

MINUTES OF
AN ORDINARY MEETING
OF
HARBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Held in the Village Hall, Harbury on Thursday 25 October 2007 Page 479

Present: Cllr Lockley (Chairman), Mancell, Thornley, Thompson, Hancock, Grey

Apologies: Parish Cllrs Patrick & Winchester, District Cllr Patrick

In Attendance: Mrs N Thompson (Clerk), District Cllr Barton, County Cllr Stevens, Mrs L Ridgley (Harbury News Correspondent) and one member of the public.

07/118 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION- There were no members of the public wishing to speak.

07/119 MINUTES - 27th September 2007

It was resolved that the minutes of the **Ordinary Meeting** of the Parish Council of 27th September 2007 having been circulated be taken as read and signed as a true record.

07/120 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.

07/121 REPORTS FROM OTHER BODIES

- i Harbury School Governors (AW) – nothing to report.
- ii Public Safety- nothing to report.
- iii Smartwater (JP)- nothing to report.
- iv Southam College (SH)
The College is currently analyzing the results of a parent and student survey. The results had been found to be largely positive although communication had been highlighted as an area that parents would like to see improved.
- v Twinning Association (SH) – nothing to report.
- vi Village Hall (JP)
Correspondence had been received from the Village Hall Management Committee saying that the Committee understood the reasons for the Council being unable to offer financial assistance towards the cost of tree work at the front of the Hall. The Village Hall looks forward to receiving the continuing support of the Council in the plans to improve the facilities of the Hall.

vii WALC/ NALC

The clerk will attend a WALC seminar on Financial Matters on the 6th November. Cllrs Lockley and Thornley had attended the Awards Ceremony for the Best Kept Village Competition 2007 and had received a Gold Certificate on behalf of the village.

viii SDC & WCC Reports

District Cllr Barton had received a complaint from an elderly resident of Deppers Bridge concerning the weight restriction imposed on Harbury Station Bridge. This has resulted in local buses being unable to cross the bridge and residents now have to wait for them on Ladbroke corner. Cllr Barton had also received a complaint from an elderly resident concerning the dog bin in Vicarage Lane.

Cllr Stevens reported that the Primary Care Trust is still being punished on its score rating for being in deficit. The Trust continues to struggle financially. On a more positive note, Cllr Stevens has visited both Warwick and George Elliot hospitals recently and both were optimistic regarding their future prospects and performance. WCC is currently waiting to hear details of Government funding for this year; Council Tax will be capped to a 5% increase for 2008/09.

07\122 DEPPERS BRIDGE**A. Matters Arising**

i Harbury Station Bridge

Further to the matter raised by Cllr Barton regarding the rerouting of the bus service, Cllr Grey said that he had spoken to WCC about this and had been informed that there was no alternative to the proposed route. Cllr Grey was aware of the resident concerned and had put her case to WCC. The lady concerned could use the Community Bus as an alternative but there is a charge for this. Cllr Hancock commented that it was very unfortunate that an elderly resident was being inconvenienced due to the weight limit. It was noted however, that during discussions with WCC on the proposed limit, a wider discussion of the implications on the community with regard to buses had not been permitted. It was also noted that the School buses still leave from the Great Western. Cllr Grey has also spoken to Biffa Wastecare regarding the weight limit; Biffa had previously been unaware of this and it is unclear at present how refuse lorries are coping with it. A Traffic Census had been carried out on the bridge prior to the limit and Cllr Grey will forward a copy of this to the clerk. The resident's group is now trying to organize a local "Bridgewatch" scheme and has also produced a circular to be sent to businesses on the Southam Industrial Estate.

B Correspondence

i Bishop Bowl Lakes Master Plan Consultation

Correspondence had been received by Cllr Grey from Mr & Mrs Fisher with a number of comments regarding the Master Plan

C Members Items

i Rainwater Gully Cover

Cllr Grey reported that the rainwater gully cover outside house no. 13 has subsided. All the covers in Deppers Bridge could benefit from being inspected. The clerk will report this to Highways.

