

**MINUTES OF AN ANNUAL HANWORTH VILLAGE MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 26th MAY, 2021 AT
7.00pm IN HANWORTH MEMORIAL HALL**

Present: Gill Wilton (Chairman Hanworth Parish Council) Robert Ranger (Vice Chairman), Gill Catling, Sally Martin, Charlie Penrose, Jenny Sackin (members of the Parish Council), Dee Holroyd (clerk to the Council).

Twenty-seven Hanworth Village residents.

- 1. Apologies for Absence:** Sue Francis, Cllrs Saul Penfold NCC, John Toye NNDC.
- 2. Address by Chairman of the Parish Council:** Gill Wilton welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave formal thanks, on behalf of the Parish Council, to Tony Hadlow for all the work he has put in to achieve a long awaited project to restore this lovely little building. It had been very hard work and it was not over yet. The PC will do everything they can to support Tony and hoped the rest of village will too.
GW went on to talk about the new notice board, proudly erected by the cattle grid, which had been made at cost by Charles Matt, and was so heavy it had taken several men of Hanworth to get it into place. GW was hoping to persuade Charles Matts to make another board, perhaps for the Memorial Hall.
GW reported that financially the main costs of running the PC were insurance, clerk`s salary and tree work. Tree work was now complete and three new oaks would be planted on the White Post Road side of the Common.

GW asked for anyone subsequently addressing the meeting to give their name before speaking.

GW said that while the Parish Council currently had no vacancies, anyone wishing to join was welcome to put their name forward forward in case a vacancy arose.

- 3. Report on the restoration of Hanworth Memorial Hall:** TH told the meeting that in 2007 the Memorial Hall Committee was struggling to raise money to finance restoration, with just £8,500 available towards the £30,000, they thought they needed to replace the roof. The Memorial Hall Committee then joined forces with the Commons Committee and commissioned a survey on the Hall. Many problems came to light. Grant and other funding was achieved, a heritage builder (R J Bacon, local builder) agreed to do the work for the cost of materials, labour and VAT.

Work began in January 2020. The whole building was underpinned, new water supply, new porch, newly insulated roof, new kitchen floor and fittings, two tie bars and brackets to prevent spread, new porch and fire doors, all windows replaced or refurbished, floor by hearth re-enforced, new cloakroom block with three WCs, and new radiators. Redecorating was done by volunteers from the village. The cost so far had been £164,000.

The Memorial Hall and Commons Committee were now trying to raise money to restore the former billiard room. They have about £54,000, including grants and promised gifts to come. This was short of their

target, but enough to begin. Each funding application took about a week to complete. (it was tiring and exacting work and TH's son had pointed out at one stage that they needed red pantiles rather than red panties on the roof!). A planning application had been put in, and subject to this, work would be started.

JS asked whether there were any fund raising plans in place. TH thought maybe another fun run, the last one had raised about £3,000.

Once restoration was complete, the next task was to attract users to the Hall. The billiard table would be sold to make room for other use of the space.

4. **Report on Registration of the Common at the Land Registry:** TH reported that in 1990's the title Lord of the Manor had been sold for £14,000 to a member of the Barclay family. The Common had been sold to Michael Barclay, but he had said it was for the people of the village. Following a court case against a claimant, Possessory Title was given to the village. Within the next two to ten days, Full Title would be granted. GW thanked TH for all his very hard and competent work and a round of applause was given.

5. **Drains and Drainage:** Due the very wet weather, there had been a problem in the village with water unable to drain away and tanks overflowing into the road. GW had contacted Anglia Water about connecting the village to mains drains. Anglia Water had an obligation to deal with water creating problems in a community.

AW work in 5 year cycles, so any work needed would probably not take place in less than 10 years. AW would have to install a pumping station and there would be (intrusive and messy) works to bring the mains up to the edge of properties. Residents would pay their own connection costs of about £2,500, but only if they wished to connect. If enough residents showed interest, GW would investigate.

In the meantime a temporary solution would have to be found. The local water table was high and clay seams running through the village made drainage difficult. The PC would ask a water engineer to inspect and hopefully suggest some short term solution.

One resident reported that he had installed a system, to last for 20-30 years which was working well.

6. Public Questions: TH told the meeting that the Single Farm Payment scheme had been replaced by the Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMS). More focus would have to be on how the Common is used. Common Law is complex and the Common is jointly owned by owners of properties bordering the Common, who also have responsibility for the correct running of the Common. TH read out a list of restrictions:

No driving over the Common except to access your property.

No parking on the common.

No camping.

No fires (except to burn bracken)

No fencing

No boundary extension, unless temporarily to keep stock off your property.

No organised football

No kite flying

No major works without permission of the Secretary of State.

In Hanworth`s case Common Rights were signed away in 1947 when the Common was let for livestock grazing to prevent take over by the Government.

Michael Goldsmith, resident and engineer, pointed out that cattle and vehicles damaged drainage ditches, which were not repaired.

There was discussion on the block of land locked land next to the village hall, which had been offered to the PC. The cost of fees to acquire the land and to place a bench on it (as required by the current owner) was found to be more than it would be worth to the PC.

MG stated much concern about an electricity cable crossing some Common land. This was a health and safety hazard and needed urgent attention.

GW thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and invited them to stay for the following PC meeting if they wished.

TH put out a plea for people to join the Village Hall Committee.

- 7. Financial Report:** GW had already covered most of this. The clerk told the meeting that the PC income came from the Precept of £2,300, which had not been raised for three years. Current PC spending was just under income, with about £1,000 in reserve.

The meeting closed at 8.10pm

