

MINUTES OF
AN ORDINARY MEETING
OF
HARBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Held in the Village Hall, Harbury on Thursday 22 November 2007 Page 486

Present: Cllrs Lockley (Chairman), Mancell, Thompson, Grey, Winchester, Patrick

Apologies: Parish Cllrs Hancock & Thornley, District Cllr Barton and Mrs A Baldwin.

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

07/131 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION- The Chairman invited members of the public present to speak on any matter. Mr D Malin expressed disappointment that a report in the Harbury News had stated that the “fall back” position of WCC with regard to Harbury Station Bridge would be to install traffic lights. Two further complaints that residents wished to raise regarding the current temporary weight restriction are the issue of buses being unable to access Deppers over the bridge and the inadequate signs for the weight limit. Mr Malin suggested that the County could consider using smaller buses for this route as, even given the costs involved in this, it could prove cheaper than repairing the bridge or installing lights. Cllr Lockley pointed out that the Harbury News report is separate from the official minutes which can be obtained at any time from the clerk. Cllr Stevens said that he understood that the County is currently applying for an exemption for the bus service. Some commercial companies operate services on this route which would make changing the size of bus more complicated.

07/132 CO-OPTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

The Council resolved to exclude members of the Public for this item. It was noted that four applications had been received for the two vacancies. All applicants had provided letters in support of their application and these had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. Cllr Thompson queried whether a letter was sufficient information with which to judge the candidates and suggested that a small group of Cllrs be delegated to meet with the applicants and that the final decision be deferred until the January meeting. It was felt however, that this process had been applied to candidates in the past and that members would prefer to co-opt at this meeting in order to restore the Council membership to its full number as soon as possible. Following discussion, the Chairman requested a vote on the four applicants and **it was resolved:** that Alan Knowles and Alison Baldwin be co-opted as Parish Councillors. The clerk pointed out that, given that Mrs Baldwin was unable to be present at the meeting, the clerk will arrange to meet with her in order to sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

07/133 SIGNING OF DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

Members of the public were invited to rejoin the meeting and Cllr Lockley congratulated Mr Knowles on his co-option. Mr Knowles then signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

07/134 MINUTES - 25th October 2007

It was resolved that the minutes of the **Ordinary Meeting** of the Parish Council of 25th October 2007 having been circulated be taken as read and signed as a true record.

07/135 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 Thompson declared an interest in item 7vi, Village Hall, as he is a member of the Village Hall Management Committee.

Cllr Winchester declared an interest in item 7i as she is a member of the Governing Body.

Cllr Grey declared an interest in item 8 as he is a member of the Deppers Bridge Residents Group.

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

07/136 REPORTS FROM OTHER BODIES

- i Harbury School Governors (AW)
Cllr Winchester has attended a training session for School Governors. Governors have attended a meeting about the future of the swimming pool; there remains a number of unresolved issues regarding this. Mrs Edwards, a member of the teaching staff will be retiring at Christmas.
- ii Public Safety
Cllr Lockley reported that P C Hill had spoken to an offender re the issue of dog fouling. Cllr Patrick said that there were a number of doorstep scams in the neighbourhood at present and that residents should be aware of this.
- iii Smartwater (JP)
Cllr Patrick said that the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator will be putting an article in the December issue of the Harbury News to inform residents that no further Smartwater will be available after January.
- iv Southam College (SH)
The Clerk reported that Governors had met on the previous evening and had been given an interesting and informative presentation on the sixth form.
- v Twinning Association (SH)
Cllr Patrick reported that the Association had held its AGM and had attracted some new members to this.
- vi Village Hall (JP)
The Management Committee of the Hall had asked the advice of a local surveyor with regard to the renting of office space to the Council for a Parish Office. The surveyor had indicated that a commercial rent for the Fosse room was likely to be in the region of £2000 p.a.
- vii WALC/ NALC

The clerk informed members that WALC have organized a seminar “Making the Most of Your Role as Parish & Town Councillors” to be held on 2nd February (Saturday) at Atherstone Leisure Centre. The event is aimed primarily at Councillors with some experience who wish to learn more about Planning, Managing Projects, Communication, Engaging with Communities etc. Any Cllrs interested in attending this event should contact the clerk as soon as possible.

