

## HORSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 7pm in the Village Hall

**Present:** Cllr Brown (Chair), Cllr Clarke, Cllr Keeler, Cllr Makinson, Cllr McClure, Cllr Thorpe, Cllr Tony Adams (County Councillor), Sarah Vergette (Clerk) and four members of the public.

1. Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting 2023: were presented and confirmed.
2. Apologies for Absence; Cllr Lisa Starling.
3. Report from the Public Pits Charity: income of £219.53 recorded during 2023 and balance at the end of December 2023 stood at £4306.63. No grants were made during 2023 and no applications were received for consideration.
4. Report from the Fuel Allotment Charity: This is an historic charity which owns 210 acres of woodland adjacent to Green Lane and is managed by four local Trustees. That land is leased to Forestry England and the income from this along with other monies is shared with local people every December. To qualify residents must be at least 65 years of age and have lived in the village for a minimum of five years. Just one person per household is allowed to claim. In 2023 the charity made a payment of £20 to 108 people.  
Unfortunately, at the time of writing the charity is trying to resolve an ongoing difficulty with Horsford Estates and may need to approach the Council for assistance if an acceptable solution cannot be found.
5. Business Action Plan Group:
  - a. Updating the Horsford Neighbourhood Plan, including two consultation meetings in May and October, the latter incorporating presentations from the three Land Agents as part of the Call for Sites process. Discussions are continuing regarding this part of the HNP Refresh.
  - b. Obtaining funding from Locality of £17,953 towards consultants' costs for the HNP Refresh process. Some of this was provided in 2022/23.
  - c. Working with Highways – Implementing road safety measures on Church Street including a new trod taking the pathway further away from the Holt Road/Church Street junction and white gates indicating entry to Horsford.
  - d. Working with Highways – Project to replace the current pedestrian crossing at the junction of Mill-Lane/Holt Road with a pedestrian controlled crossing.
  - e. When the retail outlet is completed on the corner of Mill Lane, Highways will provide a dropped pavement from the south to north side of Mill Lane into the rear of the retail outlet to take pedestrians crossing away from the junction.
  - f. Working with the Western Link team on mitigation measures regarding traffic through Horsford.
6. Annual Report by Chairman: Cllr Brown thanked the clerk for her advice and support, he thanked Cllr Keeler for her work as Vice-Chair and the other councillors for their work throughout the year. Thanks were also given to the BAP Group for their hard work on the Neighbourhood Plan Refresh and Transport Masterplan. New councillors are needed.
7. Residents' Questions and any other business. Cllr McClure stated that the Council is short of councillors. There should be a discussion on the use of S137 monies so that the Parish Council

would appear more relevant to the wider parish and show support. There had been an increase in the S137 allowance which enables the first tier of Local Government to spend when there is no other power. There was some discussion relating to this matter and it was stated that it would be necessary to increase the Precept to allow for an increase in S137 spending. This is a matter for the Parish Council to discuss at the Finance Committee and a future Parish Council meeting.

Cllr Makinson stated that there is an article in the Horsford News each quarter, saying that Councillors are needed.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.15pm