

## **MINUTES OF THE 2010 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING FOR HARBURY & DEPPERS BRIDGE**

The duly convened Annual Parish Meeting was held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2010 under the Chairmanship of Cllr Tim Lockley, Chairman of Harbury Parish Council.

**Present:** Parish Cllrs Lockley (Chairman), Knowles, Mancell, Hancock, Lewis, Patrick, Thornley and Thompson, District Cllrs Mann and Tonge, PC Nigel Hill, PC Jim Butler, Dr. J Hancock (Village Hall representative) and 9 members of the public.

**Apologies:** County Cllr Stevens, Parish Cllr Darlison

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

**Minutes of the 2009 Annual Parish Meeting:** The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2009, having been circulated, were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

**Matters Arising:** There were no matters arising from the minutes.

**Police Report:** PC Nigel Hill was due to retire from the force very shortly. The Chairman thanked him on behalf of the whole community for his work in the village and surrounding areas over the previous 10 years. In reply, PC Hill thanked everyone present for their support and said that his time policing in the area had been largely enjoyable. He introduced PC Jim Butler to the meeting; PC Butler will be taking over responsibility for Harbury following PC Hill's retirement.

**Report from the Village Hall Fundraising Committee:** The Chairman welcomed John Hancock, Chairman of the Village Hall Fundraising Committee to the meeting. Dr Hancock explained that he had made a decision to get involved with fundraising for the Hall as a way of contributing after years of enjoying its facilities at numerous events held for the benefit of the village. The committee as a whole is currently very much missing the expertise and commitment of John Ridgley who died earlier in the year. The Village Hall was opened in 1962 and originally cost £12,000 which is estimated to be £800,000 at today's prices. Original quotations for all the work to be done had been in the region of £1m but it is hoped that the Hall can benefit from the current recession and resulting lower prices. The fundraising campaign so far had been successful in gaining grant funding from Vision for Southam for £10,000 which, combined with £24,000 from the Village Hall Funds had paid for the renovated toilet facilities. A recent event held at the home of Philip and Angela Bushill-Matthews had also been successful in engaging a selected audience of business people. Following on from this, the committee will shortly launch the "Buy a Brick" campaign which will be aimed at the whole village. A number of village organisations had also held fundraising events for the Hall. The next phase of the project will be either the installation of the stage and changing rooms or the

construction of side rooms and offices. Dr Hancock concluded by thanking the community for their support so far.

**Questions to the District Councillors:** District Cllr Patrick had recently stood down at the last election after a number of years representing the village. Mr Patrick was present however and reported back on two items from last year's minutes. Smaller bins are now available from SDC as originally promised although there may be a waiting list for these. The cost of the renovation of the Bancroft Gardens in Stratford had been around £3m although it was noted that a significant proportion of this had come from outside funding sources i.e not from council tax payers. Several of those present felt that, after spending so much money on the gardens, it was unfortunate that funding to local tourist offices had been cut resulting in their temporary closure.

District Cllr Mann reported that the District is currently looking to save money in all areas although it is hoped that frontline services will not be too badly affected. There had been an increase in the number of items of household waste that can be recycled and there are a number of road shows planned to publicise this including one at Harbury Carnival.

**Chairman's Report:** Cllr Lockley summarized his report. Two of the most notable events during the previous year had been the installation of traffic calming measures at the entrances to the village and the commencement of the Bush Heath Lane development of affordable and local market homes. In the forthcoming year, the Council and the community in general can expect further developments on the HS2 proposed rail link, a possible freeze on Council Tax and greater empowerment for local communities. The Council was currently starting on the process of updating the Parish Plan. Cllr Lockley thanked his fellow councillors and the clerk for their work over the previous year and he thanked Cllr Grey, who had recently stood down for his contribution to the Council.

**Deppers Bridge:** Mr Grey had recently resigned as the Parish Councillor for Deppers Bridge but had prepared a report for the meeting and referred those present to it. He pointed out that, all residents who feel that their properties have been blighted by the proposed rail link should apply immediately for a reduction in Council Tax. Cllr Thompson had attended a meeting held recently in Southam which had been attended by almost 200 people to discuss the proposed exceptional hardship scheme. The consultation on this has now been extended to the 17.6.10.

**Planning Working Party:** Cllr Patrick summarized her report. During the previous year, the Parish Council had returned comments on 28 applications in total; none of these had been referred to the SDC Planning Committee. In the future, it was likely that there would be an expectation that the village will provide a proportion of the new homes required by the District but the Parish Council would anticipate that the majority of these will be provided by the Bush Heath Lane development. The following questions were asked:

- would it be possible to put the criteria for decisions on planning applications on the Parish Council website.

- Would the Parish Council consider the subject of the planning framework as a possible future subject for a speaker at the Annual Parish Meeting.

**Properties Working Party:** Cllr Hancock summarized her report. The Council has recently purchased a new see saw to replace an older piece of equipment that had to be removed for safety reasons. With regard to the Cemetery assessment, this had been reviewed and some of the original stakes removed but the problems of contacting the relatives of those memorials still in need of repair remains.

- Mr Padbury queried whether there will be a fence between the new BMX track once it is constructed and the allotments as the allotment holders felt that, as the existing hedge had been cut back, there was the likelihood of increasing encroachment by young people onto the allotments. Cllr Hancock agreed that the Properties W/P could consider this if it proves to be a problem once the track is finished.

**Environment Working Party:** Cllr Lockley commented on the new traffic calming measures introduced into the village and on the Environment W/P's plans to meet shortly to discuss the possibility of LED lights for the village.

- It was queried whether any monitoring will be done by WCC on how effective the new Speed Aware Sign in Mill Street is. It is not clear whether this will be done; the clerk will check with WCC regarding this.
- Mrs Hutchins reported that she had recently been involved in an accident at the corner of Sutcliffe Drive and Farm Street which had been caused by parked cars at the junction – would the police look at parked traffic around the junction.
- It was queried why the potholes in Sutcliffe Drive had not been filled in before the whole estate was “top dressed” recently. The clerk will check this with WCC.

**Finance Working Party:** Cllr Mancell referred those present to his report and pointed out that any members of the public wishing to contact the Council could do so via either the website or by calling into the Parish Office which is open 4 mornings a week. Cllr Mancell also thanked the clerk and his fellow members of the Finance & General Purposes W/P for their help and support.

**Twinning Association:** Cllr Hancock reported that the next visit to Samoia will take place this Friday. The Association is taking a full coach and, in addition to this, a number of members are travelling by car.

**Any Other Business:** There were no further questions.

**Closure of the Meeting:** Cllr Lockley thanked all those present for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8.35pm.

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