

MINUTES OF GREAT HANWOOD ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2021

Held on Tuesday 27th April 2021, 7pm, remotely via Zoom

Present: *Chairman* - Cllr. Roger Evans (Chairman, Great Hanwood PC & Shropshire Council Ward Member), Kevin Bromage, Andrew Chadwick, Barbara Fraser (St Thomas' Church), John Fox, Will Hanmer (Hanwood Youth Club and Hanwood Village Hall), Hannah McGrath (Headteacher, St Thomas & St Anne's CE School), Philip Jones, Margaret Nichols (St Thomas' Church), Jonathan Percival

Apologies: None.

Clerk: Rebecca Turner

1. **Welcome & Introduction**
Cllr. Evans welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. **Apologies for absence**
None.
3. **Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd April 2019** (no meeting in 2020 due to Covid-19 restrictions)
It was re
4. **Matters arising from the previous minutes**
None.
5. **Annual Parish Council Report**
Honoured to take on chair after the long-standing chair Jonathan Percival resigned as left the area. Cllr. Evans like to thank Jon for hep and time he gave to residents of Hanwood.

Three new councillors co-opted, thanks to all who served for last 4 years. In 2020, a long-serving councillor, Graham Lewis, passed away – the meeting extended its sympathy to his family on their sad loss and minuted its thanks to Graham for his service to the community.

Currently, parish council meetings are held remotely via Zoom. However, the legislation which has enabled this is time limited and

ends in a few days' time. A Judicial Review is underway to challenge this and the judgement is expected soon.

Parish issues include:

- Traffic calming and road safety – trying to pursue bid for an ANPR speed camera, in conjunction with both Pontesbury and Minsterley. A bid for funding was made to West Mercia PCC - the bid was not accepted by the PCC, but there are ongoing meetings with the police. It is hoped that a camera will be in place later this year, subject to this being discussed further after the election. Hoping to use CIL for traffic calming in absence of other SC funding
- Hanwood and Edgebold roundabout - pursuing speed limit reduction but not happened yet.
- Crossing at Caradoc – now almost complete.
- Problems at crossing by shop – hoping for a public meeting soon once Covid restrictions ease.
- Finance – Neighbourhood CIL has been received in the parish, due to development locally.
- Local Plan Review – the parish council raised concerns re housing near Edgebold. Concern over cross-subsidy housing policy and there is a wish for no housing on the north side of village. Hanwood's proposed development boundary doesn't include Hanwood Bank. The proposed housing allocation is for 50 houses between 2016 and 2038; 31 already approved since 2016.
- Flooding and drainage between Hanwood and Edgebold roundabout - now resolved as a blocked drain has been cleared.
- Orchard Lane – drain issues still ongoing, loose stones blocking drains. There are similar issues with some drains on Weir Road. The road surface at Orchard Lane is a concern and SC Highways have inspected it.
- Donations to volunteer groups.
- Hanwood broadband – the village was selected by Openreach as an area with potential for FTTP to be delivered, with government vouchers being used towards the cost.
- Dog mess – complaints – hot spots include the footway to Oaklands Grange and the overflowing waste bin by The Cock Inn. Extra waste bins being installed on the aforementioned footway and looking at how to resolve the overflowing bin
- Environmental Maintenance Grant – used for ongoing highway improvements.
- Caradoc play area fencing has been damaged in places, vandalism is a factor. The parish council will soon be doing a community survey re new play equipment.

6. Parish Council Accounts

The parish council set its precept for 2020/21 at £27,850, this being £72.55 per Band D household, the same as 2019/20. The parish council have also received a total of £21,000 from CIL Neighbourhood Fund to date, of which circa £7,500 has been spent on improvements at the Village Hall play areas. We are due to receive a further £35,000 later this year. The parish council has a Place Plan which will guide what the funds are spent on, priorities include traffic calming. We will also liaise with our neighbouring Place Plan area, Pontesbury and Minsterley and look to work jointly with them on some CIL projects.

