

**Harbury & Deppers Bridge**

**Annual Parish Meeting  
2018**



**Harbury & Deppers Bridge Annual Parish Meeting**  
**10 May 2018 at 7.30pm**  
**Harbury Village Hall**

**Agenda**

1. Welcome by Cllr Tim Lockley
2. Presentation by Sarah Richardson: "Women's Suffrage".
3. Apologies
4. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 11 May 2017
5. Matters arising from the minutes
6. Report from the chairman of Harbury Parish Council
7. Reports from Harbury Parish Council working parties:
  - Planning
  - Environment
  - Properties
  - Finance & general Purposes
  - Deppers Bridge
  - Neighbourhood Development Plan
8. Reports from village organisations (if your organisation has not already provided a written report or you would like to add something further).
9. County & District Councillors' Reports
10. Any Other Business
11. Close of meeting

# Minutes of Harbury Annual Parish Meeting

11 May 2017 at 7.30pm

Harbury Village Hall

The meeting was chaired by Cllr Tim Lockley, chairman of Harbury Parish Council.

## Present

13 Electors of the parish (including 6 parish councillors)

## In Attendance

County Cllr Stevens

### 1. Welcome

Cllr Lockley opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

### 2. Presentation by Warwickshire County Council Cyber Crime Officer

Alex Gloster, Cyber Crime Advisor to the county council gave a presentation about cyber-crime. He outlined research that concluded there had been 32,400 victims of phishing in the county in the last 12 months, of which 25,000 had suffered a financial loss totalling £2.5m. He explained what spam emails looked like, and how to spot them. His top tips were: beware of attachments in emails, have strong passwords, check for <https://> in a website, update software on all your devices, beware public wi-fi, be social media savvy, report fraud to Action Fraud and the police if physical harm is threatened.

The chairman thanked Mr Gloster for his interesting presentation and advice.

### 3. Apologies

Cllr Tony Mancell, Cllr Steve Ekins, Lucy Nealon, Geoff Thorpe, District Cllr Jacqui Harris, Ken Stephenson, Rev Grocock, Alison Biddle, Clerk to Harbury Parish Council.

### 4. Minutes of the 2016 Annual Parish Meeting

The minutes of the annual parish meeting held on Thursday, 12 May 2016 were agreed as a true and complete record of that meeting and were duly signed by the chairman.

### 5. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

### 6. Report from the chairman of Harbury Parish Council

Cllr Lockley referred people to his written report in the booklet which had been circulated. He shared his concerns about the impact locally of the government's austerity initiatives. He said he was increasingly gloomy at the prospects for a new GPs' surgery in the area, because the Clinical Commissioning Group won't accept the "gift horse" of a new surgery building being offered by developers of the Harbury Depot, citing the possibility of long term liabilities.

Cllr Lockley concluded by thanking retiring councillor Alan Knowles for a decade of service to the community.

## **7. Reports from Harbury Parish Council working parties**

Written reports had been provided by the chairs of the working parties and were included in the booklet for people to read. In addition, the following comments were made:

### **Planning**

The group had developed the draft neighbourhood development plan, involving other stakeholders. The consultation on this had concluded, and dates were being finalised for a parish council meeting to consider the comments, and a referendum to follow.

### **Environment**

This year would see the replacement of the remaining Windsor lanterns with LEDs, reducing the operating and maintenance costs, and improving lighting. The group continued to press for delivery of a traffic light-controlled junction at the accident blackspot of Harbury Lane / Fosse Way, in advance of the GLH development.

### **Properties**

New notice boards had been designed and ordered and would be installed around the village in the near future. David Wilson Homes had agreed to pay for one at the entrance to the Bush Heath Lane development.

### **Finance & General Purposes**

A written report had been provided and was included in the booklet. There was nothing to add.

### **Deppers Bridge**

A written report had been provided and was included in the booklet. There was nothing to add.

### **WW1 Centenary Project**

Cllr Gibb outlined the conclusion of the two year long project on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2017, with a requiem to mark the centenary of the death of vicar's son Reginald Beardsworth, and the loss of 33 Harbury men during WW1. Lt Col Simon Rushen, Chief of Staff of the Canadian Armed Forces in the UK, had been the guest of honour, as Beardsworth had fought for a Canadian regiment. The event had been well attended, and relatives of the fallen had come from far and wide, including Utah, USA. The blue plaques had been erected around the village to mark where the fallen had lived. Cllr Gibb concluded by thanking the 40 villagers who had participated in the project in one way or another, and the clerk to the parish council, who had provided invaluable support.

## **8. Reports from village organisations**

Reports were noted from Harbury Village Hall, Friends of Harbury Cemetery, Harbury Energy Initiative, Harbury Twinning Association, Harbury Library, Harbury Village Show and the Harbury Victorian Street Fayre.

## **9. County & District Councillors' Reports & questions**

County Cllr Stevens said he was proud and honoured to have been re-elected as the county councillor for the next four years. He said he intended to continue supporting Harbury and its residents to preserve its rural character. Turning to the work of the county council he referred to its budget being reduced by £90m since 2013, and now a further £20m of savings had to be found. 500 posts had been lost from a total of 5,000 employees, with numerous retirements and redundancies. The council's annual budget was now £400m, of which nearly £200m was spent

on adult services and nearly £100m on children and child protection. Council tax had increased by 3.9%. Challenges existed in funding care homes and children's safeguarding. Education was changing, with more schools becoming academies, with the county continuing to be responsible for finding every child a place at a suitable school. He said Harbury children had access to good local primary and secondary education, and he wanted that to remain so, and the latest letter from Southam College confirmed this.

