

**HARBURY PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting  
Thursday 26 September 2019  
Harbury Village Hall**

**Present:**

Cllr S Allen  
Cllr S Ekins  
Cllr T Lockley  
Cllr A Mancell

Cllr A Knowles  
Cllr P Summers  
Cllr K Thompson  
Cllr J Thornley

**Absent**

Cllr C Gibb  
Cllr A Rutherford

**In Attendance:**

Mrs A Biddle, Clerk to the Council  
Mrs C Gwillam, Minute Secretary

**Public:**

Mrs L Ridgley, Harbury News  
County Cllr R Stevens  
District Cllr J Harris  
Members of the public: 9

**19/133**      **Apologies:** Cllrs C Gibb and A Rutherford

**19/134**      **Declarations of Interest:**

Cllr Ekins declared a personal interest in agenda item 10.7 (iii) Rubbish Friends as his daughter is the co-ordinator.  
Cllrs Lockley and Thompson each declared a personal interest in agenda item 11 Sports Club Licence on account of the fact they are both members of the tennis club.

**19/135**      **Dispensations:** None

**19/136**      **Public Participation (Part 1):**

Traffic Survey:

A member of the public asked if the traffic survey had been carried out. It was pointed out that there was no agreement to carry one out and that the council were still awaiting a reply from WCC about the traffic management of the village centre and the feasibility study.

*It was agreed to alter the order of the agenda as follows:*

**19/137**      **Planning Proposal, Hall Lane**

This proposal is being put forward by the owners of Westfields and Old Tom's Barn (representatives of both attended the meeting). They are looking to move and would like the land attached to their properties to be used for a possible "Village with a Vision" type of development, aimed at older people, independent living, assisted and/or social. In order to provide access, and on advice from SDC, the house at Westfield would need to be demolished. The owners have already approached the rural housing enabler at WRCC.

Members of the planning group have visited the site which extends towards the railway. There might be enough space for 13 to 14 dwellings perhaps.

It was **RESOLVED** to (i) support the proposal in principle (ii) that the clerk contact the Rural Housing Enabler and (iii) that the planning group consider commissioning a housing need survey targeted at the older generation, decide the criteria (with an emphasis on a local connection) and circulate to all councillors.

19/138

### **Public Participation (Part 2)**

Grant application – Harbury Energy Initiative

It was reported that the E-cars are now being provided by a European company and the costs associated have trebled. A 4-year lease on 2 second-hand cars, with exclusive use, has been secured as from 1 October 2019, but the cost of electricity and insurance needs to be covered. They have secured money from SDC of £1500 pa for 3 years and £10,000 from Groundworks (HS2).

HPC were asked to support HEI's bid to the Rural Community Energy Fund. The future will need multiple community charging points to be improved for recharging. A prototype energy tower was displayed about a new initiative to generate hydrogen power from the wind and the sun. The smallest construction is 8m x 8m x 8m, needs only minimal yearly maintenance. There is to be a low carbon seminar early in the Spring and it is hoped that an African project can form a relationship with Harbury. The chairman of the PC had already sent a letter of support which had been urgently required and now the parish council formally agreed to support in principle.

19/139

### **Minutes:**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the ordinary parish council meeting held on Thursday 25 July 2019 as a true and complete record of that meeting; they were duly signed.

19/140

### **Other Organisations:**

To receive reports from the following:

#### **1. Harbury Library**

As previously mentioned, the library had received The Queen's Award for Volunteers in the Queen's Birthday Honours List; the ceremony is due to take place on 15 October when the Lord Lieutenant will present the library with a crystal bowl which will then go on display.

#### **2. Harbury School Governors**

None.

#### **3. Southam College**

The school is over-subscribed as it continues to have excellent results. Anticipated date for the completion of the new sports hall is May 2020.

#### **4. Twinning Association**

None

## 5. Village Hall

With funding secured for the foyer refurbishment and the new porch, it was envisaged that work would start early in the spring.

## 6. Harbury Energy Initiative

This had been discussed at 19/138 above.

## 7. SDC/WCC

**SDC:** Cllr Harris reported:

- She hoped to attend a meeting in the library on 15 October with the police inspector to discuss recent crime. The force level is at the lowest, with much experience lost, and is the result of 10 years of budget cuts. Rural crime patrols are much needed and investment into PCSOs having instant access to the internet (i.e. I-pads to link into information) would be invaluable.
- She was disappointed that the planned traffic lights for the Harbury Lane/Fosse Way junction has been delayed. She will follow this up.

