

WEST HANNEY REGULAR PARISH MEETING
Held on Tuesday 5th October 2021
at The Olde Hanney Room HWMH at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Cllrs D Corps (Chairman), G Garner, T Brettell, P Packham and B Martin
(Parish Clerk)

Attendees: J Stagg, A Wilkinson, D May and K Geddes

32/21 - Apologies – Cllr E Wilkinson

33/21 - Declarations of Interest – None

34/21 - Public Participation – None

35/21 - Minutes of Last Meeting

Minutes of the Last Meeting were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman

36/21 – Matters Arising from Minutes of Last Meeting – None

37/21 – Chairman’s Announcements

The Chairman stated that the Michaelmas Fayre was held safely and successfully on Saturday 25th September. The Chairman said that he had received a belated request for a donation to go towards publicity for the Fayre – this year banners were displayed. In previous years a donation of £200 has been made. The Chairman asked the councillors if they were happy for a similar donation to be made this year. This was agreed by the councillors, and the clerk was asked to make a payment of £200 to the Michaelmas Fayre Funds.

The Chairman has been informed that the service for Remembrance Sunday on 14th November will be held outside on Church Green. With regards to this the Chairman has been asked to request a Temporary Road Closure Notice. The Chairman asked if the councillors were happy for a Poppy Wreath to be purchased from RBL as in previous years (circa £20). This proposal was agreed unanimously.

The salt bin that the Parish Council has purchased was delivered and the Chairman has sited this near the Village Green. The salt bin has also been partially filled with the salt that Chris Surman was kindly storing in his garage for the Parish Council.

38/21 – Financial Report

The Clerk presented the Income & Expenditure Account for period 01/06/2021 - 04/10/2021. This was approved by the Councillors present.

39/21 – Risk Register

The chairman stated that he is still working on the Risk Register, so asked for this item to be moved to the next meeting.

40/21 – Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Garner said that the VWHDC were meeting on 6th October to Approve the Neighbourhood Plan. The only thing that could possibly stop this from happening is if the meeting is cancelled or the item is removed from the agenda. This is most unlikely because of the referendum result of 164 for the plan and 3 against, also the independent examiner approved the plan.

It was suggested that the Parish Council hold a reception for those people who helped with the compiling of the plan. The meeting agreed to this proposal and suggested that we should liaise with the Hanney History Group and invite all who had assisted to a Drinks and Nibbles evening, which the Parish Council will fund up to £200.

41/21 – Planning and Planning Enforcement

P21/1095/FUL – 15 Houses off School Road in Meadow Way – The field has been cut ready for work to start on the construction of 15 Houses. Cllr Packham is to liaise with the developer Lagan Homes. It was also noted that financial contributions secured under S106 regulations may be available when this development is completed

P21/V1420/FUL – Wicks House North Green – application is still under consideration by planning

P21/V2407/HH – Whitewood House – First floor extension and internal alterations – no objections

P21/V2581/HH – 2 Grange Farm Cottages North Denchworth – Infill extension and single storey extension – no objections just a query about overlooking that will be considered by the planning officer

P21/V1620/FUL – Deans Farm – Bat protection order on bats roosting in the loft of the farmhouse and barn

Cllr Packham to continue to keep an eye on this development

P21/V2564/HH – Denchworth Manor – New Garage – no objections

P21/V0973/HH – Brambletye Cottage – Replacement Windows – no objections

P16/V063/FUL – The Old Orchard West Hanney – Update on enforcement action still ongoing.

Cllr Corps stated the work to clear the watercourse, to enable water to flow downstream freely, has now been completed. A number of dead Elm trees on the bank of this ditch are at risk of falling and damaging neighbouring properties. Cllr Corps stated that he brought this to the attention of the contractor working on the ditch. This is not something the enforcement action will pursue. Cllr Corps has spoken to the owner of Lamb Cottage who will ask a tree surgeon to assess the problem and may approach the developer (Lee Chapman) for this work to be completed.

Cllr Garner expressed the view that there was a lack of consultation with anyone during this enforcement action.

The field gate and fencing along the boundary with the West Hanney BOAT No. 2 has now been erected.

Some remedial work to tidy the strip of land to the north of Church Farm Meadow is still required, but this is now hidden by undergrowth. Cllr Corps stated that he was not inclined to pursue this matter any further

Cllr Corps reported that 2 years after initiating this enforcement action and 4 enforcement officers later – the majority of the remedial work has now been completed.

42/21 – Public Art in Development

Cllr Packham circulated his ideas for spending the £4.5k S106 contribution for public art. After a short discussion it was decided that the main thought was for a Village Sign, with the possibility of something within the new development at Meadow Way. This is still an ongoing project as we will not receive the S106 contribution until after the development is finished and the properties are sold.

43/21 – East Hanney Public Facilities Proposal

No change, the planning application for the MUGA is in the consultation phase, we will continue to monitor the proposals for any adverse impact on the land owned by the Parish Council.

44/21 – Nigel Eady Community Woodland and Church Farm Meadow

Cllrs Corps and Packham met with P Sayers to look at the Orchard mitigation scheme. Large areas of the planting have not survived. Tree guards were removed from the trees that had not survived.

