

# **HARRINGWORTH AND SHOTLEY ANNUAL PARISH OPEN MEETING**

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2024 from 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start  
Harringworth Village Hall

The Annual Parish Open Meeting will take place on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April; the meeting will include the Village Hall AGM, the Appeals Fund AGM and distribution of the Appeals Fund.

You can read the Draft Minutes of last year's Open Meeting, including the Appeals Fund and Village Hall 2023 AGM's, by visiting the village website: [harringworth.org/news](http://harringworth.org/news). In addition, the Chair of the Parish Council's annual report 2024 may be found at the same location.

The Parish Meeting is open to all electors of our Parish, who have the right not only to attend but also to speak on any matter of local interest.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

## **AGENDA**

1. Introduction
2. Minutes of the 2023 Parish Open Meeting & Matters Arising
3. Chair of Parish Council Annual Report<sup>1</sup>
4. Questions for Chair of Parish Council from the parishioners
5. Village Hall AGM
6. Harringworth Appeals Fund AGM and Distribution of Funds
7. AOB

Andrew White CB DL  
Chair Harringworth Parish Council

<sup>1</sup> Report may be viewed in advance on Parish Council notice board or village website [www.harringworth.org/news](http://www.harringworth.org/news).

**Harringworth Village Hall**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
**AGENDA**

1. Introduction
2. Approval of Minutes of 2023 AGM
3. Chair's and Treasurer's Report
4. Election of Trustees
5. AOB

**Harringworth Appeals Fund**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
**AGENDA**

1. Introduction
2. Approval of Minutes of the 2023 AGM
3. Chairman's and Treasurer's Report
4. Election of Committee
5. Election of Officers (Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary)
6. Allocation of Funds
7. AOB

**Funding Applications Received**

The following applications for funding have been received ahead of the AGM and will be presented during the meeting. Parishioners in attendance are asked to approve the following proposals:

Applicant	Proposal	Request
St John the Baptist Church Parochial Church Council	Funds to address broken windows; replacing failing leadworks; ferramenta repairs; lime mortar joints – all to maintain wind and watertight and avoid further decay.	£1,800
St John the Baptist Church Parochial Church Council	Funding to tackle blocked drains in church yard (hand dig etc.) installation of silt traps and new soak away.	£4,500
St John the Baptist Church Parochial Church Council	Funds to fill redundant underground boiler pits and ducts including to fit limestone slabs under retained cast iron grills	£1,300
Nicky Howell	Funds are requested for the provision of a second defibrillator in the village.	£1,400
Jan Gray and Café Team	Funding for a Coffee Machine for use at St John's Café.	£300
Julian O'Neill	Funding Yoga Equipment including Bolsters for exercise classes in the Village Hall	£375
<b>Total</b>		<b>£9,675</b>

## Chair of Harringworth Parish Council: Annual Report to Parish Meeting – 2023/24

The Parish Council (PC) held six scheduled meetings with two additional extraordinary meetings. Routine business includes finance, planning applications, approving contract payments. Most of our time is dedicated to various topics of interests that occur during the year.

Over the last 12 months the PC have deliberated on a number of planning applications and applications relating to tree work. It is worth noting that whilst the Parish Council has a right to be consulted on such matters, we do not have the power to refuse, or approve an application. That legal duty rests with our Unitary Authority, North Northants Council (NNC).

In the last year we:

- Negotiated a new electricity supply contract following the withdrawal of “deemed supply” i.e. unmetered supply contracts, by all the main electricity supply companies. The result was over a 100% increase in our electricity costs.
- Arranged for the faded 30mph signs to be replaced.
- With the assistance of Highways had advisory 20mph signs erected in the village. In addition, the 30mph sign, on Seaton Road entering the village, has been moved further away from the village and a new advisory 20mph sign erected closer to the village.
- Sought the emergency clearance of some drains during the recent period of extremely high rainfall.
- Contracted for some overhanging branches in the Churchyard to be trimmed. Purchased and laid gravel on the Churchyard path.
- With the continued support of the landowner the hedge that runs beside Seaton Road up to the County boundary will be trimmed once the ground is sufficiently dry.
- Continue to erect both the street poppies and Tommy figure during the Remembrance period.
- Petitioned NNC Highways to permit shrubs to be placed by Jubilee Green (by the entrance to the Stables) to protect the verge. Regrettably, Highways rejected our application.
- Allocated a dedicated email address to each councillor and the Clerk to ensure compliance with data protection and best practice.
- All document storage moved to electronic, providing a quick and secure method to access past documents and correspondence.

I suspect that the state of our roads remains a significant concern to all. The Clerk continues to raise the poor state of the roads and verges with NNC Highways. I recently attended a meeting with the head of NNC Highways and Keir, their contractor, to discuss the challenges they face. The unprecedented winter rainfall has resulted in only urgent potholes being repaired within 7 days, with the rest scheduled for repair within 26 weeks. It is incumbent on us all to report any defects, ideally via the “fix my street” web site - If it is not reported then nothing will be done. Of particular concern are the verges on Seaton Road, a meeting with Keir is scheduled to discuss what might be done in the short term to improve the situation.

Our finances are in good order despite the shock increase in electricity prices. Once again, the Parish Council has limited this year’s rise in the precept to just 3%, increasing the precept to £6884.

Our local elections are due in May 2025 when NNC and Parish councillors are elected. Thus, this may be my last report to the annual Village Open Meeting. All seven parish council seats will be up for election and parishioners are encouraged to consider standing for election. Our democracy relies on people putting themselves forward to serve their local community and I urge you to consider doing so when the time comes.

In the meantime, I thank my fellow councillors and our Clerk for their time and support during the last year. We are but a small group with limited powers but please do let us know if you have a suggestion for the betterment of our beautiful village.

Andrew White  
Chair Harringworth Parish Council  
15<sup>th</sup> April 2024