HORRINGER COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Community Council meeting held on 24th February 2025

1. Apologies

Rachel Davies, Anne Bishop, Steve Boor, Richard Glinn, Colin Knight (PC), Janice Frost, Fie Berry.

Present: Euan Brierley, Kevin Slingsby, Brian Thaxter, Adrian Shepherd, Simon Allen, Janice Frost, Wendy Cullingworth, Barry Hastings, Heather Corbell, Bryan Stokes and Jan Emerson

2. Minutes of meeting held on 25th November 2024

Approved as a true copy, proposed Simon Allen, seconded Heather Corbell

3. Matters arising

None

4.Treasurers' Reports

Rachel - CC account: £29,058.70. There has not been a great deal of activity of late. The Pop Up Coffee Shop made a surplus of £260 and donated this to St Nicholas Hospice.
The cost of commissioning the fire alarm was £300. We should be receiving a payment of £459.00 from the council for glass recycling. I have chased this up. Other than this there have been the usual costs of the film nights and the Horringer Diary.

Janice - hall account: £36,467.51. Still owe £272 for dishwasher service/repairs - still not satisfactory so payment witheld. Engineer going again on Tuesday. Payment from Social Club now up to date.

5. Hall management

Refurbishment to stage area: still waiting for left hand steps to be done. New strips now put in front of stage cupboards and bar area. Also floor to piano cupboard requires attention. (ACTION:EUAN)
Heating update: we are committed to replacing heating by Autumn 2025. Still discussing options in management committee.
Extras: Kevin has bought a new clock and a new key box; intention is for organisations to have a personal permanent entry number and also ad hoc bookers given a separate number.
Hall rates: we discussed whether charities should have reduced rates but decided against it.

6. Organisations' Reports.

Attached at end of minutes.

7. National Trust

Adrian Shepherd gave a brief summary of events at Ickworth. Full report at end of minutes.

8. Forthcoming events.

Horringer Film night: Friday 14th March - 'Life of Pi' - bar open 6.30pm - £5.
Pop Up Coffee Shop - Thursday 6th March 10.00am to 12 pm. Proceeds to Ickworth Church Conservation Trust.
Horringer Singers Holy Week Concert - Wednesday 16th April St Leonard's Church 7pm.

9 Horringer Diary.

Next edition due mid March. Closing date for content was 1/2/2025. Kevin has asked Sophie Parsons to use larger font size.

10 Little Lottie.

Brian Thaxter present a cheque to the CC of £1,379. Euan thanked Brian, Bryan Stokes and Anne Bishop for their work over many years. A new team of Euan, Kevin and Fie Berry have now taken over. Forms were signed by Euan and Jan for a new annual licence. Brian said that they are still waiting for Barclays Bank to process a new bank mandate, which is taking a long time to complete.

11.Any other business

Bryan Stokes said that the drive to the Community Centre is badly in need of repair, especially at the road entrance where a large pothole is getting worse, also where the surface around the bend is also poor.

Euan thanked Gordon Hughes in his absence for the huge amount of time he has given to working around the hall, including clearing gutters and edgings around the car park, where it is hoped we can replant this season. His involvement is greatly appreciated.

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ORGANISATIONS' REPORTS

Horringer-cum-Ickworth WI. - Carolyn Brown

Since our last report in November, our members have enjoyed a delicious Christmas lunch at Ashlar House, and an evening with Ballroom Dancers Jane and David Corby, both in December. Also in December we had a fund-raising cake stall at the Church Christmas Fair. In January we held our traditional social afternoon this time in the form of a music quiz with refreshments provided by members, and our members endorsed our decision to donate Pop-up equipment to the community Council. In February our speaker had to cancel at short notice but we filled the gap with a Beetle Drive which gave members yet another chance to socialise - always valuable.

Our membership currently stands at 30 members.

We have speakers booked for our next two meetings on The History of Childbirth and Midwifery, and Forensic Scientist Mary Newton whose talk is entitled Blood, Sweat and Fears. This will be followed in May by our Annual Meeting.

