

WEST HANNEY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Held on Tuesday 6th April 2021 at 7.00pm

This was a virtual meeting on Zoom

PRESENT: Cllrs D Corps (Chairman), E Wilkinson, G Garner, Trevor Brettell, P Packham, B Martin (Parish Clerk), J Stagg (Hanney News), D Green (EHPC), P Sayers (Community Woodland and Meadow), Revd. J Durant (St James the Great) and D May (School Governor St James Primary School), S Geddes

01/21 - Apologies - None

02/21 - Declarations of Interest

D Corps Chairman Hanney Tennis Club, G Garner Chairman HWMH

03/21 - Minutes of Last Meeting

The Covid-19 restrictions meant the Annual Parish Meeting 2020 was not held.

04/21 - Reordering of St James the Great

Revd. John Durant presented the plans to improve the facilities at St James the Great to make it a more suitable venue for both young and old churchgoers and for the wider community.

The plans include the provision of toilets, a kitchen and meeting rooms, as well as a gallery. The gallery will not have disabled access but the other areas will have disabled access. The

improvements to the facilities would make the church a suitable venue as the emergency shelter for West Hanney.

The total cost of the project is estimated at £356,000 of which £190,000 has already been raised, leaving £166,000 to be raised partly by grant applications, Section 106 and CIL.

In response to questions; Revd. Durant said they may be able to do the work in phases with the work on the porch being in the last phase to avoid any possible damage to the new glass doors.

Revd. Durant asked if the Parish Council would be prepared to give their support to this project.

The Chairman said that the council would discuss this at the council meeting that follows this meeting and thanked Revd. Durant for his clear presentation.

05/21 - Nigel Eady Community Woodland and Church Farm Meadow

Paul Sayers from the community woodland and meadow management committee updated the meeting on the community woodland and meadow over the past year. Paul reported that both the community woodland and meadow had proved to be very popular with residents from the Hanneys and wider afield during the Covid-19 lockdowns, and particularly with dog walkers. It was very encouraging to see people enjoying walking on the rides and paths through the woodland and on the path around the meadow.

The increased footfall and wet weather had led to the rides being more churned up than Paul had ever seen. Discarded dog poop bags were an issue and dog walkers continue to be encouraged to deposit these bags in the bin on School Road or in their grey bin at home.

Due to the Covid-19 restrictions it was only possible to have working parties consisting of 6 people at limited times over the past year, but they have maintained as much as possible. Special mention was given to efforts by Clive and Phil Manvell who have done a splendid job clearing back vegetation, shrubs and trees that had encroached onto the ride on the eastern boundary of the woodland. They layered the cut branches to reinforce the fence line with the Cow Lane Track. Paul thanked Des Thomas who has continued to mow of the rides with his vintage tractor over the past year, but Paul was unsure how much longer Des would be able to carry on this invaluable role. Paul advised the Parish Council to start planning to contract out this work. Paul thanked Alan Cottrell for continuing to cut the meadow for hay in late summer, and for bailing and removing the hay at no

cost to the Parish Council.

On the 30/31 March 2021 a dozen indigenous trees were planted along the northern edge of the meadow from a bequest by Wenda Reynolds. These were container grown trees, planted with their own irrigation pipe and enclosed to give protection from rabbits and deer.

The Chairman thanked Paul Sayers for all his hard work in the community woodland and meadow and for checking and refreshing all the bird nesting boxes and for hosting the contractors for SSE whilst they were doing their work in the woodland to replace the electricity poles.

06/21 - Improvements to car parking in West Hanney

Cllr Peter Packham gave an overview of the new Parking Area outside St James Church; the work went almost to plan, but the contractors encountered some tree roots which were a slight problem. A good job was done on the parking area, complimentary remarks have been made about its rustic character, the surface is porous and drains well and people are using the designated parking spaces.

Cllr Dickon Green (EHPC) and Highways Superuser for both East and West Hanney gave an outline of what was happening regarding parking outside St James School after some concerns were raised on social media.

A site meeting between OCC Highways and a School Governor, the Headteacher, representatives from EHPC, WHPC and Parent Association was held to review the issue of parking outside of the school, on School Road and the attendant road safety issues. Ideally there should be no parking outside the school on both sides of the road at school drop off and pick up times and that various road signs and road markings would be needed to legally stop parking. Cllr Green had already secured funding for the school warning lights to be replaced and an advisory 20mph speed limit at school times. This would be superseded if the Hanneys join the 20's Plenty Campaign for rural villages.

Cllr Green said that OCC were hoping to hold a consultation with local residents to be able to introduce No Parking regulations in due course. Meantime, OOC Highways will extend and repaint the yellow zig-zag lines to prevent parking outside the school and extend other keep clear road markings. In the future, single yellow lines could be painted to prevent parking at certain times on certain sides of School Road. A pedestrian crossing was rejected as this requires street lights which is out of keeping in a rural setting. Sites for improved off road parking were considered which could include using the West Hanney Byway Open to All Traffic if permission and funding could be secured.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Green for his work as superuser for both villages. Cllr Garner asked about potholes outside the village, but Cllr Green said his remit did not allow him to go beyond the 30mph signs at the entrances to the villages.

