

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in the Village Hall on 26 April 2003

Present: Mr N Robins in the chair, 3 Parish Councillors, & 1 parishioner

Apologies: Cllr Morton

Minutes of the Previous meeting: The Minutes of the Meeting held on 22 April 2002 were approved and duly signed by the chairman.

Matters Arising:

Millenium Garden: It is believed that the Community Care Center project is still ongoing, but that there may be issues over showing sufficient need. The millenium garden is anticipated to be built within the grounds of any Community Care Center.

Precept and Accounts:

The Accounts for 2002-2003 and the Precept for the year 2003-2004 was presented to the meeting. Proposed by Cllr Clemson and seconded by Mr Whybourne to accept the accounts. All were in favour.

Chairmans Report

Ethical Standards & Code of Conduct:

The requirement for all Parish Councils to have in place a code of conduct and for all councillors to agree to abide by the code and register their interests took effect from May 2002. Horsmonden Parish Council agreed to adopt the model code of conduct in April 2002. Councillor Pugh resigned in May 2002. Cllr Stuart Hughes was co-opted to the Parish Council after the vacancy was advertised but no election was called. All Councillors have accepted the code and completed the relevant declarations for the register of interest. A copy of the register is available for inspection.

TWBC Election May 2002:

The ward of Horsmonden has been combined with that of Matfield and Brenchley to create a single ward electing 2 Borough Councillors. The TWBC Councillors elected were Paul Oliver-Smith and Nic Fairrie.

H.M. Golden Jubilee Celebrations – Monday 3rd June 2002

The event was extremely well supported and successful. Very positive feedback was received from parishioners. A total budget of £4500 for the celebrations was agreed, including grants from TWBC & KCC of £2100 and £250 respectively. The event included a village pageant, Children's Tea Party, Tug of War, side shows, evening dance bands, disco and the lighting of the beacon. Commemorative mugs were also distributed free of charge to the children under 12 living in the parish. Further mugs were sold to offset the cost of the celebrations. The Parish Council believes this was a positive use of funds.

Freedom of Information Act 2000:

The Act requires Parish Councils to make available certain information. The Parish Council has adopted the model publication scheme and copies of this and the relevant information can be obtained from the clerk. There is a charge of 10p per page for any information photocopied. It is intended that as much of the information as possible will be made available on the website being developed by the Parish Council.

Mr Charlie Bromley:

Mr Bromley, who passes away in July 2002 had served on the Parish Council for 30 years. The contribution to the community made by Mr Bromley was noted.

Traffic Calming:

TWBC have set aside funds for a traffic calming scheme for Horsmonden. It is anticipated that the scheme will include gateway features at the 4 main roads in to the village. These will force traffic entering the village to give way to traffic leaving, thus slowing reducing traffic speeds. Speed limits may also be changed. Plans are being drawn up by Highways Unit and will be subject to safety approval and agreement of the Parish Council.

Role of the Parish Clerk:

It has been agreed to remove the role of Secretary and Treasurer to the Horsmonden Village Hall management Committee from that of the Clerk's. The two roles often come in to conflict and the role of the clerk is ever changing and expanding. Mrs Edna Jones has taken on the role of secretary to the Management Committee.

Resignation of Councillor Lord Cornwallis:

Regretfully, after many years serve to the parish, Lord Cornwallis has resigned from the parish council to concentrate on other commitments. His contirbution to the community was noted as was his offer to continue to support the council should his knowledge of the community or issues be needed.

Boddingtons:

The owners of the Boddingtons factory announced their intention to relocate the factory away from Horsmonden and sell the land for housing development. The Parish Council was informed of the decision and is aware of strong local opinions on the proposed outline planning application. It is understood Boddingtons plan to consider a public meeting.

Gang Mowers:

These are being refurbished by the Parish Council. The mowers are used for the village green and the sports club. (The Sports club being responsible for any repairs to the tractor used to pull the mowers)

Any Other Business:

Lamberhurst Road:

There are no repeater 30 MPH signs. Highways dept. will be contacted.

Fly tipping:

Continues to be a problem. TWBC Cllr Oliver-Smith investigated an incident of fly tipping on Haymans Hill. Unfortunately, it was not possible to prove who was responsible for the dumping. The Parish News will be used to publicise the telephone number of the Civic Wardens, who can deal with the clearance of dumped items

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8:15 p.m.