He went on to outline future options regarding local government; unitary authorities which he supported, mayors and combined authorities. He was concerned that local economic activity was driving population growth and putting strain on services, such as infrastructure, medical services and schools.

In conclusion he reminded those present that he had opposed HS2 from the start, but now it was imminent he was concerned at the impact of the construction locally.

**10. Any other business**

There was no other business.

**Meeting closed at 8.43pm.**

## Parish Council Chairman's Report

Harbury has made very good progress on its neighbourhood development plan during the past year. The plan is now with an inspector, who will ensure it is compliant with local and national policies, and then it will go to a public vote for adoption. The plan sets out our aims and objectives for future development in the village. Harbury has more than met its housing target set by SDC up to 2031 but we still face an uncertain environment.

The latest government consultation on housing is very much a 'developer's charter' with a presumption in favour of development unless there are very strong reasons to object. If this ends up being adopted as national planning guidance then it is possible, likely even, that more housing will be required in Harbury. We will continue to monitor the situation but it is being driven by politicians in London, not by local people.

We have continued to update and improve village facilities during the year. The streetlight modernisation programme (involving upgrading to energy-efficient LEDs) is entering its final year; new play equipment for both children and adults has been installed at the playing fields; and smart new village notice boards have replaced the old ones which were no longer fit for purpose.

I remain very grateful for the hard work of all councillors, especially those chairing the working parties, and of course the parish clerk who is a model of efficiency, calmness, and dedication.

**Tim Lockley**  
**Chairman, Harbury Parish Council**

## Planning Working Party Report

The planning page on the parish council's website – [www.harbury-pc.gov.uk](http://www.harbury-pc.gov.uk) – is linked to Stratford-on-Avon District Council's website and may be viewed via <http://apps.stratford.gov.uk/eplanning>. Copies of all planning applications are now received in electronic format only.

The planning group used to examine applications on the Monday before the PC meeting to undertake background work and research - used as a guide by the council when voting. When a proposal was thought to be contentious each councillor was required to express an opinion. These monthly meetings are no longer held as all councillors are required to look at planning applications and respond accordingly – “support”, “no representation” or “object”. The planning working party has a vital role to play in wider issues such as Gypsy & Traveller sites, the former Harbury Cement Works site, the Gaydon & Lighthorne development and interpreting new legislation, but members of the group only go to area planning committee meetings when they have a particular interest in a plan or an objection has been lodged.

The Town & Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 means that more extensions are being undertaken by residents without parish council consultation. It is advised that the proposal is discussed with the local planning authority (Stratford DC) before

any building work commences. Retrospective planning applications are not always supported and the job of enforcement officers is to ensure plans have been followed.

'Tree works' in the conservation area are still referred to the parish council because trees and hedgerows need to be protected to sustain the population of birds and wildlife in our rural environment.

Harbury village has not been inundated with planning proposals from developers as many other parishes have. The settlement boundary in the neighbourhood development plan may mean that only small scale development takes place within the boundary but leave the outskirts of Harbury and other areas of the parish alone.

Many thanks to Keith Thompson, Samantha Allen, Chris Gibb and Andy Rutherford for their support during the year, especially time spent at training sessions, the area planning committee meetings and meetings in general.

### **Cllr Pat Summers**

#### **Chair of Harbury Parish Council Planning Working Party**

Members: Cllrs Gibb, Thompson, Rutherford and Allen

## **Environment Working Party Report**

Unusually for a parish council, we own the village streetlights. 2018 has seen more LED or "white lights" installed, in order to comply with new legislation requiring the phase out of Mercury based lights and replacement with LED or white light. Work started with the pole mounted lanterns, before focussing on those lights on steel columns and the replacement of the Windsor lanterns. 16 lamps remain to be replaced during 2018. We have also commissioned repainting of the Windsor columns in 2018.

We have continued to press for improvements to the Harbury Lane / Fosse Way junction. A scheme with traffic lights and junction widening has been included in the Gaydon / Lighthorne Heath ("GLH") development, which now has planning consent, and we will continue to press for the scheme to be completed before the development.

We worked with the county council and Stagecoach to encourage greater usage of the 665 bus, our two-hourly village service. In 2017/8 we organised and part funded a "two for one" bus voucher for village teenagers through the village library. This was not a success, with take-up of the vouchers falling short of expectations, so we will not repeat it. We will continue to look for other ways to support the long term retention of our bus service.

The group has helped oversee the Harbury WW1 Memorial Trail Project on behalf of the parish council. The project obtained a Heritage Lottery Fund grant to research the names on the village war memorial, and erect plaques on the houses, or location of long gone houses where they lived. The plaques form a village trail, with the output of the research now being told on a section of the parish council website. The project concluded with a requiem for the men on 3rd May 2017 at Harbury Church, with Lieutenant Colonel Simon Rushen, Chief of Staff for the Canadian Armed Forces in the UK, as the guest of honour, and extensive involvement in the service by the community and Harbury School.

In 2018 we will supplement the village litter bins, which are provided by and emptied by the district council, with a recycling bin outside the Co-op and a dog-litter bin at the entrance to the Thwaites estate; a popular dog walking route. Villagers are kindly asked to use both for their intended purpose; not to litter our streets or leave dog litter bags on Thwaites' estate.

