

MINUTES OF
AN ORDINARY MEETING
OF
HARBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Held in the Village Hall, Harbury on Thursday 28 February 2008 Page 504

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

Apologies: Parish Cllr Thompson

In Attendance: Mrs N Thompson (Clerk to the Council), District Cllr Patrick, County Cllr Stevens, District Cllr Barton, Sgt M Crust, PCSO K Pedlar, Mrs L Ridgley (Harbury News).

08/014 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION- There were no members of the public wishing to speak.

08/015 MINUTES - 24th January 2008

It was pointed out that the Header date for the meeting should be 24th January 2008. Subject to this amendment, **it was resolved** that the minutes of the **Ordinary Meeting** of the Parish Council of 24th January 2008 having been circulated be taken as read and signed as a true record.

08/016 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 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.

Cllr Winchester declared an interest in item 5i, Harbury School as she is a member of the Governing Body.

08/017 REPORTS FROM OTHER BODIES

i Harbury School Governors (AW)

The School's Deputy Head has formally indicated that he will be retiring from July 2008 and, following this, the Governing Body is undertaking a review of the management roles within the School. The School is currently raising money during Lent for charity, some of which will be given to a local resident undertaking a sponsored cycle event. Plans for the upgraded swimming pool will shortly be submitted for Planning Permission.

ii Public Safety

Sgt Crust reported that liaison with the Youth Drop-In facility was ongoing and that some action in the form of Stop and Search Forms had been issued to a few local youths. The next PACT panel meeting will be held on 16th April at Southam College and Sgt Crust urged members of the Council to attend and to publicize this event to the wider community. The clerk agreed to put a short

article in the Harbury News in April about PACT. It was noted that the Council had contacted Southam Police in advance of Harbury Carnival and, within the constraints of manpower levels, Sgt Crust agreed that there would be an increased presence on the day.

Sgt Crust and PCSO Pedlar left the meeting.

iii Southam College (SH)

Cllr Stevens reported that the initial indications were that the recent OFSTED report findings were very good and that, notably there had been significant improvements made in sixth form provision. The College had recently appointed a new Head of Faculty for Science, ICT and Technology.

iv Twinning Association (SH)

The Association was approaching the 10th anniversary visit to Samoia which will take place in May. In advance of this, District Cllr Patrick will be offering some “brush-up” sessions in conversational French.

v Village Hall (JP)

Cllr Thornley reported that, following the rejection of the Hall’s application to the Big Lottery Fund, the Hall needed to break the project down into smaller phases and was now close to applying for planning permission on the first phase of this development. It was noted that some sections of fencing around the Hall were broken and in need of repair: the Hall’s Management Committee also had a proposal to pave and install a bollard in the gap section which leads to the playing fields. The clerk had researched the responsibility for the hedge and fence and had found documents which indicate that the Village Hall paid for both the hedge and the fence to be installed and that it was the original intention of the Parish Council and the Village Hall that the Hall should have responsibility for maintaining the fences. It should be noted however that the fence is not mentioned specifically in the eventual signed Exchange of Land Agreement. Cllr Lockley proposed that, although the Council may not be directly responsible for the fence, it should support the Village Hall which may involve some financial support for the repair of the fencing, the paving and the bollard. **It was resolved:** that the clerk liaise with Mr Thorpe of the Village Hall Management Committee in order to get some quotations for this work. It was noted that quotations must be seen and agreed by the Council before it can approve any grant funding.

vi WALC/ NALC

The Clerk and Cllrs Thornley, Knowles and Grey will attend the WALC Seminar to be held on 8th March.

vii SDC & WCC Reports

SDC: District Cllr Patrick reported that he had attended a very good presentation on the future of waste collection at the WALC Area Committee. A “Day of Action” had been held on the forthcoming proposals to close a large number of village Post Offices although it is hoped that neither Harbury nor Bishops Itchington will be included in this. The next “Councillors Surgery” will take place outside the Post Office and General Store on Saturday 5th April. SDC has now agreed its budget for the forthcoming financial year and had decided to remove Arts Funding completely. Warwickshire Police have asked for a large

increase of 14%. A date has now been set (3.6.08) for the Appeals into two Bishop Bowl Lakes Planning Applications. Cllr Lockley queried whether the new Government Housing Targets would be an issue regarding the Bishop Bowl site but it is thought that, as the Masterplan has specified that all housing on the site can only be for the needs of Bishops Itchington, this will not be the case. District Cllr Barton reported on a continuing dialogue between SDC and the owners of the Bishop Bowl site and on the possibility of an Eco-Town at Long Marston. With regard to the new proposals for the collection of waste, there are provisions in place to help residents who are elderly, disabled or have limited space to accommodate the three proposed bins.

