian made a careful inspection of the board. It was worse than first thought. Apart from some bruising of the wood on one of the doors it was clear that the drip board would have to be replaced, as it was beyond repair. Ninian made enquiries with the manufacturers and found that we could purchase a replacement drip board for £78.30 + £25.20 carriage = £103.50. VAT (£20.70) can be reclaimed.

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6.3 *Horseheath Memorial Sign* Ivett & Reed have produced an estimate. Ninian gave a second opinion by carrying out his own site inspection. He has found an online source that supplies epoxy resin to join the granite slabs together. This would restrict all movement of the slabs and would obviously be the wrong solution. He has also found an online source that supplied a flexible mastic that would allow movement. We both came to the conclusion that the base of the sign was the most vulnerable part of the memorial when things went wrong, and therefore it might be wiser to employ Ivett & Reed every time anything went wrong with the base, unless we could find another company that was equally well qualified to carry out such work and was cheaper. In effect Clive Germany came to a similar conclusion. When he saw the damage to the base he was not prepared to repair it, he said that there was too much of a risk that something could go wrong.

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6.4 *Cycle Racks* David Lines still has to issue an invoice.

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6.5 *Dog Bins* Heidi Duffett admitted that her line manager pointed out to her that there is no charge for emptying dog bins if they are close to the main road in a restricted speed area. The clerk immediately ordered two Metal Fido 35 litre bins, Deep Green to be installed as soon as possible. After more delay Heidi eventually confirmed the work is in hand.

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6.6 *Salt Bins* The clerk obtained permission from the County Council to install a salt bin on the land in front of the Post Office. He installed a Nestor 90 litre Grit Bin, Deep Green and filled it with salt grit just in time for the bad weather. It was agreed that Christine Newman should ask Sharon Medcalf if she would like to receive any training from Highways to increase her protection from public liability.

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Highways were informed about the location of the new grit bin. It has been added to their long list and has been topped up to the brim.

6.7 *Advertising Boards* The district council planning department have dealt with this problem.

6.8 *Overhanging Hedges in Howards Lane, Cardinals Green* Christine Newman and the clerk inspect the hedging in the whole of Cardinals Green. They noticed that brambles by the triangle were obstructing the right of way at The Thatched Cottage. A letter was sent to the owners who responded by cutting back all their hedging to a safe distance from the road. They also inspected Howards Lane, Cardinals Green, and the clerk wrote to all the land owners that he had names and postal addresses for. Manor Farm Office of the Thurlow Estate Farms acted very promptly and cleared their side of the road completely. Rothgar Paintin says he will supply contact details of other landowners in that area.

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6.9 *Broken Water Sewerage Cover* A broken plastic drain cover in a car park in Cornish Close was reported to the clerk. Although it is not part of the clerk's job, he did the research and found that it was the responsibility of Anglian Water, who examined the site and took the precaution of replacing the plastic cover with a metal one.

6.10 *Affordable Housing* Ulrika Maccariello, Hastoe Housing Association has postponed her report after discovering a ditch on the northern boundary restricts plot size.

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6.11 *Burial Ground Access* The Chairman has written to the diocese but has not received a reply yet.

7. Planning

7.1 Parish Council

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

7.2 District Council

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

8. Finance

8.1 Receipts

Date	Drawee	Amount	Remarks
09/11/11	Interest	£0.04	Burial Fund Account #1
09/12/11	Interest	£0.04	Burial Fund Account #1
09/01/12	Interest	£0.04	Burial Fund Account #1
25/01/12	HJ Paintin	£25.00	Headstone for Grave Space #13
01/02/12	Interest	£4.87	Village Sign Maintenance Fund
13/02/12	Allotment Rent	£35.00	Plot #4
Total		£64.99	

