

Ashwell Patients' Group

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday the 21st of April (Via Zoom)

1. Present: Peter Chapman, Hilary Hodge, Dr Matt Jarvis, Harry King, Wendy Kitchener, Mike Pearch, Mark Pilling, Detlev Popp, Andrea Rowland.

2. Apologies: Tessa Cathcart, Linda Johnson.

3. Welcome: Hilary Hodge was welcomed joining Tessa as a representative for Bassingbourn. This in recognition of the size of that part of our surgery's activity.

4. Chairman's Remarks - Our surgery team was congratulated and thanked for their contribution to the vaccination rollout programme. The many volunteers (including those from our communities) also deserve commendation.

- An email from Ashwell resident Graham Scott, circulated to members prior to the meeting, was discussed. It was agreed that it would be helpful for a meeting to be arranged between Mr Scott and Dr Jarvis to discuss his concerns. MPI will proceed to organise such a meeting as soon as possible.

- "Cancel Out Cancer": the committee has agreed to take part in this initiative organised by the CCG (online session) at 3pm on Tuesday 27th April. Details on how to join to follow.

5. Managers Report: - One of our office colleagues is on maternity leave until August.

Admin is fully staffed as is our nursing section.

- Dr Cole has just left and our thanks to her for her contribution. She is being replaced by locums until the summer when we hope to have appointed a permanent replacement. Discussions with a doctor for this role are in progress and the signs are encouraging. This is reassuring at a time when recruitment is far from easy.

We continue to enjoy the services of our registrars, qualified doctors who are in the final stage of their GP training.

6. Vaccination Update From Dr Jarvis - Plans for our PCN vaccination centre in Letchworth: There are 2 types of vaccination centre – regional ones such as Robertson House (Stevenage) and The Old Grammar School (Letchworth) which are run directly by the NHS; and local ones provided and staffed by groups of GP practices (Primary Care Networks) where we join with colleagues from Baldock and Letchworth to operate the centre near Sainsbury's. So far our local centre has been offering vaccinations to those in priority groups down to the 50+. Our main target will now be to provide second doses, leaving regional centres to look after the younger age groups.

- Need to provide non-Covid treatments: It is hoped that the shift of focus from our centre to our own surgery operations will enable a welcome resumption of more normal medical activity. We are all aware of the tremendous backlog for hospital treatments but there is also pent-up demand at practice level.

- Booster shots: It is likely that our PCN centre will stay open for these but the future is unclear with talk of a pill and combining Covid vaccine with flu jabs in some way being aired in the media. We await guidance from the government. A national trial is underway to verify the effect of varying the type of vaccine a patient receives ie a jab of one vaccine type followed by a different type ("mix-and-match"). It will be several months before results are available. One of the problems with the rollout to date is irregularity of vaccine supply. A combination approach would be helpful in this respect.

- Long Covid: Currently resources are directed at hospital clinics. At present, the condition can be diagnosed but there is little in -

the way of treatment. The hope is that treatments will become available before too long. It is hoped that just as the vaccines were developed in record time, the same will be true for long Covid treatments. Dr Jarvis confirmed that we have cases.

- Telemedicine (remote treatment): The pandemic has caused surgeries to adapt how they deal with patients. Whilst some in-surgery activity continues, the need to keep infection at bay has meant far greater use of remote consultation including emails, video, text and phone calls. Whilst such forms of "telemedicine" suit some patients, for others they are less satisfactory. The pros and cons are highlighted in a recent "Healthwatch" report previously circulated to the committee. Dr Jarvis said that he and his colleagues greatly appreciated and missed more face-to-face consultations.

- Vaccinations to the housebound: There were delays with these in January causing some anxiety given individual vulnerability. The service was delegated to our out-of-hours provider Herts Urgent Care (HUC). During the early vaccination period the Pfizer vaccine was being used. This has very demanding storage requirements making it impossible to deliver outside centres which are specially equipped so home vaccination was ruled out. The problem was resolved when less fragile products became available.

7. "Checklist for GP Surgeries": - This is a document mentioned in the Healthwatch Report cited earlier which details appropriate measures for welcoming patients into surgeries whilst ensuring infection control. MPI pointed out that in January our surgeries had been inspected by the CCG with particular reference to Covid and were found to be compliant from a Health and Safety point of view.