WCC: County Cllr Stevens echoed Cllr Patrick's comments on the increase in required Police funding; the County also needed to put extra money Adult Services due to an increasingly ageing population. Progress on the Speed Review is continuing.

08\018 DEPPERS BRIDGE

A. Matters Arising

i Harbury Station Bridge

The Bridewatch monitoring figures compiled by the Deppers Bridge Residents' Association have been circulated to all Councillors. The ongoing problems with access for buses has been solved temporarily although residents will be pressing for their own solution to this to be taken into account. Cllr Stevens pointed out that the three permanent options for the bridge remain as a footbridge, traffic lights and a weight limit.

B Correspondence -none

C Members Items

i Footpath

Cllr Grey said that he had forwarded to the clerk a letter from County Highways to himself and dated 2nd June 2005 which promised to clear turf from the edges of the footway stretching from Deppers Bridge to the Great Western. To date, however, this work has not been carried out and the Clerk was requested to point this out to the Area Surveyor as a matter of urgency.

08\019 PLANNING

A Decisions on Planning Applications

i Permission Granted with conditions by SDC:

The Bungalow, Mill Street: Erection of detached double garage.

19 Manor Road: Single storey rear extension.

Great Western Hotel, Deppers Bridge: Retrospective application for smoking shelter.

ii East Area Planning Committee: nothing to report.

iii Parish Council Made No Representation On The Following:

Harbury Works, Bishops Itchington: T1 –T5 willow: re-coppice, G1 groups of mixed broadleaves: prune back to boundary fence line.

iv The PC Made Representations on the Following :

Island Farm, Ufton: Change of use from redundant agricultural storage building to waste transfer unit.

Further to your letter dated 21st January 2008 inviting comments on the above application, Harbury Parish Council would like to OBJECT to the application on the following grounds:

- The Council has serious concerns regarding the quantity of traffic that this application may generate, the effect on local, already busy roads, most notably the A425 and on local communities. Looking at the application purely from the standpoint of Harbury Parish there are concerns that lorries may travel along the A425 and then turn along the Ufton Road into Harbury. However it should be emphasized that this and other similar applications should be seen from the viewpoint of all local communities who will be affected and also from a broader environmental viewpoint. The applicant estimates that the business will generate approximately 30 lorries per day as a starting point but, once permission is granted, this could easily increase and further applications could expand the site.
- The Parish Council would wish to see all applications which have a significant effect on Highways be the subject of a Highways consultation. This should take into account anticipated and existing Highways usage of the affected roads as a whole (as opposed to considering applications in isolation) in order to mitigate the continual building up of heavy traffic and most particularly HGVs on local roads. There should be particular concern where HGVs are travelling close to villages.
- The location of the application should be questioned as the Development Plan recommends directing such proposed developments away from rural areas towards urban centres. Farms are not identified by the plan for conversion for this type of usage. It would seem that one of the main advantages of this site is its relative proximity to Ufton Landfill but this advantage should be questioned as the long term future of the Landfill site has not been conclusively settled at the present time.

v Permission Refused by SDC: nothing to report.

vi Enforcement notices issued - none

vii Appeals: -

Application references 07/00018/FUL & 07/00016/FUL: Follett Property Holdings, Bishop Bowl Lakes, Bishops Itchington. These two appeals will be heard by way of a Local Inquiry to be held on 3rd June 2008, Stratford District Council Offices commencing at 9.45am.

viii Tree Preservation Order: none

B Other Planning Matters

i Bush Heath Lane

It had been hoped to have a short presentation on the progress made on this development at the February meeting however this had been postponed to due staff holiday at the Warwickshire Rural Housing Association. The presentation will now take place at the March Meeting.

ii Ufton Landfill Site

Correspondence had now been received from WCC stating that the decision on the current planning application has been put back to the 1st April meeting of the Regulatory Committee. If any Cllrs would like to attend this meeting would

they please contact the Clerk in order to arrange this. County Cllr Stevens commented briefly on the decision taken by WCC to award a large contract to the extended site. He said that it had been clearly understood that this was subject to planning and that the two committees were completely separate from each other. Cllrs Patrick and Thornley will attend the Ufton Landfill Site Liaison Meeting to be held on 6th March at Ufton Village Hall.

iii Bishop Bowl Lakes – Appeals

The Clerk pointed out for member's attention that the date for the two Appeals on Bishop Bowl Lakes has now been set as the 3rd June. If a Councillor would like to attend this Appeal, could they please contact the Clerk.

C Correspondence

i Planning Application Validation Checklist Consultation

Correspondence had been received from SDC regarding a consultation on new Planning Application Checklists. From the 6th April all applications will be subject to a standardized national form and will also be compared to both national and local requirement checklists. The checklist will set the information and supporting documentation which is required to be supplied in order for the application to be validated. Details of the consultation and the proposed scheme had been forward to members of the Planning Working Party.

