ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held at Harwell Village Hall, High Street, Harwell on Thursday April 13th 2023 at 7.30 pm

Present: J Hawthorne (Chair, Harwell PC), T Pearson, R Hughes, P Davidson-Locke (Councillors, HPC), H Gascoigne (VWHDC), S Povolotsky (OCC), S Taylor (Parish Clerk), approximately 20 members of the public

Mr Hawthorne chaired the meeting and welcomed all those present.

1. Approve Minutes of the previous meeting

APPROVED.

2. Parish Council Chairman's update

Mr Hawthorne reported as follows;

Since APM 2022 the council has dealt with

Western Valley parish & transfer of assets/reserves
traffic calming schemes with OCC/developers
Meeting Taylor Wimpey rep and asked for regular updates and biodiversity schemes
Receiving funds from Community Competition – need to agree project
Receiving funds from Our Street Corner – need to agree project

Completed projects in last 12 months;

Water troughs installed at allotments although there are still some issues to be sorted
Replaced asbestos roof at garage
Tree work and undergrowth clearance on land adjacent to Footpath 11; tree survey completed & trees re-tagged and numbered
Tried to adhere to Sustainability Policy by looking to replace machinery with rechargeable varieties, leaving grass unmown to encourage biodiversity and wildflowers, stopped use of weed sprays and pesticides on rec
Responded to 84 planning applications since May 2022
Renewed High Street notice board
CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) funds given to Bowls Club for new ramp as part of their refurbishment project
Budgeted for 2023-24 taking account of loss of around 700 homes in GWP, trying to keep precept down
Renewed line marking in rec car park

Ongoing projects/recurring items;

Orchard and wildflower meadow project on rec – thanks to new HarCOG committee and Environment Committee volunteers
Liaison with Sovereign re: Kings Lane stream/bank clearance
Liaison with OCC re: road, path surfaces in various locations & fencing issues

Looking to get footpath 7 modified and 2 small paths adopted as rights of way
Thanks were expressed, as always, to all volunteers who undertake duties on behalf of the parish - HN editor, HN co-ordinator Martin, county & district councillors, parish councillors, grounds staff & clerk, all CSW volunteers & all others within the parish who give their time and efforts on behalf of parishioners.

3. Receive reports from County & District Councillors

Miss Gascoigne had sent a written report (posted alongside these Minutes). Her main points concerned
Valley Park
Western Valley parish
Local healthcare
Climate action
Support for residents

She took questions on local healthcare and pharmacies and confirmed that VWHDC is still battling for a new healthcare facility to be opened locally, and for provision of a healthcare facility in Valley Park. Mr Hawthorne confirmed the parish council will continue to object to Valley Park applications and ask that no homes are built until current healthcare issues have been addressed.

Ms Povolotsky's written report was received after the meeting (posted alongside these Minutes) but she went through her main points –
Importance of climate awareness
OCC spending on adult social care, highways, children's services. Libraries, coroner's services
Transport issues, including the implementation of 20 mph zones when requested by parishes – the zone already requested for Harwell was approved in March 2022
High Street traffic calming measures will go to consultation again shortly
Rowstock Relief plans are ongoing.
LCTP5 emphasises active travel and is aimed at reducing car journeys
HIF1 scheme is going through (A4130 to Culham)
A freight strategy is being developed, with community input welcomed
Flooding issues are being tackled
Steventon Reservoir discussions are still ongoing
The Electoral Commission is to review council boundaries. From 2025 there will be County Division changes in Harwell, Western Valley, Charlton, Hendreds, Steventon, Hanney & MIlton
The Councillor Priority Fund is open again

There were questions on whether Rowstock could be a single parish instead of being split (no as it is too small to be a parish by itself), traffic calming and speeding.

4. Update on Valley Park

Mostly covered by Miss Gascoigne. Mr Hawthorne mentioned that the planning application from Persimmon for Phase 1a for 179 dwellings will be discussed at the next Planning Committee meeting when a representative from Persimmon will be present.
Valley Park will lie wholly in Western Valley parish after the new parish is in being this month but Harwell PC will continue to respond to planning applications.

5. Discussion of new Western Valley parish

Further to earlier discussions, it was confirmed that there is only 1 nominee for the new parish, who was present this evening, so another election will be called after 9 May.
One resident asked for an update on the Didcot boundary sign on Great Western Park which is in the wrong place. Clerk contacted Didcot TC several years ago; she will follow up.

6. Traffic - Report on SID data & Community Speedwatch Schemes & discuss request for the A417 to be included in OCC's 20 mph scheme

Mr Davidson-Locke explained how his SID data is presented; his report is posted alongside these Minutes.
Discussion ensued on speeding traffic, possibility of crossings, accident data, policing and fines. Mr Hawthorne confirmed that the parish council felt residents should be consulted about changing the A417 to a 20 mph zone. Ms Povolotsky explained that OCC will not consult residents, only act on the PC's request, so any consultation with residents should be from the PC.
Written reports were provided by both CSW schemes (posted alongside these Minutes)
Mr Barber (Police and Crime Commissioner) to be invited to a meeting in the parish.

7. Discussion of the Big Help Out volunteering awareness event on 8 May

The Cherry Hall has been hired by the PC for this event following confirmation from around 10 organisations that they wished to attend. Event to be advertised and at least 3 parish councillors will be there on the day.

8. Reports from local organisations and parish council committees

Representatives from the Tennis Club were invited to speak after item 5. The Club has plans to provide more coaching and open in the evenings which will need lighting, temporary at first but with long-term plans to replace with permanent lighting after 10-15 years. The small clubhouse may need to be improved and extended and spectator facilities to be provided. It is intended to apply for S106 funding.

Following questions from Bowls Club representatives the two clubs agreed to liaise on their respective projects.

Mr Gibson reported on Environment Committee activity during the year. He had provided written notes (posted alongside these Minutes)

Mrs Greatbanks reported on behalf of the Harwell Community Orchard Committee. She had provided written notes (posted alongside these Minutes). The parish council will keep a record of tree sponsors.

9. Suggestions for naming of land adjacent to Footpath 11

Several residents felt the land did not need a name but that if one was required it should have a historical connection, eg look at old maps and ownership.

Signed……Date……..

ACTIONS from meeting:	Status
Clerk:	
Post reports alongside minutes	Done
Follow up re: boundary signs with DTC	Emailed
Advertise volunteering event	Website by 19.4, facebook (by cllr), notice board by 24.4
Record tree sponsors	Asked HarCOG for details by 20.4
Parish council:	
Set up meeting with M Barber for parishioners	
Check records for name of land adjacent to Footpath 11	