

MINUTES OF
AN ORDINARY MEETING
OF
HARBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Held in the Village Hall, Harbury on Thursday 26 July 2007 Page 461

Present: Cllr Thompson (Chairman), Cllrs Mancell, Thornley, Grey & Ellis

Apologies: Parish Cllrs Lockley, Winchester, Hancock, Biddle & Patrick,
District Cllr Patrick, County Cllr Stevens.

In Attendance: Mrs N Thompson (Clerk), P C Hill, Mrs L Ridgley (Harbury News)
and four members of the public.

07/090 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chairman invited members of the public present to speak on any issue. Following the recent heavy rain, a number of flooding related matters were raised. Mr Tudor raised issues regarding a blocked drain in the ditch outside his property at Springfield Farm. This has been caused by debris coming from properties further up the hill. Mr Tudor had met in June 2007 with the Area Surveyor who had agreed that there was a problem and had promised action on this. The situation however, remains unchanged and, due to the recent heavy rain, water is now overflowing from the ditch and running down Treen's Hill which may cause a hazard to motorists and cyclists. It was agreed that Cllr Ellis would visit the site and that Mr Tudor's concerns would be passed on again to Highways and to Cllr Bob Stevens.

Mr Malone, a resident of South Parade raised issues with flooding at the front of South Parade caused by blocked drains. This has recently become so bad that water had run down Ivy Lane. Mr Malone had written to Mervyn Hancox on this issue and will copy the letter to the Parish Council and to Cllr Stevens. Mrs Ridgley said that there had been issues with a partially blocked drain in Farm Street for a number of years which also needed to be addressed. It was agreed that the Council will forward these concerns to Highways on behalf of residents and that the Environment Group will aim to set up a meeting with the Area Surveyor to consider what courses of action could be taken.

07/091 MINUTES - 28th June 2007

It was resolved that the minutes of the **Ordinary Meeting** of the Parish Council of 28th June 2007 having been circulated be taken as read and signed as a true record.

07/092 DECLARATION OF INTEREST ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

The following interests were declared by members:-

Cllr Thornley declared interests in item 5i, Harbury School as she is a member of the Governing Body and in item 5vi, Village Hall as she is a member of the Village Hall Management Committee.

Cllr Thompson declared an interest in item 5vi, Village Hall, as he is a member of the Village Hall Management Committee.

Cllr Grey declared membership of the Deppers Bridge Residents Group. The clerk was asked to clarify whether Cllr Grey needs to declare this interest at every meeting.

07/093 REPORTS FROM OTHER BODIES

- i Harbury School Governors (AW) – nothing to report.
- ii Public Safety-
P C Hill reported some changes to working practices at Southam which had led to some good recent results including the arrest of distraction burglars targeting high powered cars. Doorstep burglars were currently using the title of “Water Board Inspectors” in order to gain access to houses and residents should be aware of this. Residents should also be aware that the police will be targeting Harbury and the surrounding areas for an anti-speeding campaign during the latter part of August.
- iii Smartwater (JP)-
Cllr Grey reported that the leaflets advertising Smartwater had now been distributed to Deppers Bridge residents.
- iv Southam College (SH) –
All 21 appeals for admission to the College in September 2007 had been granted bringing the total admission number to 231.
- v Twinning Association (SH) – nothing to report.
- vi Village Hall (JP)
The recent heavy rain had highlighted some minor problems with the structure of the Hall which need to be addressed. Cllr Grey questioned if there were any Emergency beds kept at the Hall and it was confirmed that there are not. The clerk confirmed that WCC are currently in the process of updating the Parish’s Emergency Plan and confirmed that she would provide Cllrs with a copy of this when it is complete.
Cllr Thornley also reported that there were issues with the proposed Rural Cinema Scheme. Although the Management Committee had expressed an interest in this, an assumption seems to have been made by SDC that the village is ready to start receiving films on a monthly basis and this is not the case.
- vii WALC/ NALC
The clerk had circulated details of the next Southam Area Committee meeting which will be held at Harbury Village Hall on 4th September and will include a speaker on climate change and how to reduce the community’s carbon footprint. The Clerk requested that as many cllrs as possible should attend this. Cllr Thornley indicated that she would be able to attend.

