

MINUTES OF
AN ORDINARY MEETING
OF
HARBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Held in the Village Hall, Harbury on Thursday 26 June 2008 Page 534

Present: Cllrs Lockley (Chairman), Thompson, Grey, Patrick, Thornley, Hancock & Darlison.

In Attendance: Mrs N Thompson (Clerk to the Council), District Cllr Patrick, District Cllr Mann, P C Hill, Mrs L Ridgley (Harbury News) and Mr & Mrs Watts

08/078 APOLOGIES: Parish Cllrs Mancell, Baldwin and Knowles, County Cllr Stevens.

08/079 DECLARATION OF INTEREST ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

The following interests were declared by members:-

Cllr Thornley declared interests in item 6i, Harbury School as she is a member of the Governing Body, and in item 6v, Village Hall as she is a member of the Village Hall Management Committee.

Cllr Grey declared an interest in item 7 as he is a member of the Deppers Bridge Residents' Group.

Cllr Patrick declared an interest in item 6v, Village Hall, as she is a member of the Village Hall Management Committee.

Cllr Thompson declared an interest in item 6v, Village Hall as he is a member of the Management Committee and item 9iii as he is a member of the Harbury Tennis Club.

Cllr Lockley declared an interest in item 9iii as he is a member of the Tennis Club.

08/080 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chairman invited Mrs Watts to speak regarding a proposed planning application for Unit 1, Bull Ring Business Centre. Mrs Watts explained that she was the proprietor of "The Fragrance Room" and wished to relocate her business to Harbury. This would involve a change of use application for the Bull Ring. Mrs Watts circulated photographs of her suggested signage for the unit and also explained that she had made arrangements for visiting customers to use the Church parking to the rear of the Wight School. There were no comments from members of the Council on this application.

08/081 MINUTES - 15th May 2008

It was resolved that the minutes of the **Ordinary Meeting** of the Parish Council of 15th May 2008 having been circulated be taken as read and signed as a true record.

08/082 REPORTS FROM OTHER BODIES

- i Harbury School Governors (AW)

Cllr Thornley reported that the School had recently been very successful in competing in a Junior Tag Rugby tournament and that the staff room was currently undergoing extension and improvement work.

ii Public Safety

P C Hill reported that, following recent media coverage of “tombstoning” at Bishop Bowl lakes, he and colleagues have visited the site and taken the names and addresses of 9 young people who were there, none of whom were local. The landowner has also agreed to take receipt of details of people found trespassing on the site. It was noted that both the Police and the Council were pleased with the efforts made to keep the peace on the playing fields after the Carnival. The Police had been in attendance and had managed to clear the fields by 9.00pm; there had also been notably less litter than the previous year. Generally in the village, there had been two burglaries recently and a number of scrap metal thefts in the surrounding area.

iii Southam College (SH) – nothing to report.

iv Twinning Association (SH)

The Group will be holding a Bastille celebration on the 14th July.

v Village Hall (JP)

A final plan of the proposed extension to the Hall had been displayed in the Hall on Carnival Day.

vi WALC/ NALC

Cllrs Thompson and Thornley had attended the Southam Area Meeting which had featured Clare Enyon, Enforcement Officer for Stratford District Council. The meeting had also featured discussion of the power of “well being” which is proposed to come into force for those Councils holding Quality Status. The next meeting will be held in early September in Long Itchington.

vii SDC & WCC Reports

SDC: Cllr Mann reported that, due to delays with the proposed In-Vessel Composting Site (proposed for Ufton Landfill), the District Council will collect garden waste until September and will then suspend collections during the Winter. Cllr Darlison reported that he had had a number of problems with refuse being collected from his property and requested that the District Cllrs look into this.

08\083 DEPPERS BRIDGE

A. Matters Arising

i Harbury Station Bridge

It was noted that the consultation had proposed three options for the bridge of which, option A, the imposition of a permanent weight limit, was the one preferred by the majority of residents of Deppers Bridge and was also the cheapest. Cllr Hancock raised concerns about the loss of a bus service to Deppers due to the weight limit and it was recognized that, whilst this continues to be a problem, it may be possible to resolve this in the future with the introduction of 6T vehicles. **It was resolved:** that the Council’s response to the County should support the imposition of the weight limit as the preferred option.

Cllr Lockley thanked Cllr Grey and the other Deppers Bridge residents for their hard work in helping to bring this matter to a conclusion.