07\123 PLANNING**A** Decisions on Planning Applications

- i Permission Granted with conditions by SDC:
- Lorne Cottage, Crown Street:** Two storey extension to rear of property.
- Meadow Bank, Hall Lane:** Two storey extension to side.
- Harbury House, Butt Lane:** Reconstruction of 3no. chimneys.
- 19 The Beeches:** UPVC Conservatory.
- Crown Inn, Crown Street:** (Listed Building Consent) Erection of new extension to rear to extend kitchen, including the installation of inlet and extraction flues on the roofslope of the extension, plus the formation of new entrance (alteration to scheme approved under 07/00319/LBC)
- Stapenhall Farm, Deppers Bridge:** Renovation of existing listed dwelling and conversion of barns to dwelling accommodation & self-contained granny annexe.
- 19 South Parade:** Conservatory.
- Crown Inn, Crown Street:** T1, Sycamore: fell, T2 Ash: fell.
- Lorne Cottage, Crown Street:** C3no. poplars: reduce crown by 25%, remove deadwood and branches overhanging the adj. pub car park. D1: Walnut: remove deadwood and reshape crown. E4: Conifer: fell. F1: Sycamore: fell. G1: Silver Birch: remove deadwood, thin crown by approximately 20-25%.
- ii East Area Planning Committee: nothing to report.
- iii Parish Council Made No Representation On The Following:
- Harbury Works, Bishops Itchington:** Two entrance signs at the entrance to Harbury Depot.
- West End Cottage, Mill Street:** Erection of two storey rear extension.
- Westfields, Hall Lane:** Erection of conservatory to rear of property.
- iv The PC Made Representations on the Following :
- Bishop Bowl Lakes/Harbury Cement Works Master Plan Consultation:** Harbury Parish Council broadly welcomes the Master Plan as an appropriate framework for future development plans. We agree that any residential, industrial or employment uses must be rigorously needs-tested before implementation, likewise that any rail use should have a viable business case. We agree that any development that substantially increases traffic in the area would be undesirable, and would want the effect on local roads to be monitored closely.
- We would like section 27.6 strengthened, perhaps to include a bridleway, and the possibility of linking up to more local footpaths, especially to Ufton Nature Reserve. We agree with Ufton Parish Council that there is an opportunity to link the Ufton Nature Reserve with the Harbury Estate as part of any development.
- We would like it made absolutely clear that any maps, plans, or diagrams are purely indicative, and not a blueprint for future development. For example Fig.59 should not be taken as approval for lodges on the western side of the road.
- Harbury Croft, Chesterton Road:** Replacement dwelling: OBJECT: Harbury Parish Council has serious reservations regarding this application. This property is in a raised, prominent position on one of the approach roads to the village, as such it dominates the local “street scene” already and the new house will have even more of an impact on the surrounding landscape as it will be an extremely

large development. This is a rural location and, as per the Village Design Statement (pg 13) “where rows of houses at the edge of the village can be seen from a distance...the rural character of the surrounding farmland is diminished”. Although this is clearly not a “row” of houses, it does constitute a substantial development and will have the same effect on the landscape. The Council would also like to query what measure the applicants have taken to ensure the building is carbon neutral as per the emerging Supplementary Planning Documents of the District Council.

v Permission Refused by SDC:

The Bungalow, Mill Street: Erection of double garage.

Land Adj. to the Ranch House, Chesterton Road: Change of use from agricultural land to paddock & equestrian use to include erection of stables

vi Enforcement notices issued - none

vii Appeals: - none.

viii Tree Preservation Order: none

B Other Planning Matters

i Bush Heath Lane – nothing to report at present.

ii Ufton Landfill Site

Several Councillors and the clerk had attended presentations given by Biffa on the proposed expansion and change of the existing site into a recycling facility. It was noted that, at present, the proposed routes for traffic using the site excluded Butt Lane. Cllr Lockley said that there was potential, after the closure of the site as a working unit in 2022, for landscaping to create new footpaths linking it to the Nature Reserve and Harbury.

C Correspondence -none

D Members Items - none.

07/124 PROPERTIES

A Arising from the Minutes

i BMX Project

Cllr Thornley reported that she and Cllr Thompson had held a meeting with the contractor who will be building the track and a group of local teenagers and, following this consultation, a few minor changes had been made in the plans. It had also become apparent that the hedge adjacent to the site will need to be cut and weeds treated prior to the work on the track commencing and it was noted that the Horticultural Society and the Parish Paths Partnership may be able to help with this on a voluntary basis. Members also agreed that the next stage was to consult with local residents and this could perhaps be done at a Coffee Morning in the Tom Hauley Rooms. It was also noted that both the clerk and Cllr Thornley had had verbal contact with the contractor with regard to moving the soil from the cemetery and that he has promised to provide the Council with a written quotation.

ii Playground Reports

Information Signs, Harbury and Deppers Bridge: The Properties W/P had considered the wording for the proposed information sign at the playgrounds and

it was agreed, subject to the W/P finalizing the wording of this, that the clerk should get quotations for two signs. Cllr Thompson requested that included in this should be a quotation for the installation only of a sign at the tennis courts.

