

# **HORRINGER-cum-ICKWORTH PARISH COUNCIL**

**Annual Parish Council Meeting on Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

**In Horringer Community Centre.**

**Members of Horringer-cum-Ickworth Parish Council are invited to attend the above meeting.**

In Attendance: Colin Knight, Peter Crofts, Tom Lewis, Sarah Levett, Ian Frost, Karen Soons

11 members of the public

Colin Knight welcomed everyone to Annual Parish Meeting for 2025.

Following our appeal for councillors at last year's APM, we have succeeded in adding two more, so we now have a full complement of 7 councillors. Following the closure of the APM, there will be the Annual Parish Council Meeting – which you may wish to stay on for. There will be a Public Forum session, but the agenda has been kept very brief.

One of the main topics will be the election of "Chair and Vice Chair" for the next 12 months.

1.	<b>To Accept Apologies for Absence</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ruth walker – work</li><li>• Rob Brooks - Personnel</li></ul>
2.	<b>To Approve Minutes of last Annual Parish Meeting (May 20th 2024)</b> Approved by Colin Knight seconded by Ian Frost
3.	<b>Financial Report for 2024/25 – Cllr C Knight</b> To cover major values only. We have posted copies of this year's account on The Parish Council website if you would like the full details – below are the highlights. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Total revenue c. £33.7k</li><li>• Precept of £21k (LY £21k)</li><li>• Grants received of £8.8k – NHP £4.3k and £4.5k for signs</li><li>• Rental received of £2.2k</li><li>• VAT of £1.1k</li><li>• Total expenditure of £34k</li><li>• Grants and donations paid of £3.5k – (PCC £2k, GNS £1.5k)</li><li>• Other major expenditure - grass cutting c. £3.5k</li><li>• Salaries of £8.4k</li><li>• NHP costs of £5.9k (Surplus of £7.8k)</li><li>• New waste bins £3.1k</li><li>• Play area £800</li><li>• Incurred VAT of £2.9k – recoverable in this financial year.</li><li>• So we overspent in the year by £510 so our.....</li><li>• Closing bank balance of c. £59.6k - Last year c. £60.1k</li></ul>

	<p>We are holding high reserves at year end, but this was in anticipation of some major expenditure on new village gates and signs of £10.8k but we will have some grants to help with the cost.</p>
4.	<p><b>Chairman's Report for 2024/25 – Cllr C Knight</b></p> <p>I will now report on the main issues and tasks during the last year.</p> <p><b>Planning Applications</b> – We have as usual had many planning applications to review during the year – 17.</p> <p><b>Play Area</b> – The play continues to be inspected on a regular basis, and we may be looking at further works this year, having spent £800 this year. More is planned for the forthcoming year.</p> <p><b>Grit Bins</b> – A very big thank you to all the volunteers who have helped with grit spreading during the cold periods. If anyone would like to help, then please do let the PA know. Fortunately, we have a second mild winter.</p> <p><b>Waste Bins</b> - Following an audit by WSC we purchased new waste bins for the village £3.1k. One bin was vandalised and subsequently replaced.</p> <p><b>BT Kiosk</b> – The kiosk continues to be well used by residents as a book exchange – which is really GREAT and we encourage residents to use it as much as possible. It has been repainted during the year. I would like to just remind everyone that it is a “book exchange” so please do return books after use and please avoid leaving puzzles and games or DVDs as we simply do not have the space to accommodate these items.</p> <p><b>Village Noticeboard</b> - Some of you may have noticed that the cover of the noticeboard in Meadow Drive has been smashed. We do not know how this was done but has been replaced. Thanks to the resident who donated the plastic and repaired the Village notice board.</p> <p><b>Duck Sign</b> - Following on from the incidents last year involving the death of some ducklings near the village pond, we are endeavouring to put up some warnings which we hope motorists will take note of.</p> <p><b>Devolution and New Mayor elections</b> - As some of you will know there is a proposal for a one, two or three tier of devolved government for Suffolk. The proposal is still being debated.</p> <p>One immediate impact has been the cancellation of our local elections and given that the new proposed council arrangements will begin on 2026/27, it seems likely that local elections will not be held next year either. There is much on-going debate so it is very unclear now what will happen. So, it's a case of “Watch this Space”.</p> <p>There will however be an election for a new mayor in 2026.</p> <p><b>Website</b> - Just a reminder that The PC have set up a website for our sole use.</p> <p>This includes Agendas and Minutes, planning applications and other relevant information relating to the Parish Council.</p> <p>There is a calendar section to show dates of PC meetings.</p> <p>We have also set up new e-mail addresses for councillors which you can find on the website.</p> <p>Reminder - The new web address is – <a href="http://www.horringer-pc.gov.uk">www.horringer-pc.gov.uk</a></p>