Two areas of the orchard mitigation scheme would be suitable for planting apple trees. 2yrs old bare root apple trees on a semi-vigorous root stock that would grow to 3-4m after 10 years and would be relatively easy to prune and maintain can be purchased for £26.60 each. Cllr Corps proposed that the parish council purchase 12 apple trees of various varieties for planting this winter. Stakes, wire mesh rabbit defences and mulch mats would be required as well. Total cost less than £1000 excl. VAT.

This would be a fitting tribute to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022 and would be registered as part of the Queen's Green Canopy.

There would be an ongoing maintenance requirement that hopefully our community woodland volunteers would be happy to undertake.

This was put to the meeting and approved.

Paul Sayers (Chairman of the Community Woodland and Community Meadow Management Committee) has requested the Parish Council purchase a wheeled platform truck circa £200, and 4 sets of hedging shears circa £96 to be stored in the Hanney Emergency Hut, and to hire a wheeled flail mower/brush cutter circa £120 plus delivery.

This was discussed and approved.

Cllr Corps stated that he was hoping to be able to seed Church Farm Meadow with wildflowers next year.

45/21 Maintenance of Verges, Greens, Hedges, Ditches and Footpaths in West Hanney

The Chairman stated that the footpath on the south side of School Road running from West Hanney Green to the West Hanney BOAT, is on Parish Council owned land, but is not recognised as a public footpath or as a public right of way, despite it being used as a public footpath for as long as anyone can remember. OCC Highways have stated that they are not responsible for repairing or maintaining this footpath despite having done so in the past. In one area in particular, outside Magdalen, the roots of a willow tree have made the path surface very uneven. Work is required to repair the damage. There is a lesser problem with the roots from a cherry tree outside 1A School Road.

The Parish Council intends to collate evidence and witness statements in order to make an application for this path to be recognised as a public right of way and a public footpath. In the meantime, Cllr Corps has sought a quotation from Drayton Construction and further quotations for the work are to be requested.

It was noted that the retaining wall of the front garden of Magdalen is cracking and may be in need of attention by the owner of Magdalen.

46/21 Roads crossing West Hanney Green

Cllr Corps stated that he challenges the assertion made by our MP, David Johnston, that as the land registry shows the roads are not registered, the Parish Council may be responsible for maintaining them. The Parish Council has not repaired or maintained these roads in the past. These roads have been lawfully used by the public for mechanically propelled vehicles for as long as anyone can remember. These roads have clearly been repaired and maintained by Oxfordshire County Council and Berkshire County Council prior to the local government reorganisation in the 1970's.

The Parish Council intends to collate evidence and witness statements that these roads should have been included in the list of streets Oxfordshire County Council is responsible for maintaining and to apply for a Variation to the Highway Record Map.

47/21 – Unauthorised Parking at Cottrell's new farmstead

Mr Cottrell has received an enforcement notice from VWHDC about the commercial vehicles parked on the hardstanding at his proposed new farmstead. Mr Cottrell has until 12/10/21 to make sure all these vehicles are removed. This is the second time that a large number of commercial vehicles have been parked at this site.

All we can do at the moment is await the outcome of this enforcement notice.

48/21 – Parking on School Road outside St James Primary School

Cllr Corps gave a brief synopsis of what and where things are at present.

Duncan May (School Governor at St James Primary School) gave the meeting an update of what has been happening with this problem as far as the school is concerned. The total number of children who attend St James School including the Nursery children is 185/6 (70 from EH, 30 from WH and 85 from outside the villages) At present there is insufficient parking at WHMH for those parents that drive their children to school and pick them up after school. A discussion took place in which various solutions were mooted. Mr May also explained about the possible consultation with highways about putting yellow lines or other solutions into effect. He also talked about the proposed new car parking at HWMH which will give an additional 32 parking places.

All of this was discussed and it was decided that the public consultation which will cost approx. £5-6k was unlikely to take place until after EHPC had built their new car park at the HWMH.

The Parish Council decided that although they would probably contribute towards the cost of the consultation this would be put on hold at the moment.

49/21 – Parish Clerk Remuneration

The meeting resolved that the Parish Clerk's remuneration should be increased in line with any uplift to the National Association of Local Councils pay scale, which at present has not been agreed and published for 2021/22. Once this has been published the increased salary will be paid, backdated to 1st April 2021.

50/21 – Projects to enhance to community and environment of West Hanney.

Replacement of Carol Signers Bench overlooking the Buttercross – Put on hold until a later date

Roads around the West Hanney Green – These have recently been swept by Biffa who are contracted by VWHDC and some roads in West Hanney will be swept approx. every 8 weeks.

Gigabit Voucher Scheme – Work by Openreach has been completed in West Hanney. Full Fibre is now available for every household to order from a provider of their choosing.

Big Jubilee Lunch 5th June 2022 – do we wish to help residents to celebrate this occasion.
Location – Possible West Hanney Playing Field
West Hanney Council to approach East Hanney council to see if they wish to join forces for this event.

Other projects will be discussed at the next meeting.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

4th January 2022 – Olde Hanney Room HWMH 7.30pm

Signed Chairman

Date