

HARBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting Thursday 23 January 2020 Harbury Village Hall

Present:

Cllr S Allen
Cllr C Gibb
Cllr T Lockley
Cllr A Knowles

Cllr A Rutherford
Cllr K Thompson
Cllr J Thornley

Absent: Cllr Ekins; Cllr Mancell; (1 vacant seat)

In Attendance:

Mrs A Biddle, Parish Clerk
Mrs C Gwillam, Minute Secretary

Public:

Mrs L Ridgley, Harbury News
Members of the public: 1

20/1 **Apologies:** Cllr C Ekins, Cllr A Mancell, District Cllr Mrs J Harris

20/2 **Declarations of Interest:**

Cllr Gibb informed the council that he was no longer a non- executive director of Network Rail. The clerk advised him to update his register of interests accordingly.

20/3 **Dispensations:** None

20/4 **Casual Vacancy**

A formal record of the casual vacancy, arising from the resignation of Cllr Summers, was noted. Cllr Lockley wanted to minute thanks to Mrs Summers for her hard work and dedication as a councillor over a number of years, particularly with regard to the planning group, the Neighbourhood Development Plan and work in the cemetery. The clerk informed the council that the vacancy was currently being advertised; if no election is called, the council will be able to co-opt someone to fill the vacancy at the February PC meeting.

20/5 **Public Participation:**

Matters raised were:

- Chapel Street, surface poor
- Windmill Lane/Beggars Lane – surface again very poor

NB: It was pointed out that members of the public should be encouraged to report all these matters themselves direct to WCC Highways online via Fix My Street.

A resident requested a bus shelter be installed at Binswood Green. Lots of older people use this bus stop. He was advised that there were no immediate

plans to install a shelter but the council was aware of the problem and would be giving it further consideration.

20/6

Minutes:

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

20/7

Other Organisations:

To receive reports from the following:

1. Harbury Library

The new school representative, Karen Ray, attended the recent Management Group meeting where it was reported that there had been record number of visitors and income from the café - a very positive outlook.

2. Harbury School Governors

None.

3. Southam College

There had been a very successful trip to Iceland.

4. Twinning Association

None.

5. Village Hall

Cllr Rutherford reported that the focus at present was on grants. They were waiting for SDC to transfer the S106 money which was paid to SDC last week. There was some concern that the HS2 grant was on hold; if HS2 does not go ahead, then the money may not be forthcoming.

6. Harbury Energy Initiative

Cllr Lockley reported that he had attended the HEI meeting about wind generation and car charging. They are currently seeking quotes from consultants for the feasibility study. They are looking at a site on the playing fields for the turbine. The clerk advised that there were legal conditions attached to the use of the playing field for anything other than recreational purposes and that Fields in Trust would also need to be informed. If this went ahead, a lease would also be required.

7. SDC/WCC

SDC: Report circulated from Cllr Harris; Cllr Harris is against the new charge for emptying green waste bins. There is still no date for the improvements to the Harbury/Fosse Way junction.

WCC: Report circulated from Cllr Stevens, the main points being:

- Awaiting implications of last month's general election; trade agreements, particularly relevant to this area concerning the motor

industry, are being negotiated. The integration of health & social security will continue to absorb more of local government costs. In education, academisation will continue to be encouraged at both primary and secondary levels as multi-academy trusts become more responsible for the way our schools are run.

- The budget figures and local government settlement for this year only have been finalised and agreed.
- We expect to see alterations to the planning regulations as the government drives to achieve more housing land.
- WCC continue to encourage more business to local to Warwickshire to maintain the high level of employment and training, especially apprenticeships. The county's highways continue to be rated as one of the best in the country and government grants on potholes and deteriorating roads is efficiently spent. Warwickshire continues to be a popular county to live in, reflected in the higher than average house prices.
- The future of HS2 is still in the balance; a decision is expected shortly.

20/8

Planning:

1 19/0511/FUL

Siting of welfare building on the land to be used for education purposes, the siting of field shelters and creation of a new track linked to the use.

White Gates, Chesterton Road

It was **RESOLVED** to support this application on the grounds that it is an inclusive educational facility with social benefit and is sustainable development.

