

**MINUTES OF**  
**AN ORDINARY MEETING**  
**OF**  
**HARBURY PARISH COUNCIL**

Held in the Village Hall, Harbury on Thursday 26 April 2007 Page 435

Present: Cllrs Lockley, Biddle, Patrick, Thompson, Mancell, Winchester  
Hancock, Van Spall T.D, Ellis & Thornley.

Apologies:

In Attendance: Mrs N Thompson (Clerk), District Cllr Patrick, County Cllr Stevens,  
Mrs L Ridgley (Harbury News) and 7 members of the public.

**07/041 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

Following the resignation of Cllr Biddle as Chairman at the March meeting, the clerk invited nominations for this position from members. Cllr Biddle proposed Cllr Lockley and this was seconded by Cllr Mancell. **It was resolved:** that Cllr Lockley be elected as Chairman.

**07/042 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

The Chairman invited nominations for the position of Vice-Chairman. Cllr Thompson indicated that he would be prepared to put his name forward for this. **This was resolved:** proposed by Cllr Lockley and seconded by Cllr Thornley.

**07/043 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION –**

Mrs Lauder, Mrs Youngman and Mr Parker spoke about problems that residents are having with noise and nuisance from children and young people using the children's play area and the surrounding area. Mrs Lauder's property backs onto the public footpath adjacent to the play area and she urged councillors to consider installing a fence to prevent children running from the park directly onto the footpath. It was also reported that parts of the hedge had been broken down and destroyed. Cllr Van Spall advised residents to call the police and get an incident number on every occasion that this occurs. It was agreed that the Properties Working Party would visit the footpath and make recommendations to the full Council and that the clerk would forward the resident's complaints to P C Hill.

**Mrs Lauder and Mrs Youngman left the meeting.**

**07/044 MINUTES - 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2007**

Cllr Lockley pointed out an error under section 07/013, Members Items; the sentence beginning "it was suggested the clerk contact Whitnash Town Council..." should be moved to the section directly above on Vision for Southam. Following this amendment, **it was resolved** that the minutes of the **Ordinary Meeting** of the Parish Council of 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2007 having been circulated be taken as read and signed as a true record.

**07/045 DECLARATION OF INTEREST ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

The following interests were declared by members:-

Cllr Thornley declared interests in item 7i, Harbury School as she is a member of the Governing Body and in item 7vi, Village Hall as she is a member of the Village Hall Management Committee.

Cllr Patrick declared an interest in item 7vi, Village Hall as she is a member of the Village Hall Management Committee.

Cllr Thompson declared an interest in item 7vi as he is a member of the Village Hall Management Committee.

Cllr Ellis declared an interest in item 9i – Bush Heath Lane site.

#### **07/046 REPORTS FROM OTHER BODIES**

- i Harbury School Governors (KE) – nothing to report.
- ii Public Safety- nothing to report.
- iii Smartwater (JP)  
The remaining packs have now been delivered to Leicester Close. The clerk confirmed that she had not yet had an opportunity to check what level of coverage would be necessary for the village to be able to display signs advertising the presence of Smartwater.
- iv Southam College (SH)  
The College's appeal into the permitted admission number will be heard during May.
- v Twinning Association (SH)  
The final program was now in place for the forthcoming visit which will take place over the Bank Holiday weekend.
- vi Village Hall (JP)  
Mr Thorpe, the new Chairman of the Village Hall will attend the Annual Parish Meeting and give a report on the current plans to extend and develop the Hall. Cllr Ellis reported a minor accident in the Hall in which a stage block had fallen on a small child. It was suggested that, perhaps the blocks could be fixed to the wall in some way; Cllr Thornley will report this incident back to the Village Hall Committee.  
Correspondence had been received from the Village Hall Committee requesting a grant from the Parish Council for the part payment of professional fees incurred in the development plans. It was noted that £5000 had been set aside in the Council's budget for this year for this purpose. **It was resolved:** that a grant of £5000 be paid to the Village Hall Management Committee.
- vii WALC/ NALC – nothing to report.

#### **07\047 DEPPERS BRIDGE**

##### **A. Matters Arising**

- i Harbury Station Bridge  
Cllr Van Spall reported that, following the previous meeting with Warwickshire County Council, a formal complaint had been sent from the Parish Council with regard to the late notice given for this meeting. A further meeting will be held tomorrow in which WCC officers will outline their revised plans for the bridge. Mr Malin, on behalf of the resident's group said that the preferred option was for a weight restriction.