B Correspondence -none

C Members Items

- i Bin – Deppers Bridge Playing Fields
Cllr Grey said that he had emptied the bin at the playing fields himself after complaints that it had not been emptied for some time. The Clerk will remind SDC that this is their responsibility.

08\084 PLANNING

A Decisions on Planning Applications

- i Permission Granted with conditions by SDC:
 - Cranford, Chesterton Road:** Erection of a timber summerhouse 10’ wide x 8’ deep and 2’ veranda to the front of the property.
 - 10 Constance Drive:** Extensions to side and rear.
 - Harbury Library, High Street:** T1, Sycamore: fell.
- ii East Area Planning Committee: nothing to report.
- iii Parish Council Made No Representation On The Following:
 - West End Cottage, Mill Street:** Construction of conservatory at rear of property.
- iv The PC Made Representations on the Following :
 - Normandie House, 9 Pirie Close:** T1 sycamore: fell: OBJECT: The sycamore in question contains a cavity at its base and a slight sweep in its trunk before it straightens. Having taken the advice of a qualified arboriculturist, the Council has been advised that the cavity is the result of a wound received during hedgerow maintenance at some point in the past. The cavity itself is dry and contains no sign of fungal activity. There are no other cavities present and the remaining buttress system seems to be healthy. The status of the tree has changed very little in the sixteen years since Pirie Close was first developed other than becoming slightly larger. As the cavity displays no sign of fungal growth, the tree does not need to be felled at the present time. The Council would also refute the applicant’s assertion that “the tree is next to the highway and as such does not have a long term future”. The road in question is unlikely to change in size or layout in the foreseeable future. The Council would very much like to see the tree inspected by the SDC Tree Warden and an informed opinion given on its status and future.
 - Harbury Library, High Street:** T1 sycamore: fell: COMMENT: Whilst being aware that there are problems with the position of the tree in that it is pushing against a retaining wall on the adjacent boundary, the Parish Council would have appreciated greater information on this application. The Application for Tree Works Checklist states that there should be photographs, a report by a tree professional and details of any assistance or advice sought from the Local Planning Authority Officer. All of this is missing with the exception of the very brief report from the arboriculturist.

The Old Orchard, Mill Street: 3 no. dormers: COMMENT: Obscure glass only should be used. The Parish Council would prefer to see windows on the east side of the building only.

- v Permission Refused by SDC:
Normandie House, 9 Pirie Close: T1 Sycamore: fell.
- vi Enforcement notices issued - none
- vii Appeals: -nothing further to report
- viii Tree Preservation Order: none

B Other Planning Matters

- i Bush Heath Lane Site
The Council had been notified that it was now unlikely that the public consultation would take place until at least September. The Clerk was instructed to inform those residents of Bush Heath Lane who had been in touch with regard to the proposals of this.

C Correspondence – none

D Members Items - none

08/085 PROPERTIES

A Arising from the Minutes

- i BMX Project
Cllr Thornley is seeking quotations for the construction of the track. It was agreed that the Properties W/P would meet with the contractors on site.
- ii Playground Reports
It was noted that the skateboard park had recently been damaged by someone setting fire to one of the ramps. The clerk said that the contractor would visit the site very shortly in order to repair the damage; a large quantity of glass had also had to be swept up from around the skateboard park by the village maintenance contractor. Cllr Lockley requested that the clerk arrange for the children's roundabout to be oiled.
- iii Harbury Tennis Club – Surround Fencing – nothing to report.
- iv Village Hall – Boundary Fence
Three quotations had been received which were found to be as follows: AGD Playground Contractors: £1632.96, Thomas Fox: £780, MFM Services: £520. The clerk pointed out that the cheapest quotation did not include the installation of a bollard in the gap between the Hall and the Children's Play Area, however it was agreed that this was not necessary as it had not been on the original specification and as the gap would be wide enough for disabled access only it would effectively prevent cars from accessing the field. **It was resolved:** that the quotation from MFM Services be accepted.
- v Cemetery Risk Assessment

Two quotations for an assessment of the cemetery had been circulated to the Council. It was noted that IMI Independent Memorials may be the preferred option on the figures given but the clerk was requested to assess the number of memorials and calculate the costs involved.

vi Memorial Garden, Chapel Street

Cllr Hancock reported that the Horticultural Society was unwilling at the present time to voluntarily renovate the garden. Two quotations had been received for the Memorial Garden which were as follows: Colin Sheasby: £1600, Paul Gardner; £285. The Clerk pointed out that Mr Sheasby's quotation was for the complete clearance of the garden and replacement with plants whilst the second quote was to remove all dead trees and bushes and trim remaining ones, to rebuild the low wall and weed kill. Mr Gardner would also be happy to plant new plants but the Council would need to specify which ones were required and this would be additional to the quotation. **It was resolved:** that the quotation from Paul Gardner be accepted and that the Horticultural Society be asked for advice on possible new planting for the garden. Properties will also advise the clerk which bench is required as a replacement for the old one.