8. Recent NICE Guidance On The Use Of Painkillers- Dr Jarvis was asked to comment on this and on the use of antibiotics: The use of painkillers is a long-standing issue. Whilst morphine is very good for the short-term control of acute pain it is "heavy duty" and needs to be used as such. He explained how he teaches junior doctors not to consider such drugs for long-term use and to seek non-drug methods for acute pain. He sees the NICE guidance as an attempt to avoid prescribed opiate addiction which is prevalent in the US. MPI raised the question of drug use for mental illness. MJ replied that NICE had provided guidance which left room for drug use when deemed appropriate. The question of mental illness among the young arising from the pandemic/ lockdown/ school closure/ isolation was also raised. MJ acknowledged this and regretted the lack of "talking" therapies.

The over prescription of antibiotics is also a long-standing issue. Overuse leads to ineffectiveness over time. They can also deplete friendly bacteria. This is something MJ makes clear to junior doctors. Vets also need to limit the use of antibiotics on animals. And of course in many countries quite strong antibiotic formulations can be bought over the counter.

9. AOB: WK wondered if our surgery had applied for any local authority grants for anti-Covid purposes. MPI has investigated and will continue to do so.

10. Date Of Next Meeting: To be announced.

Peter Chapman Chairman

Copy Date: Please send all copy / pictures for July edition to Lucy Wade by June 20th to E-mail: villagevoice3@gmail.com

• Village Voice •

June 2021

for Caldecote, Edworth, Hinxworth and Newnham

No.237

A Fond Farewell

A fond farewell was said to Janet and Reggie Fair at the Three Horseshoes at the end of April when a painting of St Nicholas' Church, Hinxworth by local artist Alison Gates was presented to them by the Church. Janet and Reggie were well known, long established residents of Chapel Street, Hinxworth, and lived there for 32 years, Reggie's family having moved there in 1945! Janet and Reggie have left for a new life in the Isle of Wight. We wish them all the best.



Janet Fair receiving her painting

Litter Pick - Cancelled

I was very sorry to have to cancel the planned litter pick at the beginning of May.

Due to a combination of things, we were unable to go ahead but on the day the weather was dreadful, so I doubt any of you were sorry that it was cancelled.

However, I do have stuff to hand on to anyone who wants to organise the next litter pick. (There are pickers and hi-vis tabards in the Village Hall). Unfortunately, I will not be organising another one as I have stepped down from my role as WI President and am giving up organising events for a while. Thank you to all those who have supported me over the years by attending various 'dos'. I hope you will continue to support whoever organises events in this village these are what makes our community so special.

Sylvia Scales e: sylviamedia@gmail.com

Hinxworth Tennis Court

As most of you know, last summer in the lock down we had to lock the gate to the Tennis Court because of anti-social behaviour from young people coming in from outside the Village. We have had no further problems since. Instead of leaving the gate open now, please use the code on the padlock (1948) to open it and please lock it on leaving. With thanks.

Dick Cobb - HPC

Hinxworth Archer Wins Archery GB's National Competition

Hinxworth's compound archery champion Neil Bridgewater won the first major national compound archery competition held on the 1st May at the Lilleshall National Sports Centre Shropshire.

Neil was one of the 32 elite British compound archers invited to celebrate the start of Archery again since the first lockdown in April 2020.

At the end of the elimination round the top 16 scoring competitors entered the "Head to Head" knockout finals. Each of the elite archers shoot 15 arrows at 50 metres distance on a target face measuring 80 cm. The centre "Gold" scores 10 points and is just a mere 5 cm wide – so no room for errors.

Neil won the first match 146/145 then the quarter finals 141/140. The semi finals ended with a tie 143/143 against fellow UK squad member Adam Ravenscroft. Neil was adjudged winner due to having a ten score nearer the dead-centre. In the final Neil was up against Adam Carpenter also a UK squad member. Neil won the final 148/144. Congratulations Neil, a great start to the season.

David Osmond



Neil Bridgewater

Church Services – June 2021

June 6 10.15am Family Service, St Nicholas, Hinxworth

June 13 9.15am Parish Communion, St Nicholas, Hinxworth

June 20 9.15 am Parish Communion, St Nicholas, Hinxworth

June 27 9.15 am Parish Communion, St Nicholas, Hinxworth

9.30 am Holy Communion, St Vincent, Newnham

Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Hinxworth Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Thursday 13th May 2021 at 7:00PM.

Present: Mr R. Cobb (Chairman), Mr N. Tiffin, Mr A. Lloyd, Mrs W. Kitchener (Clerk)

Apologies: Anthony Dawson. Other persons present: Steve Jarvis Hertfordshire County Councillor. Tom Tyson District Councillor

1. The Minutes of the last meeting:

The minutes of the meeting of 18th March 2021 were agreed by the Parish Councillors. Proposed by Tony Lloyd and seconded by Nick Tiffin.

2. Matters arising not elsewhere on the Agenda:- Nothing to report.

3. Correspondence: Nothing to report.

4. Finance:

Current Parish Council Funds: The Councillors agreed to the expenditure for the current month. Proposed by Tony Lloyd and seconded by Nick Tiffin.

Smaller Authorities (England): The exemption certificate has now been signed by the Chairman (Richard Cobb) and the Financial Officer Responsible (Wendy Kitchener) and will be forwarded PKF Littlejohn LLL (Ref: SBA Team) | Westferry Circus, Canary Wharf, London E14 4HD. The accountants responsible for overseeing the Smaller Authorities (England).

All other relevant documents for the Annual Accounts of 2020/2021 have been signed and will be posted on the Hinxworth Parish Council website. Should any resident of Hinxworth require any details or clarification of the current accounts/audit please contact Wendy Kitchener by email wggk@btinternet.com or by telephone 01767-313766.

The Parish Councillors convey their thanks to Wendy for compiling and finalising the accounts and to Jayne Whitfield who carried out the internal audit.

Anonymous Donation:- The Parish Council has received an anonymous donation of £2500.00 this is to be held in the War Memorial repair/upkeep fund.

5. Planning:

Planning Application 21/01456/FP – Land at the North West side of the High Street.

Nick Tiffin left the meeting for this item as he declared an interest. He has also notified NHDC of this in his Declaration of Interest form as the owner of the parcel of land.

The Councillors agreed to meet on site on May 24th to discuss the matter further and reach a decision on their response to NHDC.

6. Highways:

Road Repairs:- A revised schedule of dates as to when the work it to be started is awaited.

Road Gullies:- Arrangements are to be made for these to be emptied.

Traffic Calming Measures:- A feasibility study is to be arranged as to what would be the ideal solution to this problem in the High Street.

7. Village Hall:

It is hoped to reopen the Hall on June 21st,

Disabled Parking:- The Councillors are to arrange for an additional bay to be installed.

Broken Paving Slab:- This is to be replaced.

8. Recreation Ground:

David Granger has managed to do the first cut of the season even though the ground is very wet.

Hedge Cutting around the perimeter of the Recreation Ground: This is still on hold due to the saturated ground,

The Archery Club: The Chairman has provided David Osmond with the Annual Agreement for 2021/2022. As and when the Archery Club can access the site. The Club has, with the consent of the Parish Council, rearranged for the use of the Recreation Ground for two extra hours on a Wednesday evening between 4.00pm and 6.00pm.

The Play Area: The play equipment is to be pressure washed on 5th June at 5.00pm.

9. The Tennis Court:

The Court is now unlocked for use by the Villagers. The Councillors intend to re-white line the court markings in the near future.

10. Allotments:

Nothing to Report

11. Any Other Urgent Business:

The A.P.M. This will be held on Thursday August 5th 2021. In the Village Hall at 8.00pm.

12: Date of the Next Meeting:

Thursday July 1st at 7.00pm in the Village Hall. The meeting closed at 8.05 pm.

Wendy Kitchener – Clerk Hinxworth Parish Council.



The Three Horseshoes

Ladies' Cocktail Afternoon - Saturday 19th June – 2pm onwards

With many new families arriving in our location, this is an opportunity to meet other newcomers as well as more established residents. Come along for a relaxing afternoon and enjoy a glass or two.

Gin and Jazz - Sunday 27th June – 1pm onwards

Come and join us for a fun filled afternoon with the amazing Miss Jones Jazz Band. A selection of Gins will be available from our Gin Bar, please book early to avoid disappointment.

Corruption – Evening of Friday 2nd July – 9pm

Enjoy some great hits from our live band Corruption.