**B Correspondence – none.****C Members Items**

- i Traffic Calming  
Cllr Van Spall requested that the clerk ask Highways to repair the damaged section of the chicanes.
- ii Widening of Grass Verge by Highways  
Cllr Van Spall has received a response from Highways on this matter. County Cllr Stevens suggested that the concerned resident should contact him directly regarding this.
- iii Councillor Van Spall  
Cllr Van Spall said that, due to personal commitments, he wished to resign from the Council with immediate effect. He said that he had enjoyed the past ten years on the Council very much and will miss all his fellow councillors, but work commitments had now increased to the extent that he could no longer give the Council the attention it deserved. Cllr Lockley proposed a vote of thanks to Cllr Van Spall for all his hard work over the past ten years.

**07\048 PLANNING****A Decisions on Planning Applications**

- i Permission Granted with conditions by SDC:
  - 4 Fox Close:** Bedroom and kitchen extension and conservatory.
  - 7 The Beeches:** White PVCU conservatory to rear of property.
  - Meadow Bank, Hall Lane:** Two storey extension to side, front and rear.
  - Sharmer Fields Farm, Fosse Way:** Proposed two storey detached building for additional accommodation for the care home.
  - 2 Chapel Street:** Change of use from hair salon to residential use.
  - Bishop Bowl Lakes, Bishops Itchington:** Fisherman's Clubhouse, car parking, highway junction improvements and associated infrastructure (amendment to approved re 05/00517/REM).
  - 11A Constance Drive:** Conservatory extension.
  - Tichsa, 10 Greenhill Farm:** Small wind turbine.
  - 9 Neales Close:** Construction of a single storey extension to both front and rear of dwelling house.
  - 1 Bush Heath Lane:** Extension to side and rear of property creating additional living space to ground floor with 2no. bedrooms over first floor.
- ii East Area Planning Committee:
  - Telephone Exchange, Mill Street:** Proposed installation of a 12.5m high wood effect telegraph pole enclosing 3 no. trisector antennas: the application was GRANTED.
- iii Parish Council Made No Representation On The Following:
  - Crown Inn, Crown Street:** Construct new extension to rear area to form new entrance and extend kitchen. Reform external pergola with cedar shingle roof. Form new disabled toilet and reconfigure ladies toilet access. Remove existing restaurant and form new corner dispense bar.
- iv The PC Made Representations on the Following :

**Telephone Exchange, Mill Street:** Proposed installation of a 12.5m high wood effect telegraph pole enclosing 3 no. trisector antennas: The Parish Council has concerns that the telegraph pole will be very close to the Conservation Area of the village and that a mast of this size will have an effect on the character of the centre of the village. The location of the mast appears to be sandwiched within two areas of the Conservation Area and can only be outside it by a matter of metres. The Village Design Statement states that “no new building should challenge the views of the windmill and the Church Tower”. The visual impact of the mast on the windmill, to which it will be very close, will be hard to mitigate. It is also believed that phone providers have a duty to mast share wherever this is possible. There is an existing mast at Lower Westfields Farm and the Council would wish to query whether a distance of less than approximately 3.5 miles (the distance from Westfields Farm to Percival Drive), the furthest point of Harbury village – the coverage area required) is not too far to consider this site rather than place an intrusive mast in the centre of the village.

**Land Adj. to the Ranch House, Chesterton Road:** Change of use from agricultural land to paddock and equestrian use to include erection of stables: Due to the addition of the stable block which is situated to the left and slightly lower down the hill than the main house, the Parish Council would like to make the following comments:

- This is a house that has a very prominent position in relation to the topography of the area and any further buildings will exacerbate this. The Village Design Statement states that views along the ridge should be preserved as well as those in and out of the village.
- Any new access roads close to this junction would create a hazard as visibility is not good and with slow moving horse boxes this could be dangerous. The road is busy as it is a designated route for lorries accessing the Ufton Landfill as well as carrying traffic to the Gaydon Plant and commuter traffic from villages to and from Leamington and Warwick
- Point 5 on the Design and Access Statement says that the development is for family use only. This would seem to be a large development for family use. If it is purely for family use, this would seem to make point 6 irrelevant as any disabled people would be family and use the facilities within the family home on site.

v Permission Refused by SDC:

**Bishop Bowl Lakes, Bishops Itchington:** 21 Lodges, associated car parking and highway junction improvements.

**Bishop Bowl Lakes, Bishops Itchington:** Erection of single storey watersports building (amendment to approved 03/03734/REM).