Duncan May commented that gaps in the proposed parking restrictions outside the school where people could still park should be avoided and queried if it had to take two years to get the work done. Cllr Green advised that that the public consultation is likely to take six months, and if consent is given, it could take at least a further year for the work to be ratified and completed.

From the school perspective they are going to try and put signs out to stop parents parking by school, and also stop aggression from parents when told they cannot park by school.

All of us need to be diligent to make sure that no children are knocked down and seriously injured.

07/21 - Improvements to surface water drainage in West Hanney

The Chairman gave an update of the improvements to the surface water drains over the past year from Church Street and School Road to the Buttercross Green.

The work on the surface water drains from outside the church to the Buttercross Green and across the entrance to St James Way and from Lamb Cottage to the junction with Winter Lane were completed by contractors working for OCC Highways. Thanks were given to Gordon Kelman Technical Officer, OCC Highways & Drainage for commissioning this work which was completed during the summer

2020 and proved to be entirely successful in draining the heavy rain that fell in the autumn and winter months, with no recurrence of the surface water flooding previously experienced.

In October, Gordon Kelman also surveyed the Denchworth Road, otherwise known as the Hyde Road, as it approaches Botney Bridge crossing the Childrey Brook. He confirmed when the water level records 63.750 on the depth gauge in the brook, the road floods to a depth of 300mm. To bring the road level up to mitigate against the effect of flooding is at this stage an aspiration and would require significant funding. Thanks were given to Chris Surman and Graham Young for continuing to alert motorists, by erecting the temporary road closed signs, when the road is seriously flooded.

08/21 - Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Graham Garner gave an update on where we are with our West Hanney Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Revisions to the plan have continued to be made over the past year. The plan is currently in the consultation period which ends on 15th April 2021, when final representations about the plan can be made. VWHDC will then offer us a choice of Independent Examiner.

Once the Independent Examiner has completed the examination of our plan and any points have been actioned, the plan will go to a public referendum before its adoption.

09/21 - Planning Enforcement Actions

Cllr Packham reported that getting planning enforcement actions completed had been a challenge but some progress had been made with the Church Farm development, and this enforcement action has now been concluded. The Chairman reported that enforcement actions are still ongoing after 18 months with respect to the Old Orchard development.

10/21 - West Hanney BOAT No 2

An Inspector has confirmed the Definitive Map Modification Order which defines the width of the West Hanney BOAT No 2 as between 15-17metres wide.

11/21 - West Hanney Allotment Gardens

The Chairman reported that St James Primary School have relinquished their allotment which has been fallow for several years. This has been divided into 3 more manageable sized plots, 2 of these are currently available to rent for £5 each per annum that includes the provision of water to a standpipe.

12/21 - Hanney Youth Football Club and Hanney Tennis Club

Cllr Eddie Wilkinson reported that Hanney Youth Football Club (HYFC) are planning to improve to playing surface of football pitches on the West Hanney playing field

Cllr David Corps, as Chairman of Hanney Tennis Club (HTC) reminded the meeting that HTC is located on land leased from WHPC. He reported that HTC currently has 106 adult members, 60 junior members and an active coaching programme. Over 80% of members live within the Hanneys. HTC has just completed the resurfacing of its 2 tennis courts, and they are due to be coloured when the weather is warmer. HTC have plans to replace the relatively high energy metal halide lights with LED lights than can be retrofitted on the existing poles. They will use approx. 50% less energy and should have a much longer lifespan, helping to make the Tennis Club more environmentally sustainable. HTC has received an assurance from WHPC in the past that if, in the future, HTC is in a position to construct a 3rd tennis court, land to the west would be protected from any development or permanent use that would preclude this. HTC would like to see the outline of a third tennis court on the plans for the Public Facilities Proposal by EHPC.

13/21 - East Hanney Public Facilities Proposal 2021

The Chairman reported on the vision for the East and West Hanney playing fields and Kings Leases that been circulated by EHPC to residents of West Hanney in the Hanney News. The playing fields owned by WHPC and used by HYFC and HTC are impacted by these proposals which include

relocating the pavilion and the community shop. EHPC is currently seeking any comments from residents.

WHPC will be considering our response to these proposals at our annual meeting of the council that follows this meeting.

14/21 - Any other Business relevant to Annual Parish Meeting

The Chairman reported that the Hanney Covid-19 Community Response Team was formed under the auspices of the Hanney Emergency Committee at the start of the Covid-19 pandemic over a year ago, to help support the more vulnerable members of our community with shopping, prescription requests and transport to and from medical appointments. Over 120 residents from the Hanneys volunteered to help. During the first lockdown these volunteers also helped with the delivery of the Hanney News. Thanks were given to the entire team and all the volunteers.

Date of Next Annual Parish Meeting: - TBA

Signed Chairman

Date