

## WEST HORNDON PARISH COUNCIL

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

Tel: 07756 962034 E-mail: [whpc.parishclerk@gmail.com](mailto:whpc.parishclerk@gmail.com)  
[www.westhorndonparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.westhorndonparishcouncil.org.uk)

### MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF WEST HORNDON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 16<sup>th</sup> MAY 2024, AT 7.30 PM AT ST FRANCIS CHURCH, THORNDON AVENUE, WEST HORNDON, BRENTWOOD.

**In the chair:** Councillor Foan

**Present:** Councillors Hannah, Houghton, Keefe, Lister & Petty

**Also attending:** 23 members of the public.

**Clerk:** Mr. K Harding

1. Cllr Foan welcomed those present to the meeting.
2. Colin Foan gave details of the significant contribution made by Deborah Richardson to the local community and announced her as winner of the Citizen of the Year Award 2023. He presented Deborah Richardson with the Roy Boggis Trophy, a gift voucher and a bouquet of roses.
3. Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Marchant, Marsh (BBC), McKinlay (ECC), Moorcroft, & Murphy (BBC). Cllr Marchant was unable to attend due to work commitments. Cllr Marsh (BBC) was on annual leave and Cllr McKinlay (ECC) was ill. Cllr Moorcroft was not present due to ongoing medical treatment and Cllr Murphy (BBC) was attending another meeting.
4. The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2023 were noted. They had been approved at the West Horndon Parish Council meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2023.
5. The West Horndon Parish Council Annual Report 2024 was circulated. This consisted of reports from Cllrs Foan, Hannah, Lister and the Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer. Cllr Foan noted the appointment during 2023/24 of a new Councillor, Terry Keefe.
6. Cllr Foan reported on the various planning issues dealt with by the Parish Council during the past year. It was noted that there was a growing trend of improvement works being undertaken at properties before securing the necessary planning permission. Dunton Hills Garden Village had received initial outline planning approval in November 2023. However, there were a number of conditions attached to this approval and the Parish Council would be working with the Borough Council to ensure these were appropriately dealt with. The Parish Council had strongly opposed the planning application in respect of Broadfields Industrial Park and this had been refused. Similar views were held by the local community in respect of a suggested development south of West Horndon Railway Station and the Parish Council would continue to raise objections in respect of this proposal.

7. Cllr Hannah noted that the new Parish Council website had been created. He advised that completion of Fibre to the Premise (FTTP) for the whole of West Horndon Parish was still awaited following extension of coverage during 2023.
8. It was noted that the recently installed communications cable to 18, Cadogan Avenue was preventing the maintenance company for West Horndon Park getting machinery into the Park for grass cutting and other essential tasks. Despite numerous calls to Openreach to resolve the problem this remained an ongoing issue.
9. Cllr Lister reported that the three large planters in the village continued to be cared for by volunteers, with the gardens at the Railway Station and in front of the Village Hall, along with the planters outside the shops in Chafford Gardens, maintained under contract by Bob Duffin.
10. Cllr Lister noted that the Memorial Service for the American Airmen who died in 1943 and the 2023 Christmas Tree Lighting Event had both proved very successful. Money raised at the Christmas Event (£550) had been paid to the Salvation Army in recognition of its band playing at the event. It was reported that the Memorial Service would again be held in West Horndon in 2024 and in Bulphan Village in 2025.
11. A new metal fence had been installed in West Horndon Park surrounding the Children's Play Area. A new Parish Noticeboard and dog waste bin had also been purchased to replace vandalised items. New trees and a community orchard had been planted in the Park during the past year. A RoSPA inspection had identified a number of maintenance and health and safety issues and these were presently being costed with works planned for coming months. Attention would also be given to maintenance of the drainage ditches which remained a matter of serious concern to local residents.
12. The Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer noted that expenditure in 2023/24 was higher than in 2022/23. This was due to spending on the Park and back pay due to the Parish Clerk. Following detailed discussion regarding the Howard Memorial Trust, it was thought that an article on the Trust should be included within the next Parish Newsletter and contact made with local companies to secure donations to the Trust and raise its profile.
13. A report from the Ward Councillors had not been provided.

**Kim Harding**  
**Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer**

**10<sup>th</sup> June 2024**