**West End Cottage, Mill Street:** Two storey side and single storey rear extension.

**1 Heber Drive:** Double storey extension to side elevation to form bedroom 4. Enlarge bedroom 2. Rear single storey extension to form lounge: this application has been WITHDRAWN.

**Stapenhall Farm, Deppers Bridge:** Proposed replacement dwelling: this application has been WITHDRAWN

vi Enforcement notices issued - none

vii Appeals: Pending: Bishop Bowl Lakes, appeal by Follet Property Holdings, use of land as a distribution centre and depot.

viii Tree Preservation Order: none

B Other Planning Matters

i Bush Heath Lane Site

Correspondence had been received from WRHA thanking the Council for their comments on the proposed development. WRHA and WRCC will now meet with SDC on the 24<sup>th</sup> April and, following this, will report back to the Parish Council.

ii O2 Telephone Mast, Telephone Exchange, Mill Street

Further to this application being granted by the Area Committee, further correspondence had been received from Ian Hewitt Associates, the planning consultants employed by O2. This had been copied to members of the Planning W/P and the clerk was requested to provide copies for the residents who attended the Area Committee and for Harbury School.

iii Bishop Bowl Lakes – Appeal into Use of Land as Distribution Centre

It was noted that this appeal will be heard on the 15<sup>th</sup> May and Cllr Lockley will attend on behalf of the Council in place of Cllr Van Spall. Cllr Thornley requested that thanks to Cllr Van Spall for his work on the development of the Bishop Bowl site be included in the minutes.

C Correspondence – nothing to report

D Members Items – nothing to report.

**07/049 PUBLIC SAFETY**

**Sgt Many Crust and P C Rod Joy joined the meeting.** The Chairman proposed that the item on Public Safety heard earlier in the meeting should be revisited to allow for any police reports and this was agreed. Sgt Crust reported that the police are there to listen to the public's concerns and, wherever possible, a police representative will attend every Parish Council meeting or an apology will be forwarded for non-attendance. Generally speaking, Harbury as an area is very supportive of the police. The main priorities in the area, in order of importance are drugs, speeding and nuisance youths. Cllr Lockley raised the issues that had been put forward earlier by members of the public concerning the play area and Sgt Crust agreed to visit those residents immediately after leaving the meeting. Cllr Van Spall commented that there was often a gap between the service promised by the Police and the one experienced by residents and that there were problems in getting incident numbers when ringing the police. Whilst acknowledging that there were frustrations largely due to staffing shortages, P C Joy said that an incident number should be available to every caller and that the police wanted to work with the local community to tackle issues within the area.

The Chairman thanked Sgt Crust and P C Joy for their attendance and they then left the meeting.

**07/050 PROPERTIES**

A Arising from the Minutes

i BMX Project

Cllr Thornley thanked the clerk for her help in providing a contact name for the development of the BMX track. A meeting had been arranged with this company for Monday 30<sup>th</sup> April.

ii Playground Reports

There were no reports from the Inspectors, however the clerk reported that the small rocking animal in children's play area had become damaged and had had to be removed. It had not been possible to make a temporary repair to this item due to health and safety considerations. The hole in front of the small goalposts had been filled, the area beneath the aerial runway reseeded and the trip hazards filled. A quantity of graffiti had been sprayed on the play wall. Cllr Van Spall suggested that a graffiti artist could be employed to make a feature of this, but several other members felt that any artwork put onto the wall could itself be the subject of further graffiti. It was agreed that this be referred to the Properties W/P. A quotation had been received from AGD Playground Contractors for refixing the entrance post on the gate of the small children's play area and relaying the slabs in front of this area. **It was resolved:** that this quotation be accepted, cost £210.00.

iii Harbury Tennis & Netball Clubs – nothing to report.

iv Cemetery Path

Work had commenced on the cemetery path and was expected to be finished in four - five days time.

B Correspondence

i Stratford District Council – Play Strategy

Minutes had been received from SDC for the first meeting of the SDC Play Partnership. The District Authority will now organize a series of "road shows" to find out what members of the public would like to see provided in terms of play provision.

ii Memorial Safety

Correspondence had been received from the Department for Constitutional Affairs regarding memorial safety and this had been copied for members of the Properties W/P.