The PC chairman asked both county and district councillors to chase up around £40,000 of S106 money still not paid by developers of the cement works which is owed to the library.

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

- General: A year dominated nationally by political indecision created by Brexit, the consequent lack of information over Local Government funding and the delay in passing relevant legislation. Although the county is developing a 3-year plan, it is anticipated that funding received will only cover this year, despite a marginal increase.
- Finances: WCC are in the process of planning the 2020/2021 budget and, although finances/reserves are healthy, pressures continue especially with adults and children's services. The rise in crime, especially in rural areas, continues to cause concern and more police cover is promised. Council tax rises are currently capped and other sources of funding are limited. S106 money continues to be received and major infrastructure schemes are being progressed.
- HS2: Early works progress and associated disruption continues on roads between Bascote Heath and Welsh Road West. The extent of these works is being reviewed in the light of instructions from DfT to only carry out essential works. HS2 will be speaking Wednesday's community forum and visiting Harbury. Initial indications from the heave trials at Wormleighton are that more piling than originally anticipated is likely and the main work is scheduled for next summer.
- Highways: The routine annual resurfacing programme is nearing completion and the final grass verge cut has taken place. Co-ordination of all the utilities works associated with the new housing is causing concern as many developments are over-running their planned schedule and HS2 works are adding to the problems. We are fortunate to have a hard working and dedicated highways

maintenance engineer who investigates all complaints; he is equally frustrated by the time his colleagues take to respond; but now the highways department reorganisation is almost complete, and individual responsibilities clarified, this should improve.

- Care for the Elderly: This ranges from care at home as opposed to care home provision. Pressures on the health services and hospitals discharge criteria to ensuring a safe return from hospital to full involvement in the community. We are all living longer and generally enjoy good health as we grow old. However, as the body weakens the brain too deteriorates and dementia is on the increase. Private care homes are well used and generally popular but are costly and not always affordable. Locally, Galanos House is expanding and 10 more dementia rooms are expected to be completed by the end of this year. They are also expanding their facilities for carers and dementia patients to improve counselling and respite care. 24-hour warden cover is also being introduced to new social housing premises such as Tithe Lodge in Southam.
- Children in Care and at School: Warwickshire is part of the national crisis of foster children and associated problems of child behaviour in many families, exacerbated by increasing numbers of those with special educational needs. Although education is no longer the responsibility of the local authority as more and more schools become academies, free schools and those part of a multi academy trust is. Only 2 Warwickshire secondary schools are not academies. Locally the large number of new housing is putting pressure on this provision and new primary schools are being included in some of these developments. A new secondary will soon be necessary, and its location is under discussion
- Climate Change: WCC, in common with other local councils nationally, have declared that climate change should be treated as an emergency state of affairs and will take action to reduce the county's carbon footprint. Harbury's energy initiative is an example of where communities can lead the way.
- Grants: The county councillor community grant opens again later this month for a short period (1 month) as payment is to be made this year. HS2 and Cemex also have funds for community projects.
- Much of Cllr Steven's time is taken up by his roles as:  
Chair of the WCC Pension Fund investment including pooling armed forces covenant as well as veterans' affairs  
WCC's lead on the effect of both phases of HS2 on Warwickshire

19/141

**Planning:**

**1 19/01992/FUL**

Conversion of existing building into two dwellings

**County Fayre, Chapel Street**

The clerk had submitted a holding objection. It was **RESOLVED** to make no representation but to add a comment that while the parish council has no objection in principle to residential development of the site, the current proposal is not compliant with SDC's parking policy. The holding objection, submitted under delegated powers, is therefore withdrawn.

## 2 19/02221/FUL

Proposed rear extension

### 2 Chapel Street

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

## 3 Delegated Responses – noted as per Appendix A

## 4 Planning Proposal – Hall Lane

Please see 19/137.

## 5 Planning Proposal – Old New Inn

The pre-application meeting with Grevayne Properties regarding proposed re-development of ONI site was noted. Councillors had pointed out various constraints. The clerk has received an email today advising that the application will be submitted to SDC shortly.

