

HARBURY PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present:

Cllr S Allen
Cllr S Ekins
Cllr C Gibb
Cllr A Mancell
Cllr A Knowles

Cllr A Rutherford
Cllr P Summers
Cllr K Thompson (Acting Chair)
Cllr J Thornley

Absent

Cllr T Lockley

In Attendance:

Mrs C Gwillam, Minute Secretary

Public:

Mrs L Ridgley, Harbury News
County Cllr R Stevens
District Cllr J Harris (late)
Members of the public: 1

19/117 **Apologies:** Cllr T Lockley, Mrs A Biddle (Clerk)

Cllr Thompson was taking the chair in Cllr Lockley's absence.

19/118 **Declarations of Interest:**

Cllr Gibb declared an interest in Item 7.3 Network Rail
Cllr Thompson declared in interest in Item 11 Sports Club

19/119 **Dispensations:** None

19/120 **Public Participation:** None

19/121 **Minutes:**

- 1 It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the parish council held on Thursday 30 May 2019 (re-submitted for approval following amendment to numbering); they were duly signed.
- 2 It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the ordinary parish council meeting held on Thursday 27 June 2019 as a true and complete record of that meeting; they were duly signed.

19/122 **Other Organisations:**

To receive reports from the following:

1. **Harbury Library**
None

2. Harbury School Governors

The state of the school's finances is a cause for concern, with a deficit of £200,000 expected in 2021 if not addressed. For the past two months, there have been various governors' meetings, discussions with WCC (who are very supportive of the school) and with parents to balance the budget and come up with a plan to avoid such a crisis.

1. After School Club: A Sustainability Action Group was formed, proposals discussed and a consultation took place with parents. One plan is not to renew the licence on the Kids Club which has been run by Lynn Hill for many years. The school is extremely grateful to Mrs Hill for all her hard work and dedication over many years but, sadly, the money is needed elsewhere. Therefore, the Kids Club will finish at the end of August. The school staff will then take on the after-school club, renamed "The Pod". Legal advice has been sought on transferring the business, noting Tupe regulations. An ambitious plan, with limited funding, it has been carefully researched by a professional with parents (100 responded) on what the children would like to eat, what computers games they would like to play, etc.

2. School Capacity: There has been a slight increase in numbers in KS2. Normally 30, this will rise to 34 in September next year, generating extra funding per head. The governors are aware of the need to invest in the school, particularly regarding small classrooms. S106 grant monies will be sought for alterations to all classrooms to accommodate 34. £47,000 has recently been approved by Cabinet at WCC. £10,000 S106 has also been awarded to the school for "outdoor stage".

Cllr Gibb also reported that they were successful in obtaining a grant of £1,000 from the WCC County Councillor's Grant Fund towards CCTV and IT equipment. A donation of £2,500 was also forthcoming from Cllr Gibb's consultancy company.

He paid tribute to the headteacher, staff and parents who were wholly supportive of these plans and who were putting in extra hours to bring them to fruition. He assured the council that any installation of CCTV would be compliant with the Code of Practice and rules covering all child protection issues.

Council thanked Cllr Gibb for his commitment to the school and for all his hard work..

3. Southam College

Cllr Stevens reported that finances were reasonable and that the budget has been set for the next 3 years; although a deficit is predicted in the third year, who knows what will happen by then. Ofsted are due. The new Sports Hall has been delayed with planning, but is expected to be resolved shortly. Southam College is now full, with 270 intake for next September. They are confident of good exam results, but obviously this will not be known until August; there will be an update at the next meeting. For information, Kineton has joined the Stowe Valley MAT.

4. Twinning Association

None

5. Village Hall

The roof has now been fixed at a reasonable cost; all the tiles not under the solar panels have either been replaced or stretched and time/weather will tell as to how effective this has been. Plans for the foyer refurbishment have been approved and a decision on a grant application for £70,000 should be forthcoming within the next 2 weeks. S106 monies will be sought separately for the refurbishment of the other side of the hall in due course.

6. Harbury Energy Initiative

Cllr Thompson reported that, at the last council meeting, he was nominated, in his absence, as the new PC rep on the HEI committee. Unfortunately, he feels he already has enough commitments and is not able to take on this additional role; he asked if there were any other volunteers. Cllr Summers said that she would speak to Bob Sherman to find out what was involved and report back at the next meeting.