At the time of writing the parish roads, like much of the country, are suffering from more potholes than usual at this time of year. The parish roads are the responsibility of the county council, who provide a useful road fault reporting facility at [www.warwickshire.fixmystreet.com](http://www.warwickshire.fixmystreet.com).

### **Cllr Chris Gibb**

#### **Chair, Harbury Parish Council Environment Working Party**

Members: Cllrs Lockley, Thornley, Allen, Rutherford and Christou

## **Properties Working Party Report**

### **Cemetery**

Instructed a structural survey of the chapel to be carried out to assess its overall condition. Repairs have been carried out to stonework in the arch over the entrance door. Trees around the building have had their height reduced to stop further movement of the chapel's foundations. Thanks to the Friends of the Cemetery, who under the guidance of Cllr Summers, continue to work wonders in maintaining the grounds.

### **New Cemetery**

Initial Tier 1 required survey of the proposed burial ground has been completed. This report has been submitted to the Environmental Agency for their pre-planning application advice as to the suitability of the site for the use as a burial ground.

### **Deppers Bridge Playground**

The rotten bench has been removed for public safety.

### **Harbury Playground**

Repairs to playground equipment and painting have been completed. Four pieces of outdoor adult fitness equipment have now been installed. Installation of a bouldering wall. Outdoor table tennis table installed. New mini goals have been ordered to replace the rotten ones which were removed. Waiting for weather to improve so the perimeter path can be re-surfaced and extended to join the car park.

### **Car Park**

Plates for car park entrance teeth repaired and mechanism cleaned out.

### **Parish Notice Boards**

New notice boards installed around the parish, plus a new one on the development off Bush Heath Lane.

### **Allotments**

Inspection completed in April, there was a notable improvement in the maintenance of the plots.



Notices of improvement have been issued only to a handful of tenants this time. Currently there are two half plots vacant.

### **Green Spaces**

A broken bench has been removed from the green opposite The Old New Inn. The owner is hoping to repair the bench and have it re-installed.

### **Cllr Steve Ekins**

#### **Chair of Harbury Parish Council Properties Working Party**

Working Party Members: Councillors Thompson, Mancell, Summers and Christou

## **Finance & General Purposes Working Party Report**

First, I would like to thank our clerk, Alison Biddle, for the help and support that she given to me and all the council in the past year.

Extracts from the accounts for 2017 – 2018 (subject to audit) are included elsewhere in this booklet. These are well in line with our planned budgetary controls.

The parish precept for the coming year, 2018/19 has increased from £104,952.00 to £107,027.00 (plus £2,075); this gives a decrease of £2.92 per year for a Band D property within Harbury Parish, this is a decrease of 24p per month. This reduction in actual council tax is because the council tax base rate has increased owing to the growth in property numbers within the parish.

The F&GP working party recommended this precept to the full parish council; this budget will allow us to fully fund our plans for the year 2018/19.

This budget will, in addition to our normal responsibilities fund our parish plans in the following areas;

- £5,400 for the cemetery chapel – 1<sup>st</sup> year's restoration work and accompanying tree works.
- £3,700 for carrying out the 1<sup>st</sup> year's recommendations from the latest tree survey.
- £5,000 towards the new cemetery fund.
- £5,000 for new playground equipment
- £5,000 for village Xmas lights project.
- £9,120 to replace the remaining Mercury lanterns around the village
- £2,260 to renew the 'lining' in the playing field car park at the rear of the village hall.
- £1,500 for the NDP project costs and the NDP referendum.
- £1,500 for maintenance, water and refuse collection at the allotments.
- £1,500 to support the Southam Transport Scheme and E-Car in Harbury.

The parish council office is open four mornings a week; this gives access to the parish council, the clerk and to minutes, reports and planning applications etc.

Our website provides another way to keep in touch with the parish council, giving online access to the minutes, meeting schedules, and the contact details for the council. The parish council's Facebook page is a useful source of information.

Recent Harbury parish planning applications can be viewed via our website, along with the information from many of Harbury village groups and societies.

Please go to <http://www.harbury-pc.gov.uk/>

My thanks go to my colleagues on the F&GP Working Party, Councillors Tim Lockley, Pat Summers, Chris Gibb and Steve Ekins for all of their contributions and commitment throughout the year.

**Cllr Tony Mancell**

**Chair, Harbury Parish Council Finance & General Purposes Working Party**

Members: Cllrs Ekins, Lockley, Summers and Gibb

## **Neighbourhood Development Plan**

The Harbury Village Design Statement (1998), the Harbury Parish Plan (2004) and the Parish Plan Update (2012) were advisory documents and many changes have occurred during the past twenty years. The group would like to thank parish councillors and present day residents for their support during the last four years of preparation, as once finalised the NDP will be enforceable by law.

Michael Wellock from Kirkwells was appointed as the consultant to lead us through the final stages of our submission and his input has been invaluable. This draft plan was approved by the steering group and the parish council in November 2015 and had to comply with SDC's Core Strategy which was approved in 2016 and we believe we have achieved this.