C Members Items

i Dog Bins

Cllr Lockley said that he had asked the clerk to investigate the possibility of getting more dog bins installed in the village. The clerk had received a reply from SDC stating that, at present only those bins supplied by the District at a cost of £160 will be emptied by SDC and that there may be limits in the future on the number of bins available to be installed. Further clarification of this is awaited. District Cllr Patrick requested that copies of the e-mail correspondence on this matter be forwarded to him.

ii Chain, Playing Fields

The clerk was requested to ask the village contractor to secure the chain at the entrance to the playing fields from the car park.

iii Dog Fouling Sign

It was reported that a dog fouling sign has been removed from its position and left outside the library.

iv Entrance Sign, Car Park Barrier

The clerk was requested to remind the contractor that the entrance arrow sign needs to be replaced at the car park barrier.

## **07\051 ENVIRONMENT**

### **A Arising from the Minutes**

i Street Lighting

The clerk was requested to write to two residents of Hall Lane whose trees are currently obscuring streetlights there. The Environment W/P had considered a request to site a further streetlight in Chapel Street and had recommended that no new light was needed there. Three new lights have been installed in Wagstaff Close as replacements for the concrete columns.

ii Village Improvements

The clerk has received a message from the owner of the paddock adjacent to Church Street saying that she is in the process of trying to find a builder to carry out necessary repair work on the wall and shelter.

County Cllr Stevens had requested that the Council put forward suggestions for additional road repairs to be funded out of the Maintenance & Safety Fund, Small Schemes. The suggestions passed to Cllr Stevens were: Penelope Close, the railway bridge at Bull Ring Farm Road, Ivy Lane and the entrance to Leicester Close.

iii Traffic Management – Cllr Lockley has had a brief message from the officer at WCC but no definite feedback on the proposals. County Cllr Stevens agreed to speak to the officer.

### **B Correspondence – none**

### **C Members Items**

i Various

The following items were reported to the clerk as being outstanding:

- The entrance to the field adjacent to the Spinney in Hall Lane has become sunken due to the machinery used to access the field and the railway line by Birse Rail. The clerk will contact Birse regarding this.
- One of the posts erected on the Pound has been knocked by a car. The clerk will report this to the village maintenance contractor.
- The handrail of the steps leading off the public footpath down to the railway line have been vandalized. The clerk will report to Birse Rail.
- Japanese knotweed has been sighted in the hedgerow at Bull Ring Farm Road. This has been reported to the Highways Department by Cllr Stevens.
- Two footpaths in Vicarage Lane and Dovehouse Lane had become obstructed by overgrown plants originating from the adjacent houses. Cllrs Lockley and Thornley will speak to the householders concerned.

ii Planting of Spring Bulbs

Cllr Lockley suggested that the Council might purchase some bulbs to plant around the village this Autumn. It was agreed the clerk would check the Bio-Diversity Action Pack for advice on this.

**07\052 FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES**

A Arising from the Minutes

- i Upgrade of Office Equipment  
Cllr Mancell reported that further information on the website hosting and templates was still awaited. Progress continued to be slow on this project.

B Correspondence - none

- i Ist Responders  
Correspondence had been received from the 1<sup>st</sup> Responder group thanking the Council for their agreement to underwrite the defibrillator in the event of it being damaged or stolen.
- ii Revised Code of Conduct for Local Authorities  
The clerk had been sent a copy of the revised Code of Conduct for Local Authorities. This needs to be formally adopted by the Council within six months of it coming into force on the 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2007. The clerk will circulate details on the Code to allow members to vote on adoption at the next meeting.

C Members Items

**07\053 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT** – As per Appendix B. Details on request from the clerk to the Council.

**07\054 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- i District & County Council News  
Stratford District Council – nothing to report.  
Warwickshire County Council - Cllr Stevens reported briefly on the Primary Care Trust Development Plan which, for the forthcoming year will aim to reduce the current financial deficit. It is possible that this may have an impact on services.
- ii Annual Parish Meeting 10.5.07  
The clerk reminded members that the Annual Parish meeting is at the Tom Hauley Rooms this year and that Heads of Working Parties should forward their reports to her as soon as possible.

**07\055 ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA – none.**

**007\056 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2007 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall and will be followed by a full meeting of the Parish Council.

**The meeting closed at 9.16pm.**

Chairman.....Date.....



