

# UNAPPROVED DRAFT<sup>1</sup>

To be approved by parishioners at the May 2020 Annual Meeting of the Parish



## Minutes of the High Wych Annual Meeting of the Parish Wednesday 15th May 2019 at 7.30pm in The Green Room, High Wych Memorial Hall

Cllr Tom Payne (TP)  
Cllr John Andreotti (JA)\*  
Cllr Sam Clark (SC)\*  
Cllr Gareth Emanuel (GE)\*

Cllr Bridget Parrish (BP)  
Cllr David Smith (DS)\*

\* *Denotes present*

3 members of the public

Clerk: Colin Marks, Clerk to the Parish Council

**ACTION**

The Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr Tom Payne, was not present. Therefore, the elected Chairman for the evening, Cllr Gareth Emanuel, presided.

### 1. **Welcome and introduction**

### 2. **Apologies for Absence**

Received from Cllr Tom Payne, District Cllr Ian Devonshire, County Cllr Eric Buckmaster, Sgt Duncan Wallace, PCSO Leon De Bruyn, Ali Geller

### 3. **Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish, May 2018**

The Clerk reported that no Minutes of the 2018 meeting were available

### 4. **Chairman's personal review of the year 2018/19**

Vice-Chairman Cllr Sam Clark gave an overview.

2018/19 was an exceptionally busy year. It is hoped that next year the wine and nibbles will be resurrected for the Annual meeting of the Parish.

Thanks to the Clerk were recorded.

The Parish Council is glad to have been able to support the acquiring of Allen's Green Village Hall.

Cars and parking issues continue to be an emotive problem in the parish. Housing and development in the area, especially at Gilston, West Row, and Sawbridgeworth, will continue to generate increasing levels of traffic and parking problems, especially in High Wych village.

### 5. **Reports from Parish interest groups**

Cllr Dave Smith gave the following report:

The Post Office continues to run successfully, although staffing is sometimes difficult. It continues to be financially supported by the Parish Council.

The Internet Café has been scaled down to once a month and is no longer financially supported by the Parish Council.

### 6. **Parish Council financial overview for 2018/19**

Treasurer Cllr Dave Smith reported the following, which would be more comprehensively explained in the Parish Council Meeting later in the evening.

Income for the year was £15,686 (down £2,092 on the previous year). Expenditure was £17,109 (up £6,104 on the previous year). The end of year bank balance was £8,412 (down £1,423 on the previous year). The Council engaged a Clerk in October 2018 (for the first time in some years) and employment and admin costs of £1,349 are reflected in the figures. The new arrangement is working well.

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**7. County and District Councillor's reports**

No written reports received. Cllr Eric Buckmaster sent a message that he may attend the Parish Council meetings later in the evening and report then.

**8. Rural police report**

No report had been received. The Clerk was asked to write to Sgt Duncan Wallace about the increasing level of vandalism in the parish. The Clerk emphasised that the police consistently say they are unable to take any action unless it is reported via the 101 system since that is the only way they will be aware of what's happening. The Clerk said he invites the police to every Parish Council meeting, but will point out to them again the importance of their attending and providing a report whenever operational duties allow.

It was noted that the Memorial Hall are proposing to install CCTV to cover the car park and will ask the Parish Council if it wishes to join in. The Clerk advised that, subject to the arrangements, the Parish Council would need to have a GDPR policy to cover the collection and storage/retention of CCTV data. This should not be a problem, but would need to be addressed.

It was noted that small laughing gas canisters are found extensively around village recreation areas.

**9. Open forum: Matters raised by the public**

- Car parking issues were again highlighted. A disabled parishioner has had to move to Sawbridgeworth because of the problems created by inconsiderate parking. It was agreed to discuss with newly co-opted councillor Stacey Butcher whether a solution could be found by having a different drop-off arrangement at the school, similar to the one at Leventhorpe.
- A parishioner who had arrived late said he would be willing to help the community in whatever way he could. For this he was thanked and subsequently had discussions to pursue some options.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.55pm.

Signed.....Dated.....