The council has also received EMG this year which has been spent on highways maintenance - activities such as hedge cutting and litter picking. We have also been pleased to be able to support local groups who have been working tirelessly to help mitigate some of the affects of the Covid-19 pandemic on the community.

Looking forward, to 2021/2, the precept has been increased by 5% per Band D household, which is in line with increases of other precepting bodies locally. Spending priorities include investing in community infrastructure, addressing speeding, play area refurbishments and developing the memorial garden.

7. Shropshire Council Report

Cllr. Evans to email a report

Will Hanmer

Questions re cyclists and risk crossing Edgebold roundabout – to be raised at Parish council and links in to Local Plan
.SC have appointed someone to look at cycle routes in Shropshire.

Margaret Nichols – question re what is problem near shop. Motorists going through red light and near misses. Police and SC looking into that

Barabara – if bus station closed and reliant on P&R. People without cars won't be able to access town. SC Leader has suggested buses could use Barker St due to multiple objections to bus station going. Cllr Evans was concerned that Barker St not suitable. Alternatives may be to improve current bus station

8. Police Report

No report received.

9. Other Reports

Hanwood Village Hall (Will Hanmer, Chairman)

I think this period may have been one of the most challenging years since my involvement at Hanwood Village Hall, but strangely one of the most rewarding times too!

We had the financial challenges of having to close to our football teams, clubs & groups who hire the facility, along with the much-loved free space of the play areas too! But also saw some incredible kindness from members of the community & committee members!

We estimated the cost of the pandemic to the village hall in 2020 could be around £11,000 in lost revenue. We are still feeling its financial burden for this year too. We've only now started to accept some hire of the hall with restrictions starting to relax, such as Football & Dog Training. We were able to apply for one of the £10,000 Retail Hospitality & Leisure (RHL) grants that became available from the government, which helped offset some of this loss.

At the start of the first lockdown in March 2020, we received the unfortunate news from the annual RoSPA report to say some of the play equipment had failed safety checks. This would be a significant impact on the village hall's finances as we knew how expensive these items could be. It would also mean we would need to close off or remove the faulty items as soon as possible to make the area safe. The play area had been closed at the time anyway due to COVID, but we still needed to explore avenues on how we could find the funds to get the equipment replaced. We would also see what repairs could be done by ourselves. The most important thing was to remove items that were most at risk, so we did this straight away. After meeting with Great Hanwood PC, it was discussed that the PC could possibly use some housing development CIL money to buy new equipment, and it could then gift the play equipment to HVH. Which we were extremely grateful for! The village hall would then only need to take care of the maintenance tasks, and to put some additional drainage in to help with the Ship Play Area getting waterlogged in winter.

We purchased the materials required to do the repairs and hired a digger to lay the drainage pipes. After a Facebook appeal for help, Mathew Dorricott from Minsterley kindly stepped forward to help in driving the digger for us for FREE! He gave us a full day of his own time and did a fantastic job by installing the drainage pipes & preparing the ground ready for the new play equipment. The new equipment was then installed by Ray Parry a couple of weeks later. With another Facebook appeal, we managed to organise another group of great local people who helped put

down the weed retention, refilled with 4 tonnes of Play Fibre, which had to be barrowed & raked in by hand! The area was then given a good tidy up, grass cut and some painting here & there too. It is now a wonderful safe area for families to enjoy. We have had lots of fantastic comments on how good this area looks now. Another great community effort was from some of our own committee members who had found themselves with time on their hands due to COVID 19 stopping their normal work activities. With so many members of the community self-isolating at home, not able to get out to buy essential shopping or pick-up medical supplies. We setup the 'Can We Help' pledge on our Facebook page. We put up posters around the village & quickly formed a group of people willing to put their names to a list of contacts who could be called upon for help. It proved to be a great success, with word getting out, we managed to support many people stuck at home during the pandemic.