2 Delegated Responses – as per Appendix A

Noted.

3 SDC Consultation – SPD Part V: Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation

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

4 Housing Needs Survey – Update on age targeted survey

Cllr Allen had yet to make an appointment with the Rural Homes Enabler but would do so at the earliest opportunity and report back at the next council meeting.

20/9

Environment

1 Verges, Bush Heath Lane

Cllr Gibb and the clerk had met with WCC Highways today. The following was noted and/or agreed:

- Henry's – linking footpath still not built. To be followed up with planners.
- Agreed to install boundary markers at side of road and in-fill trench at road edge to allow verge to grow back

- Verge opposite Henry's was more difficult and needed further thought as this was likely to be damaged again when workmen returned to complete outstanding works at Henry's.
- Agreed that the village name sign would be reinstated.

Other matters:

- (a) It was noted that a lighting column had been knocked down at the junction of Mill Street and Farm Street, but nothing was known about when, why and how this had occurred; a post would be put on the Harbury Facebook page asking for any information.
- (b) It was pointed out that the village was looking particularly dirty and untidy, and a request was made to clean up. The clerk advised that there is a regular street cleaning programme in place but she would enquire as to when the next visit was scheduled.

20/10

Properties

1 Playing Fields

- (i) Youth shelter update

A large-scale map of the playing field has been obtained from SDC; the properties group had met and considered all the possible locations:

A – corner of car park

B – Netball court

C – corner where field broadens opposite the skate park (although, on reflection, and in the light of the recent poor weather, this may be too wet and boggy)

Option A was the favourite choice of the working party as it would be visible and not hidden, would be in view of any new CCTV and was near the football pitch. Cllr Thompson informed the council that the properties group would be taping out the exact measurements so that the public would have a visual idea of the proposed siting and size. This had been widely publicised and voting slips would be in the library. It was agreed to ask the police for their views too. The cost of the youth shelter would be paid for by S106 monies received from the Oakfields development. The public consultation was scheduled for 3 February, so it was hoped that a decision on the location could be made at the next council meeting.

- (ii) Update on possible CCTV scheme for car park

Cllr Rutherford, in his capacity as village hall chairman, had received a quotation for 4 cameras of £5,400 + vat. The main aim was that they be a deterrent; there were no foreseeable problems with data protection and rules about viewing and storing footage were understood. Cllr Rutherford will investigate the possibility of applying for funding from the Police & Crime Commissioner's grant scheme.

- (iii) Consideration of having fireworks without future bonfires on 5 November and to plant trees on the bonfire site

It was debateable whether fireworks without a bonfire would still be an attractive proposition. This had always been a well-attended and popular village event, despite the weather. However, the decision to go ahead last year was clearly the wrong one as the environmental impact and damage of

building the bonfire was immense. The planting of trees was not considered a viable option because this would make mowing the grass very difficult.

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Lockley would respond to the resident who put forward the suggestion and he would also discuss the problem of field damage with GASS. It was suggested that in future, the council should also be party to the decision, usually made on the morning of the bonfire, as to whether the event goes ahead or not, depending on the weather conditions. Up until now, this has been at the organisers' discretion.

NB: It was mentioned that the playing fields were under water as drainage was extremely poor; this would be put on next month's agenda. In the meantime, the clerk was delegated to find out what the best course of action would be (as Murphy's specialised in this, it was suggested she seek their opinion).

(iv) Approval of order for additional bin and agreement of location
The grant application to the county councillor fund had not been successful so the PC would have to bear the cost of providing a new litter bin. There was a debate as to whether an additional in was actually required (it originally came about as a result of a complaint from Biffa) and if so, where it should be installed. It was agreed that the clerk would seek clarification and report back to the next meeting.

2 Cemetery

(i) Update on chapel repairs

The clerk would make some enquiries with the contractor to find out if he had a date for doing the work yet.

20/11

Finance & General Purposes

1 Monthly financial report & bank reconciliation: Noted.

2 Budget 2020/21

(i) Approval of staff salary increases –

It was **RESOLVED** to approve an increase of 3% to take effect from 1 April 2020. It should be noted that the clerk's salary was not included in this as this is governed by the national pay award, not yet known.

