

MINUTES OF THE 2008 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF HARBURY AND DEPPERS BRIDGE

The duly convened Annual Parish Meeting was held in the Village Hall on Thursday 22nd May 2008 under the Chairmanship of Cllr Tim Lockley, Chairman of Harbury Parish Council.

Present: Parish Cllrs Lockley, Patrick, Hancock, Thompson, Mancell, Thornley, Knowles, Baldwin, Grey, District Cllrs Patrick & Mann, County Cllr Stevens, PCSO Katrina Pedlar, Mr G Thorpe (Village Hall Committee) and approximately 40 members of the public.

Apologies: PC Nigel Hill.

Opening of the Meeting: Cllr Lockley declared the meeting open and welcomed all those present.

Minutes: The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 10th May 2007 having been circulated were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

Arising from the Minutes: There were no matters arising from the minutes.

Report from PCSO Katrina Pedlar: PCSO Pedlar highlighted the formation of the PACT initiative (Police & Communities Together) and said that three main areas had been highlighted by the Safer Neighbourhood team as priorities:

- Nuisance Youths: Police have recently seized a large quantity of alcohol from local youths and returned the young people themselves to their parents. Several youths in the Southam area are currently on police bail for criminal damage etc. In response to a question from Cllr Thornley, Katrina confirmed that the recent operation regarding youths had been run on zero tolerance lines.
- Response times – the police are continuing to work on these.
- Parking issues: this remains an issue of concern within the whole area.

Katrina encouraged residents to consider using the police website for information and for reporting non-urgent issues; the SNT team have recently been congratulated on their website. Smartwater is still available to purchase and can be used to indelibly mark all household items in case of theft.

In conclusion, the Chairman thanked PCSO Pedlar for her attendance.

Presentation by Robert Weeks, Stratford District Council: New Refuse Collection Arrangements: The Chairman introduced Mr Weeks of Stratford District Council who had been invited by the Council to explain the forthcoming new arrangements for refuse collection in the District. Robert outlined the reasons for needing to change the arrangements and also went through the changes themselves. In brief, the District Authority is committed to a greater level of recycling both as a response to customer desire for this and also to meet challenging EU targets which would lead to the District being financially penalised if changes were not implemented. It is also widely accepted that landfill is no longer a long term option and local authorities need to significantly reduce the quantity of waste that is sent to

landfill. To this end, from August 2008, the current arrangements will be replaced by a system of black, blue and green bins which will be collected on a rotating system. Black bins are for general non-recyclable waste, blue bins for items which can be recycled including plastic bottles and green bins are for garden and kitchen waste. Due to delays in the capacity of the recycling plant, it will not be possible to collect the green garden waste bins from November through to April 2009. However the black bins will be collected every week through the winter and the blue bins on alternate weeks. Smaller bins will be available on request for households where there are only one or two occupants or where there is limited space to keep the full sized bins. The District Council intends to continue to promote the new arrangements via leaflets, road shows and through the website until and after implementation. Following Robert's presentation, residents present asked a number of questions regarding the changes and it was noted that this issue had encouraged a significant amount of comment and interest. In conclusion, the Chairman thanked Mr Weeks for his attendance at the meeting.

Questions to County & District Councillors: Warks County Council: County Cllr Bob Stevens spoke briefly on a number of Warwickshire County Council related issues: In order to encourage greater partnership working, the District and County Committees will join together shortly to form locality forums. This should ensure that more grant money will be targeted at local organisations. Biffa currently have a planning application lodged with the County Council for an in-vessel recycling facility at the Ufton site – the decision on this will be made in the next few months. WCC Highways have recently carried out a speed review on roads which are currently 60mph and, as a result, both the B4451 and B4452 will be reduced to 50mph in the forthcoming months. A potential traffic management scheme for Harbury has been resurrected and this will be progressed in conjunction with WCC. Cllr Stevens requested questions and/or matters of concern from those present and in response to this, there were some comments on the “one-stop shop” of Council services which has been opened in Southam Library including issues of confidentiality for those using the service.

Stratford District Council: District Cllr Mann introduced herself as the newly elected Councillor for Harbury and Bishops Itchington. Cllr Patrick said that there will be a “Councillors Surgery” on the 7th June taking place outside the Harbury Supermarket and afterwards at the Great Western in Deppers Bridge. Environmental Services will be present at Harbury Carnival in order to promote the new refuse arrangements. There were no further questions from those present to the District Councillors.

Chairman of the Council's Report: Cllr Lockley commented that it had been a productive year for the Council including the co-option of three councillors which had restored the Council to its full number. It is likely that the future year will be dominated by questions on traffic calming and the proposed development of houses on Bush Heath Lane.

Deppers Bridge: Cllr Grey reported that he had taken over from Cllr Van Spall during the year and since then had principally been concerned with campaigning for a permanent weight limit for the Station Bridge, the initial trial of which had recently been completed. Cllr Grey also highlighted the recent pre-application consultation

carried out by E-on on the extension of a 132,000w line through Deppers Bridge, much of which is proposed to be laid above ground level.

Planning: Cllr Patrick summarized her report. The Working Party had been heavily involved in the production of the Master Plan for Bishop Bowl Lakes during the year and this process has now been completed. It is now possible to see planning applications on the internet both on the SDC site and also by following a link from the Harbury Parish Council website.

Properties: Cllr Hancock referred those present to her written report. Following problems at last year's Carnival, members of the W/P had met with the Carnival Committee in order to help prevent this happening again. The new bollards installed at the end of the car park should help to stop unauthorised vehicles from accessing the playing fields and an increased police presence has also been requested.

Environment: Cllr Baldwin had only recently agreed to take over as Chairman of this Working Party. Little progress has been made this year on the proposed traffic calming but it is hoped that this can be rectified in the forthcoming year.

Finance & General Purposes: Cllr Mancell reported that the precept for 2008/2009 had been increased by 2.5%. During the year, the Parish Council website has been completely rebuilt and re-launched and now carries a considerable quantity of useful information including details on meeting dates, copies of minutes and agendas, details on planning applications and village events. Cllr Mancell thanked his colleagues and the clerk for their support during the year.

Harbury Village Hall: Mr Thorpe, the Chairman of the Village Hall Committee was present and explained briefly why changes needed to be made to the Hall. The Hall is in need of updating in order that it can best serve the community in the coming years. The draft plans for the Hall will be available for inspection on Carnival Day.

Twinning Association: Cllr Hancock reported that approximately 50 members of the Association had travelled to Samoia for the 10th Anniversary celebrations. A garden of English and French plants had been created in Samoia to commemorate the anniversary.

Any Other Business: A member of the public questioned what had happened to the Smartwater initiative organised by the Neighbourhood Watch and supported by the Parish Council. Councillor Patrick replied that the whole village had been covered by a leaflet drop but that there had been a fairly disappointing response.

Closure of the Meeting: Cllr Lockley thanked all those present for their attendance and closed the meeting at 9.20pm.

.....ChairmanDate