

HARBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting Thursday 25 April 2019 Harbury Village Hall

Present:

Cllr S Allen
Cllr C Christou
Cllr S Ekins
Cllr C Gibb

Cllr T Lockley (Chairman)
Cllr A Mancell
Cllr A Rutherford

Cllr J Thornley
Cllr K Thompson

In Attendance:

Mrs A Biddle, Clerk to the Council
Mrs C Gwillam, Minute Secretary
District Cllr J Harris (from approx 8.10pm)

Public:

Mrs L Ridgley, Harbury News
Members of the public: 12

19/54 **Apologies:** Cllr P Summers, County Cllr R Stevens
District Cllr J Harris (will be late),

19/55 **Declarations of Interest:**
Cllr C Gibb: HS2

19/56 **Dispensations:** None

19/57 **Public Participation**

Members of the public spoke on:

- Shelter location – Nothing has yet been decided, but it was felt that the top of the field, near the BMX track would be the most appropriate. It was important to provide something for the teenagers as there was not much for that age range. However, careful consideration would be given to make it as welcoming and transparent as possible, alleviating the problem of youths congregating under cover for non-leisure activities; more information would be obtained before a mini consultation was conducted.
- Locking the car park gate was not having the desired effect as there are still many cars congregating late at night and the car park lights are often on at midnight. Cllr Lockley thought that the lights were timed to go off at midnight, but this will be checked.
- Gladman Planning Proposal: There was no planning application to date; until there is, the council has no views or comments as they do not wish to pre-judge the application. Members of the public were advised to respond to Gladman's pre planning consultation.

It was noted that several new residents were present at the meeting and contributed to the discussions; Cllr Lockley welcomed them to the village.

19/58

Minutes:

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the ordinary parish council meeting held on Thursday 28 March 2019 as a true and complete record of that meeting; they were duly signed.

19/59

Other Organisations:

To receive reports from the following:

1. Harbury Library

Nothing to report.

2. Harbury School Governors

Building work had now begun.

3. Southam College

Nothing to report.

4. Twinning Association

Nothing to report.

5. Village Hall

The development project progress is slow, but it was anticipated that a planning application would be submitted soon. Unfortunately, the roof was found to be a bigger problem than first thought, costing considerably more than expected. The AGM had been held recently and Cllr Rutherford elected chairman.

6. Harbury Energy Initiative

A reminder of HEI's joint event with RSA on Saturday 27 April "How Low-Carbon is Your Community?" 9.15am in the Village Hall.

7. SDC/WCC

SDC:

Cllr Harris informed members that she was vehemently expressing HPC's views on HS2's poor management plan as well as WCC's poor performance on traffic issues and bus problems. Signage off the motorway was also poor for HGVs. They were listening but not hearing.

Several road closures are pending over the next few months. This is to enable to conduit to be laid and will be followed in 2020 by more closures when they lay the cable itself.

WCC:

Nothing to report at present.

19/60

Planning:

1 19/00812/FULL

Two-storey extension to existing house, to include integral garage

4 Bush Heath Lane

It was **RESOLVED** to make no representations, but with a comment to pay particular attention to the archaeology.

2 19/00884/FUL

Proposed demolition of porch and single-storey garage to make way for new pitched roof porch and two-storey side and rear extension

41 South Parade

It was **RESOLVED** to make no representations.

3 19/00705/LBC

Existing windows repairs in hardwood timber. All woodwork will be painted white to match existing.

7 Binswood End

It was **RESOLVED** to make no representations.

4 19/00752/FUL

Replacement double garage

Wissett Lodge, 10 Church Street

It was **RESOLVED** to make no representations.

5 Land off Bush Heath Lane

Consideration of response/questions relating to the pre-planning consultation by Gladman Developments Ltd

Already covered in the public participation at the beginning of the meeting.

6 Delegated Responses

Delegated responses as per Appendix A were noted.

7 Housing Needs Survey – review of draft questionnaire

This item was deferred to post-election.

19/61

Properties

1 Playing Fields

(i) Update on new play equipment

Cllrs Allen and Ekins were still sourcing alternative prices for the new equipment which was taking longer than anticipated.

(ii) Boundary fencing adjacent to zip-wire

The clerk had requested a quote which had not yet been received; she was concerned that the gaps in the hedge posed a risk to children who could run out onto the allotments track in front of a vehicle and wondered if some temporary fencing should be installed until the hedge had thickened up. However, the consensus was that this was not necessary as vehicles using the track are few and travel slowly so no further action will be taken.

*Although not on the Agenda, the matter of the re-lining of the white lines in the car park came up as a matter of urgency. This was **deferred until post-election** when a councillor would undertake to progress this before the white lines disappear altogether.*

2 Cemetery

(i) Maintenance and repair works update:

- The tap was now on order, waiting for the plumber to fit
- The quotes for the footpath were due next week
- The chapel roof was on hold pending completion of other works
- The soakaway was now drying out, water butts to be disposed of
- The pavement on the roadside at Cemetery Corner has been repaired.

(ii) Friends of Harbury Cemetery

Nothing to report at present.

19/62

Environment

1 Street lighting

(i) **To formally approve new electricity supply contract**

The clerk and Cllr Mancell had looked at the various providers as the current contract expires on 30 April. Their recommendation is to stay with E-ON. Quotes received had been circulated to members prior to the meeting.

