

MINUTES OF
AN ORDINARY MEETING
OF
HARBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Held in the Village Hall, Harbury on Thursday 24 January 2008 Page 494

Present: Cllrs Lockley (Chairman), Mancell, Thompson, Grey, Patrick, Thornley, Hancock, Knowles & Baldwin.

Apologies: Parish Cllr Winchester & District Councillor Barton.

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

08/01 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION-

Four teenaged residents were present and asked when the proposed BMX Track is expected to be completed. Cllr Thornley explained that a lot of work still needs to be done and that the next stage would be for the Parish Council to apply for Planning Permission for the site. It is unlikely however that the Track will be completed for at least another 12 months. Cllr Thornley also reported that she had circulated leaflets to near residents and about five of those concerned had come to a recent Coffee Morning held in the Tom Hauley Rooms and had viewed the plans for the Track. One resident had expressed concerns about youths pushing through the hedge onto the adjoining footpath but other than this there had been no adverse comments. The boys suggested that they could help with fundraising possibly with a sponsored bike ride around the village and it was suggested that PC Hill could offer advice on this and should be kept informed. A further suggestion was that there is a good BMX Track in Redditch and Cllr Thornley offered to take any boys interested to have a look at this.

08/02 MINUTES - 22nd November 2007

The following items on the minutes were pointed out:

- 07/135: Cllr Patrick requested that it be added that she had declared an interest in the Village Hall as she is a member of the Management Committee.
- 07/136,viii: District Cllr Patrick asked for the words “reporting an incident” to be added to the sentence which refers to callers to the Police.

Subject to these amendments, **it was resolved** that the minutes of the **Ordinary Meeting** of the Parish Council of 22nd November 2007 having been circulated be taken as read and signed as a true record.

08/03 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 5v, Village Hall as she is a member of the Village Hall Management Committee.

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

Cllr Grey declared an interest in item 6 as he is a member of the Deppers Bridge Residents Group.

Cllr Patrick declared an interest in item 5v, Village Hall, as she is a member of the Village Hall Management Committee.

08/04 REPORTS FROM OTHER BODIES

- i Harbury School Governors (AW) – nothing to report.
- ii Public Safety
P C Hill reported the following incidents: there had been the theft of two cars, one from Percival Drive and one from the Bishop Bowl Lakes Area, there had been a small incident of vandalism at the former Post Office in Church Street. He also reported that Sgt Crust had returned to duties after a period of absence and that the new PCSO with responsibility for the M40 services has settled well into the role. This has enabled P C Hill to considerably reduce the time he spends at the Services allowing him to concentrate on issues within the villages.
- iii Southam College (SH)
Cllr Hancock reported that provisional figures for September 2008 showed that the College will once again be over-subscribed. The College had also been delighted recently to note that it's A Level results for 2007 had featured in a list of the "Top 50 Comprehensive Schools in England and Wales" compiled for the Independent Newspaper.
- iv Twinning Association (SH) - nothing to report.
- v Village Hall (JP)
The Hall has learned that it's application for Lottery Funding has been refused and is currently investigating other sources of grant funding. The New Year Dance had been successful and well attended.
- vi WALC/ NALC
The clerk informed members that the next meeting of the WALC Area Committee will take place on 20th February at Bishops Itchington Memorial Hall. The guest speaker will be Robert Weeks, Head of Environment, SDC, speaking on the new arrangement for Waste Collection within the Stratford District. Cllr Thornley will attend this meeting on behalf of the Parish Council. The Clerk had circulated a schedule of forthcoming Training Events to all members and it was agreed that she and Cllrs Thornley and Grey will attend the WALC Seminar to be held on the 8th March. Cllr Thornley reported that she had attended the WALC AGM.
- vii SDC & WCC Reports
SDC: District Cllr Patrick reported on the following:
 - A resident of Sutcliffe Drive had complained regarding an increase in the administration charge made by SDC for grants for home conversions for disabled people. The charge had been increased from 3% to 12%. Cllr Patrick had attended a meeting held in order to attempt to reverse this decision but unfortunately this had been unsuccessful.
 - The Leamington Courier had printed a misleading article regarding the Bishop Bowl Lakes site which implied that adoption of the Masterplan had granted the owners a number of new permissions. This is not the case and, following a complaint from Cllr Patrick, the newspaper had printed an

apology. Cllr Patrick had also put an article in the Harbury News regarding this.

- At the last Councillor's Surgery, the issue of parking in High Street with particular regard to employees of the various businesses there had been raised. Some workers who regularly need to park there have now agreed to park in the Wight School car park.
- The next Councillor's Surgery in Harbury will be in March, date to be advised nearer the time.

WCC: County Cllr Stevens reported on the following:

- John Deegan has resigned as Head of Economic & Environment, a temporary appointment is in place with the new permanent Head expected to take up the role in April.
- Cllr Stevens has raised objections to the proposed extension plans to Ufton Tip. WCC has received a large number of objections including one from John Maples MP. A decision has not yet been made on the application.
- Buses for Deppers Bridge were now picking up and dropping off from the Great Western in order to avoid the weight limit on the bridge. Cllr Stevens said that the weight limit had been in place long enough now to start to evaluate its effects.
- In the context of a number of proposed developments within the County including proposals to turn the former Peugeot Plant into a distribution centre and plans by Cemex to commence operations close to Long Itchington, Cllr Stevens had attended a Highways meeting regarding HGV movements and had pressed for all future planning applications to be considered by Highways in the context of other developments happening in the area rather than in isolation.
- WCC is currently consulting on the Speed Limit Review for A & B roads only. It is proposed that some roads around Harbury including the Ufton Road and Station Road have their speed limits reduced to 50mph.
- Cllr Stevens had been successful in getting the County to agree to a feasibility study for traffic calming for Harbury – this will be paid for by the County.
- An application for a “waste sorting unit” at Island Farm on the Fosse Way had been received by the County; Harbury has been consulted on this.
- A recent “masterplan” submitted by the owners of the Dallas Burston polo grounds outside Southam had been returned by the County for the inclusion of more detail.
- The Stratford Area Committee had made a number of “Community Grants” available including grants for painting street furniture and litter picking, Eco-Awareness Days and Village Welcome Packs.
- A “One- Stop shop is planned for Southam Library which will include access to all County and District facilities and will be open 6 and a half days per week.
- It is expected that the WCC budget for the forthcoming financial year will involve an increase in Council Tax of no more than 5%.

08\05 DEPPERS BRIDGE

A. Matters Arising

i Harbury Station Bridge

Cllr Grey reported that the weight limit on the bridge seems to be largely observed by vehicles using the route.

B Correspondence -none**C Members Items - none****08\06 PLANNING****A Decisions on Planning Applications**

- i Permission Granted with conditions by SDC:
- Harbury C of E Combined School, Mill Street:** Additions and alterations to existing staff room.
- Hazeton Cottage, 1 High Street:** Pitched porch over front door.
- The Stonehouse, 2 Mill Street:** Yew – crown reduce by 30% and remove deadwood.
- 6 Dickens Road:** Demolish existing garage and erect single storey side and rear extension.
- 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 shape.
- 6 Constance Drive:** Single storey side extension.
- 36 Binswood End:** Addition of chimney stack. New window and opening.
- ii East Area Planning Committee:
- Harbury Croft, Chesterton Road:** Replacement Dwelling: GRANTED
- iii Parish Council Made No Representation On The Following:
- 36 Binswood End:** Addition of chimney stack. New window and opening.
- 6 Constance Drive:** Single storey side extension to form garage and kitchen/diner.
- Great Western Hotel, Deppers Bridge:** Retrospective application for smoking shelter.
- The Bungalow, Mill Street:** Erection of detached double garage.
- 19 Manor Road:** Single storey rear extension.
- iv The PC Made Representations on the Following :
- Crown Inn, Crown Street: Installation of 2 no. brass lanterns and 2 no. brass menu cases to the front elevation of the public house:** The Parish Council has no objection to this application but it would prefer that applications are not made on a retrospective basis.
- Biffa Waste Services, Extension to Ufton Landfill Site & Provision of MRF Facility.**
- With regard to the above application, Harbury Parish Council would like to make the following representation:-
- 1) The applicants should demonstrate a need for a recycling facility and extended landfill site from within Warwickshire. A new Recycling Facility has recently opened near Ettington which is capable of dealing with a large proportion if not all of Warwickshire's recycling needs. The Parish Council would be strongly opposed to the use of the Ufton site for processing waste from outside Warwickshire as this is not defensible on environmental grounds and will be to the detriment of Warwickshire residents living within a 10 mile radius of the site.
 - 2) The Parish Council welcomes the removal of route D from the application as residents have expressed serious concerns regarding the noise and speed of lorries travelling on this route along Butt Lane. The Council continues to have

concerns however regarding route C where it skirts the village at the bend at the top of Station Road. This is a “blind” bend and there have been a number of minor accidents at this junction in the recent past. There is also a concern that lorries following route C will be tempted to continue along Butt Lane towards the Fosse or Bishops Itchington as previously and the Council would like the applicants to demonstrate that the necessary information will be in place for drivers visiting the site to prevent this from happening. There are concerns at the junction with Harbury Lane and the Fosse (B4455) as not all the accidents have incurred police presence and consequently do not appear in National Statistics – it is however a well known accident blackspot. The junction of the A425 and the B4452 is not very wide and the Council would anticipate that Highways would ensure appropriate configuration of this junction as part of this application.

- 3) The Council would like to see noise levels carefully monitored by the relevant authorities to keep within the levels predicted. The site is very close to the Ufton Nature Reserve which is a designated SSSI and there are two others close by. The Council would wish to question whether sufficient consideration has been given to the impact of noise levels on local wildlife. It should be noted that the proposed development will be closer to the Ufton Reserve than the current landfill site.
- 4) Lorry movements at weekends and Bank Holidays should be limited or prohibited. Lorry movements before 8.00am and after 5.30pm should be also be prohibited.
- 5) In order to minimise the visual impact and to reduce noise from the site we would anticipate careful screening proposals to be agreed with the County Council and Biffa prior to work commencing. The Council is not of the opinion that simply allowing hedges to grow up will be sufficient and would suggest that the possibility of a bund with planting of fast growing materials on top should be considered.
- 6) Consultation with local communities has been patchy; Harbury and Ufton have had local exhibitions whilst Bishops Itchington and Southam are still awaiting similar events. A proposed leaflet drop in Harbury to inform residents of the proposals has also been patchy with a large number of households not being included or omitted from this. Whilst appreciating that this may not be the direct fault of the applicants, all efforts should be taken to consult with local communities prior to such a large development going ahead.

Stapenhall Farm, Deppers Bridge: Steel framed and timber clad building for vehicle storage: COMMENT: The Council would wish that the proposed building be limited to domestic use only.

- v Permission Refused by SDC: nothing to report.
- vi Enforcement notices issued - none
- vii Appeals: -nothing to report.
- viii Tree Preservation Order: none

B Other Planning Matters

- i Bush Heath Lane

Warwickshire Rural Housing Association has now been successful in making a new appointment to fill the vacancy left by Paul Eccleshare. It is hoped that this will enable the plans for the Bush Heath Lane site to be progressed further.

ii Ufton Landfill Site

It was noted that the Council had made a representation to the planning application at the site and that this was included in Appendix A. Cllrs Thornley and Thompson had attended site visits to two recycling plants owned by Biffa. The clerk circulated some photos and a brief report on these. Both had been very well run operations with the site at Etwall in Derbyshire being most similar to that proposed for Ufton. Cllr Thornley commented however that Biffa must satisfy the question of whether there is a need from within Warwickshire for this site.

C Correspondence

i Adoption of Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document

Members were advised of the adoption of this document by Warwick District Council.

ii The Bungalow, Mill Street

A copy of the representation made by a resident regarding the proposed detached garage at this residence had been received. This has been copied to members of the Planning W/P for information.

D Members Items

i Bishop Bowl Lakes

Cllr Lockley reported that, following the article in the Courier regarding the adoption of the Masterplan he had been contacted by a resident in Percival Drive concerned about jet skiing at the lakes and had clarified the position regarding planning applications relating to this property.

ii Highways Consultation on Planning Applications

Further to Cllr Stevens comments on an increase in HGV traffic and the need for the Planning Authority to see each application in context, Cllr Thornley commented that this was a matter of concern to all local Parish Councils and was there the opportunity for Harbury to be proactive in starting an interface between parishes on this. Whilst it was agreed that this would be useful, it was suggested that WALC is best placed to perform this function.

08/07 PROPERTIES

A Arising from the Minutes

i BMX Project

Members had been informed on progress on this item under Public Participation. It was agreed that the clerk would contact the architect and request that he put in a formal planning application for the track.

ii Playground Reports

Cllrs Hancock and Thompson had reviewed the latest play inspection reports from Coventry CC and SDC and requested that the clerk organize the following work to be done:

- Bark pits to be raked thoroughly
- Wooden barrier on side pit of small slide – to be repaired

- Grass/moss spreading onto surfaces within the play area – arrange for removal
- Molehills – to be flattened
- Redundant chain and two old signs to be removed from the entrance to the playing fields from the car park.
- Slats to be repaired on two concrete seats.
- Low ground around the cradle swings in Deppers play area – review.

Cllr Grey reported that there was an unserviceable car currently parked in the entranceway to the playing field at Deppers. He knows the owner and will ask what is happening about this.

iii Village Hall Car Park

The new bollards have been fitted to the entrance to the playing fields.

iv CCTV

Following further discussion, the recommendation of the Properties W/P is that the installation of CCTV cameras would not be the right solution to problems of occasional nuisance on the field. **It was resolved:** that this item be DELETED.

v Grass Mowing – Playing Fields

A quotation had been received from the current contractor for the 2008 season. This was found to be £44 per cut based on approximately 22 cuts, an increase of £1 per cut. **It was resolved:** that this quotation be accepted.

B Correspondence – none.

C Members Items

i Harbury Carnival 2008

Cllr Patrick reported that Cllr Winchester had attended a meeting of the Carnival Committee and that the Carnival organizers were keen to work with the Parish Council to prevent a repeat of disturbances on the field following the event last year. It was agreed that the clerk would write to Southam Police requesting an increased police presence and, in particular, for a Community Support Officer to be on site in the late afternoon.

08\08 ENVIRONMENT

A Arising from the Minutes

i Street Lighting

The clerk had researched an alternative quotation for street lighting maintenance from ABB. Although this was marginally cheaper overall at £2560.72 it was noted that ABB were significantly more expensive with regard to the newer CDO lights. As the Council has received advice that it may need to move over to more of this type of light in future due to concerns about the use of mercury in the Sodium lamps, it was felt that WCC may offer better value for money in the long term. **It was resolved:** to accept the quotation from WCC for 2008/09 for £2691.45. The clerk was requested to ask a representative of WCC Street Lighting to attend a meeting of the Environment W/P in future to explain the future options on lights.

ii Village Improvements

It had been suggested that the Council consider replacing the dead oak tree which originally was one of a pair opposite Station Road Farm. It was agreed that the clerk would ask Colin Sheasby's advice regarding this.

iii Traffic Management

Cllr Lockley welcomed the news that WCC will now pay for a feasibility study for the village.

B Correspondence

i WCC Speed Limit Review Consultation.

It was noted that the Consultation included A & B roads only and does not include any village roads. The roads proposed around Harbury to be reduced to a 50mph limit from 60mph were found to be the A425, Southam Road, Ufton, B4451, Deppers Bridge, Station Road, B4452 Ufton Road. Following discussion, it was agreed that members generally welcomed the proposals and it was agreed that a proposal should be included in the response to WCC to extend the 30mph limit through Deppers Bridge as far as the Great Western to reduce the number of different speed zones within a short space of time.

C Members Items

i Sunken Pavement – Hall Lane

The clerk has contacted Birse Rail on a number of occasions to report damage to this pavement by Birse during works carried out on the railway line. It was agreed that the contact details would be passed to Cllr Lockley to further.

ii Highways

The following Highways matters were reported to the clerk for forwarding to the Area Surveyor:

- The kerb outside Tryce's farm in Mill Street has become cracked and is a danger to pedestrians
- There are a number of sinking gullies in Deppers Bridge and also in Station Road
- There is a raised drain in Farm Street just before the turning for Manor Orchard.

08\09 FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSESA Arising from the Minutes

i Budget Monitoring & Precept 2008/09

The Clerk had circulated the Budget Forecast spreadsheet and report of the Finance & General Purposes W/P to all members. It was the recommendation of F&GP that the Council request a precept rise of 2.5% in order to meet its budgetary requirements for the following year. Following discussion, **it was resolved:** that the precept be £58667.00 for the financial year 2008/09.

ii Development of Website & Update of Office Equipment

The clerk informed member about progress regarding the proposed redeveloped website. It is hoped that the website will be better designed and able to include more information both about the Parish Council and local groups and organizations. It is also hoped to include "Member Profiles" of the Parish Council after the May elections. A limited number of groups have been offered

a page within the website and others will be able to have a link to their own sites. A quotation had been received from Arrowscape, the web designer for Bidford on Avon Parish Council and the clerk explained that the reason for using this designer was because of his experience in designing the Bidford site and others for Councils and Schools. **It was resolved:** that the quotation for £500 for construction and £30 for updates (fixed for 6 months) should be accepted. The Council will pay for 12 months of updates in advance.

- iii Parish Office – nothing to report at present.
- iv Risk Assessment
There is nothing further to report at present. F&GP Working Party is still to complete its section of the assessment.
- v Grants to Outside Bodies – nothing to report.

B Correspondence

C Members Items

- i Quarterly Report
Cllr Lockley has written the report and will forward it for inclusion on the Harbury News
- ii Clerk's Report
Cllr Mancell said that he had found the new "Clerk's Report" very useful. The District and County Cllrs asked for a copy of this to be included with future Agendas.

08\010 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

As per Appendix B – copies available on request from the clerk. Proposed by Cllr Hancock and seconded by Cllr Knowles.

08\011 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- i Clerk's Appraisal
It was noted that the Clerk had recently undergone a successful Appraisal.
- ii Policing of M40 Services
District Cllr Patrick suggested that the Council send a letter of thanks to the M40 Services as they have part-financed the CSO currently working there. This was agreed.

08\012 ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA –none.

08\013 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 28th February 2008 at 7.30pm in the Farley Room, Village Hall

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

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