HORRINGER-cum-ICKWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Parish Council Meeting on Monday, 18th May 2026
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, Kevin Rooney, Beccy Hopfensperger

21 members of the public

Colin Knight welcomed everyone to Annual Parish Meeting for 2026.

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. The chair thanked Ruth Walker & Rob Brooks for all their hard work while in the Parish Council. Welcome to Simon Scott & Kevin Rooney. 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.	**To Accept Apologies for Absence – Karen Soons**
2.	**To Approve Minutes of last Annual Parish Meeting (May 19th 2025)** Approved by Anita Rooney
3.	**Financial Report for 2025/26 – Cllr C Knight** 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. • **Total revenue c. £27k** • Precept of £21k • Rental received of £2.4k • VAT of £3k • Interest of £850 • **Total expenditure of £33k** • Grants and donations paid of £5k • Salaries of £8.6k • Other major expenditure - grass cutting c. £3k • Emptying waste bins £2k • Village Improvements of £9.4k including new signs for the village • Incurred VAT of £2.5k – recoverable in this financial year. • So we overspent in the year by £5.7k • Closing bank balance of c. £54k
4.	**Chairman's Report for 2025/26 – Cllr C Knight**

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	I will now report on the main issues and tasks during the last year. **Planning Applications –** We have as usual had many planning applications to review during the year, the most of which we did not oppose. There was one in particular that we did oppose - A planning application for a solar farm at Harram Hill. This has been rejected, although there may be an appeal, so we will wait and see what happens next. **Play Area** – Brad Young has taken over the upkeep. We are expecting to spend a bit on the play area, netting and generally tiding it up. **Grit Bins** – Fortunately, we have had yet another mild winter. A very big thank you to all the volunteers who have helped with grit spreading during the cold periods. We have been updating our records, and we find we do need some more volunteers so if anyone would like to help then please do let the Nicky know. **BT Kiosk** – 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. 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. **New bins & stickers** – We have some more 30 mph. They can be collected from The 6 Bells on Friday mornings. **Website** - Just a reminder that The PC have set up a website for our sole use. This includes Agendas and Minutes, planning applications and other relevant information relating to the Parish Council. There is a calendar section to show dates of PC meetings. We have also set up new e-mail addresses for councillors which you can find on the website. Reminder - The web address is – www.horringer-pc.gov.uk **Precept for 2026-27** - The PC met in November 2025 to set the level of precept for 2026/27. 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 £22k. 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. £8k is for the NHP – where the Government have withdrawn their financial subsidies so the PC will have to cover the remaining cost. Fortunately, this will be offset by grants received before the decision. That concludes the Chair report for the year.
5.	**Neighbourhood Plan – Cllr P Crofts** • 4 years since the start of the NHP – A new Chairman has been appointed – Peter Crofts. • Thank you to Brad Young for his help in starting the NHP and getting the project off the ground. • We had a full village survey in June. There was a high response rate and took note of all the issues arising. On the 8th July we had a public meeting to advise the public.

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	• Policies for the plan have now been written, and they must comply with the Local plan and planning laws. • One of the biggest issues of the residents was traffic and speeding. We can't make policies on speeding and traffic as they are highways and county council. They will be added as community actions. • The plan for the next 12 months - In 1 month a draft plan will be produced, then approved by the NHP committee & Parish Council. By the end of the summer there will be a public consultation.
6.	**Speeding Matters in Village – Cllr T Lewis** • We are continuing to check the data from the SID device and completed a traffic survey last year. We are collecting lots of data of traffic speed and flow of traffic. • SID is close to Sharps Lane but has been situated here for a while as it is the effective site. • At the Ickworth gates data show the traffic is slower at this site. • When the spy mode is off it cuts speeding by 50% • Large number of vehicles using the A143 and lots of HGV's. Causing pothole and ruining the road. • Single footpath between The 6 Bells and Sharps Lane and it's very dangerous. • In the next 12 months we will get another SID for a site on the Westley Road. • A group of parish councils have joined to voice their concerns and put pressure on Highways/County council/Police.
7.	**County Councillor – Beccy Hop – Please see below for link to Karen Soons reports** • Reform is heading the council in West Suffolk. • APM will be this Month where the cabinet will decided – Michael Hanlow will be leader • We are moving into the transition period of the changing of councils and the 2027 elections for shadow council. 2028 we will have a unitary council. • Locality budget & Highways budget – they have money to help with community projects. The was no questions from the public for Beccy Hopfensperger.
8.	**Emergency Plan – SL** 2016 the last time the Emergency plan was updated. Sarah will be going through the plan and updating it. There will be a call for volunteers to be named and contacted in an emergency. It will be beneficial to have all the information in one place.
9.	**Date of next meeting – TBC**
10.	**Parish Matters – open to all parishioners** • Sharps Lane – Hedges cutting back. It is the resident's job to ensure that their hedges do not encroach on the path. • The hedge on the BSE side of Manor Lane.

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	• Speeding Westley Lane and taking the turn wide from A134 to Westley Lane. • The bottle bins will be removed from the community centre.
11.	**Close of meeting 8:36pm**

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.

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