B Correspondence - none

C Members Items - none

08\086 ENVIRONMENT

A Arising from the Minutes

i Street Lighting

Two quotations had been received for the replacement of four streetlights in Manor Orchard, Honiwell Close and Knightlow Road. These were as follows: ABB: £904.00 per streetlight including transfer of electricity, Warks County Council: £1289.16 - £1371.96 per streetlight depending on the type of lantern fitted. Both of the quotations net of VAT. Following discussion, **it was resolved:** that the quotation from ABB should be accepted subject to the clerk checking what type of lantern will be used.

ii Village Improvements

Cllr Baldwin is currently researching some options on spring bulbs for the village.

iii Traffic Management

Cllr Lockley had met with County Cllr Stevens and Graham Stanley, Senior Engineer, WCC to discuss the various options on traffic management within the village and it is hoped that initial costings will be available for presentation at the July meeting. The idea of having "village gateways" had been discussed and the Council was advised that, at the present time, WCC will only support collapsible gateways. Cllr Darlison suggested that an effective way to deal with speeding motorists could be to "name and shame" them using mobile cameras. It was recognized however that there could be a number of issues with this including problems with the Data Protection Act.

B Correspondence

i B4455 & A429 Fosse Way: Casualty Reduction Scheme and Speed Limit Review

It was noted that the County's proposals for the crossroads at Harbury was for signs highlighting the number of casualties incurred at the junction. A number of concerns were raised regarding inadequate strimming of the grass at the junctions of the Fosse which makes visibility very difficult. It was also noted that a small section of the Fosse will be closed at some point in July and August in order to carry out road repairs.

C Members Items

i Japanese Knotweed – Bull Ring Farm Road

It was noted that a contractor employed by WCC is dealing with the Knotweed.

ii The Spinney, Hall Lane

District Cllr Patrick reported that, at a recent Cllrs surgery, a gentleman had volunteered to coppice the Spinney free of charge to the owner provided he could take away the wood from this. The Clerk has checked this with the owner and she is in agreement that the work can be carried out. It was agreed that the Clerk should meet with the person concerned and get more details on what is proposed before the work goes ahead.

08\087 FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES

A Arising from the Minutes

i Parish Office

The lease has now been signed on the new office, however, the Clerk reported problems with BT in transferring over the telephone line due to new cabling which is required to the building. Because of this the move into the office will need to be delayed from 1st July. It was agreed that an article advertising the opening of the office for the Harbury News should be delayed until August.

ii Clerk's Working Hours

It was proposed, that due to the move to the new office, the Clerk's working hours should become fixed rather than the previous arrangement of flexible hours. **It was resolved:** that the Clerk's contract of employment be amended to show hours of Monday – Thursday, 9.00am – 12.45pm inclusive. Monthly Council meetings and occasional Working Party meetings will be additional to this.

iii Audit & Approval of Accounts to March 2008

The Clerk had circulated the Internal Audit Report and Annual Return to all members. It was explained that the Council needed to answer "no" to item 6 on the Annual Governance Statement as a review of the internal audit had not yet been carried out. It is expected that this will be done within the next 2 months. **It was resolved:** that the Council accept and sign the Accounts to the end of March 2008 as a true record of the Council's financial position.

iv Grants to Outside Bodies: Southam College: All Weather Pitch and New Changing Facilities

Cllr Hancock declared an interest in this item.

The Clerk, as a parent and Governor at Southam College had forwarded a letter to the Council from the School requesting financial support for the construction

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of a new all weather pitch and other facilities. It was noted that any support given, although of relatively low financial value could be used to support the School's bid for a grant from the Football Association. It was agreed that the Clerk contact the School and ask for a letter written directly to the Council. On receipt of this, members will further consider whether a grant would be appropriate.

B Correspondence - none

C Members Items - none

08\088 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT As per Appendix B – details on request from the Clerk.

08\089 ANY OTHER BUSINESS - none

08\090 ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA –none.

08\091 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 17th July 2008 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

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