During last year, committee member Fred Palmer, who tends to the village hall's football pitch in his free time, mentioned that we were having increasing problems with our ride-on mower. It was becoming very worn out & unreliable. Elaine Heighway, also a committee member, reported that the village hall's goals were becoming unsafe and required some attention too. Knowing that these items are of a fairly high cost, but also needing to maintain safety too, we had to carry out repairs to the goals as soon as possible. We also needed to keep a good standard of pitch for the level of teams that pay to play here. So, something needed to be done about the mower too.

Fred set about looking for some funding. We approached the FA for support and after lots of communications between Fred & the FA, our application was successful and we received just over £8,000, which would purchase the new mower & goal posts. Part of the agreement for the funding was that two representatives from the committee would need to take the Level 1 Football Grounds Maintenance course, which myself & Fred stepped up to do and passed. The new mower & goals have now been received ready for the new season.

We have seen an increased usage of the park area recently by the public due to the pandemic, but also at the same time seen an increase in dog fouling & littering too. One local family took it upon themselves to do something about the litter and posted on social media after filling 4 bin bags full of rubbish collected from around the village hall grounds. There are plenty of bins to use around the field and have maintained these throughout the pandemic. So, we improved the signage around the grounds and posted on our own Facebook page about the good work carried out by the litter picking family, in the hope that people might be more responsible themselves.

With the government now issuing us with the Road Map strategy for coming out of the pandemic, we have started planning some of our regular community fund-raising events for the later part of this year.

These are:

- The Village Fete and Fun Day on 4th September,
- Cross-Country Fun Run on 16th October,
- Bonfire & Fireworks on 6th November,
- Cheese n' wine with a Tabletop Quiz on the 27th November
- Christmas Bingo on 11th December.

During lockdown we also had an opportunity to launch our new website (hanwoodvillagehall.godaddysites.com), which now makes us more visible when putting in a search on the internet. The website has pages on the very interesting history of the village hall, current activities, clubs available here & how to get in contact with us. The website was free to setup and proving to be a valuable tool, we are already taking enquiries from it.

Some other good news for the village hall was that John Williams the owner of Locsafe who lives in the village, has offered us a FREE CCTV upgrade, which will hopefully be installed later this year.

We look forward to seeing an end to the current coronavirus restrictions and to a brighter future at Hanwood Village Hall. We hope we can get back to normality soon.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Hanwood Youth Club (Will Hanmer, Chairman)

With the pandemic rapidly spreading in early March 2020, we were forced to close our Thursday night sessions at Hanwood Village Hall. Up to this point we had enjoyed some great activities, including a visit from Mal Brown with Whack It Smack it & his junk music, a trip to the AMF Bowling Centre, Pontesbury Panto of Simple Simon and also lots of crafts & baking too. We did have a go at holding some online ZOOM youth club sessions, but unfortunately they did not prove to be very popular, so we decided we should close the club completely until further notice. We hoped to restart back at the village hall as soon as COVID restrictions would allow. We continued to hold regular committee meetings, with updates from SYA on the current regulations and when would be best for Hanwood to reopen. With our latest meeting on the 8th April it was decided we would look at restarting the club with up to the allowed 15 young people plus staff, with COVID safe face to face session from 6th May.

During the start of 2020 we had managed to put in some applications for grants, as finances were running a little low for the club. One grant was from PAVO Grants & the Heart Of Wales Line, which we were successful in receiving £500. Another was from the Co-op Local Community Fund, which we received £1997.54 from being part of the in store card scheme. This money will come in extremely handy when we do reopen the club in May, as we will need to buy extra equipment to ensure we are COVID safe and to replenish our Tuck Shop supplies. Due to the length of time we have been closed, we anticipate we may lose many of our existing members, so we may need to come up with some ideas on how we can attract some new young people to the club.

