

Hampstead Norreys Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting

Held on **Monday 29th April 2019** at **7:30pm** in the Memorial Room, Village Hall

Councillors present: Councillors David Barlow (Chair), Colin Layton, Harriet McCalmont and Gwenan Paul.

Councillors not present: Councillor Caroline Herman

In attendance: Sarah Marshman (Clerk), Virginia von Celsing (District Councillor), John Abbott (Chair of Hampstead Norreys Community Shop).
1 member of the public.

The meeting started at 7:30pm.

18/19-APM-01 **To receive apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Councillor Caroline Herman.

18/19-APM-02 **To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 23rd April 2018**

It was resolved that the minutes be accepted as a true record. They were then signed by the Chairman.

18/19-APM-03 **To invite Dr James Cave from The Downland Practice to address the meeting**

Dr Cave was unable to attend the meeting.

18/19-APM-04 **To invite District Councillor Virginia von Celsing to address the meeting**

Virginia had recently met the Head teacher of The Downs School regarding the sports hall which is in need of being refurbished or replaced. She had spoken with the education portfolio holder regarding this and highlighted that whoever is district councillor after the election will need to work towards this.

Virginia thanked everyone present for the honour of being their elected representative for the past four year.

18/19-APM-05 **To receive the annual report from the Chairman**

The Chairman gave the following report:

Planning

We have continued to meet for 'as required' for planning meetings. The PC has had 2 applications this year which have gone to western area planning committee. The council will continue to appeal against applications that will have a negative impact on the parish or the applicant's neighbours. We urge anyone planning to make alterations to talk with neighbours or the parish council before applying for planning as this can reduce problems later down the application route.

Grounds Maintenance

Over the winter period we have been reviewing the level of grounds work and will be seeing a change particularly on the path between The Close and the Village Hall. Significant cutting back and clearance will occur on this stretch.

Flood

The village flood alleviation scheme has been postponed at the 11th hour by the EA deciding further ecology reports need completing. As frustrating as this is, it is correct that this is thoroughly investigated prior to the works happening.

Anyone potentially affected by potential flooding should maintain a link to www.floodalleviation.uk. This is the website of the PVFF and gives access to current and previous river water levels, flow rates, ground water levels and provides reference to the 'FLOOD RISK' levels to keep an eye on.

Councillor Vacancies

The councillors have done an outstanding job for the parish in the last 12 months, we have achieved a lot! We have 2 vacancies and would be delighted to hear from any interested individuals. It takes up as much time as you wish to put into council matters.

Speeding

Villagers have been raising issues of speeding on the Parish roads predominantly within the village. We are working alongside WBC and TVP as well as local residents. Things can be done but will take a while for change to occur.

Utility Path Hermitage to HN

The plans are now fully approved by WBC and the works to upgrade the route will be due to start later this year and will take approx. 5 months to complete. The contractors (Kier) will have a small compound on the dean meadow.

18/19-APM-06 To receive the annual finance report from the RFO

The precept for 2019/20 is increasing from £11,000 to £13,700. This is due to clearance work required in the railway cutting and taking on the responsibility of hedge cutting in the car park at the Village Hall. An additional request from the church to increase the donation from £800 to £1,200 was also agreed. This has resulted in an increase in grounds maintenance costs of £1,000, along with a decrease in the donations received from the Amenities Trust of £500 and an increase of £400 donation to the church – a total increase of £1,900. The remaining additional £800 will cover the general increase in costs.

This results in an increase per household for a Band D household of £7.44 this year, resulting in the total contribution from a Band D household being £38.46 per year.

18/19-APM-07 To receive reports from Village Groups

John Abbott, Chair of Hampstead Norreys Community Shop

The shop has been running since 2011, but this is the first full financial year with the café in place. The shop is growing slowly, whilst the café is doing really well and is more profitable which helps to sustain the shop. The range of products and eco-products has increased. Initially the shop began with 50 volunteers, however this has decreased meaning more paid staff have had to be employed. The shop holds events such as the summer fair and Christmas market, and has an art gallery display and local suppliers. GreenFest will take place on 7th September.

David Barlow, Hampstead Norreys Cricket Club

Last season saw a very successful season across the club. In 2018 we introduced 'AllStars' cricket for the 5-8 year olds. This was a huge success with a fun day at the end of the program which helped raise further valuable funds for youth cricket. We now have 2

qualified cricket coaches in the club. Expanding on this success we have this season introduced under 9's cricket. This group also have fixtures arranged for the season ahead against other clubs in the district.

Sunday cricket also went from strength to strength last season with a full team available for every fixture. Hampstead Norreys on Sundays is quite an international line up these days! To that extent we have found an additional sponsor of the Sunday Cricket, via House of Flavours Indian restaurant in Reading. The club also has its continued support from long standing sponsors of The White Hart and Barlows Woodyard.

Wednesday Cricket, the T20 version of the game was a fantastic season last season with introduction of a few overseas signings which has added to the team's depth of game. This season will see HN playing against Yattendon on Wednesday nights, which will be great to see following the demise of Yattendon some years back from Sunday Cricket.

The club held a very successful skittles evening last year with fish 'n' chip supper. We raised over £170 toward the youth section that's evening and this year on 8th June we are hosting a World Cup Cricket Day. This will be a fun packed day for the family, with a dinner and licensed bar in the evening held in the hall. Tickets will be on sale soon.

We are currently looking into Pitch covers via grant schemes as well as having the cricket square layed / levelled.

18/19-APM-08 **To receive questions from members of the public**

Issues regarding rubbish in the car park area in The Close and in Dean Meadow were noted.

Speeding traffic from entering the village from the Compton direction was noted. The Council are talking to West Berkshire council regarding this.

Meeting closed 8:15pm.

Chairman:

Date: