



**Minutes of the High Wych Annual Meeting of the Parish Electors  
Wednesday 15th May 2024 at 7.15pm in  
The Green Room, High Wych Memorial Hall**

Cllr Tom Payne (TP)\*  
Cllr John Andreotti (JA)\*  
Cllr Carrie Payne\*

Cllr Keith Jordan\*  
Cllr David Smith (DS)\*  
Cllr Jacqueline Jackson\*

**\* Denotes present**

Present: Six member of the public (including parish councillors).

Clerk: Colin Marks, Clerk to the Parish Council

**ACTION**

1. **Welcome and introduction:** Parish Council Chairman Cllr Tom Payne welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 7.19pm.
2. **Apologies for Absence:** District Cllr Ian Devonshire, County Cllr Eric Buckmaster, East Herts Neighbourhood Police Team.
3. **Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish, 17<sup>th</sup> May 2023**  
The Minutes were approved as drafted. The Chairman signed the Minutes.
4. **Chairman's personal review of the year 2023/24**  
The Chairman said that during the year the Parish Council welcomed the co-option of Cllr Jacqueline Jackson. The Clerk has returned to work after being ill for the last 6 months of 2023. The playground renovation project is progressing and it is hoped will be installed during the summer.  
  
Opportunities that are presenting themselves include the further development of successful parish 'partnerships'. The Scarecrow Festival is now established on the King George V field; the new village sign has been installed; the Harlow Theatre Company continues to use the pavilion and has been responsible for its refurbishment. As previously mentioned, the playground project is nearing completion, and the Parish Council continues to engage with local organisations and businesses.  
  
Challenges being faced include the Harlow North/Gilston Garden Town development, together with other local developments and including concerns about a proposed traveller site within the village boundary. The state of the roads remains a problem, including the number of potholes and damage caused to roads and property by the large number of HGV movements through the parish. Speeding and parking issues continue to cause concern, especially around school pick-up times. The maintenance and renewal of assets remains under consideration.  
  
Finally the Chairman acknowledged that Cllr David Smith had announced his intention to retire from the Council, but extended thanks and appreciation to him for agreeing to stay in office for the time being.

**Clerk**

**5. Parish Council Financial Report 2023/24**

**Overview for the Annual Governance Accountability Return**

Total income	£19,063
Total expenditure	£16,749
Bank balance year end 31/03/24	£17,963

**Breakdown**

**Main Income**

Annual Precept - £18,000  
Allotment Rents - £1,027  
Pavilion Lease/Insurance - £534 (yet to be paid)  
Donations - £0

# UNAPPROVED DRAFT<sup>1</sup>

## Main Expenses

Allotments Water & Development Grant- £1,050  
Playing Fields Maintenance (Grass Cutting, Inspections, Litter Picking & Bin Emptying) - £3,813  
Pavilion insurance - £1,097  
Car Park Maintenance (new fencing)/Loan Repayments - £897  
Administration/Clerk/Membership of HAPTC – £7,708  
HWPC Website - £162

## Grants Given

Outreach Post Office - £350  
Allen's Green Association - £0  
Jubilee Grants - £250  
Air Ambulance £100  
Other small grants - £300

## Reserves Carried Forward

General Reserve - £4,650  
Playing Fields Development - £5,500  
Election Reserve - £400  
Car Park Development Reserve - £500  
Tree maintenance £1,000

6. **Reports from Parish Groups:** None received.

7. **County and District Councillor's Annual Reports**

1. **County Cllr Eric Buckmaster** sent comprehensive report for the year; this is included as an appendix to the Minutes of the May Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held later in the evening.

2. **District Cllr Ian Devonshire:** No report received.

8. **Rural police report**

The police did not send a report.

9. **Open forum: Matters raised by the public**

Concerns were raised about overgrown hedges narrowing the width of footways at various locations in the village, the concern included the additional hazard created by pyracantha hedging that has dangerous thorns. The problem is particularly acute for older residents

The erosion and loss of road markings is also a problem. The Chairman agreed to ask Manor of Groves to deal with its hedge that is overhanging the road, and also to ask Herts Highways to reinstate missing road markings.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 7.45pm.

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