19/142

## Properties

### 1 Playing Fields

#### (i) Update on new play equipment

Quotes received to be considered under ‘Confidential’.

#### (ii) Arrangements for youth shelter consultation

This was delegated to the Properties Group to discuss what information to display, how best to display it and how widely it should be publicised.

#### (iii) Further consideration of request from SDC to install an additional dog bin

After some discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Allen would prepare an application to Cllr Steven’s community grant scheme for 2 further bins.

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

No update as Cllr Rutherford was not present.

#### (v) Access problems at Deppers Bridge playing field

It was **RESOLVED** to install 2 posts, a chain and a combination lock in the hope that this would solve the problem of unauthorised parking and the contractor can gain access to mow the playing field.

### 2 Cemetery

#### (i) Update on path resurfacing

The clerk was shortly due to have a meeting with WCC to discuss this. It will be funded by the WCC Highways’ grant scheme.

#### (ii) Update on chapel repairs and cemetery tap

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the quote of £560 for the repairs to the roof (although this may end up a bit more if any of the already fragile tiles are damaged during the repair). The tap is due to be connected on 1 October.

#### (iii) Friends of Harbury Cemetery

Cllr Summers reported that there was still a good number of volunteers; once a definite date is known for the path resurfacing, they would re-weed the

sides. Thanks were expressed to Cllr Summers and her team for their sterling efforts.

19/143

### **Environment**

**1 Bus Service: Update on current service**

No update.

**2 Traffic Issues**

(i) Update on traffic problems at Deppers Bridge

No update.

(ii) Update on WCC proposals to relieve village centre congestion  
At the last meeting, it was resolved to obtain written agreement as to what will be provided for the additional £500 but, despite the clerk emailing, there had been no response. Cllr Stevens offered to chase this up.

19/144

### **Finance & General Purposes**

**1 Monthly financial report & bank reconciliation: Noted**

The clerk had noticed some unusual transactions by Google which she had reported to the bank. No money has been debited from the account and she had been reassured by the bank that in the event any money was withdrawn without authorisation, the funds would be repaid to the council.

**2 To note conclusion of audit for the year ended 31 March 2019**

The satisfactory conclusion of the audit was noted. This is now being advertised.

**3 To authorise the clerk to transfer remaining HSBC current account balance to Unity Trust**

This was **RESOLVED**; Cllr Thompson proposed, Cllr Allen seconded; all agreed.

**4 To approve office rent increase**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the new rent of £378.50 per month with effect from 1 August 2019 and a new monthly standing order for this amount to Adams & Munson.

**5 To approve new standing order for FM Farmers (grounds maintenance contract)**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve a new monthly standing order of £1074.66.

**6 To note new regulations from July 2019 affecting fees for child burials**

From July 2019 there is to be no charge to the parents or persons organising a child's burial, subject to conditions of eligibility. The clerk will update the schedule of burial fees accordingly for circulation to councillors.

## 7 To consider grant applications from:

### (i) Harbury Energy Initiative

It was noted that grants are not awarded for running costs. It was therefore **RESOLVED** to award the sum of £1500 being the entire budget for the annual community transport contribution.

### (ii) Harbury School PTA

It was **RESOLVED** to award the full £7,500 for the outdoor stage area which had been set aside as a separate budget for this year.

NB: The Chair reported that he had been invited to the launch of the new infant playground on 4 October.

### (iii) Harbury Rubbish Friends

This was not a grant application but a request for the parish council to purchase litter picking equipment which would then be available for all community groups to use, including the newly formed Rubbish Friends. It was **RESOLVED** to spend £260 on equipment (litter pickers, hi-vis jackets and gloves).

## 8 Electricity supply to new community AED at Oakfields

It was **RESOLVED** that the parish council would cover the costs of the electricity supply to this new community AED.

### 19/145 Sports Club Licence: review of draft document

The latest draft had been circulated to councillors for review prior to the meeting which had resulted in some minor amendments to the draft. It was **RESOLVED** to return the amended draft to the sports clubs for their further comment.

### 19/146 Accounts for Payment

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the accounts for payment as per Appendix B to include the August payments made during the recess; Cllrs Lockley and Thompson to authorise payment.

### 19/147 Reports & Questions

Cllr Thompson reported that the Deppers Bridge phone box refurbishment (library) was now completed.