07\094 DEPPERS BRIDGE**A. Matters Arising**

- i Harbury Station Bridge
Cllr Grey reported that it is likely that the proposed weight restriction will now be discussed at the September meeting of the SDC Cabinet. Cllr Grey has approached WCC to discuss the impact that any weight limit will have on public transport for Deppers and this issue is ongoing.

B Correspondence – none.

C Members Items - none**07\095 PLANNING****A Decisions on Planning Applications**

- i Permission Granted with conditions by SDC: **1**
Bull Ring Cottage, The Bull Ring: Renovation of windows at front of house and gable end, replacement of wooden crossbars and hinged casements with metal crossbars and hinged casements to match other windows.
Harbury House, Butt Lane: To fell 10 ash, to lay a mix of 10 ash and hawthorn trees, to remove deadwood and crown thin 5 ash by 10%.
- ii East Area Planning Committee:
9 Knightlow Way, Single storey front and side extensions: GRANTED.
- iii Parish Council Made No Representation On The Following:
43 Deppers Bridge: Single storey rear extension. Change existing flat roof to pitched tiled roof with rooflights. Front entrance porch at position of original front door.
Normandie House, 9 Pirie Close: To crown lift to 3 metres and crown thin 15% of one horse chestnut tree.
Church House Crown Street: Removal of existing tiled roof and replacement in glass roof construction to small lobby area on rear elevation.
Lorne Cottage, Crown Street: Two storey extension to rear of property.
Crown Inn, Crown Street: Erection of new extension to rear to extend kitchen and form new entrance (alteration to scheme approved under 07/00319/LBC).
- iv The PC Made Representations on the Following :
Bull Ring Garage, Church Terrace: Change of use from showroom/reception to 2 no. offices and washroom with alterations to side windows. COMMENT: Parking should be given consideration as this is a problem in this road at present.
Bishop Bowl Lakes, Bishops Itchington: Variation of condition 6 of the planning permission re 03/2132/FUL granted at appeal to allow development to commence prior to a full standard ghost island junction being formed but not occupied until the ghost island junction has been agreed and formed. OBJECT: The Council would wish to see the applicants adhere to what was previously agreed, that an Island Junction has to be made before any work on the lodges takes place. The Council is not happy to any building work to go ahead before the appropriate infrastructure is in place. WCC Highways should also be consulted and any decision should take into account the recent decision, granted on appeal, to allow storage facilities on the opposite side of the road.
- v Permission Refused by SDC:
- vi Enforcement notices issued - none
- vii Appeals: - none.
- viii Tree Preservation Order: none
- B Other Planning Matters**
- i Bush Heath Lane Development

Correspondence had been received from Paul Eccleshare, Warks Rural Housing Association, which apologized for recent slow progress on plans for the site. A response to the initial offer letter to the landowner is expected shortly and this will allow plans to move forward. In the meantime WRH have revised the scheme to accommodate some of the comments made by the Parish Council on the initial layout and will be meeting shortly to discuss this with the District Planners. The community consultation scheme is still programmed to go ahead in the Autumn subject to a successful meeting with the landowners.

- ii Proposed Overhead Electricity Cable: Rugby – Harbury
Correspondence had been received from WCC on a pre-application consultation on a proposed overhead line which would cut through Deppers Bridge. Following discussion and examination of the plans **it was resolved:** that the Council should write objecting to the overhead nature of the line and requesting that it be put underground for its entire length. Two specific concerns from residents to be mentioned, one from a local beekeeper and one from a resident who has a small airstrip, both of which would be adversely affected by the proposals. It was noted that the cable is intended to be under ground through the Bishop Bowl Lakes site and the Council could see no reason why this policy could not be applied to the whole project. An overhead line would have an adverse impact on the environment, and on the streetscene.

C Correspondence -none

D Members Items - none.