Boozie Blues - Sunday 15th August – 1pm onwards

Fabulous blues music from the Chris Lord Blues Express. Another afternoon for your diary to relax and listen to some great tunes. Please book early to avoid disappointment.

As always, families are very welcome, but we do ask that small children are supervised at all times.

We do not wish to offend anyone and will keep you updated in advance of events that may cause noise and more traffic to the village. Your continued support is much appreciated.

Patrick's Last Book?

Patrick Forbes has written his fourth book, "A Roomful of Elephants." The book is subtitled "My first 80 years in the church." He writes about working on a fishing trawler out of Grimsby straight after leaving school. He trained as a Merchant Navy Radio Officer, went to sea working mostly on Tate and Lyle bulk sugar carriers before coming ashore to marry Annette. He then worked at furniture moving, installing and servicing telephone answering machines, and as a technical engineer in a recording studio. He studied theology in Lincoln and worked as a junior curate in Yeovil, the county where he was born. He and Annette and Stephen then moved for nine years to Thamesmead, a huge housing development South of the Thames and East of Woolwich. While there he established a Trust to encourage Thamesmead people to dream dreams and use the Trust to fulfil them. He established one of the first UK community radio stations on a cable system.

Moving to Hertfordshire in 1978, he worked at Offley and Lilley as parish priest while developing communications work within the Diocese of St Albans. He produced religious programmes for Chiltern Radio and then BBC Bedfordshire, now Three Counties Radio. He contributed Pause for Thought to Radio Two, and epilogues to Anglia Television. He worked in the Communications Unit at Church House, London, for four years, before working as Press Officer for The Mission to Seafarers. For the last 21 years he has done what he could in the parishes of Hinxworth, Ashwell and Newnham.

Former Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams wrote of the book: Imagine just for a moment that most of our discussions in the Church about how we survive into the next generation are starting in the wrong place. Patrick Forbes' irresistibly lively memoir suggests that it wouldn't hurt to stop and open our eyes not only to a herd of persistently ignored and self-inflicted problems but also to the abundance of gift and newness that he has discovered in his unique pilgrimage.

The book is published by Bauhan Publishing at £14.99 and is available at bookshops or on-line.

There will be a book party on Saturday June 26th at the Three Horseshoes, Hinxworth, at 2pm, a chance to meet the author, publisher, illustrator and who knows who else!

Everyone is invited.

Hinxworth and Edworth WI – May Meeting

The May meeting for the village WI is always the AGM. A well attended meeting starting promptly at 7.30. Sylvia took the chair and got matters underway with some non-AGM information about the forthcoming meeting in June when we will be meeting in Sylvia's garden – it will be our first face to face meeting for over a year. Everyone is so looking forward to this – not only is Sylvia and Bob's garden a delight to be in, but it will also be wonderful to see so many friends again after so long. The July meeting is a garden meeting but with a difference this year when we will be holding our meeting in the meadow by Edworth Church by kind permission of Rosemary and David Smyth.

Lizzie Cree then took over the Zoom controls and the AGM proper started with various reports read summarising the last 12 months of the WI including the Secretary and Treasurer's reports and re-election of committee members, election of new committee members and finally the election of our new president – Anki Smart.

Business over Lizzie introduced the speaker for the evening – Steve Lester. His topic was 'Insights of a Provincial Auctioneer'. Steve is a fine art valuer and auctioneer having run a number of provincial salerooms across Essex for nearly 20 years. He had some fascinating tales to tell us from behind the gavel. It was quite evident that the members were captivated by his presentation. He also offered us all some tips on what to expect at an auction, the fast pace of the bidding – some 100-180 lots per hour, how to bid at an auction, he explained catalogue jargon and what to watch for when attending an auction. All useful stuff to know if you don't want to end up unwittingly bidding for something because the auctioneer mistakes your wave to a friend across the sale room as a bid! Steve had put so much work into his presentation and it was very well received by the members.

The June meeting will be at the earlier start time of 7pm. Fingers crossed for a fine, warm evening.

Chrisi Hook

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday 4th July 2pm
Hinxworth Recreation Ground

Bring along a Picnic'
to celebrate
NHS & Essential Workers Day

Meet new villagers & spend time
with friends & family
...more details to follow

There will be a collection for the NHS

This is a village event & everyone can get involved.
If you want to help with the event or can provide music please get in touch with
Hilary on 07825 046640

THANK YOU! NHS