

MINUTES OF THE 2009 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF HARBURY AND DEPPERS BRIDGE

The duly convened Annual Parish Meeting was held in the Village Hall on Thursday 19th May 2009 under the Chairmanship of Cllr Tim Lockley, Chairman of Harbury Parish Council.

Present: Parish Cllrs Lockley, Patrick, Hancock, Thompson, Mancell, Thornley, Knowles, Baldwin, Grey, Darlison, District Cllr Patrick, County Cllr Stevens, PCSO Dominic Bes-Jeary, Mrs C Finch (Village Hall Committee) and approximately 10 members of the public.

Apologies: PC Nigel Hill, District Cllr Bev Mann and Mr G Thorpe.

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 22nd May 2008 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 Dominic Bes-Jeary: PCSO Bes-Jeary introduced himself to the meeting and summarized P C Hill's report. Harbury continues to be a low-crime area although the issues of speeding and nuisance youths do continue. With regard to the latter however, complaints have been successfully reduced in the Southam area as a whole by 47%.

Presentation by Jacky Lawrence, Warwickshire County Council Climate Change Partnership: Ms Lawrence explained that the Climate Change Partnership had launched its first consultation event in 2005, followed in 2006 by the Warwickshire Climate Change Strategy. Since then the County has been working on its action plan, the main thrust of which is reduce carbon emissions in Warwickshire by 80% by 2050. The profile of the county is that the north has a higher percentage of industrial emissions whilst the south has a greater quantity of residential usage, however, overall the County is fairly typical of Britain as a whole. An extensive data base has been formed of individuals and organisations who have undertaken "green" initiatives and there is a section of the WCC website dedicated to the Climate Change Partnership. The current Local Area Agreement between all local councils and Warwickshire Police has a negotiated target of 1 tonne (1 Tonne Challenge) of recycled waste person per year by 2011. In order to meet this and other challenging targets there will need to be approximately £54 million in capital investment. Leamington Spa is now Warwickshire's first "transition town" and will look at the challenges of climate change and fossil fuels running out. On a village level, Snitterfield has funding to be one of 10 villages nationally aiming to become carbon neutral.

The following questions were asked by those present:

- will the CO2 reduction figures be accurate in that will they take in the "whole cost" of green initiatives and will they simply involve a shifting of the carbon

emissions to a different area or country. It was pointed out for example that solar panels create substantial emissions to produce and electric cars produce more CO2 than conventional vehicles due to the need to recharge the batteries.

- It was queried how much the Partnership had in its specific budget in order to promote itself and its various initiatives. This was confirmed to be £9000.

Cllr Lockley thanked Ms Lawrence for attending and for her interesting and informative presentation.

Questions to County & District Councillors: Warks County Council: County Cllr Bob Stevens outlined a number of successes for the local area over the previous 12 months: following the Speed Review Consultation, there had been a widespread reduction of a number of local A roads to 50mph, a permanent weight limit had been imposed on the Harbury Station Bridge at Deppers Bridge and funding had been agreed by the County for a number of traffic calming measures in the village. Cllr Stevens commented that the village was fortunate to have two very good local schools in Harbury Primary School and Southam College. The County as a whole is currently experiencing a squeeze on funding and expects to have its funding reduced by 5% in the forthcoming year; the County is already in the bottom 25% of funded authorities. To help counteract this there will be a freeze on recruitment. Questions asked to Cllr Stevens were:

- What does the recent review of Library services mean for Harbury Library? Cllr Stevens answered that, at present, there is no threat to the library, but that there may be an extension of the number of services available there.
- There was a comment on excessive highways signage within the County, how effective is this and do the Police believe that the new 50mph limits can in fact be enforced? Cllr Stevens commented that although police resources have obviously not increased, they have the same resources to enforce the new limit as they did to enforce the 60mph limit.

Stratford District Council: District Cllr Patrick highlighted the issue of some residents being missed off the electoral roll if they had attempted to register online and were making a new application. With regard to refuse collection, substantial changes had been brought in since last year and, apart from a few early problems, seemed to be working well. There will be a recycling event, with a speaker from SDC in the Village Hall to coincide with the Twinning Visit. The following questions were asked:

- what checks are being carried out on what is being recycled? Cllr Patrick confirmed that there is a degree of monitoring in place and that the refuse is sorted at the recycling plant.
- Did Verdant offer a more competitive tender for the refuse contract at the expense of its staff wages? Cllr Patrick will research this and reply later.
- Why is it not possible to have smaller bins; these were promised at the start of the changes? Due to budget restriction the smaller bins are now not available.
- How much has been spent on the remodelling of the Bancroft Gardens in Stratford Town Centre. Cllr Patrick will look into this and report back.

Chairman of the Council's Report: Cllr Lockley referred those present to the reports contained in the Annual Parish Report and asked for any questions on them. There were no questions.

Deppers Bridge: There were no questions.

Planning: Cllr Patrick pointed out a typing error in her report. With regard to the Bishop Bowl Lakes site the wording should read “this (latest application) has still to be decided and may eventually in the current economic climate **not** take place.”

- There was a query about what is happening with regard to the Dog Inn, currently boarded up. The clerk has been in contact with the enforcement officer and was assured initially that the boarding would be on a short term basis only. Investigations into this are continuing.
- Why has SDC made the Conservation Architect redundant? District Cllr Patrick agreed to look into this.

Properties: It was queried when and if the aerial runway would be back in action. Cllr Hancock confirmed that the Council hoped to be able to agree a quotation for repair work in the near future.

Environment: It was queried whether there will be an open consultation on the proposed traffic calming measures for the village. It was confirmed that this would be the case although there has been no date set for this as yet. If there is opposition to the plans then amendments will need to be considered.

Finance & General Purposes: There were no questions.

Harbury Village Hall: Mr Thorpe, the Chairman of the Village Hall Committee was unable to be present but Mrs Finch outlined his report. Although revenue from hiring the hall to outside users is slightly down this year there have been a number of positive initiatives to increase the Hall’s funds: a fund raising committee has been formed and the Hall now has its own fundraising events including the successful Rural Cinema Scheme. Planning permission has been granted for the proposed extension to the Hall.

Twinning Association: Cllr Hancock reported that the association is working hard towards the forthcoming visit by representatives from Samoia at the end of May. This will include a conference on recycling, an afternoon of traditional pub games, a buffet supper with food representing all 27 countries of the EU and a visit to Warwick Castle.

Any Other Business: The following comments were made

- it was suggested that it could be helpful if the report could be made available beforehand.
- Could the report include feedback from other outside groups particularly those that have received funding from the Council this year?
- Does Harbury have any specific plans on the Climate Change Initiative. Harbury does plan to replace gradually all the mercury style lanterns with lower usage ones. The Environment Working Party will consider ways in which the village could work toward being “carbon neutral”.

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

.....ChairmanDate