The Council had received a consultation paper from WCC on the setting up of 21 “Localities” in order to better deliver public services. Each Locality will be headed by “Locality Fora”, the representatives of which will be drawn from the County, District and Parish Councillors plus representatives from the Police and Health. Cllr Lockley pointed out that a particular concern would be that, although the Parish may be represented at this level, where the meeting is a Joint Committee only the County and District members will be entitled to vote. It was also noted that all local Parish Councils will be represented on the Fora by only 1 or 2 representatives and this may lead to some parishes being unrepresented in the process. The clerk will draft a response to the Consultation highlighting these concerns.

viii SDC & WCC Reports

District Cllr Patrick apologized for the lack of notice given for the recent “Councillor’s Surgery”. Despite this, the surgery had been well attended; matters of concern raised were lighting in Hall Lane, dog bins and parking in High Street. One matter of particular concern was that a female resident had recently used the Police “non-emergency” number to report a minor incident and had had to wait for more than an hour to receive an incident number. Because of this, Cllr Patrick advised all callers reporting an incident to the Police to use the 999 service at all times. Cllr Patrick also reported that the Master Plan for Bishop Bowl Lakes has now been formally accepted by the Area Committee. Cllr Lockley queried whether an updated version of the Plan, incorporating the comments of the various stakeholders had been produced; it was agreed that the clerk will check this with Mr Amoako at SDC.

County Cllr Stevens requested that the clerk call the Area Surveyor during the next week to ascertain which jetting work has now been carried out and which remains outstanding. The County is currently expecting to receive details of the budget settlement from the Government around the 5/6th December. It is expected that School funding will receive an increase of 4 -5% while Local Government will receive 1% only. The most serious event since the last meeting had been the fire at Atherstone in which 4 firefighters had lost their lives. A Memorial Service for those lost is planned for February and enquiries are ongoing to establish the cause of the fire. Finally, the Planning Application to extend Ufton Landfill Site has now been received by the County and this will be circulated to the relevant Parish Council very shortly.

07\137 DEPPERS BRIDGE

A. Matters Arising

i Harbury Station Bridge

Cllr Grey said that the main issues with regard to the weight restriction on the bridge had been covered under Public Participation. It is correct that there is inadequate signage particularly in Southam and Cllr Grey suggested that a sign as seen in Stow in the Wold, “Residents Watch the Bridge” may be appropriate and effective. Cllr Grey also reported that he had attempted to contact the Police

with regard to lorries using the bridge in contravention of the restriction but it had proved hard to make effective contact with them. Cllr Stevens commented that after the Councillor's Surgery in Harbury, councillors had moved to the Great Western in Deppers Bridge. This surgery had however not been well attended due to lack of advertising.

