

## HORSFORD

### Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting for Horsford held on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 7pm in the Village Hall

**Present:** Cllr Bone, Cllr Brown (Chair), Cllr Clarke, Cllr Johnson, Cllr Keeler, Cllr Makinson, Cllr Overton, Cllr Thorpe, Cllr Tony Adams (County Councillor), Sarah Vergette (Clerk) and three members of the public.

1. Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting 2025: were presented and confirmed.
2. Apologies for Absence: Cllr Colins, Cllr Stallard-Mulford and Cllr Nich Starling, Cllr Lisa Starling (District Councillors).
3. Report from the Public Pits Charity: Income is only small, being rents from the Horsford and Horsham St. Faith Parish Councils and bank interest totaling £227.52. The Charity has received no applications for grants and no payments have been made during the year.

4. Report from the Fuel Allotment Charity:  
2025 proved to be another stable and successful year for this important local charity. 110 qualifying residents claimed a £20 payment in early December with that number slightly down when compared with 2024.

As a reminder applicants must be at least 65 years of age and have lived in the village for a minimum of 5 years. A list of eligible names is displayed on selected village notice boards in early November with payments being made at the village hall between 2.30 and 3.30pm on the first Friday in December.

The Trustees are pleased that the £20 payment was once again maintained last year but with so much worldwide turmoil it remains to be seen how this will impact on the Charities investment income.

Finally in the months ahead we will need to formulate a new agreement for the land adjacent to Green Lane that Forestry England lease from the Charity. This process may involve some land agent and solicitor expenses although the Trustees will do everything possible to keep these to a minimum.

5. Business Action Plan Group:

During last year the project team focused almost completely on the HNP Refresh.

A change of personnel at EE (Endurance Estates) created a hiatus and ultimately resulted in the owner of EE becoming more directly involved in our meetings. Bidwells now represent EE in this process.

We continue to have a very good relationship with the Neighbourhood Plan team at BDC, and they reviewed the NP draft document and made very constructive and helpful comments.

ONH liaised with BDC on the recent changes in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and BDC agreed their suggestion that the making of the revised Horsford NP would not result in less housing being delivered in the parish, through the Development Plan, than if the revised NP were not to be made.

A few changes to the draft HNP document were required where duplication of policies already referred to in the NPPF have been removed. This doesn't dilute the policies but simply avoids duplication, which this Government is hoping to achieve.

The next stage in the NP process was the Reg:14 six week informal period of consultation which occurred in October/November. Statutory Stakeholders such as Anglian Water, NCC, BDC and locally our doctors' practice, were given online access to the draft HNP and invited to make comments on it within the six week consultation period. The community were also asked to make comments, and we held two drop ins at the Village Hall, which were well attended. All comments have been recorded.

Moving on to the current year, we are working on the final draft version of the Horsford Neighbourhood Plan Refresh document which will be submitted to BDC as the next part of the process which is Reg:16. This is when BDC publishes and consults the community on the draft Neighbourhood Plan. It is the formal public consultation period, usually lasting 6 weeks, after which the comments received are passed to an independent examiner along with the plan.

There follows a referendum run by BDC. It is only those who are registered to vote within addresses in the neighbourhood area who can vote upon the question of whether the Neighbourhood Plan should be taken into account by BDC in the consideration of planning applications.

We are now working on the responses from the community referred to above, and two stand out – feedback on medical services in the village and highways matters. We are writing to the medical practice to make them aware of the community's concern about the services provided. Last year HPC commissioned NCC Highways to do a feasibility on the Holt Road as a start to considering the community feedback and areas of concern.

We have also started work on a Horsford Emergency Plan. Chris Overton has taken this on and will provide a brief update at the HPC meeting.

6. Annual Report by Chairman: Cllr Brown thanked the clerk for her advice and support, he thanked Cllr Keeler for her work as Vice-Chair and the other councillors for their work throughout the year. Special thanks were also given to the BAP Group for their hard work on the Neighbourhood Plan Refresh. The Parish Council is proactive and efficient. The Chairman explained that as the village grows so do the maintenance costs. The Chairman concluded by thanking members of the public for their support.
  
7. Residents' Questions and any other business. None.

There being no further business and the meeting closed at 7.04pm