Horringer Gardening Club - Paul Harrison

At the Club's AGM in January the finances were reported to be in good health and the committee members re-elected unchanged. The membership number remained stable at about 100, with roughly equal numbers from Horringer, from Bury and from the surrounding villages. The meeting was followed by a talk from Jason Breed from Mole Seeds who I would describe as a seed wholesaler. He described a number of new flower and vegetable varieties which are now available as seeds.

At our meeting on Monday 10th February, Joe Bagley (aka "The House Plant Doctor") described various aspects which need to be considered when selecting house plants. He should know - he has 1400 house plants in his one-bedroom house!
Both meetings attracted a large number of members and guests.
Our meeting on 10th March will be presented by Nick Bailey, the well-known TV presenter, notably of Gardeners' World. He will speak on the subject "365 Days of Colour". This is a ticket only event.

Good Neighbours Scheme

Although still available and manned, our on-call phone is not being used very much. However the Scheme is being well used to transport people to various activities within the village – lifts to the Teas, to Lunches, to the Pop-up Coffee mornings, to Coffee and Cake at the Six Bells on Friday mornings and the Wednesday afternoon Exercise classes.
The Pop-up Coffee morning ladies very generously presented GNS with a cheque for a staggering £1,442 at our January Tea. The ladies were invited as our guests and each presented with an orchid as a 'Thank you', not only from the Good Neighbour Scheme but the whole village for their dedicated hard work over the last 8 years.
Daisy May from Ickworth attended our February Tea – We also welcomed our new Rector – Rev. Anita Rooney.
The Medical Detection Dogs have been booked for our April Tea and our annual trip to the Hut at Felixstowe.

HORRINGER CHURCH:

A new Rector is with us! Her name is **Rev. Anita Rooney,** and her previous job was as a Curate at the Cathedral in Bury St Edmunds. Anita and her husband Kevin are living in the Rectory in Manor Lane. We are starting to enjoy Anita's ministry with confidence in God's answer to prayer. Please join with us in praying for Anita for guidance and inspiration for her teaching and leadership for us.

We need funds to keep the church going – not just in its ministry but also to keep it up as a building. We have quite a list of outstanding things to be done around the church just now. While this is the case, we have a deficit in the funding that we can give as a congregation each month. Many of us do NOT claim for various expenses incurred in the running of the church. We hope to land one or two grants for both outside and inside reparations. We need to do all we can to help and support the work of the church as well as the building and the heritage in the village.

We have a monthly **Benefice Notice Sheet,** which goes by email to all six churches' electoral roles, some of you probably get this (if you don't, and you would like to get the Notice Sheet, please just let me know).
The Benefice **Pastoral Care** from church continues. Do ask if you would like a visit, or if you know someone who you think would appreciate a visit at their home, or to meet in the village do let me (with their permission). Hospital **Chaplaincy** along with visiting at the King Suite at Glastonbury Court also continues. Just let me know if you think a visit would be appreciated.
We sometimes have food in the church porch for use by everyone, (as anyone has anything to contribute and as any have need).

Recent Events:

Christmas Fayre was on **Saturday 14th December** 2.00 until 4.00 IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE. Thank-you for your support.
Rev. Anita Rooney's induction as Rector was on **Monday 27th January** – it was very sell supported by the Benefice and by the wider community. Thanks again to all who came to that.
All our usual CHRISTMAS SERVICES & events went well this year.

The STARS AND LIGHTS FESTIVAL in the church from 7th to 17th December had a great many viewers, as well as particular visits from Ickworth Park School.
The church is always a good place to be – it's normally open each day and all are welcome to come in, and all are welcome to **all** our activities, of course! Come on any Sunday at **11.00**. and enjoy refreshments following each service. Occasionally services are elsewhere in the Benefice – check the Benefice Notice Sheet.
Though this is all positive, we are not complacent, please pray for the church, and please support us.

