



Chair: Cllr Toby Acton
Clerk: Bonnie Jones | Ware Farm, The Street, High Roding, CM6 1NT |
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Meeting of the Parish (Annual Parish Assembly)
Wednesday 8th May 2024 – at 7:00pm
at the High Ongar Village Hall

MINUTES

Present: Cllr Acton (Chairman), Cllr Arthur, Cllr Smith, Cllr Bosworth and Cllr Funnell.

Bonnie Jones (Clerk)
Susan Deluca (previous Locum Clerk)

1. Introductions of Councillors

No members of the public present, therefore Councillor introductions were not necessary.

2. To Receive a written report on the Councils activities

Cllr Acton provided the below verbal report:

It is a pleasure to have now completed my second year as Chairman of High Ongar Parish Council and I would like to thank my Vice Chair, Cllr Steven Smith, for his support along with all my fellow councillors, Chris Funnell, Gordon Arthur, John Tory and Simon Bosworth.

During the course of the year, we were joined by Cllr John Catlin and Cllr Claudio Gallicchio who were co-opted onto the Parish Council last September and who have already shown considerable and valuable contribution, for which I thank them.

John Catlin was instrumental in putting on a very successful Christmas Dinner for the older people in the village last year.

We are sorry to lose John Tory as a member of the Parish Council and I have no doubt that my fellow Councillors will join me in thanking him for his significant work and contribution over his many years of service, both to the Parish Council and the Village Hall.

We were very pleased to welcome Bonnie Jones as our new clerk in November and I would like to thank her for her sterling work, and also thank Susan De Luca, our previous Locum Clerk, for her invaluable work and support over the previous 9 months, and also for her ongoing support.

Last summer, I personally undertook 5 full days of Councillor and Chairman Training, to ensure that I am better equipped and informed for the roles. The training, provided by EALC was excellent, informative and has been extremely useful to me.

During the course of the year, the Parish Council established a new .gov domain name for its website (www.highongar-pc.gov.uk) together with associated email addresses for all Councillors. The existing website has been moved to the new address and is gradually being improved and updated.

In May last year, we again welcomed the RideLondon cycle race to the area and were very pleased that the majority of the challenges that had occurred the previous year had been ironed out with better organisation and a longer lead time.



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The Parish Council organised for the cleaning of the bus shelters on the A414 which had deteriorated over the years and replaced a broken bench at Paslow Common.

In November, I again laid a wreath on behalf of the Parish Council for Remembrance Day at the war memorial in the village, and Cllr Chris Funnell performed the same duty at the Remembrance Service on the Sunday at the church.

Most recently, the Parish Council held an Extraordinary Meeting to discuss the award of a significant grant from the UK Prosperity Fund for the funding of a children's play area in the Parish. There was a healthy discussion, with more than 20 members of the public attending, and the matter is still ongoing as we seek to identify a suitable site for the play area.

I would like to close by congratulating my fellow Councillors for their re-election and for their continued support and service to the Parish. We look forward to new councillors joining us in the near future so that we can continue to ensure that the residents of our parish and villages continue to get the best possible representation and support.

3. To receive a report from District Councillors.

There were no District Councillors in attendance.

4. To receive a report from County Councillors.

There were no County Councillors in attendance.

5. To receive a summary of the accounts for 2023/2024 financial year.

The Clerk provided a summary of the 2023/2024 accounts. These accounts will be published on the High Ongar Parish Council website.

6. To receive questions from the public concerning matters over which the Parish Council has control or some influence.

There were no members of the public in attendance.

Meeting Closed – 19:10