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

Date	Ch No.	Payee	Amount	Remarks
16/01/12	490	P. Coe	£76.12	Install New Notice Board
16/01/12	490	P. Coe	£94.00	Repair Roof of Wooden Bus Shelter
16/01/12	491	B. Yallop	£30.00	Roof Felt and Adhesive for Bus Shelter
24/01/12	492	Cambridgeshire Acre	£30.00	Subscription (S137)
24/01/12	492	CCC§	£1,000.00	P3 Repair Work
24/01/12	493	Tori McKillen	£41.48	Software for the Website
08/02.12	494	Glasdon Ltd†	£117.60	Dark Green Salt Grit Bin
13/02/12	cash	Petty Cash	£5.52	Stamps
01/03/12	496	B. Yallop	£465.30	Salary (Jan, Feb, Mar)
01/03/12	497	HMRC	£116.32	PAYE (Jan, Feb, Mar)
Total			£1,976.04	

§Payment for repairs to a bridge and the footpath at Marks Grave. CCC asked the parish council to help towards the expense by returning most of its reserve P3 money. This was P3 money that the parish council had accumulated but not spent over several years. The parish council is now left with a reserve of about £25.00 for P3 work.

†Payment for a Salt Grit Bin installed in front of the Post Office on CCC land. Cost of Bin was £98.00 + £19.60 VAT.

8.3 *Payment of Fees for Attendance at CPALC Training Course*

The course was so well attended that the final cost for attendance per session was £20 instead of £35, which was extremely good value for money. Ninian Bickerton attended two sessions and Richard Southwell attended one. The training sessions were extremely good and of a very high standard. The parish council approved payment of the invoice, which came to £60.00.

8.4 *Account Balances* On 30 January 2012 the balances were:-

Petty Cash (09/01/12)	£36
Treasurers Account (30/01/12)	£12,331
Burial Fund Account #1 (09/01/12)	£1,024
Burial Fund Account #2 (09/01/12)	£18,382
Village Sign Maintenance (17/02/12)	£4,478
Total	£36,251

8.5 *Halifax Building Society Mandate*

On Friday, 17 February the clerk called in at the Saffron Walden Halifax Office, and made more progress than usual. The bank pass book was brought up to date. They said the current signatories are Bernard Yallop, Stuart Miller, Sheila Rowe and Ray Daynes. Only three signatories are required for a transaction.

Dawn Gouldstone proposed the motion that the savings account with the Halifax Building Society is closed and the money transferred to a new savings account with the Saffron Building Society in Haverhill. Tori McKillen seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

9. Horseheath Website

The site is ready to start operating as soon as the users have received training. Tori McKillen will be training councillors and the clerk in how to use the facilities for adding and updating site information.

The site name is www.horseheath.info

10. Correspondence Nothing to report.

11. Any Other Business

11.1 *A1307 Steering Group* Tori McKillen gave a short report. At the last meeting Members spent most of the time arguing about the name of the group. There were no representatives from Suffolk. Full representation is expected at the next meeting. One of the topics discussed was the pausing area on the dual carriageway at the Bartlow crossing. It is not wide enough to be safe to pause in.

11.2 *Tree Warden Decisions* (1) A Jubilee Oak will be planted to replace the diseased Ash that was removed from the verge in Haverhill Road by the cricket field. (2) A spinney will be planted on the triangle of land in Cardinals Green adjacent to the allotments. (3) The sycamore in Audley Way stays. (4) Farmers approval will be obtained to plant hedging on the A1307 to prevent snow drifts. (5) Two clumps of trees will be planted on the grass verge opposite Ranmoor in Haverhill Road.

12. Date of Next Meeting The date for the Annual Parish Meeting (APM 2012) has to be set. It should be arranged to coincide with the Annual Meeting of the Village Hall Committee, which is always a Friday. The first Friday in May should be ruled out because it is a bank holiday weekend. It is likely to be held on the following Friday 11 May.

The next meeting of the parish council will be the Horseheath Annual Parish Council Meeting (APCM 2012), which will be held on Monday, 14 May 2012 at 7:45 p.m.

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The meeting ended at 8:55 pm.