At the end of 2016, the parish council voted to amend the settlement boundary because of concerns raised by two residents during the first consultation. To be certain that we complied legally, the draft plan was put back out for a second six-week consultation. This was from 6<sup>th</sup> February until 20<sup>th</sup> March 2017. Unfortunately delays and amendments to do with the wording meant that the proposed draft plan was not put out for SDC's own public consultation until January 2018 when it received 35 responses. It goes before the independent examiner in May 2018. If it is approved by the examiner it will go to the next stage which is a referendum where it has to be approved by a simple majority of residents who vote on the day.

Harbury and Bishop Itchington Parish Councils requested a parish boundary change from May 2019 because of the new housing at the former cement works site. When Bishops Itchington has completed its draft NDP in 2019/2020, their designated NDP area can be changed and the Harbury NDP area amended, according to Stratford District Council's legal department.

When the steering group prepared the NDP their aim was to protect the community by giving them a say in shaping future developments in the parish.

**Councillor Pat Summers**

**Harbury NDP Group**

## County Councillor's Report

This time last year we had just had the county council elections and the Article 50 for Brexit had been signed. The county council elections produced a large Conservative majority, unlike the following months snap general election, and we are now less than a year from leaving the European Union.

The county council is still facing significant reductions in the government grant and the cap on council tax, whilst welcome to tax payers, is putting additional strain on non-essential services. However, the council is up for the challenge and our finances are in a well-balanced state. A recent proposal to replace government grant with the areas business rate has temporally been postponed so the present system will continue.

Warwickshire has become a popular place to live and the economy continues to be healthy. Both Coventry and Birmingham are experiencing an industrial revival with much government money being invested into their infrastructure. Last month, together with a group of fellow councillors, I met with Andy Street the West Midlands Mayor. As it was a private meeting I cannot divulge the content but suffice to say the prospect of Warwickshire joining the West Midlands Combined Authority is, to some people, still a distant dream but it is not dead. Warwickshire is presently an associate member and statistics show that unemployment across the county is low, the economy is booming and inward investment is high with a continued growth in new businesses start-ups. The priority is for the West Midlands to improve its infrastructure and transport networks and Warwickshire is receiving some of that investment. This necessarily involves more housing as Warwickshire is taking the overspill from Birmingham and Coventry.

As well as encouraging devolution to the bigger Metropolitan regions the government is investing through Local Enterprise Partnerships. The Coventry Warwickshire LEP is one such partnership and major funding is also available through the LEP. In my opinion the jury is still out on the regional authorities, but I have always been a supporter of any partnership working between Coventry and Warwickshire.

Locally this last year has been dominated by the large number of housing developments that are taking place. We welcome the new residents to our village/area but with the population growth comes the extra strain on the infrastructure. Roads are becoming impossible at peak periods, our schools, especially secondary provision becoming overcrowded and medical facilities stretched. Developer contribution (£106) monies have been spent on improved traffic calming measures and also promised for school expansion. In some cases, money has been made available for communities to enhance their local facilities via CIL.

Coming soon will be the additional disruption caused by HS2 construction and associated traffic. An idea of this will be experienced when a trial cutting, some 18 metres deep is constructed near Wormleighton later this year. At a briefing last week, we were advised that locally construction work will not start until mid- 2019 with a view to completing it by end of 2022 when the track is handed over to HS2 for them to construct the railway line. There will be considerable disruption during that period in particular around Hunningham, Codemasters and the A46 at Stoneleigh. The Fosse will be their preferred access route until they can use the line of the track. Where major road diversions are planned the new road will be constructed before

the existing road is closed wherever possible. The contractors Kier and Balfour Beatty are keen to work with the 46 parishes along the routes and will be holding public briefing meetings in conjunction with local councils starting later this year. They estimate along the whole of phase 1 there will be about 10,000 construction workers and additional office staff. At this moment in time only 50% of the planning process is complete and the interface with the public utility services continues to cause concern. The planning will complete in November when a more accurate cost and scale of disruption known.

Adult and children services are the biggest drain on the county council finances. Each year statistics show that life expectancy is increasing but the cost of care is also increasing. Standards in care homes are continuously monitored and the numbers who are not able to look after themselves without assistance rises each year. People are encouraged to stay in their own home for as long as possible and demand for affordable warden supervised homes outstrips the supply. Adult social care continues to be the responsibility of the county council and the government grant decreases although extra 3 % on council tax which is ring fenced for adult care is permitted. The recent integration of health and adult services at government level has yet to make its effect felt but hopefully will lead to better cooperation between these two services with respect to Adult care.

The pressure on children safeguarding and protection continues to grow. One of the biggest concerns is cyber-crime and the use of mobile phone to corrupt/influence teenagers. The incidences of child abuse in Warwickshire are presently low but with incidents occurring in adjacent authorities there is no place for complacency. The Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) set up last year is establishing its reputation for protecting children.

Overall Warwickshire schools continue to be of a high standard and over 75% of the secondary schools are now academies. Primary schools are now either becoming Free Schools or joining a Multi Academy Trust (MAT) either with another secondary school or as part of a trust run by the Coventry Diocese (DMAT). Whereas I support academisation of bigger schools I am not convinced that MATs which cross education authority boundaries will be sustainable in the long term. In the Feldon division Southam College, now part of the Stowe Valley MAT continues to be high performing and this year's pupil admission number of 270 has been reached. Local pupils from the present catchment area are assured a place at the college for the foreseeable future.