Events coming up:
We are having again the united Lent course which usually has people from 6 different churches – both from the Benefice and from other denominations. This will be on **Wednesday evenings from 12th March** at Whepstead Baptist Church. There will also be, as usual, **a daytime Lent course** – details to follow.
There will be a special **Ash Wednesday Communion** service in Horringer Church at **7.00 pm on 5th March.**
There will be a Lent lunch in support of Christian Aid hosted by the Beehive on Thursday 27th March from 12.15. Please come.
We shall be hosting a 'pop-up' coffee morning on Thursday 3rd April in the Community Centre from 10.00 until 12.00 in aid of Church funds. Please come to that.
Horringer Singers' Holy Week Concert – in the Church at **7.00pm on Wednesday 16th April.**

Heather.

Churches Together (to which we are affiliated):
Look out for our weekly comment column in the Bury Free Press, which some of you will have seen. It is usually near the beginning of the 'Community' section. It represents a wide range of topics and views, and we have a disclaimer that the views expressed are not always the views of every individual person within Churches Together. This column represents several Christian denominations.

The work of the Bury Drop-In is continuing to be vital, as well as individual cases of help for several people. They are grateful for the prayer and financial support of churches.
Up-date: It costs £90,000 p.a to run! They have currently 150 signed up guests and are serving 50 meals x2 weekly. They provide homeless people and rough sleepers with showers, dry-cleaning, sleeping bags and tents. They also assist with hospital and prison release, and counselling.
They serve West Suffolk citizens – these are not in-comers! Some are domestic abuse and redundancy victims. Others who turn up they help to return to their home community.
The BD-I needs funds and volunteers.

RECENT EVENTS:
The **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** began with an 'agape' meal and a launch service on **Sunday 19th January '25** at **Garland Street Baptist Church.** Then **lunch-time prayers each weekday** at different churches were well attended.

There was also a Prayer evening 5th February 7.00 pm at **Southgate Church.**

UP-COMING EVENTS:

We have 3 evening **'Share & Study Groups'** during Lent **at different churches** and these are on **17th & 23rd March, and 3rd April.**

The BIG event coming up **is the GOOD FRIDAY WALK OF WITNESS (18th April) starting at the Cathedral at 10.30, then from 11.05 walking through town to the Market Square for 11.15 for a short service there**, to finish **by 11.45** (followed by Hot Cross Buns at Garland St. Baptist Church).

There is a thought to trial having the **Abbey Gardens Summer Celebration on a Saturday and the projected date for 2025 is Saturday 28th June – details to be confirmed.**

Churches Together is an affiliation not just of 50 churches, but also of local inter-denominational organisations: CAP (debt counselling), Bury Town Pastors, The Bury Drop-In, Fairtrade, the West Suffolk Hospital Chaplaincy, Suffolk Historic Churches Trust, Bury Christian Youth, and various food banks. Though we here are a village, we use and need our town, and we can be part of the town's Christian life too.

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National Trust - Adrian Shepherd.

Horringer Community Council
Ickworth Estate Report – February 2025

A Round Up of our Year (March-March)

This year we have welcomed over 330,000 visitors which is almost identical to last year. Over February half-term alone we welcomed more than 12,000 people.
Ickworth was the 20th most visited National Trust property over Christmas.
Volunteers have donated more than 30,000 hours.
Our fundraising (second-hand bookshop etc) has broken all previous records at over £30,000.

Community

Some of you may have met Daisy and Jules, our Volunteering & Community team as they have been attending some village events and getting involved in the podcast.
West Suffolk College. We have set up a series of extended projects with the college. They have attended lectures and tours and will present their final projects to staff in the summer.
We also work closely with the primary school, ARC, the Women's Refuge, Suffolk Sight and many more. We see this outreach beyond our boundaries as a really important part of what we do; the Ickworth Estate should benefit more than just those who visit.

Projects and Works

Seating. This coming year we are investing £40,000 of our income into improving seating throughout our gardens and the parkland. We are doing this in response to feedback from visitors who find it challenging to walk long distances but also so that there are more opportunities to sit back and enjoy the view.