D Members Items - none

08/020 PROPERTIES

A Arising from the Minutes

i BMX Project

It was noted that Mr Bones has now submitted the Planning Application for the proposed track.

ii Playground Reports

The Clerk had circulated quotations for the outstanding work requested at the January meeting of the Council to the members of the Properties W/P. It was noted that the clerk had also requested an alternative quotation but that, despite reminders, this has not been received. The quotations from AGD Playground Contractors were found to be: £509.06 for renovation of the two benches in the children's play area, £18 for flattening mole hills and minor tree work, £18 for removal of chains and small signs from existing posts, £25 for repair of the wooden barrier surrounding the slide and £170 for bi-annual maintenance of the barrier system to include fitting a new all-weather purpose lock. **It was resolved:** that these quotations be agreed. The Clerk was also in receipt of the Coventry CC playground reports for January and these were read out to the meeting. All matters were found to be in hand.

B Correspondence – none.

C Members Items

i Notice Board – South Parade

The Chairman thanked Cllr Grey for his hard work on installing the new notice board to the front of the Village Hall.

ii Playing Fields Turf

It was noted that a large square of turf has been removed from the playing fields near to the skateboard park and the clerk was requested to point this out to the village maintenance contractor.

iii Dog Bins

Cllr Hancock commented that, on a recent holiday in Switzerland, she had noticed that all dog bins also included a supply of plastic bags and this should be considered by the Council if it decides to install new bins in the future.

08\021 ENVIRONMENT

A Arising from the Minutes

i Street Lighting

The Clerk was asked to request that Kevin Fennell from WCC Streetlighting attend the next meeting of the Environment W/P to be held on the 14th March in order to demonstrate the various streetlighting options.

ii Village Improvements

The clerk has contacted Colin Sheasby with regard to the oak trees planted at the entrance to the village in Station Road. Mr Sheasby had visited the site and found one of the trees in question, the other having died. The clerk was requested to follow this up with a view to getting a recommendation on a new tree to be planted.

iii Traffic Management

Cllr Lockley queried when the Village Traffic Management Survey will be carried out. Cllr Stevens confirmed that it will be in the new financial year commencing in April.

B Correspondence - none

C Members Items

i Ivy Lane

It was reported that some vehicles were turning the wrong way into Ivy Lane and the Clerk was requested to ask if the One Way sign could be better positioned in order to prevent this.

ii Speed Limit Sign – Butt Lane

District Cllr Patrick queried if the Council had ever requested that the speed limit sign in Butt Lane be repositioned. It was confirmed that this had happened in the past but that the Council had been informed that the sign could only be moved following a recommendation by the Police.

08\022 FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES

A Arising from the Minutes

i Development of Website & Update of Office Equipment

The Clerk reported that the website is nearing completion. It is hoped that the new site will be live by mid-March and will offer a more comprehensive information service to the village both on Parish Council events and other items of interest. A quotation had been received from SDC for providing a “Planning Feed Page”. This will allow the website to be linked to planning applications on the SDC site with specific reference to Harbury. **It was resolved:** that the quotation should be accepted, cost £265 + VAT.

- ii Parish Office – nothing to report at present.
- iii Risk Assessment
Cllr Mancell has e-mailed some input to the Assessment on behalf of the F&GP Working Party. The Clerk will now review the Assessment before it is completed.
- iv Grants to Outside Bodies
Correspondence had been received from the Women's Royal Voluntary Service requesting that the Council consider making a donation. It was noted that the request came from the national office of the organization and it was not clear if any funds granted would be received by the Harbury branch which carries out a lot of good work locally. Under the terms of S137, the Council should also only grant fund those organizations which have a directly beneficial impact on the local community. Cllr Thornley will speak to the local branch organizer in order to check this.
- v Audit 2008
Correspondence had been received from the Audit Commission which proposes to appoint Clement Keys as the External Auditor to the Council for a further five year period commencing with the 2007/08 accounts. **It was resolved:** that this should be accepted.
- vi Review of Clerk's Hours
The Council resolved: to discuss this item at the end of the meeting with the press and public excluded.

B Correspondence

C Members Items

08\023 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – As per Appendix B – details available on request from the Clerk.

08\024 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- i Election 1.5.08
Councillor's attention was drawn to the forthcoming election which will be held on the 1st May. The clerk will distribute nomination forms to those Councillors who have asked to receive one. All existing Councillors had also received an invitation from the Harbury News to write a short article for the April edition.
- ii Village Hall AGM
Cllr Thornley pointed out that the AGM of the Village Hall Management Committee will be held on 7th April.

08\025 ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA –none.

08\026 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 27th March 2008 at 7.30pm in the Farley Room, Village Hall

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Members of the public and the clerk withdrew from the meeting whilst the Council considered an item relating to the Clerk's Contract of Employment.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

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