The Warwickshire Fire Service has had a busy year and is expecting a home office inspection later this year. Standards expected of the fire service have been significantly raised since the recent national incidents in particular at Grenfell Tower and some school fires. We have budgeted for implementing any recommendations in this year's budget. Police and ambulance are not controlled by the county council although WCC works closely with both these services and moves towards a combined "Blue light Service" are presently active but there is a long way to go. WCC is responsible for public health together with Public Health England.

As your councillor I have been kept occupied representing residents throughout the Feldon division in particular over education, flooding and traffic issues. I try to attend as many of your parish meetings as I can.

I am pleased to say that I have been able to obtain small grants for village organisations and some minor highway improvements. As WCC's Armed Forces Champion I have been actively

involved in supporting military veterans and the counties commitment to the armed forces covenant. I also chair the WCC pension fund investment committee which oversees where the funds are invested to gain maximum return for the fund within ethical guidelines. To conform with government legislation, the fund is also combining with 11 other authorities to reduce costs and increase returns. The value of the combined fund, called "Border to Coast" and based in Leeds, is in the region of £45 Billion.

**County Cllr Bob Stevens**  
**Warwickshire County Council**

## **District Councillor's Report**

As I enter my fourth year in office I cannot believe where the time has gone and what I have achieved. I have made many friends and good relationships, especially with the parish councils that I work with. I feel together we have achieved many things particularly ensuring service delivery, holding different agencies, bodies and councils to account, rebuilding community assets, challenging planning applications the list is long and interesting to say the least!

Results have been achieved through many different mediums and formats whether it be the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, legal action or me directly speaking or writing to agencies/businesses such as Orbit, for me it has been about respect, working together and supporting each other.

It has been another tough year for everyone especially the district council with another round of cuts to contend with on top of the previous years, the impact on the Council and its officers and our wider community has been massive and there are still more to implement, but with good management at Stratford District Council we have managed the storm.

### **Meetings**

This year in addition to attending and speaking at full district council, 2 parish council and 1 parish meeting, I have been delighted to have taken on the role of deputy chair of the Audit & Standards Committee. I continue to serve on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Community Safety Partnership Board, Employment Committee and the Community Partnership Network (CPN) It is here at the CPN on the subject of health that that I have been very active on behalf of the ward, it has meant working with local and cross border colleagues particularly in ensuring public consultation is carried out by CCG's rolling out the Sustainability Transformation Plans. I was instrumental in the joint cross border team that led the Judicial Review and other legal processes against the Oxford Clinical Commissioning group who are now revisiting their plans and received a directive to have meaningful consultation with the public. I will be attending forthcoming workshops at Cherwell District Council to support the change of Vision, aims and objectives of the CPN group to ensure service delivery of health, especially encompassing the cross-border issues and hold the CCG's to account.

### **Constituency Work**

I became a councillor to assist individuals and I have helped many across the ward with a large range of issues. I also receive many queries and issues via email and phone, this is often due to a matter of urgency and the main topic of these is usually due to planning concerns. The fun

parts are attending the many community events, I supported Harbury RFC at their recent home game for which they won!

### **Training and Development**

As district councillors we have mandatory training hours. I have attended member training sessions during the past year. Our minimum is 12 hours and I have exceeded this amount.

I'm greatly looking forward to my next year representing my residents and working with anyone and everyone who has similar aspirations for our ward.

**District Cllr Jacqui Harris**  
**Harbury Ward Councillor, SDC**

## **Reports from Village Groups & Organisations**

### **Harbury Village Hall**

I promised in my report last year that having completed the stage extension in 2016 the committee would not be resting on its laurels and I am pleased to report that, as promised, a major revision of the hall's energy usage was undertaken and in 2017 modern insulation, LED lighting and efficient electric heating was installed. This has of course resulted in unexpected consequences mainly complaints that the hall is too hot! The committee's sights are now set on major improvements to the front porch, the Farley Room and various smaller items. This is likely to happen in 2019.

In addition, the **Harbury Energy Initiative led by Bob Sherman** are working toward funding a battery storage system to complement the existing photovoltaic panels. The tariff received from the existing panels produces a return greater than the hall's current expenditure on electricity for heating and lighting.

**Flo and Tom Marsh** retired at the end of last year having kept the hall spick and span for several years, our thanks to them for such a wonderful job. We are delighted that **Michelle Lawley** has stepped into their shoes absolutely seamlessly.

**Chris Finch** continues to make steady progress from her illness but feels the time has come to stand down as Vice Chairman. She does intend to remain active on the committee. I am sure the village will join me in thanking her for her continued efforts, not only in the hall but in so many village activities, over many years.

I am pleased to report that faulty electricity meter has finally been replaced after over two years of incompetence and failed appointments. I suspect that the resolution of the outstanding account might take a similar amount of time!

The **Women's Institute** took over the running of the very popular village cinema in the autumn last year and are doing a wonderful job with most performances sell outs. I have been asked not to mention the special effects provided at the screening of Dunkirk!

The booking levels remain strong and the stage has proved a valuable addition to the hall, not just for the Junior and Senior Theatre Groups but for parties, concerts and presentations.

As usual thanks are due to the committee in general and especially to **Celia Neal**, the booking secretary and **Sue Littlewood**, the treasurer.

One final thought. The huge improvements made to the hall over the last few years have sadly led to a commonly held view that the hall is extremely well off. This is not the case. The improvements are the result of a huge fundraising effort and tedious, form filling bureaucracy.