	<p><b>Precept for 2025-26</b> - The PC met in November 2024 to set the level of precept for 2025/26.</p> <p>We look carefully at our anticipated expenditure, and we also kept in mind the difficult on-going economic situation that we find ourselves in. We have therefore set the new precept at £21k, the same as last year.</p> <p>In the year we do expect to spend more than we receive but this will help bring our reserves down to a more reasonable level.</p> <p><b>Banking</b> - We have now adopted Internet Banking.</p> <p><b>Potential Planning Applications</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A builder has approached the PC requesting a meeting regarding the development of a piece of land to the south of Hornbeam Drive. The PC are considering our options on how to respond to the request. We have limited information until a meeting is decided.</li> <li>• There has also been publication of a solar farm at Harram Hill and a public meeting has been held – and the PC await a planning application before making any formal response. We have received some comments from residents for which we are thankful.</li> </ul> <p>That concludes the Chair report for the year.</p>
5.	<p><b>Neighbourhood Plan – Cllr P Crofts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 years since the start of the NHP – A new Chairman has been appointed – Brad Young</li> <li>• There has been lots of progress in the last 12 months – lots of information gathered to draw up policies and 2 public meetings.</li> <li>• A Housing needs assessment was conducted by community action Suffolk</li> <li>• Design guide for the site earmarked for development on Chevington road. This will express the residents preferred way it should be developed. The site is allocated in West Suffolk local plan. It will also include guidance on extensions in the village.</li> <li>• Resident survey – the NHP committee are looking at the data and will be reporting them back at the next public meeting. The results will form the policies in the NHP.</li> <li>• There is a lot to do, however the draft plan is estimated to be publicised by the end of the year.</li> <li>• The plan will be voted on by all the residents, before it is adopted.</li> </ul>
6.	<p><b>Speeding Matters in Village – Cllr T Lewis</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A huge number of vehicles travel through Horringer on the A143, between 25,000 and 30,000 in each direction per week.</li> <li>• The number of vehicles using Westley Road is approaching 20,000 per week in each direction.</li> <li>• Speeding is a major issue away from the ‘centre’ of Horringer, with up to 21% of vehicles travelling at 35mph or more at Godfreys Cottages and - incredibly - 59% of vehicles at Westley Road. Both these are residential areas.</li> <li>• The A143 is used by a large number of HGVs, particularly northbound where there are 6,500 HGVs (vehicles with 3 axles or more) using the road each week. The proportion of smaller</li> </ul>

	<p>vehicles (motorbikes, cars and vans) accounts for about 94-97% of vehicles surveyed throughout the village, except northbound on the A143 where this drops to 75%, implying that 25% of traffic is larger vehicles.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extrapolating from speed data, this implies that over 1,350 HGVs per week are travelling at 35mph or more northbound past Godfreys Cottages.</li> </ul> <p><a href="https://horringer-pc.gov.uk/assets/Minutes/2025-2026-Other-meeting-Documents/25-05-Speed-survey-summary.pdf">https://horringer-pc.gov.uk/assets/Minutes/2025-2026-Other-meeting-Documents/25-05-Speed-survey-summary.pdf</a></p>
7.	<p><b>County Councillor – Karen Soons – Please see below for link to Karen Soons reports</b></p> <p><a href="https://horringer-pc.gov.uk/news/council-news-letters/">https://horringer-pc.gov.uk/news/council-news-letters/</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Devolution – Suffolk/Norfolk will join with a Mayor</li> <li>West Suffolk Council have opted for a multi unitary reorganisation of the local government council in Suffolk. This is the position of all of the Districts in Suffolk.</li> <li>£1.8 million per year for 2 years to improve bus services in Suffolk.</li> <li>Potholes – 40% inspection rate. Report on online reporting tool – Highways.</li> </ul> <p>The was no questions from the public for Karen Soons.</p>
8.	<p><b>Date of next meeting – TBC</b></p>
9.	<p><b>Parish Matters – open to all parishioners</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Footpath from Play area to the street added to general maintenance.</li> <li>Potholes for cyclists are very dangerous – these need reporting on the Highways reporting tool.</li> </ul> <p><a href="https://highwaysreporting.suffolk.gov.uk/">https://highwaysreporting.suffolk.gov.uk/</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Footpath opposite pond very thin needs cutting back.</li> </ul>

Please be aware the meeting may be filmed or recorded. Members of the public are invited to attend but are respectfully asked not to contribute during the meeting unless invited by the Chairman so to do.