

## **MINUTES OF THE 2007 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF HARBURY AND DEPPERS BRIDGE**

The duly convened Annual Parish Meeting was held in the Tom Hauley Rooms on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2007 under the Chairmanship of Cllr Tim Lockley, Chairman of Harbury Parish Council.

**Present:** Parish Cllrs Patrick, Hancock, Thompson, Mancell, Biddle, Lockley, Thornley, Winchester, District Cllrs Patrick & Barton, County Cllr Steven, P C Hill, Sgt M Crust and approximately 14 members of the public.

**Apologies:** Dutch Van Spall, Parish Cllr Ellis

**Opening of the Meeting:** Cllr Lockley declared the meeting open and welcomed all those present particularly District Cllr Barton who had recently been elected.

**Minutes:** The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2006 having been circulated were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

**Arising from the Minutes:** there were no matters arising from the minutes.

**Report from Sgt Crust and P C Hill:** P C Hill read through his report which was included in the Annual Report and introduced Sgt Mandy Crust to the meeting. Sgt Crust summarised the Safer Neighbourhoods Initiative which has been introduced by the Government. The team has an area of approximately 100 square miles to cover which is split up into different wards. The main areas of concern for Southam and the surrounding wards are drugs, speeding and nuisance youths. Parish Councils were asked to encourage members of the public to attend meetings to raise issues with the Police in attendance, the most serious of these could be referred to a Partners and Communities Together Panel. Sgt Crust emphasised however, that less serious issues will not be ignored. The team is backed up by PCSO's who deal with mainly quality of life issues such as anti-social behaviour. Sgt Crust was pleased to report that the M40 Service Station will soon have its own designated PCSO who will be partly financed by the operators of the Services. Dr John Hancock asked about the recent visit to the land adjoining the Services by a group of travellers and it was confirmed that these had been moved on by the Police.

**Questions to County & District Councillors:** County Cllr Bob Stevens spoke briefly on a number of Warwickshire County Council related issues. The County had now completed its reorganisation and now has its own Children's Department. Cllr Stevens also updated those present on the latest developments in care for the elderly, Schools, Housing, Waste and Health Care. Recently Cllr Stevens had been involved in trying to reach agreement on the proposed weight limit for the bridge at Deppers Bride and was also monitoring the formulation of the Masterplan for Bishop Bowl Lakes. Cllr Thompson queried if the County had any plans to put the sails back on the windmill and it was confirmed that this will happen. Mrs Ridgley asked why the County had chosen to disburse the Landscape Team as this had resulted in a poorer service and a number of complaints from Parish Councils including Harbury. Cllr

Stevens said that he was liaising with the Officer concerned with regard to Harbury's proposals.

District Cllr Patrick welcomed Peter Barton. Of uppermost concern at SDC at present is the forthcoming CPA report which evaluates the Authorities overall performance; SDC is hoping to improve on its last report. A number of local planning applications had been referred to Committee recently although Ward members were unable to vote (although they can speak) on these applications and this limited their influence. With regard to the Bishop Bowl Lakes site, Cllr Patrick said that he was pleased that, to date, no unwelcome development had taken place on the site. Finally, Cllr Patrick said that he welcomed the proposed weight limit for Harbury Station Bridge and he thanked Cllr Stevens for his hard work in bringing this matter to a successful conclusion.

District Cllr Barton echoed the views expressed on both the Station Bridge and Bishop Bowl Lakes. He commented that he very much enjoyed living in Harbury and was looking forward to representing the community.

**Chairman of the Council's Report:** The Chairman's report had been written by Cllr Biddle as outgoing Chairman and he summarised his report as included in the Annual Report. Mr Padbury questioned why more was not being done to prosecute those people parking irresponsibly around the village. Since the decriminalisation of parking the responsibility for this rests with the District Authority. Mr Pratt asked if anything further could be done to prevent individuals swimming at Bishop Bowl lakes as this is an accident waiting to happen. It was noted that the Parish Council had written on a number of occasions to the owners of the site and to their insurers and will continue to monitor the situation.

**Deppers Bridge:** Cllr Van Spall had resigned from the Parish Council at the April meeting and there was no formal report. The Council was in the process of co-opting a new Cllr for the Deppers Bridge Ward.

**Planning:** Cllr Patrick summarized her report. The Parish Council had been critical of SDC Planning in the past as had a number of local Parishes. The Parish Council would welcome more feedback on the comments made as this could be informative. A number of mixed Open Market and Social Housing is proposed for Bush Heath Lane and a Public Consultation will shortly be undertaken on this. Mrs Ridgley asked if the PC was happy with levels of enforcement. Cllr Patrick replied that getting feedback from Enforcement was sometimes an issue although it had been noted that recent following up of possible breaches had been more prompt.

**Properties:** Cllr Hancock referred those present to her written report and asked if there were any questions on it. Dr Hancock asked what percentage of the Council's total budget does the work of Properties take up? Cllr Hancock referred to the Accounts which showed that work on maintaining the Council's various assets cost just over £23000 for the previous financial year which is just over a third of the Council's budget. In addition to this, the Council also maintains and replaces all the streetlights (Covered by Environment) and purchased a new bus shelter during the year. Stratford District Council had now withdrawn \$136 so all this work will need to be funded by the precept. Mr Pratt asked if the side window of the Chapel in the Cemetery could be repaired as it has been broken. The clerk confirmed that this is in hand. Mr Thorpe asked if the Council would consider repairing/replacing the wooden

noticeboard at the front of the Village Hall and Cllr Hancock agreed that she would look into this.

**Environment:** Cllr Lockley had headed Environment for the previous year and referred those present to his report. The new bus shelter had been mainly welcomed by the community. There had been less progress than expected made on traffic calming but the Council will continue to push for this, the preferred methods being via illuminated signs, village gateways and/or a narrowing of the carriageway. It was possible that the Council may revisit the issue of making Church Street one-way.

**Finance & General Purposes:** Cllr Mancell reported that the precept for the year 2007-2008 had been increased by approximately £10 per household; this is a larger than welcome increase but was due to the fact that S136 had now been abolished by the District Authority. This will have funding implications for future financial years. There will continue to be funding this year from the Parish Council for the Village Hall, streetlighting, the Tennis & Netball Courts and for local groups. The small deficit in the Council's accounts for this year had been caused by the purchase of the bus shelter.

**Harbury Village Hall:** The new Chairman of the Village Hall, Mr Thorpe referred to his report. The Hall has ambitious plans for extension and development and Mr Thorpe thanked the Parish Council for their support to date.

**Twinning Association:** Cllr Hancock said that the Association had been in existence now for nine years and had been a huge success. Recently Harbury had hosted a visit by 44 representatives from Samoa and, despite an incident of relatively serious illness amongst those visiting this had again been very successful and enjoyable.

**Any Other Business:** there was no further business.

**Closure of the Meeting:** Cllr Lockley thanked all those present for their attendance and closed the meeting at 9.10pm.

.....Chairman .....Date