On a day to day basis the hall's income, primarily from hire fees, leads to an annual surplus of three or four thousand pounds, insufficient to cover the costs of redecoration let alone the replacement of, for example, chairs or curtains. The hall is a registered charity run by a volunteer committee and the aim is to provide an affordable venue for the village. The committee clearly has a responsibility to keep the hall on a sound financial footing.

A common request is for discounts for fundraising events in the hall. Harbury parish residents and groups receive a discount but beyond that there are no other discounts or concessions. The committee believe that the current hire charges represent a fair charge for an excellent village hall.

**Geoff Thorpe**  
**Chairman, Harbury Village Hall**

## **The Friends of Harbury Cemetery**

This voluntary group is still going after two years because Harbury Cemetery is a large area and there is always work to be done!

The cemetery had been neglected over the years as family members moved away or died themselves. Other parishes had groups of residents who helped in the community and I thought it would be a good idea for this to happen in Harbury. There is now a main core of 6-10 volunteers, with others who help on the first Thursday in each month, between 10 and 12noon. More volunteers are always needed though!

There is a great deal of satisfaction in seeing the improvements that have been made and the compliments we have received. Initially we obtained grants to buy aggregate to put on graves and to buy bulbs and plants. We have also received donations – some quite generous – to buy more bulbs and plants.

2000 native English bluebell bulbs were planted in 2017 and the children at Harbury School helped in this work. More snowdrop and bluebell bulbs have been planted in 2018. Wildflower seeds were sown and daffodil and tulip bulbs planted. Hopefully results in 2018 will be better than those of 2017.



The yew trees that frame the pathway into the cemetery were pruned last year, allowing more light. Our hope is to open the cemetery if the Garden Walkabout takes place this year, so improvements can be seen and appreciated by all residents.

The chapel in the cemetery is in need of repair and the parish council have made plans for this to be done. The parish council also paid for the rotten fence in the corner of the cemetery to be pulled down and replaced as it was held up by the ivy!! Now flowers will be seen through it and should create quite a show in the summer of 2018.

Thank you to everyone who contributes in any way – through work on the first Thursday of each month or by donating plants and seeds.

**Cllr Pat Summers**  
**Group Co-ordinator**

## Harbury Energy Initiative

HEI seems to have settled into a pattern of one or two major projects each year. This makes for easier reporting and quicker reading! In 2017-18 our focus was on funding and delivering internal LED lighting throughout the school. We applied successfully to the Heart of England Community Foundation for funds from the Community Energy Warwickshire pot and, with match funding from Warwickshire County Council, completed the work in the summer holidays in 2017. We are now awaiting energy use figures from the school to assess the impact.



At the end of the year we decided on a campaign on air pollution in the village. The parish council kindly provided us with a small grant to buy 'No Idling' signs to place around key areas of the village and pollution monitors as supplied by Friends of the Earth. The No Idling signs are up and will, when required by the lamp post painting schedule, be relocated to the school fence in Park Lane. We are also working with the head teacher on the deployment of the air monitors with the involvement of some of the pupils. Curriculum-based project material is available with the kits from Friends of the Earth.

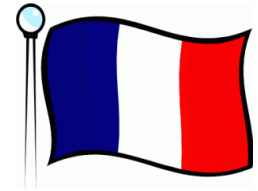
Our second major project for 2018-19, but conceived in 2017-18, is battery energy storage for the village hall. Following a well attended talk by Sure Power on battery energy storage in February we offered to try to raise funds for a suitable system for the hall. An application has been submitted to the Postcode Lottery Local Fund for an Aquion salt water battery. We will hear in June if we have been successful.

**Bob Sherman**  
**Chairman of Harbury Energy Initiative**



## Harbury Twinning Association

Harbury village twins with Samoio-sur-Seine, a charming small town on the banks of the River Seine, not far south of Paris.



Every month throughout the year we've held events in Harbury for the enjoyment of our members. From film and supper nights in the Tom Hauley Rooms, a petanque competition and BBQ at the village club, skittles evenings and supper at the Navigation Inn in Wootton Wawen, contributing to the village carnival with a French themed stall, a Christmas party (last year was an Aussie themed BBQ on the 16 December 2017!!), to celebrating the Fetes des Rois (12th night of Christmas) with drinks, a special cake and fun.

We also held fund raising events for our association which this year included coffee mornings at the Tom Hauley Room, and a very successful evening of jazz, food and wine to the sound of Django Reinhardt at the village hall, open to anybody who wanted to come.

The highlight of the year is always getting together for a long weekend with our French friends either in Samoio-sur-Seine or when the French visit us here in Harbury. Usually in May, the weekend includes entertaining at home, visits on the Saturday and Sunday to local places of interest, and a dinner with entertainment. Last year when the French visited us we celebrated Britain's Caribbean culture with a welcoming rum punch, the amazing Phase One Steel Band and a Caribbean dinner of marinated Jerk Chicken, Cajun roast lamb, and accompaniments, all washed down with wine supplied by Cana Imports. Trips out for this visit were to Coventry Cathedral and medieval Spon End on Saturday and a guided ramble and pub lunch on the Sunday – the French like our beer!



*Chilling in Samoio village*

This year's visit to France will be a slightly longer 5 day trip staying en route overnight in the town of Albert in Northern France to visit Vimy Ridge, the Canadian War Memorial and the trenches, remembering the Great War 100 years ago.