Uneven Grass, Children's Play Area, Harbury: The Properties W/P had examined the ground in the small children's play area and reported that they did not feel that this was sufficiently bad at present to warrant action. It was agreed that this should continue to be monitored.

Security of Playing Fields & Car Park: Following a number of incidents of vandalism of the chain at the entrance to the playing fields, the Properties W/P had received a quotation for the installation of "vandal proof" bollards. This was found to be £470 for the bollards plus £275 for installation. Cllr Mancell had also done some research into the possibility of installing CCTV cameras on the front and back of the Village Hall and details of a quotation for this was circulated to members. This was found to be £2400 approx to include installation with annual running costs estimated to be in the region of £360. It was noted that four cameras were included, two for the front and two for the back and, as the owner of the business was a member of the local community, he had included two cameras free of charge. Concerns were raised on the quality of the footage gained, how much of the surrounding area would be obscured by trees and who would operate and monitor the cameras. It was agreed that this needed further research and Cllr Mancell agreed to undertake this. Cllr Hancock will also try to visit a site where similar bollards as those quoted for are already installed.

Dog Bins: The clerk, Cllr Hancock and a representative from SDC had chosen three new positions for the dog bins. This whole issue had been very difficult and sensitive and it was noted that concerns still existed from some residents of Mill Street about the proposed new position. Following discussion, **it was resolved:** that this bin should be moved to the left of the stile in Mill Street in front of the Pumping Station fencing. The existing bin will be exchanged for a green one in order to blend more harmoniously with the surroundings.

iii Village Hall Notice Board

Cllr Grey thanked the Council for their order and confirmed that he would carry out the work as soon as possible. The clerk passed details of the underground Utility Services at this location to Cllr Grey for his information.

B Correspondence – none

C Members Items - none

07\125 ENVIRONMENT

A Arising from the Minutes

i Street Lighting

The clerk was instructed to remind WCC Streetlighting that the light in Hall Lane is in need of cleaning.

ii Village Improvements

The bus shelter will be cleaned on a monthly basis by a local firm of window cleaners.

iii Traffic Management

Cllr Lockley reported that WCC had instigated a new regime on the process of traffic calming which involved decisions being made by the Area Committees. It was confirmed that there were no proposals at present to alter the speed limit within the village to 20mph or to change Butt Lane to 30mph.

B Correspondence - none

C Members Items –none

07\126 FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES

A Arising from the Minutes

i Development of Website & Update of Office Equipment

Cllr Thornley has taken delivery of a new computer which has been provided from funding from the grant. Cllrs Lockley and Mancell and the clerk have had one meeting on the updating and development of the website and will meet again soon to further discuss this. The clerk has circulated some initial ideas to Cllrs Lockley and Mancell.

ii Parish Office

There is nothing further to report at present. The Council is currently awaiting further details from the Village Hall Management Committee on the level of rent etc that could be charged for the Fosse Room.

iii Risk Assessment

The clerk thanked members of the Properties W/P for their input to the risk assessment document currently being compiled. This had highlighted two areas in which action needed to be taken and, following on from this, the clerk has progressed the Cemetery Risk Assessment by placing an advert in the Harbury News aimed at contacting the relatives of potentially unstable headstones. The clerk will also contact the Group responsible for voluntarily maintaining the Christmas lights in order for them to fill in an updated risk assessment form.

iv Budget Monitoring

The clerk had produced details of the Council's income and expenditure up to the end of October and this had been circulated to all members. There were no areas of concern at present. It was agreed that the clerk would update this information for the January meeting of the Council

v Remembrance Sunday 11.11.07

It was resolved: that the donation to the Royal British Legion should be £75 to include provision of the wreath. The clerk will reserve a pew in the Church, members wishing to attend should meet at 10.00am in Church Street.

B Correspondence- none

C Members Items –none

07\127 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT As per Appendix B. Details available on request from the clerk.

07\128 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

i Resignation of Cllrs Ellis-Greenway and Biddle

Since the September meeting both Cllrs Ellis-Greenway and Biddle had resigned due to work pressures. It is hoped that the Council will be able to co-opt two new members at the November meeting.

07\129 ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA –none.

007\130 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 22nd November 2007 at 7.30pm in the Tom Hauley Rooms.

The meeting closed at 8.47pm.

Signed.....Date.....