

UNAPPROVED DRAFT¹

To be approved by parishioners at the 2023 Annual Meeting of the Parish Electors



**Minutes of the High Wych Annual Meeting of the Parish Electors
Wednesday 25th May 2022 at 7.15pm in
The Green Room, High Wych Memorial Hall**

CLlr Tom Payne (TP)*

CLlr John Andreotti (JA)*

CLlr Stacey Butcher

* **Denotes present**

CLlr Gareth Emanuel (GE)*

CLlr Keith Jordan*

CLlr David Smith (DS)*

Five members of the public, CLlr Eric Buckmaster.

Clerk: Colin Marks, Clerk to the Parish Council

1. Welcome and introduction: Parish Council Chairman CLlr Tom Payne welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 7.20pm.

2. Apologies for Absence: District CLlr Ian Devonshire, CLlr Eric Buckmaster for being late.

3. Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish, 19th May 2021
The Minutes were approved as drafted. The Chairman signed the Minutes.

4. Chairman's personal review of the year 2021/22

The Chairman said had been good to get back to in-face meetings in 2021 after the year of lockdown. He expressed thanks to all Councillors for continuing to discharge all their responsibilities during the whole of the Covid period.

Heather Nardone was co-opted to fill a Council vacancy in the autumn but has now moved on.

The Chairman paid particular thanks to CLlr David Smith for the amazing level of work he undertakes for the Parish Council.

Currently the PC is supporting Platinum Jubilee events and projects and some trees are being ordered to support the Queen's Green Canopy initiative.

Plans are progressing to make a welcome upgrade to the children's play area equipment.

The loan for the car park has just one more year before it is paid off in full.

CLlr Eric Buckmaster arrived at 7.27pm

5. Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting 2022 – Treasurer CLlr Dave Smith's Report

Reserves Brought Forward

General Reserve - £2,586

Playing Fields Development - £8,000

Election Reserve - £200

Car Park Development Reserve - £2,500

Commemorative Village Sign Fund - £1,996

Main Income

Annual Precept - £12,950

Allotment Rents - £924

Pavilion Lease/Insurance - £626

HTC Donation - £345

Main Expenses

Allotments Water & Development Grant - £703

Playing Fields Maintenance (Grass Cutting, Inspections, Litter Picking & Bin Emptying) - £4,200

Car Park Maintenance/Loan Repayments - £3,072

Administration/Clerk/Membership of HAPTC – £4,761

HWPC Website - £176

ACTION

Clerk

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Grants Given

Outreach Post Office - £350
Essex & Herts Air Ambulance - £100
Allen's Green Village Hall Upgrades - £1,000
High Wych Picnic in the Park - £114
Stansted Airport Watch - £100

Reserves Carried Forward

General Reserve - £4,400
Playing Fields Development - £5,000
Election Reserve - £400
Car Park Development Reserve - £2,500
Community Funds - £1,954

6. General Report: Cllr David Smith

Car Park

Repayments of the PWLB loan for the resurfacing work were made for the 9th year (of 10).

Allotments

All plots allocated
Grant received to bring hedges back under control following the pandemic

Memorial Hall

Upgrades have been completed in the main with new front doors planned for 2022. Further work to improve the Green Room kitchen/toilet to be considered next.
The bookings are almost back to pre-pandemic levels.
It is also to be noted that 2023 will see the centenary of the Memorial Hall

Other

Harlow Theatre Company have continued to make improvements to the Pavilion and have been granted a further 5 year lease.

Resignation

I shall not be seeking re-election in May 2023. As a first step, I will not offer my services for non-financial issues for this year and will require the PC to make a decision on how the finances will be handled in the 2023-2024 year which has to be planned from November 2022.

7. Reports from Parish Groups: None received

8. County and District Councillor's Annual Reports

1. **County Cllr Eric Buckmaster** sent comprehensive report for the year; this is included as an appendix to the Minutes of the May Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held later in the evening.

2. District Cllr Ian Devonshire

Previous Year achievements

Grange paddocks Leisure Centre opened
Hartham Pool / Leisure Centre Refurbished and Gym Extended
Hertford Theatre closed for Extensive Refurbishment, addition of Cinema Screens.
New Multi-Storey Car Park constructed in Bishop's Stortford as the start of the Old River Lane Development.

Forthcoming Year

For my upcoming Chairmans year, I have already started to organise some events, so I would really appreciate it if you could save these dates :-

- Sunday 10th July 2022 – Civic Service at 6:30pm at St. Andrews Church, Much Hadham. This is an evening service for ALL DENOMINATIONS. After the service there will be refreshments outside, (should be a nice evening). St. Andrews Church is 802 years old this year.
- Friday 23rd September 2022 starting at 7 :30pm – Fund Raising Event for my chosen charity, which is the "Stroke Association". This will be a Race Night at the Henry Moore Foundation Studios in the Aisled Barn. There will be food and drink. The ticket price is £40.

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Planning

Planning is still a massive challenge as there has been a high staff turnover recently and the number of applications has increased greatly, as well as all of the larger sites forward and the Gilston development.

If residents are finding it difficult to get hold of Planning officers, please contact me and I will try my very best to resolve.

Councillor Ian Devonshire, 25th May 2022

9. Rural police report

The police sent a report that was read at the Ordinary Council Meeting later in the evening.

10. Open forum: Matters raised by the public: None.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 7.36pm.

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

DRAFT