

**HORLEY PARISH COUNCIL – MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
25 June 2020**

PRESENT: Chairman Cllr John Tite, Cllrs Dame Glenys Kyle, Graham Curd, Simon Attfield, Martin Hamer, Duncan Raper. Clerk to the Council David Marriott. Also in attendance County Councillor George Reynolds.

Item		Action
1	<p>Apologies for absence Bob Barnwell and District Councillor Douglas Webb. Due to the Coronavirus crisis, and in line with Government guidance, the meeting was held online as a virtual meeting.</p>	
2	<p>Declarations of interests None relating to items on the agenda. Cllr Hamer referred to his interest in an a planning application recently considered by the Council.</p>	
3	<p>Minutes of the meeting held on 16 April 2020. Proposed by Cllr Tite, seconded by Cllr Attfield it was resolved that the minutes be agreed.</p>	Clerk
4	<p>Matters arising It was noted that the application to register the Cricket Club site as an Asset of Community Value had been submitted, and is now being considered by Cherwell District Council. It was noted that OCC have been asked to advise when their annual cut of the verges in the parish will take place. If this is not likely to be in the near future, the second parish council cut will be ordered.</p>	Clerk
5	<p>Finance Annual Audit 2019/2020 (a) Proposed by Cllr Attfield, seconded by Cllr Curd, it was resolved that the Internal Auditor’s report, the Annual Governance Statement and the Annual Accounting Statements be approved. (b) Proposed by Cllr Attfield, seconded by Cllr Curd, it was resolved that the Council certify itself as being exempt from a limited assurance review under Section 9 of the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015.</p>	Clerk Clerk
6	<p>Parking Issues at Wroxton Lane The outcome of the pre-application advice request submitted to Cherwell District Council, regarding the proposed parking area at Wroxton Lane was discussed. The officer response was that, on balance, the application would be contrary to policy because the proposals would be visually intrusive and would not preserve the character and appearance of the Conservation Area in this edge of village location. There were also concerns about highway safety for pedestrians walking to and from the parking area. The Council did not agree with this assessment, and felt that the visual concerns could be addressed, and that the existing congestion created a much greater concern over highway safety, and visual damage to the conservation area. It was agreed that the Council should proceed with a planning application, and that, in order to address the concerns raised in the pre-application response as effectively as possible, a planning consultant should be retained to assist with the application. County Councillor Reynolds reminded Members that he has County Council parish grant funding available which he is prepared to make available to finance this application.</p>	Clerk

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	<p>It was also agreed that, when the application is submitted, the District Council Ward Member be asked to call for the application to be referred to the Planning Committee, and it was noted that the Council will need to demonstrate public support for the application within the village in order for this to be agreed.</p> <p>The Clerk was asked to advise Members as to the cost of retaining a planning consultant before making the appointment.</p>	
7	<p>Applications for charitable and other donations</p> <p>Members considered a request for funding from Marie Curie Nurses, but this was not agreed on the basis that the Council's budget should be allocated to local rather than national charities.</p>	Clerk
8	<p>Date of next meeting</p> <p>In view of the current restriction on how meetings can be conducted, it was agreed that no date be set for the next meeting, but that a meeting be called in July or August when there is business which needs to be dealt with.</p>	All
14	<p>Any other urgent business</p> <p>Cllr Attfield raised concern regarding the hedge at Brook Cottage which is growing into the road, obscuring the 30 MPH sign and restricting visibility. It was agreed that the Clerk write to the owners of the property asking them to keep the hedge cut back.</p> <p>Cllr Kyle advised the Council that she is resigning her seat as she is moving away from the village shortly. Cllr Tite thanked her for her contribution to the work of the Council, and to the village more generally. Cllr Kyle suggested two women who might be approached to fill this vacancy, once the Council is in the position to co-opt a new Member.</p> <p>Cllr Hamer reported that three footpath bridges in the parish need repair. He indicated that all had been provided by the County Council, and believed the responsibility for maintenance lies with the County Council rather than the landowner. The Clerk was asked to write to the County Council asking them to deal with the repairs.</p> <p>Cllr Tite reminded Members that the Clerk will be retiring at the end of the financial year, and Members need to consider any possible replacements. The Clerk was asked to forward a copy of his current job description to Cllr Tite for review.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>

MEETING CLOSED AT 8.25pm