(ii) Approval of budget

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the budget for 2020/21 as circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Mancell had provided a summary of the main changes.

(iii) Approval of level of precept

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the level of precept for 2020/21 at £113,378.

- (iv) Approval of increase to cemetery fees as from 1 April 2020
It was noted that the last increase was in April 2017. It was **RESOLVED** to abolish all fees for child burials and **RESOLVED** to increase all other fees by £5.00 each with effect from 1 April 2020.

3 Annual Review of Documents

- (i) Standing orders
- (ii) Financial regulations
- (iii) Financial risk management
- (iv) Assets register

The above documents had been circulated and reviewed by councillors. It was **RESOLVED** that no amendments were required.

4 Meetings Calendar 2020/21 – approval of meeting dates

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the 2020/21 calendar subject to the date of the APM being moved to 21 May 2020. The chairman asked if councillors could give thought to a suitable speaker for this event.

20/12 Accounts for Payment

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the accounts for payment as per Appendix B (including formal approval of accounts paid in December 2019); Cllrs Thompson and Allen to authorise payment.

20/13 Reports & Questions

- The clerk had been asked by Mrs Summers to report that the Friends of Harbury Cemetery would be working in the cemetery on 6 February between 10.00am-12.00 noon.
- Cllr Thornley reminded the meeting that the next Councillors' Corner would be this Saturday and from now on would be on alternate months.

20/14 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 Consideration of Quote for Playing Fields Mowing 2020/21

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the quote from FM Farmers.

20/15 Date of Next Meeting

The next ordinary meeting of the parish council will take place on Thursday 27 February 2020 at 7.30pm in The Farley Room, Harbury Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.37pm.

Signed Chairman Date.....

APPENDIX A

Planning Applications – Delegated Responses 23 January 2020

- 1 **19/03288/TREE**
T1 willow – re-pollard to previous pruning points
10 Church Terrace
No representation

- 2 **19/03287/TREE**
T1 oak- crown lift to 3.5 metres to clear the highway and the neighbour's garage;
T2 holly – fell; T3 conifer – fell.
The Lymes, Church Street
No representation

- 3 **19/03244/AGNOT**
Steel portal frame barn extension for hay and straw storage
Chesterton House Farm, Mill Street
No representation

APPENDIX B

Accounts for approval 23 January 2020						
Urgent accounts paid since the last meeting and requiring formal approval of the council						
Payee	Payment ref	Net	Vat	Gross		
		-	-	-		
BT (phone & broadband)	d/debit	160.18	32.03	192.21		
		-	-	-		
		-	-	-		
		-	-	-		
		-	-	-		
	Sub-total	160.18	32.03	192.21		
Accounts for payment on 23 January 2020						
Payee	Payment ref	Net	Vat	Gross		
Staff payments	200101 to	1,292.04		1,292.04		
S Allen (councillor allowance)	200104	280.00		280.00		
S Ekins (councillor allowance)	200105	280.00		280.00		
C Gibb (councillor allowance)	200106	210.00		210.00		
A Knowles (councillor allowance)	200107	280.00		280.00		
T Lockley (chairman's allowance)	200108	420.00		420.00		
A Mancell (councillor allowance)	200109	280.00		280.00		
A Rutherford (councillor allowance)	200110	280.00		280.00		
K Thompson (councillor allowance)	200111	280.00		280.00		
J Thornley (councillor allowance)	200112	280.00		280.00		
HMRC (PAYE)	200113	1,268.27		1,268.27		
E.ON (s/lights electricity)	200115	266.18	53.24	319.42		
Greentech Ltd (line marking powder)	200116	26.50	5.30	31.80		
Adams & Munson (office rent)	s/order	378.50	-	378.50		
Frank Mann Farmers (grds m'nance)	s/order	895.55	179.11	1,074.66		
		-	-	-		
		-	-	-		
		-	-	-		
		-	-	-		
		-	-	-		
		-	-	-		
		-	-	-		
	Sub-totals	6,717.04	237.65	6,954.69		
	TOTALS	6,877.22	269.68	7,146.90		