7. SDC/WCC

WCC: Cllr Stevens' report was circulated, the main points being:

- General: Ambitions for the next 4 years have been announced - maintain the county's prosperity, help those less well-off, those who are vulnerable and to find employment with a dignified retirement in old age. Also, encourage firms to take on apprentices and prepare school leavers for their futures. Details cannot be finalised until the outcome of Brexit is known.
- Highways: In addition to disruption to local roads by HS2, this is the season for surface dressing programme, road repairs and maintenance. Co-ordination of road closures and traffic diversions is carried out wherever possible, although overruns often create added confusion. The county council's web page on road works is the most accurate indication of what is taking place, when and where. The clerk will be kept informed of impending closures.
- HS2: Work at Wormleighton has begun and the laying of the ducting for the power cable to the boring machine progresses. Site surveying continues as the line is finalised and the position of the maintenance and accommodation sites is decided. There are some delays as HS2 want to cut down listed trees in the way and farmers are rightly concerned about their harvest and the effect of road closures when transporting crops. A recent meeting with Jeremy Wright was useful, and there are plans for more meetings to resolve these issues. However, the Hybrid Bill is final and HS2 are expecting to start the main works early next year.
- Grants: There was a premature closure of my community grant but a second round will start in September. CEMEX and HS2 still operate community grant schemes and the county councillor fund has awarded a grant towards CCTV at Harbury Primary School.

Improvements to the village hall could warrant an application for a grant (loneliness as a criteria); Cllr Rutherford would investigate.

Cllr Ekins commented on the poor location of diversion signs; the bridge at Deppers cannot really accommodate the weight of large vehicles although they have no choice but to carry on as the signage is inadequate. Cllr Stevens said he would investigate this, although each department blames the other.

SDC: Cllr Harris reported:

- Road closures by HS2 are still causing problems and farmers are concerned about their crops; she will speak to Cllr Chris Kettle.
- Crime: Police response is a cause for concern with them not turning up and when they do, not doing anything. All crime should be reported, nevertheless. She will be lobbying for changes.
- Pleased to report that the Horton status is improving.
- The building work money is coming through for the Preschool so that they can progress with improvements.
- The problems with the bridge at Deppers will be reported to Cllr Chris Kettle.

19/123

Planning:

1 19/01937/TREE

T1 – ash – fell; T2 – cherry – fell; T3 – spruce - fell

Saddlers, Chapel Street

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

2 15/03618/OUT

Outline planning application for a zero carbon community of up to 800 dwellings including live/work units employment land of B1, B2 and B8 uses; mixed use community hub comprising communications and IT centre, retail floor space comprising up to 2,000 square metres gross, of which no individual unit should be larger than 1,000 square metres gross, A2 financial and professional services, A3 food and drink, A5 hot food takeaway, B1 business and D1 assembly and leisure uses; a primary school; strategic open space; flood mitigation and sustainable drainage areas; ecological mitigation zones; access roads and associated works. Principal means of access from the A425 to be determined, with all other matters (internal access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale) reserved for subsequent approval

Lower Farm, Southam Road, Stoneythorpe

It was **RESOLVED** to maintain the objections as last time, namely:

- The site is not part of the core strategy
- It will have an adverse impact on traffic and local infrastructure; local roads are already heavily congested at peak times
- It is too close to the Biffa landfill and recycling site
- There will be a further loss of open countryside
- There are no medical services proposed for the site which will lead to increased pressure on existing services
- There has been no consultation in surrounding villages

And **RESOLVED** to add:

- (i) A new school could adversely affect Harbury Primary and could have implications for Southam College
- (ii) Retail outlets could adversely affect local shops

Cllr Allen would report this to SDC.

3 Harbury (Churchlands) Cutting – Network Rail Scheme

Report back from liaison meeting with Murphy's

Cllr Allen reported that Murphy's have not yet been formally awarded the contract. However, they listened and took away the 'wish list'; they also gave assurances on the noise impact (8.00-6.00pm), promised better planning, better equipment, sweeper lined up for 30 weeks to keep roads clean, would work around HS2 road closures and, although they were expecting around 150 lorry movements, they were not sure at this point in time of the direction they would be taking. It was mentioned that, last time, the library car park was tarmacked; the cemetery path and village hall car park need attention.

4 Housing Needs Survey – review of draft questionnaire

A recent sub-committee meeting recommended that HPC do not undertake this; Cllr Allen informed the council that it would be detrimental to Harbury and would create an argument for new sustainable development.

It was **RESOLVED** that HPC should **not** adopt a policy at this time; Cllr Allen proposed, Cllr Thompson seconded, and all agreed.

5 Network Rail Scheme: Severn Trent would not touch any asbestos. Plans were in hand to defoliate before Christmas. Churchland's main entrance had been commandeered and a new entrance created. Noise would be a problem.

19/124

Properties

1 Playing Fields

- (i) Update on new play equipment & youth shelter

The clerk had experienced difficulties arranging a meeting and getting comparable quotes, so this was on hold at present. With the autumn and winter not far away, it was likely that this would not be resolved until the Spring. Thanks were expressed to Cllr Allen for all her hard work.

- (ii) Request from SDC to install additional dog bin

This would be sited at the gate entrance to Hereburgh Way as there was a definite need. However, the recent bin survey highlighted about 6 non-existing bins on which SDC refused to make a reduction.