It was **RESOLVED** to enter in to a new 36 month contract with E-ON.

2 Bus Service: Update following recent meeting with Stagecoach & WCC

Cllr Gibb reported that the punctuality of the service was much improved. The impending roadworks by HS2 in the next few months would again cause problems, but he was confident that they were now better equipped to deal with such problems.

Although not on the Agenda, Cllr Gibb reported that (a) the Environment Committee had met to address the problem of dog mess at Thwaites and a sign had been made and installed at the entrance asking dog walkers to put waste in the bin provided (b) that the problem of traffic congestion comes up all the time at the Councillors' Corner. It was felt that asking WCC to

ascertain options for addressing this issue was the only way forward, and he was asking HPC's approval to use £500 to pay WCC; 2 or 3 options would be expected as a result and then it could be put out to consultation. This matter was delegated to the clerk to organise as the council could not authorise something not on the agenda.

3 Deppers Bridge traffic problems – report from Cllr Ekins following meeting with residents

Cllr Ekins met with 22 residents: it was no surprise that the main concerns were amount of traffic, speed, engines revving, noise, etc. Also, there was a problem with heavy vehicles exceeding the 7.5 tonne limit on the bridge. Suggested solutions were plentiful – traffic survey, humps installed, removal of chicanes, repeater signs 30mph, increased police presence, photographs and registration numbers of offending vehicles would be helpful. However, the most popular suggestion which seemed to be the most affordable and the quickest to implement were flashing speed signs. They were in the region of £3,500 each (two needed, totalling £7,000). Temporary solar powered signs can be hired, and it was suggested that WCC be asked to do a traffic survey before the signs were installed and then another survey afterwards to ascertain results. Another idea was for speed limit stickers to be put on all dustbins so that when the bins were put out for collection, a row of 30mph would be seen.

It was **RESOLVED** that (i) Cllr Gibb discuss with Patch Byrne at WCC re an assessment of options available and (ii) that the clerk would order the wheelie bin stickers.

4 Percival Drive/South Parade footpath – signage to deter horse riders

There appeared to be a growing problem of horses using the cut-through footpath; this was not a bridleway.

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Lockley speak to the horse riders in question before consideration was given to more signage.

5 Parking problems – consideration of request for ‘no parking’ sign on green at Binswood End

Letters had been delivered to all householders living near the green asking them not to park on the grass. This seems to have solved the problem for now. It was agreed to monitor the situation.

Cllr Gibb reminded members that Patch Byrne (WCC) had promised to make sure that the verges were cleaned up once work at Henry's/Bush Heath Lane was finished; this should be followed up as well as the missing Harbury sign reinstalled.

There was a break in proceedings as the District Cllr arrived late from a previous meeting and was asked if she wanted to make any comments on agenda Item 7.

19/63

Finance & General Purposes

1 Internal Audit:

i) Internal auditor's year-end report

This had been circulated to all members. The only item noted was that the petty cash should be counter checked at the end of the year and a note made that this had been done on the petty cash reconciliation.

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Mancell would do this in future.

ii) Review of effectiveness of system of internal audit

The clerk had circulated details to all members. It was agreed that the current internal audit system was working well and no areas for improvement/amendment were identified.

2 Monthly financial report & bank reconciliation: Noted.

3 New banking arrangements:

The new account is up and running and the first BACS payments from the new account would be authorised at this evening's meeting.

4 Grant application from Harbury Show

It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant of £194.00 for the village hall hire fee.

19/64

Sports Club Licence

The sports clubs have now instructed a solicitor to prepare a draft lease as a counter proposal to the lease prepared by the council's solicitor.

19/65

Accounts for Payment

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the accounts for payment as per Appendix B. Cllrs Lockley and Mancell were nominated to authorise the BACS payments.

19/66

Reports & Questions

- Cllr Lockley thanked all the councillors for their contributions over the last few years and wished them all good luck in the forthcoming elections; unfortunately, Cllr Christou would not be standing – thanks were expressed for his past efforts and good wishes for new endeavours.
- Cllr Thompson would be attending the count.
- Cllr Thornley reminded members of Councillors' Corner this coming Saturday, usual time, usual place.
- Councillors had attended the HS2 exhibition about the latest works.

19/67

Exclusion of Public & Press

There was no confidential business to discuss.

19/68

Date of Next Meeting

The annual meeting of the parish council will take place on Thursday 16 May 2019 at **7.30pm** in the Tom Hauley Room, All Saints Church, Harbury. This will be immediately followed by the next ordinary meeting at **7.45pm** in Harbury Village Hall.

Cllr Ekins would try to get a speaker for the annual parish meeting on **30 May 2019**, and Cllr Lockley would organise the wine and light refreshments.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm

Signed Chairman Date.....

APPENDIX A

Planning Applications – Delegated Responses 25 April 2019

1 19/00186/FUL

Retrospective change of use of agricultural land to garden. The development includes the siting of an access gate to the northern boundary and the re-positioning of fencing to bound the garden, allow for refuse storage/parking and additional planting along the site access driveway.

Lawston House, Chesterton Road

No representation