We are always looking for new members. It is not essential to speak French. And if you are unable to host a French family you can still join in with activities and visit to France as there will be others who will host for you. The monthly events in Harbury are open to all. Come along and see. To find out more call 01926 613355 or visit <https://www.facebook.com/groups/546183725541661/>

**Richard Marshall-Hardy**  
**Harbury Twinning Association**

## Harbury e-Wheels

Harbury e-Wheels now comprises a board of 6 members, 10 drivers - with two more in process of joining - and 7 coordinators, a total volunteer force of 22 (three of the board are also drivers). We average 100 to 120 hours of free social transport a month working with social agencies, such as the children's centres, surgeries, food banks and church groups. Our annual operational costs are approximately £7,000, almost all of which is the cost of the use of the cars at a subsidised rate. Over £2,000 of our income comes from regular and one-off private individual donations; the rest must be sourced from trust funds and fund raising events.



At the end of 2017 the parish council generously voted us a grant of £2,000 which, with a further £2000 from Tesco Bags of Help, has given us stability and confidence to continue our fundraising efforts without being under pressure to survive. We have two current bids in submission to trusts and two fund raising events in planning, one of which will be delivered in early May. We are hoping that our bids and events will achieve sufficient income with the parish grant to carry us well into 2019.

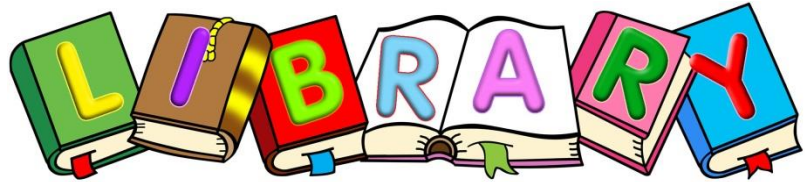
Since all our funds are pooled to serve the same purpose we cannot single out specific expenditure of the parish council grant. Between January 1st and April 21st, however, we have delivered 376 hours of volunteer transport at no cost to beneficiaries or agencies at a cost of £1,805. Whilst there are other transport options for local people, they are not suitable for everyone and not low cost for everyone. We tend to be the first choice for those agencies and individuals that know us, especially the elderly infirm of Harbury, for whom a short trip to the surgery from their home is otherwise impossible.

**Bob Sherman**  
**Harbury e-Wheels**

## Harbury Village Library

I was delighted that the library and Biblio's were part of the event that marked the completion of the World War 1 Project. The presence of descendants of the men we were remembering made the day very special. Cousins who had never previously met one another did so over tea and cake in the cafe and all the guests were very impressed by Harbury's enterprise and community spirit.

The parish council has replaced the notice board at the front of the building and it is now accessible from the road. This



has made it possible to plant the garden and thanks are due to Bob Sherman who has put many hours into the work. The cycle racks have been moved and it now remains to remove and replace the other notice boards. Richard Marshall-Hardy is working on plans for signs, the aim is to enhance the appearance of the building as well as provide clear information.

The committee has always hoped to replace the elderly shelving in the library and with the aid of Section 106 money from new housing development in the village this has been possible. It was amazing how much was accomplished during the 2 week closure. I cannot thank enough the many volunteers who packed books, manhandled crates and dismantled shelves and then a few days later replaced the books! Particular thanks go to Terry Timms who organised the crates and the disposal of the shelves (all to new homes) and above all to Janice Montague who practically took up residence in the Wight School. Complimented by the new carpet the refurbishment has given the library a fresh and attractive appearance and there have been many favourable comments.

The library and Biblio's have been extremely busy since re-opening, due I am sure to being very much missed during the two week closure. The library and Biblio's are now very much at the heart of our community. It is only because a large number of people are willing to give up some of their time that we have this special place. There are too many volunteers to mention everyone individually. I would however like to mention Nicola Thompson who is a highly efficient treasurer, Bernard Cadogan for his help with technology, Jill Credland for superb management of Biblio's and Janice Montague for the commitment and vision she brings to managing the library. Finally, I would like to thank my fellow members of the steering committee for their commitment and support over the past year.

**Sharon Hancock**  
**Chairman, Steering Committee**

Committee: Nicola Thompson (treasurer), Janice Montague (library), Jill Credland (Biblio's), Tim Lockley (parish council), Liz McBride (PCC), Naomi Neale (Harbury Primary School).

## Parish Council Attendance Record May 2017 to April 2018

There was a total of 14 meetings during the year including 3 extraordinary meetings and the annual meeting of the parish council.

<b>Name of Councillor</b>	<b>Number Attended</b>	<b>Percentage Attended</b>
Cllr Tim Lockley, Chairman	14	100%
Cllr Keith Thompson, Vice-chairman	13	93%
Cllr Sam Allen	12	86%
Cllr Chris Christou	12	86%
Cllr Chris Gibb	12	86%
Cllr Pat Summers	13	93%
Cllr Andrew Rutherford (co-opted May 2017)	13 (max 13)	100%
Cllr Tony Mancell	10	72%
Cllr Steve Ekins	11	79%
Cllr Janet Thornley	13	93%

### Contact Your Parish Council

For copies of official minutes, planning applications and lots more information.