07/096 PROPERTIES

A Arising from the Minutes

- i BMX Project
Cllr Thornley reported that a quotation had been received to draw up the plans for the BMX track and this was found to be £150 to include applying for planning permission. The architect had gone ahead and drawn up the provisional plans and these were circulated for the member's attention. Cllr Thompson asked that thanks be minuted to Cllr Thornley and to Mr Bones for their hard work in getting the project to this stage. It was agreed that the Properties W/P would consider the plans in detail and report back to the September meeting of the Council. There was some further discussion on how best to proceed with the project particularly in respect of consulting with young people and local residents and it was agreed that Properties would consider this also. A quotation had also been received for the removal of the excess soil from the cemetery in order to consolidate the mounds at the playing fields; this was found to be £2950 and it was noted that, although the bulk of the work in building the track will be carried out by grant funding, the Council will need to pay for this itself. The clerk was instructed to research alternative quotations for this work.
- ii Playground Reports
There were no reports at present. The clerk reported that there had been some difficulty in contacting the inspectors over the past month due to the retirement of a member of the team; it was hoped however that this had now been resolved. A preliminary conversation with the new inspector had indicated that the basketball court would not need to conform to European standards should it be

resurfaced however, this needs to be confirmed. It had been agreed that SDC would remove the graffiti from the play wall at no cost to Council and the loose slabs around the play area entrance had now been replaced and the runner put back on the aerial runway. The clerk had provisionally ordered the three new dog bins as agreed at the June meeting and it was agreed that the colour of these should be red.

iii Harbury Carnival

A meeting had been held between members of the Council and the Carnival Committee to discuss how to avoid a repetition of the informal “rave” that had occurred on the field during the evening of this year’s Carnival. Discussions on this were ongoing, but it had been agreed that greater control of the entrances to the field was needed and that the Committee needed to consider whether the continued growth of the Carnival into a more “commercial” event was in the best interests of the community.

iv Village Hall Notice Board

Properties had researched a number of options for replacing the notice board at the Village Hall and these were discussed. To maintain the size of the notice board however, it was noted that it would cost around £1000 and this was felt to be prohibitively expensive. Cllr Grey volunteered to provide a quotation and the clerk will also research others. The Village Hall Committee had also requested that the board be moved outside of the fence onto the grass verge and the clerk was instructed to find out who owns this strip of grass.

B Correspondence – nothing to report.

C Members Items – nothing to report.

07\097 ENVIRONMENT

A Arising from the Minutes

i Street Lighting

The clerk reported that a new streetlight had been ordered to replace the one damaged by a vehicle in Farley Avenue. The cost of this will be covered by the vehicle owner’s insurance.

ii Village Improvements

There is nothing to report at present. Cllr Ellis will arrange a joint meeting with members of the PC and the WI to discuss the bulb planting.

iii Traffic Management

Cllr Ellis reported that Local Authorities will shortly be given new powers to enforce 20mph speed zones and that she would recommend that the Council press for this on roads around the school. Cllr Ellis will distribute more information on this to members

B Correspondence

i Tree Survey

The clerk passed details of an update to the Tree Survey for consideration by the Environment W/P.

C Members Items -none

07\098 FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES**A Arising from the Minutes**

- i Upgrade of Office Equipment & Awards for All Grant
The Council has been provisionally awarded £300 towards the costs of software for the computer awarded to it by WCC under the Community Computers scheme. With regard to the Awards for All Grant, Cllr Mancell said that he had ordered the back up drive, extra software, projector and screen as agreed. The remainder of the grant was earmarked for improvements to the Parish Council website which is ongoing. Cllr Ellis suggested that the new website could include a “profile” of all members of the Council including a photograph.
- ii Parish Office – nothing to report at present.
- iii Risk Assessment
The clerk had e-mailed a revised copy of the draft risk assessment to the heads of the Working Parties. It was agreed that the W/P’s would report back to the full Council when they had had time to consider this.
- iv External Audit 2007
The clerk reported that the External Audit had been signed off by the auditors and the Council had, once again, been given an unqualified report. Cllr Thompson requested that thanks be minuted to the clerk for her hard work in bringing the audit to a successful conclusion.

B Correspondence

- i Harbury Steel Pan Academy
A letter had been received from the Steel Pan Academy thanking the Council for their grant towards the costs of the forthcoming visit to Barcelona.

C Members Items –nothing to report

07\099 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT As per Appendix B, details on request from the clerk.

07\100 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- i District & County Council News –nothing to report.
- ii Registers of Interest.
The clerk reminded those members who had not yet done so, to fill in their revised Registers of Interest and return to her as soon as possible. Cllr Ellis requested a second copy of the Register.

07\101 ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

- i Bishop Bowl Lakes – Master Plan

007\102 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 27th September 2007 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.50pm

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