B Correspondence -none

C Members Items - none

07\138 PLANNING

A Decisions on Planning Applications

- i Permission Granted with conditions by SDC:
- 24 Farm Street:** Ground & two storey extension to rear and enlargement of existing dormer window to front of existing house.
- Westfields, Hall Lane:** Erection of conservatory to rear of property.
- Harbury Works, Bishops Itchington:** Two entrance signs at the entrance to Harbury Depot.
- 4 Fox Close:** Proposed single storey pitched roof rear and side extension (Amendment to Planning Consent 06/03632/FUL)
- West End Cottage, Mill Street:** Erection of two storey rear extension.
- ii East Area Planning Committee:
- Bishop Bowl Lakes, Bishops Itchington:** Variation of condition 6 of the planning permission 03/02132/FUL granted at appeal (APP/J3720/A/04/1137435) 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 - GRANTED
- iii Parish Council Made No Representation On The Following:
- Hazeton Cottage, 1 High Street:** Pitched porch roof over front door.
- 8 Chapel Street:** Demolition of existing stable block to rear of 8 Chapel Street with a separate planning application to rebuild to match existing size and style.
- 4 Fox Close:** Amendment to Planning Consent 06/03632/FUL.
- Stapenhall Farm, Deppers Bridge:** Construction of steel frame agricultural building.
- The Stonehouse, Mill Street:** Yew: crown reduce by 30% and remove deadwood.
- iv The PC Made Representations on the Following :
- 6 Dickens Road:** Demolish existing garage and erect single storey side and rear extensions: COMMENT: The PC recognizes that the applicant has gone some way to address the issues of parking and overdevelopment of the site. However the Council still has concerns that this remains an application for a five bedroom bungalow which will overshadow the original bungalow and be an overdevelopment of the building. There also remains some concern about parking as there is no garage and parking space for only two cars.
- Harbury C of E Combined School, Mill Street:** Additions & Alterations to existing staff room: COMMENT: The PC's only comment is that the disabled toilet should be clearly marked for "unisex" use. Further to this, the Council supports this application.

- v Permission Refused by SDC: nothing to report.
- vi Enforcement notices issued - none
- vii Appeals: -
 - Bishop Bowl Lakes, Bishops Itchington: Erection of single storey watersports building (amendment to approved 03/03734/REM) – Date pending, appeal to be heard by a Public Inquiry.
 - Bishop Bowl Lakes, Bishops Itchington: 21 lodges, associated car parking and highway junction improvements – Date pending, appeal to be heard by a Public Inquiry.

B Other Planning Matters

- i Bush Heath Lane

An e-mail had been received from Mr Barlow, the Rural Housing Enabler informing the Council that Paul Eccleshare has left the Warwickshire Rural Housing Association. Following this, progress on the site had been slow recently and is likely to continue to be so until a new appointment to this position has been made. There has been no date set as yet for the Public Consultation.
- ii Bishop Bowl Lakes – Appeals

The Council had been notified that Follett Property Holdings had lodged two appeals regarding the watersports building and the 21 fishing lodges. A date for the appeals had not yet been set but additional comments were required by the Planning Inspectorate by the 13th December. **It was resolved:** that there is scope to make additional comments on the correctness of lodging applications prior to the Masterplan being formally adopted and the clerk was asked to draft a comment to this effect for circulation.

C Correspondence -none

D Members Items - none.

07/139 PROPERTIES

A Arising from the Minutes

- i BMX Project

Cllr Thompson reported that there had been a further meeting between himself, Cllr Thornley, the design architect and the construction contractor. There had been a disappointing, in some ways, response from the young people concerned. However, following their input, some amendments had been made and Mr Bones will now redraw the plans.
- ii Playground Reports

Cllr Thompson reported that the work to repair the surfacing under the large swings had taken place and had been successfully carried out. The clerk has reported damage to the bin nearest to the Tennis court to SDC and will report an overgrown bush to the Village Maintenance Contractor.

Information Signs, Harbury and Deppers Bridge: The clerk had received two quotes for the information signs and these were found to be: Sign Depot: £197.00 plus VAT, Harris Signs: £85.00 inc. delivery plus VAT (also both quotations to include fittings). A verbal quotation had been received from AGD

Playgrounds for fitting the two new signs and one existing one at the Tennis Court – this was £50 approximately. The clerk had also asked the advice of the Playground Inspector on the wording of the sign and had been advised that the phrase suitable for children between the ages of “36 months to 12 years” should be used and that the postcode of the playground should also be included as this is helpful for anyone contacting the Emergency Services. **It was resolved:** that the quotations from Harris Signs and AGD Playgrounds be accepted with the amended wording as suggested.

iii Village Hall Car Park

Cllr Thompson had done some further research into the proposed new bollards at the entranceway to the playing fields from the car park and circulated some photographs of the same type in position in Southam. It was noted that the bollards are of the type that lift out rather than folding down. **It was resolved:** that the quotation from Parking Facilities Ltd for £470 for two bollards (to be painted white) and £275 for installation on site be accepted. It was also agreed that the Village Maintenance contractor will need a key in order to be able to get onto the field.

