

WEST HORNDON PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: - Kim Harding – 27 Cadogan Avenue, West Horndon, Brentwood CM13 3TU

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MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF WEST HORNDON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 11th MAY 2023, AT 7.30 PM AT ST FRANCIS CHURCH, THORNDON AVENUE, WEST HORNDON, BRENTWOOD.

In the chair: Councillor Foan

Present: Councillors Hannah, Houghton, Moorcroft, & Marchant

Also attending: Cllr Murphy (BBC) and 1 member of the public.

Clerk: Mr. K Harding

1. Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Lister, Marsh (BBC), McKinlay (ECC) & Petty. Cllrs Lister and Marsh (BBC) were unable to attend due to annual leave. Cllr McKinlay (ECC) was not present due to family commitments and Cllr Petty was attending another meeting.
2. The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 12th May 2022 were noted. They had been approved at the West Horndon Parish Council meeting held on 30th June 2022.
3. The West Horndon Parish Council Annual Report 2022 was circulated. This consisted of reports from Cllrs Foan, Hannah, Lister and Marchant, and the Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer. Cllr Foan reported that he was the acting Chair for the Parish Council following the resignation of the previous Chair Cllr McNicol. It was also noted that a further two Parish Councillors had resigned from the Council during the past year. This was alleviated by the appointment of a new Councillor, Gary Marchant. One of the highlights of the year had been the celebration of Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee. The Parish Council hosted an event with food and drinks and the lighting of a beacon. It was also possible for the usual Annual Christmas Tree Lighting Event to take place on the 1st Sunday in December.
4. Cllr Foan noted that vandalism in the Park had led to play equipment needing to be replaced. However, Brentwood Borough Council (BBC) had recently planted a number of new trees in the Park and on the grass verges and footpaths throughout the Village.
5. It was noted that the BBC Local Development Plan had been approved and adopted. A number of planning applications had been viewed by the Parish Council during the past year. Applications had been received for further development of the East Horndon Enterprise Park along with an application for a new industrial estate at Broadfields, Old Tilbury Road. The latter was being fiercely opposed. Concerns had also been raised regarding Dunton Hills Garden Village over highways issues, access to West Horndon Railway

Station, the doctors' surgery, etc. Outline planning approval for the development had still to be granted. Unfortunately, there had been an increasing number of residents who had undertaken extension work to their properties without gaining the necessary planning approval.

6. The Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer noted that expenditure in 2022/23 was higher than in 2021/22. This was due to spending on the Jubilee Celebration Event and on items for West Horndon Park. Details were provided of grants and donations made during the financial year. The balance held at 31st March 2023 had now stabilised since the problems arising from Brentwood Borough Council choosing to pay the first instalment of precept for 2022/23 - £16,250 – in 2021/22 had worked through.
7. Cllr Murphy (BBC) advised that she had enjoyed her first year back as a Ward Councillor. She confirmed that Fiona Marsh had been elected as the new Ward Councillor and she was also very community minded. Cllr Murphy hoped to undertake a walk around West Horndon Parish in the near future to appreciate issues that needed to be addressed. She noted that as result of the recent borough elections Cllr Barry Aspinall was now leader of Brentwood Borough Council, with Cllr Gareth Barrett the new Mayor.
8. It was agreed that discussion on the roles and responsibilities of the West Horndon Parish Councillors would be delayed until a future date.

Kim Harding
Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

19th June 2023