The conservation of the Earl's Summerhouse in the Walled Garden is now complete. This has been a 3 year project to conserve brick work, windows, doors, pointing, the ceiling, the basement and much more! It will be open to the public from late Spring this year.

The monument on the far side of the estate is the next iconic 'building' in need of attention. This year we will be carrying out surveys and protection measures and then conservation work will take place on it in 2026.

We have also begun work to replace the fire alarm for the entire building (Rotunda and West Wing) which is a huge task.

partnering with Suffolk Libraries to host events for World Book Day at the beginning of March. These include story sessions in the stumpery.

Easter. Once again, our traditional Easter trail will return in April.

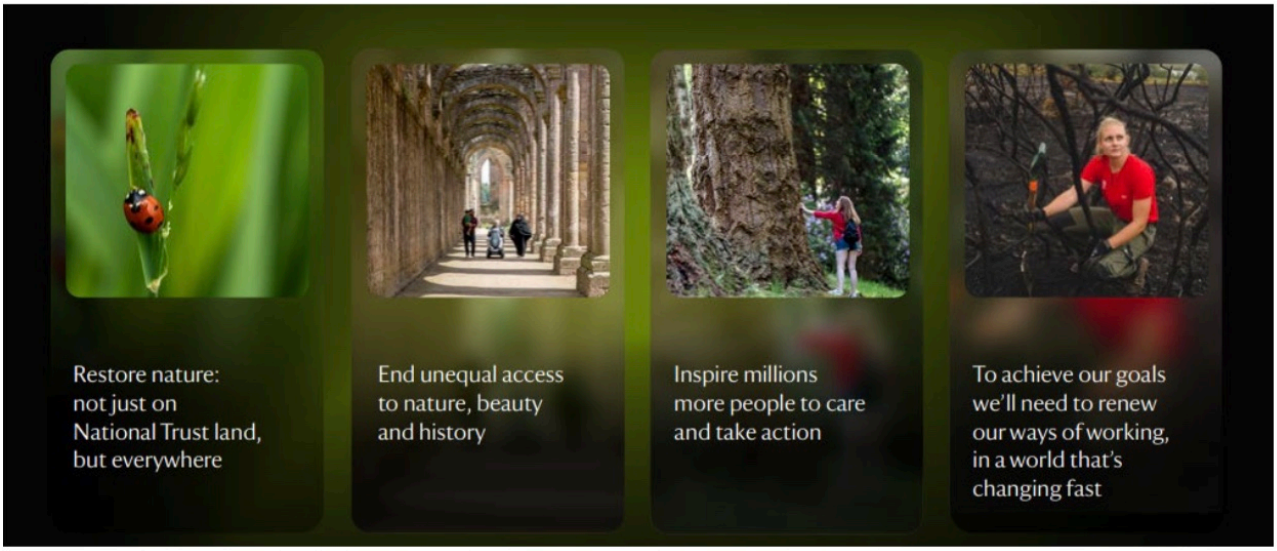
Helios. You may have seen the giant Earth and Moon spheres that have been on display around the country, one came to the Abbey. A similar sculpture of the sun has been created by the same artist and it is coming to Ickworth in May. We are the only venue in the east of England that will be hosting it and we will be the first place ever to have it on display outside. Dates and tickets will be advertised.

Outdoor cinema in June

Summer of Play. This year our Summer of Play will be even bigger with activities on the North Lawn as well as in the Walled Garden throughout the school summer holidays.

The National Trust has launched its Strategy for the Next 10 Years

It's title is People and Nature Thriving: and includes four main objectives:



And, as always, please let your neighbours know that we offer a community pass to Horringer and Chevington residents. This currently costs just £5 and entitles you to visit Ickworth as many times as you wish. Ickworth is the only National Trust property to offer this opportunity to everyone in our neighbouring villages, other estates offer them to certain community groups only.
Adrian Shepherd - General Manager, Ickworth Estate National Trust

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Community Council meeting dates for 2025
2nd June (AGM)
4th August
24th November