

## **Minutes from the Annual Parish (Village) Meeting Harlton Village Hall, Tuesday 22 April 2024 at 7.30 pm**

Cllr Ben Banks - Chair  
Kim Quince (Recorder – Parish Clerk)

In attendance approximately 19 people.

- 1. Welcome from the Meeting Chair Cllr Ben Banks**  
Light refreshments were served prior to the meeting start.
- 2. Apologies for absences**  
Apologies received from Cllrs Chris Coleridge and Garry Johnson and District Cllr Lisa Redrup, Patrick Phelan, Sarah Phelan.
- 3. Approval of the minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting 30 April 2024**  
The minutes were accepted and signed by the Chair.
- 4. Chairman's Report Harlton Parish Council / Financial Report 2024/25**  
Cllr Ben Banks presented an overview on Parish Council activities during the past year. The precept has been raised to £10,000 this financial year, the £500 increase was important to rebuild general reserve currently under £10K. A grant was given to the Connections Bus Youth Club bus. Thanks were expressed to the Village Hall trustees and the village hall committee for looking after the hall and organising social events throughout the year. Thanks were extended to his fellow colleagues and district councillor for their work and support over the year and to all the 'volunteers' who contribute to making the village a great place to live. Full report: Appendix 1  
Kim Quince, Clerk/ RFO gave a brief report on the financial year end. The Annual Returns (AGAR) are published on the village website.
- 5. Report from Chair of Village Hall Trustees (VHT) – Fiona Davies, Chair of the VHT thanked her co Trustees for their support and hard work as Trustee or committee member of the Village Hall, including the bookings secretary and treasurer. Full report: Appendix 2**  
A copy of the Harlton Village Hall Treasurer's report and accounting statement for year ended 31 December 2024 was given to Parish Council Clerk with the £1 peppercorn rent for the hall.
- 6. Report from County & District Councillors**  
District Councillor Lisa Redrup report was received prior to the meeting: Appendix 3
- 7. Reports on work and activities from local schools, groups and community organisations**

Reports received from:

**Hare & Hounds Community Interest Company (CIC) –** Patrick Phelan's CIC director's report was presented by fellow director Phil Phan. The H& H continues to operate successfully as a small pub offering drinks and food. The pub is managed by a tenant landlord and caters for events including community clubs, and societies for dinners or celebrations. Thanks were extended to the team of volunteers for their great work on the shed replacement project and to the group of gardening volunteers who maintain the pub garden. Full report: Appendix 4

**Harlton Gardening Club –** A report on club activities from the Chair, Sarah Phelan was presented by committee member John Helming.

**Harlton Organ Scholarship Trust (HOST) –** presented by Trustee John Helmsing. All 2024/25 scholars are performing well after their second year. Applications are invited from new potential scholars – Comberton/ and other schools: to commence training from September 2025. Auditions take place in Jesus College Chapel in the summer. Scholars performed a Summer Concert in June 2024. A Concert is being planned for Sunday 6 July 2025 in celebration of the 650 years of Harlton Church.

**Speedwatch –** John Watson who leads on operations presented an overview of the team's activities. Last year the team carried out ten events in three police approved locations – it was noted vehicles

continue to speed in excess of 30 mph. The Speedwatch team urgently need more volunteers to support speed awareness activity in the village.

**Haslingfield and Harlton Eco Hub** – Anne Clark, member representative for Harlton highlighted projects that residents have been involved in. The Let It Grow project is still going strong. The group are grateful to the Parish Council for allowing the Village Sign Triangle area to grow wild from March until it gets its cutting in late summer. Everyone is welcome to come along to pub socials at the Hare and Hounds on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month. A second Repair Café will take place on 14<sup>th</sup> June at Haslingfield Village Hall. Full report: Appendix 5

**Comberton Village College** Janet Banks, Chair of Governors at CVC report: The school continues to be a popular choice with a waiting list for entry. The school was awarded Outstanding for the third consecutive OFSTED inspection last year.

**Haslingfield and Community Car Scheme** – volunteers are always happy to drive Harlton residents to appointments. Contact details are available on the Harlton village website.

8. **Open Forum** – There was a discussion on the future of the Children's Playground. It was felt that any investment in the refurbishment of the current equipment and play area would be a poor investment. It was noted ownership of the land needed to be resolved before any decisions could be made on next steps. The Chair recommended that once Land Registry have completed the adverse possession application and the land is registered with the Parish Council, it would need a volunteer working group to be set up to work with the PC to investigate options, feasibility and funding for a replacement play area.

Other questions and comments noted:

Observations about the activities and recreational use of the Glebe were discussed. A resident asked if there was a limit on the numbers for children's parties held on the Village Green.

The goal nets were broken and needed replacing.

Compacted mud creating clouds of dust in the High Street was impacting nearby residential homes. How many children from Harlton attend the Connections Bus Youth Club in Haslingfield

Feedback from the Open Forum discussion will be reported to the Parish Council for consideration.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending: Meeting closed at 8.45pm