Clerk to Harbury Parish Council:  
Alison Biddle PSLCC  
2, Bull Ring Business Centre  
Church Terrace  
Harbury  
Leamington Spa  
CV33 9HL

Office opening hours: 10.00am to 12.00pm Monday – Thursday

Telephone: 01926 614646

Email: [clerk@harbury-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@harbury-pc.gov.uk)

Website: [www.harbury-pc.gov.uk](http://www.harbury-pc.gov.uk)

**Harbury Parish Council**  
**Extracts from Financial Reports Year Ended 31 March 2018 (subject to audit)**

Year Ended 31/03/17	Income & Expenditure	Year Ended 31/03/18
	<b>GENERAL PARISH FUND</b>	
<b>£</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>£</b>
97,664.00	Precept	104,952.00
2,100.00	Council Tax Reduction Grant	1,560.00
29.67	Interest received - deposit account	24.75
122.01	Interest received - Tennis & Netball Courts Fund	119.45
1,050.00	Allotment rents	1,006.15
1,815.00	Cemetery fees	625.00
450.00	Playing field hire	-
35.22	Wayleave	35.22
993.02	Grass verge contribution - SDC	1,015.86
13,150.00	Grant funding (includes Sec 106 funds)	13,377.28
3,740.00	Sports clubs conts to Tennis & Netball Courts Fund	3,740.00
1,703.59	Other contributions/misc	1,645.03
		-
<b>122,852.51</b>	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>128,100.74</b>
	<b>Expenditure</b>	
23,412.00	General administration	23,955.61
189.00	Training	399.50
89.60	Purchase of office equipment	897.56
3,695.48	Parish office	3,706.37
5,717.60	Grants	16,475.00
3,568.00	Neighbourhood Plan	-
6,774.00	WW1 Project	5,914.00
	<b>Running costs:</b>	
2,410.12	Allotments	3,010.00
8,592.83	Cemetery	10,159.69
5,522.89	Open spaces	5,389.96
17,735.28	Playing fields & car park	26,708.33
1,078.00	Tennis & netball court works	1,078.00
1,600.08	Non-estate roads	1,624.08
24,197.83	Street lighting	16,195.31
275.00	BMX track	-
543.00	Purchase of village assets / village improvements	4,952.00
3,150.00	Councillors allowances	2,800.00
<b>108,550.71</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>123,265.41</b>
14,301.80	<b>SURPLUS/DEFICIT FOR YEAR</b>	4,835.33
-4654.01	Transfer to Tennis & Netball Courts Fund	-5569.45
<b>9,647.79</b>	<b>Balance</b>	<b>- 734.12</b>

		<b>SPECIFIC FUNDS (Earmarked Reserves)</b>			
Year Ended 31/03/2017				Year Ended 31/03/2018	
£		<b>Tennis &amp; Netball Courts Fund</b>		£	
		<b>Income</b>			
122.01		Interest received			119.45
1,870.00		Contributions from parish council			1,870.00
3,740.00		Contributions from sports clubs			3,740.00
- 1,078.00		<b>Less expenditure</b>			- 160.00
<b>4,654.01</b>		<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>			<b>5,569.45</b>

<b>Funds Statement</b>					
Year Ended 31.03.2017				Year Ended 31.03.2018	
£		<b>General Fund</b>		£	
104,421.80		Balance at 1 April			114,069.59
9,647.79		Add surplus/less deficit for year			734.12
<b>114,069.59</b>		<b>Balance at 31 March</b>			<b>113,335.47</b>
		<b>Tennis &amp; Netball Courts Fund</b>			
21,597.18		Balance at 1 April			26,251.19
5,610.00		Add payment into account			5,610.00
122.01		Add interest for year			119.45
- 1,078.00		Less payment out of account			- 160.00
<b>26,251.19</b>		<b>Balance at 31 March</b>			<b>31,820.64</b>



**Balance sheet as at 31 March 2018**

Year ended 31.03.2017		Year ended 31.03.2018	
£			£
		<b>Current Assets</b>	
261.24		Payments in advance	285.79
2,027.88		VAT Debtor	3,818.02
-		Other debtors	-
100.00		Cash with clerk to the council	100.00
139,291.30		Cash at bank	142,224.45
<b>141,680.42</b>			<b>146,428.26</b>
		<b>Less current liabilities</b>	
- 1,359.64		Creditors & receipts in advance	- 1,272.15
<b>140,320.78</b>		<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>145,156.11</b>
		Represented by:	
104,421.80		General fund balance b/f	114,069.59
9,647.79		Less deficit/plus surplus	- 734.12
114,069.59		Balance 31 March	113,335.47
		Specific funds:	
26,251.19		Tennis & Netball Courts Fund	31,820.64
<b>140,320.78</b>			<b>145,156.11</b>

**4. Grants Paid**

Payee	Nature of Payment	£
Harbury Church	Memorial garden project	12,600.00
Harbury Village Show	Hall hire	180.00
Harbury Village Club	Refurb of snooker tables	910.00
Southam TC	Transport scheme	560.00
Harbury e-Wheels	Contribution to running cost	2,000.00
Royal British Legion	Poppy wreath	75.00
Harbury Energy Initiative	"No Idling" signage	150.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>16,475.00</b>

**5. Grants Received**

No grants were received this year

**6. Sec 106 Funds Received**

From whom received	Nature of payment	£
SDC (Hillside development)	Climbing wall	5,905.78
SDC (DWH - Bush Heath Lane)	Outdoor gym equipment	7,471.50
	<b>Total</b>	<b>13,377.28</b>