We would love to get back to the fantastic projects we have done in previous years, like that of the Shrewsbury Carnival, canoeing & trips to theme parks. But it is not yet clear if any of these attractions will open in 2021?

We look forward to the club reopening and are very grateful for the fantastic support of Great Hanwood Parish Council, SYA & our dedicated volunteers.

St Thomas Church, Hanwood (Margaret Nichols and Barbara Fraser)

2020 was a year with a difference as the pandemic took hold and Lockdowns became a new experience in the UK and elsewhere. For St Thomas' this meant that everything stopped from mid-March; the church was locked and nothing happened there or in the Extension. Toddlers and Lent courses were cancelled, the school closed which meant no Open the Book performances and Experience Pentecost, organised for the school in the church, had to be postponed. No parish magazines dropped through letterboxes, no Christian Aid Week or Open Gardens Teas raised money for charities and August wasn't the same without the Minsterley Show and the churches' tent offering free cakes, craft activities and prayer.

However, it wasn't all bad. Sunday services, Toddlers, the Youth Church and various discussion/prayer groups resorted to the video conferencing app 'Zoom' while parish magazine content was available on our website (www.stthomashanwood.org.uk) and via email. Throughout the year the churchyard was maintained, mown and tidied with help from a Parish Council grant which is much appreciated. We kept in touch with one another through phone calls, texts and emails and, when restrictions eased, we returned to church to worship together once a month, (socially distanced and with no singing) and periods of private prayer were also available. In the autumn,

Open the Book teams got together to video their performances and send them to all the local primary schools so that pupils could still see bible stories acted out. In December at our Gift Service we were as usual able to collect presents for families in need. Other regular Christmas events had to be re-thought, so we decided to involve the community and give people something to do and somewhere to go outside, as indoor activities were so limited. Carols IN the Pub were replaced with Carols OUTSIDE the Pub so we met to sing in the car park. A Nativity Trail around the village was organised, with participating households showing scenes from the Nativity in their windows, front gardens or on their fences; each bore a letter which, when put together spelt out a seasonal sentence. There were some amazing creations and the variety was unbelievable. Children coloured in nativity scenes which were displayed either in their homes or, laminated, along the church railings. In the churchyard a nativity tableau was floodlit.

The new year of 2021 saw another Lockdown but also the re-tiling of the north face of the Extension roof, thanks in no small part to the generosity of the village, as well as to the grants obtained. Over Easter we again did something different to reflect the outdoors nature of everyone's activities, so there was a Churchyard Trail linking the Easter story with Care for Creation, children's coloured-in pictures fluttered on the church railings and their miniature Easter Gardens were displayed in the pub garden on Easter Saturday. We have enjoyed working with the pub this year, so our thanks go to Jackie and her willingness to make the facilities at the Cock Inn available.

On Easter Sunday we were back worshipping in church for the first time since Christmas Day and will continue to meet there on the 2nd Sunday each month, when everyone is welcome to join us by booking a place with Revd Graham Phillips (revgrahamphillips@gmail.com).

With the restrictions easing and vaccinations making life safer for everyone, we look forward with hope for better times ahead, trusting in our God who can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.

Great Hanwood CIC (Phil Talbot)

Historical Background

Trading prior to purchase

The Cock Inn was failing through a lack of investment and bad management, to a large extent driven by Pub Co (Punch) who

would have been happy to sell all site for development. The process would have been drawn out and painful, with most likely a derelict site at the heart of the village for some considerable time. This is a sad but familiar scenario.

Listed as a Community Asset

- Mr Bill Longmore registered the pub and the bowling green as assets of Community Interest in 2012
- Pub Co could not sell the assets without first giving the Community the opportunity to purchase.
- In 2017 the Pub Co had indicated that it was looking to sell the site and therefore a plan to retain the asset for the benefit the village was conceived.

