

Chairman's Report: Horningtoft Annual Parish Meeting May 19th 2021

Planning

- **Ivy Farm, Thumb Lane:** Change of use of two agricultural buildings was refused after appeal.
- **Grange Farm, Church Rd:** Application for conversion and extension of barn to form single bedroom unit.

Highways

- **Flooding on B1146:** After the County Councillor organised a site meeting with the Highways Engineer, the culvert under the main road was jetted which alleviated the problem of water backing up Harper's Lane. Also the drains under the road were cleaned but this is an ongoing problem and regular maintenance by the County Council is essential.
- **Church Rd Ditch:** Was causing problems for household sewage treatment plants at the Brisley Rd end as it was not draining satisfactorily by the Church. Despite continued requests by the Parish Council to Highways, no action was taken. The adjacent landowner dug out the ditch which has since solved the problem.
- **Inappropriate disposal of tarmac:** It was noted that quantities of tarmac were being dumped in the unofficial laybys, at the end of the day, by road contractors along the Brisley Road towards Whissonsett.
- **Church Farm Ditch:** Reports were made of the ditch smelling however the owner is dealing with this.
- **Oxwick Rd Flooding:** This ongoing problem has been reported by the Parish Council and the County Councillor is looking into this matter with Highways.
- **Potholes:** Following a very wet winter, several potholes were reported. The larger ones were dealt with fairly quickly, others still awaiting attention.

Finance

- Councillors decided to increase the precept from £1850 to £1950

General

- Obviously with the Covid pandemic, no Annual Parish Meeting was held last year. Parish Council Meetings were held in person when possible or via Zoom.
- We were all very saddened to hear of Bryan Leigh's illness which meant he had to retire as Parish Clerk last Summer. He and his wife, Angela, were extremely helpful in the transition from his retirement to Donna Secker taking on the position of Parish Clerk. As ever, Bryan was incredibly determined and hardworking even from his hospital bed. We will always be very grateful for his years of dedicated service, his knowledge of local Government, efficient manner and good humour.
- The new Churchyard gate to which the Parish Council contributed half is now in place.
- Timber for a new footbridge at the Claypits is in store and hopefully the easing of Lockdown will enable a working party to put this in place.

Finally many thanks to all the villagers and friends who have helped during the course of this difficult year and to the councillors for their attendance and support at meetings. Likewise thanks to County Councillor Mark Kiddle - Morris and District Councillor Trevor Carter for their time and support and finally the Clerk Donna Secker for her hard work.

Report for Horningtoft Financial position:

We started March 2021 with a positive balance of £ 695.20 in the Account and £2415.17 in the Business Account.

The precept remained at £1850.00 for the year

We have spent £2178.48 in the last financial year

Variances: due to budgeting reasons, we spent £170.00 on Website, due to starting a new website and also paying the premium on the previous website early on in the year.

The Defib service charge was £135.00 unfortunately there wasn't a budget for the service charge.

In the Miscellaneous budget £53.00, and this was because there wasn't a budget allocated for this item.

£21.00 was spend on a training course for the clerk and again no budget was allocated.

We move into 2021/2022 with a positive bank balance of £366.72 and the business account £2416.27 total of £2782.99 Balance.

The precept was raised by £100.00 this year, total being £1950.00

Good Friday Village Walk

The walk in 2020 had to be cancelled because of restrictions, however Robert and I did walk part of the planned route.

This year restrictions still did not allow for a large organised group to walk, however eleven people, walking in twos and keeping at a distance, walked independently along local footpaths to keep up the tradition of a walk on Good Friday.

Walking locally has been a major pastime for most of us and a chance to chat and feel safe in the open has been a relief.

Knit & Natter

The Knit and Natter group last met in March 2020, it is hoped to have a meeting in June if the current rules still allow.

Pauline Chapman
For Horningtoft Parish Meeting 19th May 2021

Horningtoft Community Fund

Registration number 212733

Charity Trustees Report for Financial Year end 2020

Income

Gross Income	£ 297
Gross Expenditure	£ nil
Balance carried forward	£ 955

These figures were submitted to the Charity Commission on 30 October 2020

Charity Trustees Report for Financial Year end March 2021

Finances

Gross Income	£ 302
Gross Expenditure	£ 850
Balance carried forward	£ 407

These figures will submitted to the Charity Commission when requested later in the year

Investments

Statement of holding held on 31 March 2021
Number of units 577.99

Activities

Unfortunately there were no requests for funds received in the previous year to April 2020 the trustees made no payments from the fund. However after the outbreak of the Coronavirus Pandemic we knew that there would likely be families living in the village that could benefit from some extra help. The Community Fund information was included in an email sent out by the Support Group and as a result applications were made to us and we were able to make funds available to six families to assist in the extra expenses involved in home schooling for eleven children.

The Trustees would like to remind everyone one that further funds are available, not just for children, but to anyone who has lived in the village for more than one year. Residents can contact any one of the trustees in confidence. There will obviously still be on-going expenses because of the Covid-19 virus and the fund is there to help.

Funds may for example cover costs of working from home, education expenses such as text books, specialised teaching aids, child minding or nursery care, internet and broadband costs. All requests are treated in strict confidence by the Trustees.

Trustees

The Trustees are Pauline Chapman, Heather Gooch and Liz Logan, they remain so until 2022.

Horningtoft Heritage Society Report

for Parish Meeting Wednesday May 19th 2021

In November 2019 the Heritage Society discussed the possibility of having our Heritage Exhibition the weekend of 8th 9th & 10th May 2020, when weekend VE Day commemorations were taking place. This was agreed with members of the PCC. Pauline Chapman applied for funding from Breckland WWII Commemorative Grant Scheme and Norfolk Armed Forces Covenant Commemoration Fund. We would also like to thank the Parish Council for their donation. The monies received helped pay for the subscriptions to Family History research sites and printing and stationery costs etc.

The Society began researching and gathering information on village families involved in WWII and researching the families of the two residents who died. Also the Evacuees from Horningtoft who attended Whissonsett School. Family trees were compiled.

Pauline had previously visited the National Archives at Kew. Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries records were copied giving valuable information about farm ownership and crops, livestock, and equipment during the second world war.

Mid-January we had an invitation from the University of Essex, to upload information re our WW1 Exhibition, which took place in 2014 to "Mapping the Centenary". A project marking the centenary between 2014 and 2019. This is now available on the Imperial War Museum site together with "Lives of the First World War" which has information uploaded on Miles Riches and Thomas Annison, residents of Horningtoft who died in WW1.

Towards the end of January 2020 me and Pauline visited the Norfolk Records Office to gather information on Horningtoft during the War Years. In early March, a workshop was held in the church with 16 society members attending. They were updated on research so far. As a result of the workshop, we received five personal memories.

Then coronavirus hit, we were unable to hold our Exhibition, but a display was put in the Heritage notice board and on the church gates with bunting and displays in windows around the village to Commemorate VE Day.

Pauline has been busy setting up a new Horningtoft Website and the personal memories can be accessed at <https://horningtoft.wixsite.com/index>

I have been making good use of the research sites during lockdown, I volunteered at Gressenhall Museum to research the family history of the inmates recorded on the Census returns. Biographies are available on www.ehive.com with many more to be added.

As lockdown has been eased, we have now been able to produce a small display in the church. Not an exhibition as such but the funds have allowed us to collect, print and place all the information into booklets, now available on the Heritage desk.

Early next year Findmypast are planning to release the 1921 Census, this we hope can become the focus of our next Exhibition, hopefully in 2022.

Heather Gooch Chairperson
Horningtoft Heritage Society.