### 19/148 Exclusion of Public & Press

It was **RESOLVED** to exclude the public under Sec 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 in order to discuss the following matters:

#### 1 **Quotes for Skate Park Repairs**

Despite best efforts, only one quote had been obtained. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the order for repairs with King Ramps.

#### 2 **Quotes for Skate Park Sign**

Three quotes had been received; it was **RESOLVED** to place an order with Signs Express,

#### 3 **Quotes for New Play Equipment**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the cost of £25,850 (from S106 monies) for the new equipment to be supplied by Jupiter Play and Playdale. Thanks were

expressed to Cllr Allen, the clerk and the Properties Group for all their work. It was hoped that this work would be undertaken in the spring.

**4 Quotes for Y2 and Y3 Tree works as identified in survey**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the quote for the Y1 and Y2 tree works as identified and approve the cost of the extra work on the horse chestnut tree on The Pound which had recently suffered storm damage.

It was also agreed to request a fully costed proposal for supplying and planting a new copper beech tree on The Pound as a replacement for the one which stood in a nearby garden until it was felled earlier this year.

**19/149**

**Date of Next Meeting**

The next ordinary meeting of the parish council will take place on Thursday 24 October 2019 at 7.30pm in the Farley Room, Harbury Village Hall.

**The meeting closed at 9.38pm.**

Signed ..... Chairman      Date.....



## APPENDIX A

### Planning Applications – Delegated Responses 26 September 2019

1 **19/02353/TREE**

H1 Conifer hedge: fell to ground level. T1 walnut: reduce crown by up to 3 metres in height and spread to retain balance canopy. T2 willow: reduce by approx. 2 metres and balance the crown,

**26 Farm Street**

No representation

2 **19/01640/FUL**

Erection of a 10' x 10' octagonal Lovenberry summerhouse (supplied and erected by Worcestershire Garden Buildings Ltd) in our garden

**Juxta Pacem, Temple End**

No representation

3 **19/01802/FUL**

Removal of modern glazed link and replacement with 2 windows

**Old Timbers, 28 Ivy Lane**

No representation

4 **19/01953/FUL**

Application for householder planning and listed building consent for alterations for proposed cellar roof link extension.

**The Manor House, Park Lane**

No representation



<b>Accounts for approval 26 September 2019</b>				
<b>Urgent accounts paid since the last meeting and requiring formal approval of the council</b>				
<b>Payee</b>	<b>Payment ref</b>	<b>Net</b>	<b>Vat</b>	<b>Gross</b>
		-	-	-
<i>Please see attached list for August payments</i>				
Mark Harrod Ltd (basketball nets)	190901	15.60	3.12	18.72
		-	-	-
		15.60	3.12	18.72
<b>Accounts for payment on 26 September 2019</b>				
<b>Payee</b>	<b>Payment ref</b>	<b>Net</b>	<b>Vat</b>	<b>Gross</b>
Staff Costs	190902 -05	1,582.06		1,582.06
Harbury Village Hall (room hire)	190906	42.50		42.50
E.ON (s/lights electricity)	190907	266.18	53.24	319.42
Viking (ink cartridges)	190908	43.45	8.69	52.14
A Biddle (expenses)	190909	29.99	-	29.99
Frank Mann Farmers (fencing work - Percival Dr)	190910	845.00	169.00	1,014.00
Frank Mann Farmers (field mowing etc.)	190911	473.00	94.60	567.60
Frank Mann Farmers (grds m'nance)	190912	895.55	179.11	1,074.66
Adams & Munson (office rent)	190913	305.00		305.00
WCC (allotments rent)	190914	325.00		325.00
Exclusive Leisure Ltd (lighting tennis courts)	190915	730.00	146.00	876.00
PKF Littlejohn LLP (audit)	190916	400.00	80.00	480.00
Bull Ring Garage (office electric bill)	190917	59.90	11.98	71.88
C E King (phone box refurb)	190918	48.00		48.00
C E King (slab levelling o/s play area))	190919	18.75		18.75
WALC (t/course)	190920	35.00		35.00
Colin Sheasby (emergency tree works)	190921	320.00	64.00	384.00
BT (phone & b'band)	d/debit	159.08	31.81	190.89
	Sub-totals	6,578.46	838.43	7,416.89
	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>6,594.06</b>	<b>841.55</b>	<b>7,435.61</b>