B Correspondence – none

C Members Items

i Harbury Pre-School

Cllr Stevens reported that a grant of £1400 had recently been agreed for Harbury Pre-School from WCC for toy and equipment storage.

07\140 ENVIRONMENT

A Arising from the Minutes

i Street Lighting

The light at the top of Chapel Street and the corner of Park Lane Terrace was reported to the clerk as being very dim due to the inner bulb being turned round in some way. There are also a number of yellow bulbs remaining on the Manor Orchard estate. The clerk will report both of these matters to WCC streetlighting. The clerk informed members that WCC proposed a large increase in maintenance costs for the year April 2008 – March 2009; these amounted to an increase of approximately 45% due to the necessity to run two men crews on all operational shifts. It was agreed that the clerk will research an alternative quotation to compare costs.

ii Village Improvements

The clerk has reported once again the sunken section of pavement in Hall Lane to Birse Rail.

iii Traffic Management – nothing to report.

iv Spring Bulbs

Efforts had been made by the clerk and Cllr Lockley to purchase some spring bulbs for planting by volunteers around the village. It had been agreed to use a native variety of daffodil but, unfortunately the supplier of this type was unable to deliver the bulbs until the first week of December and this was considered too late for satisfactory planting. It was agreed that this project would be continued next year, to be funded from the Vision 4 Southam grant.

B Correspondence - noneC Members Items –none**07\141 FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES**A Arising from the Minutes

- i Development of Website & Update of Office Equipment
Cllr Thornley's computer was now connected to the internet allowing her to access e-mail and this means that the Parish Council is completely "online". The clerk and Cllr Mancell had researched some further options for the development of the Parish website and had been impressed by the site set up by Bidford on Avon Town Council. The clerk will approach some web designers including those that designed this site for quotations.
- ii Parish Office
Cllrs Lockley, Mancell and the clerk will meet again in December to further discuss this issue.
- iii Risk Assessment
The article seeking to contact relatives in relation to potentially unsafe headstones had appeared in the November issue of the Harbury News and the clerk confirmed that it will appear again in December. It was suggested that a notice should also be put up in the Village Hall and in the Village Club.
- iv CCTV
Cllr Mancell emphasized to members that the Council needs to be clear on what it wishes to achieve from any potential CCTV cameras and Cllr Grey expressed doubts on whether the resolution of the images would be clear enough to achieve any desired objectives and also about who would be reviewing the footage as this is very time consuming. It was agreed that this should be delegated to the Properties W/P for further research.
- v Grants to Outside Bodies
Guidance had been received from the County Association stating that it is possible for Parish Councils to make a donation to the Warwickshire Firefighter's Fund under S137 as this appeal has been called by the leader of a Principle Authority. Following discussion, **it was resolved:** that a donation of £75 be made to the Firefighter's Fund, under S137.
Christmas Lights Group: Cllr Mancell queried whether the Christmas Lights Group would be seeking any additional funding this year for repairs to the existing lights. **It was resolved:** that the Group should be able to claim up to the figure of £200 excluding VAT for such repairs and renewals as are necessary.

B Correspondence

- i Election Costs 2008
Correspondence had been received from SDC giving the costs of contested and uncontested elections for 2008. It was noted that the costs are disproportionately high for Deppers Bridge particularly with regard to the cost of ballot papers which is actually higher than that estimated for Harbury. It was agreed that the Clerk will query these figures with SDC.

C Members Items

i Budget 2008/09

Cllr Mancell said that the Council needed to begin the annual process of setting the budget for next year. To this end, he requested that the clerk organize a meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Working Party in order to discuss the preliminary issues.

- **07\142 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT As per Appendix B –details available from the clerk.**

07\143 ANY OTHER BUSINESS – nothing to report.

07\144 ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA –none.

007\145 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 24th January 2008 at 7.30pm in the Farley Room, Village Hall

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

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