The Transaction and Legal Structure

Company formation and ownership

- A Community Interest Company was formed and through monies provided by Mr and Mrs Longmore, the initial shareholders, the company purchased the Cock Inn and the bowling green with a view to it being maintained as a hub for the community and for the benefit of the wider community.

Who owns and Manages the Company?

- In September 2020 Mrs Longmore, who could not and did not want to benefit from the ownership of the shares, decided to transfer the shares that she owned in the company to 10 local people. Without the generosity of Mr and Mrs Longmore the Village would now not have a pub or a bowling green, a fact that is probably not understood by the wider community.
- As new shareholders they are deemed to be custodians of the village asset and cannot gain financially from the holding of the shares due to the legal framework of the company.
- The Pub is Managed by Jackie Cook and directly supported by 2 Directors, with 8 further shareholders to protect the interest of the Village's asset.
- Following access to Business Support Grants during the Covid crisis the company plans to re-open the pub on Monday 17th May in a financially stable position.
- It is an asset of the Village and volunteers with maintenance skills and helpers for any events staged would be most welcome.

But What is a CIC?

Sometimes described as somewhere between a Ltd company and a Charity, a Community Interest Company (or CIC) is a special form of non-charitable limited company, which exists primarily to

benefit a community or with a view to pursuing a social purpose, rather than to make a profit for shareholders.

CIC Key Features

- *Asset lock* - alongside a dividend cap (or the inability to pay dividends at all depending on the Articles of the Company), there are also wider restrictions on how a CIC can use and dispose of its assets. By virtue of the 'asset lock', which must be referred to explicitly within the CIC's articles of association, assets within the CIC must be dedicated towards benefiting the chosen community.

In practice, this usually means that the company cannot transfer its assets or profits outside the CIC for less than their full market value. Even if the community interest company is dissolved, surplus assets must be transferred to a socially focussed body, like a charity or another CIC. The bottom line of this is that the assets are not for the benefit of those holding the shares.

- *Legal structure and operation* is very much like a normal limited company. This includes the limited liability for shareholders, the filing of statutory information as well as the continuity of the business even if there are changes in shareholders.
- *Administrative and regulatory requirements* are less than that of a charity but there are not the tax advantages available to charities.
- *The Shareholders are not to benefit financially from the ownership of shares* (this will be governed by the articles of the company). These rules will also set out rules on the transfer of shares. The aim is that the shareholders will be the custodian of the shares for the benefit of the community.

For information, a more extensive list of the advantages and disadvantages of a CIC is set out below in Appendix 1 of the full CIC report which is on the parish council website.

Pontesbury, Minsterley and Hanwood Foodshare Scheme (report from Debbie Marais, Pontesbury Parish Council)

Received from Hanwood Parish Council total of £850 with £100 of that specifically for the Christmas hampers.

From May 2020 to September 2020 an average of 10 families per week were in receipt of foodboxes. This dropped to an average of 5 families per week from September 2020 to December 2020.

Christmas hampers were given to everyone on the supported housing estate in Hanwood (24) and Hanwood School received

one for each family in receipt of free school meals (13) and two additional hampers for families nominated by the school.

The average cost of hampers was £15 for ordinary weekly boxes and £20 for the Christmas hampers.

There was £76 left in December 2020 and Hanwood PC kindly agreed that this money should be passed to the Community Good Neighbours Scheme, Pontesbury and Rea Valley for the hardship fund which will benefit local residents throughout the Rea Valley communities.

We would like to thank Great Hanwood Parish Council for all of their support.

St Thomas and St Anne's CE School, Hanwood (Hannah McGrath, Headteacher)

Report to be emailed.

10. Open Forum

- Cycling provision deemed important – if wish to reduce car use need to be able to cycle safely.
- Jonathan Percival – asked re the speed camera. Cllr. Evans updated.
- John Fox – when will crossing be operational – planned date first week of May – mostly finished but may need surface dressing on main road.

11. Date of next Annual Parish Meeting –26th April 2022, 7pm

The meeting closed at 8.23pm