It was **RESOLVED** that (i) an additional bin was needed but that, as SDC had requested it, payment should be queried and (ii) that the clerk give all the relevant information regarding bins to District Cllr Harris who promised to look into the matter of only paying for what bins we actually have.

(iii) Update on car park security/anti-social behaviour

The clerk had forwarded contact details for SDC's community safety manager and previous emails to Cllr Rutherford; he would update at the next meeting.

2 Cemetery

(i) Update on path resurfacing

Cllr Stevens assured the council that WCC were currently measuring up and a quote was due.

(ii) Update on cemetery tap

The tap has now been correctly installed (at the plumber's own cost); Severn Trent will be inspecting this prior to connection.

(iii) Update on chapel repair works

It was reported that the roof is now watertight. Quotes are awaited for other works.

Friends of Harbury Cemetery

Cllr Summers reported that, at the final working session before disbanding, 6 new volunteers turned up - therefore, the group is continuing. Thursday 1 August would be the next meeting for tidying, weeding, etc. Thanks were expressed to Cllr Ekins and particularly Cllrs Summers for their hard work.

19/125

Environment

1 Road closure – problems resulting from current road closures

Already been discussed.

2 Bus Service: Update on current service

The amended timetable, 20 July-1 September, has been well publicised.

3 Traffic Issues

(i) Update on traffic problems at Deppers Bridge

The clerk had contacted the Safety Team; it was disappointing that nothing has been done. It would be raised again at the Southam Community Forum meeting in September.

(ii) Consideration of additional payment of £500 to WCC for options to manage village centre congestion

The council were somewhat aggrieved that there was nothing to show for the £500 already paid to WCC. There was a simple drawing of one option for a one-way through the village, but this was not forthcoming, only an email to the clerk saying the work had been done. Before another £500 is paid, the parish council would make stronger representation and clearly instruct WCC on an agreed scope of work – clear options (more than one) so that residents have a choice and have their say.

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Gibb would (i) request the original drawing from WCC and (ii) ensure that WCC agree to draw up another 2 options before paying the extra £500.

(iii) Update on parking problems at Binswood End Green

The clerk had ordered 2 new signs to place on the green and these should be delivered within 2 weeks. A suggestion was made to enforce the byelaws with fines, but it was felt that this would be difficult to administer.

(iv) Consideration of suggestion of “wild” areas on village greens
It had been suggested that, instead of mowing, some areas would be left to go wild. This would incur a huge expense to start with, with scraping off top soil, re-seeding, planting with wild flowers, then only needing one cut a year. It was suggested that Grant funds may be available and perhaps there would be a volunteer to take this project on.

It was **RESOLVED** to review this again once major works are completed.

19/126 **Finance & General Purposes**

1 Monthly financial report & bank reconciliation: Noted

Cllr Mancell commented that funds for the cemetery, allotments and playfields are ready to be released once the works have been completed; otherwise, we are ‘on track’.

2 Approval of office rent increase and new standing order payable to Adams & Munson

It was **RESOLVED** to (i) review the lease before approving the increase, as it was not ‘fit for purpose’ as it stands (Cllr Lockley would be asked to look at this) and (ii) to authorise the standing order once the lease has been reviewed.

3 To approve new direct debit to BT

It was **RESOLVED** to approve this and was duly signed.

4 To approve change of nominated bank NS&I account

It was **RESOLVED** to approve this change and was duly signed.

19/127 **Sports Club Licence: Review of draft document**

This matter is still in abeyance with no further news.

19/128 **VE Day 2020 – Consideration of village commemoration of 75th Anniversary – 8 May 2020**

Cllr Thompson was of the view that this was something which the parish council should support if someone wanted to organise something, although the council itself was not the one organising; members agreed.

19/129 **Accounts for Payment**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the accounts for payment as per Appendix A; (these should be done as soon after a meeting as possible and no later than 24 hrs after the meeting; Cllrs Gibb and Allen to authorise payment.

19/130 **Reports & Questions**

- Cllr Thornley reported that the repaired damaged streetlamp was not working; it was suggested that she report this online to “Fix My Street”.

- Cllr Thornley reminded council of the next Councillors' Corner; this Saturday, together with the pop-up market. Cllr Rutherford and District Cllr Harris would be attending. Next Cllrs Corner would be in September due to the August recess.
- Cllr Knowles reported a blocked drain; again, it should be reported to "Fix My Street".
- Cllr Thompson asked for some wording for the front of the Phone Box Library; consensus was "Book Exchange".

19/131 Exclusion of Public & Press

There were no confidential matters to discuss.

19/132 Date of Next Meeting

The next ordinary meeting of the parish council will take place on Thursday 26 September 2019 at 7.30pm in the Farley Room, Harbury Village Hall.

NB: There is no scheduled meeting in August.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Signed Chairman Date.....

