

SOUTH HANNINGFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of the Electors of South Hanningfield held via zoom on Thursday 29th April 2021.

Present: Councillors Thomason, Black, Whitehead, Huntington, Vickers, Marsello, Burgess, Bonnett, Walker, Vallis and Coveley. Cllr Grundy and 6 Parishioners were also in attendance and the Clerk kept the minutes.

1. Apologies for Absence – Councillor Mitchell, Anne Thomason and Jeff Simpson.

2. Welcome – The Chairman, Councillor Thomason welcomed members and residents to this evenings Annual Parish Meeting.

3. Approval of Minutes dated the 26th of April 2019 followed by any questions – Cllr Whitehead proposed these were a true record, seconded by Cllr Marsello. No questions were asked.

4. Report from Councillor Black, Sports Field Chairman – 2020 was a very difficult year with grassroots sport badly affected by the Covid 19 restrictions. As a council we tried to help the sports field users by reducing annual hire fees for South Hanningfield Tennis Club and match day costs for the football clubs. We utilised this period by upgrading the electrical wiring throughout the pavilion and modernising the heating. A repair and painting project has been completed on the dugouts. The sports field enjoyed two awards from the Essex Playing Fields Association, a Gold Award for the Best Kept Football Pitch and a Merit Award for the Best Kept Playing Field serving a population of 2500 or less. I would like to thank all who use our facilities, for their continued support and understanding during the Covid 19 restrictions. I would also like to show my appreciation to my committee and especially the Parish Clerk for their support throughout the year. Lastly a special mention to Mick and Ralph for their hard work in maintaining the playing fields in excellent condition.

5. Report from Councillor Walker, Parks & Open Spaces Chairman
The open spaces have been a great asset to residents during the coronavirus lockdowns. Despite restrictions, regular grass and hedge cutting have been continued as usual and regular maintenance carried out. Many thanks therefore go to our groundsmen Ralph Thomason and Mick Holt for all their hard work over the past year and especially to Julie

for co-ordinating everything efficiently from home. The working party met 3 times over the past year. Our recreation grounds and play areas are very popular with residents and we again received awards from the Essex Playing Fields Association: a Gold Award for Ramsden Heath and a Merit for South Hanningfield. Apart from the costs of the day-to-day maintenance, a major expense this year was the removal of 50 metres of hedge along the south side of the recreation ground and the erection of a new palisade fence next to the footpath. A continued tree maintenance programme has also been carried out. Finally, the working party continues to investigate different possibilities for extending and renovating the basketball area in the recreation ground. Thanks go to my committee for their continued help and support.

6. Report from the Finance Chairman, Councillor Whitehead – I am pleased to report that the finances of the Parish Council remain in a strong position despite the disruption caused by Covid during the past year. Income was just above budget, at £100,850 compared to £98,525 in 2019-20. The Parish Council received grants from Government totalling £21,427, in respect of lost income from Covid, so that in total, the council was in a better position than had been feared during the year. A grant of £5000 was made to South Hanningfield Village Hall and Ramsden Heath Village Hall to assist with hall refurbishments. The major expense was the new fencing at the Recreation Ground. The Parish Council continues to use your money very carefully. We all look forward to life returning to normal in the months ahead.

7. Report from the Chairman, Councillor Thomason – What a year it has been with Covid causing us to work in many different ways. The virus has affected many in the parish and unfortunately not all survived, and our sincere condolences go to those affected. Julie has worked from home, the office being closed, meetings have been by virtual zoom. My thanks go to the 30 Covid Volunteers, they have been a tremendous help to residents who were unable to collect prescriptions or food shopping and thanks go to Barbara & Jenny from the Luncheon Club, who have been delivering puddings to their members during lockdown. Sadly, the V.E Fun Day had to be cancelled but I am happy to report that we were able to erect the Christmas tree, which was a welcome sight for our residents. My thanks go to the P3 Team for their efforts erecting this once again and for clearing the footpaths. Christmas Cheer was well received with the voucher scheme being extended to March. The allotments were once again well used and still with a waiting list. My thanks go to Peter Thurgood who is our Transport Representative, he is doing a fantastic job. My sincere thanks go to Mick and Ralph, our

ground staff who have worked throughout Covid and as a result won prizes for the recreation ground and sports field, very well done indeed. My thanks go to my team of Councillors who give so freely of their time and special thanks to Julie, our Clerk, who is the cornerstone of the council and not forgetting my Wife Anne, who helps me tremendously with my council work.

8. Matters for Information –

- a) Cllr Burgess reported that during lockdown RHVH employed a company to install a new air conditioning system which draws warm air in the winter and chills in the summer. It is the state-of-the-art system and is the way to go for the future. He thanked the Parish Council for their contribution towards this new system. He also thanked Gary Panaghiston and Ken Macey, who do a great job on the committee.
- b) Peter Thurgood gave a brief report on his work as the Transport Representative and the work carried out by the P3 Team, of whom, he is leader.
- c) Ian Hawkes reported parents are still parking on the yellow lines in Church Road.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.53pm.

Approved as a true record.

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