

MINUTES OF
AN ORDINARY MEETING
OF
HARBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Held in the Village Hall, Harbury on Thursday 25 September 2008 Page 548

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

In Attendance: Mrs N Thompson (Clerk to the Council), District Cllr Patrick, District Cllr B Mann, County Cllr Stevens, Mrs L Ridgley (Harbury News), Mr R Padbury and Mrs R Groves

08/104 APOLOGIES: Parish Cllr Knowles, P C Hill.

08/105 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.

08/106 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr Padbury queried the reasons for the Council raising the annual rent of allotment holders to £20 from September 2009 and also pointed out that some tenants have limited access to the water supply as the taps are mainly at the South Parade end of the plots. In reply, it was pointed out that the rents had not been increased for the previous 3-4 years during which time the overheads of the allotments have risen. There is currently a waiting list for the plots so it was felt that demand would not be unduly affected by a rent increase and it would allow the Council to better cover its own costs. The tenants have been given 12 months notice of the increase as required by their tenancy agreements. It was agreed that the Council would investigate any problems with access to the water supply.

Mrs Groves explained that she had recently been involved in a car accident that had taken place at the junction with Farm Street and Temple End. She asked when the Council intended to implement any plans for traffic calming in the village particularly at the entranceways to the village. It was noted that this would be further discussed under the item on "Traffic Calming" and Mrs Groves was encouraged to stay for this.

08/107 MINUTES - 17th July 2008

It was resolved that the minutes of the **Ordinary Meeting** of the Parish Council of 17th July 2008 having been circulated be taken as read and signed as a true record.

08/108 REPORTS FROM OTHER BODIES

- i Harbury School Governors (AW)

It was noted that there was no report for this month as the Governing Body meet in October. Cllr Darlison requested that information relating to the proposed plans for the new swimming pool be displayed at the next meeting and this was agreed.
- ii Public Safety

Cllr Thornley reported that PACT has now been incorporated into the newly formed Community Forums and that she had attended the first meeting of this in the Southam Area.
- iii Southam College (SH)

Cllr Hancock said that Mr J Skinner, the previous long standing Head Teacher of the College has died. A memorial service for him will be held in Warwick. Mr Thompson, the current, also long serving, Head has formally given notice that he will be retiring at the end of the Summer Term 2009. On a more positive note, the College continues to be oversubscribed for the current academic year and the examination results for July 2008 were again excellent.
- iv Twinning Association (SH)

The AGM of the Association will be held on 7.11.08.
- v Village Hall (JP)

The planning application for the proposed extension of the Hall has been submitted to Stratford District Council. It was noted that Cllrs had had the opportunity to see the plans at a previous meeting and that the Planning W/P had no comments to make on them – the Council will however declare an interest as it owns the land underneath and adjacent to the Hall. The Management Committee of the Hall will still need to research funding options in order to make the proposals viable.
- vi WALC/ NALC

The Clerk reported the following forthcoming events to the Council:

 - Warwickshire Best Village of Year Competition: 1.11.08, Wolvey Village Hall: Cllr Thornley will attend this event on behalf of the Council.
 - Southam Area Committee: 9.10.08, Stockton Village Hall. 7.30pm.
 - WALC AGM: 28.10.08, Leamington Town Hall. 7.30pm.
- vii SDC & WCC Reports

SDC: Cllr Mann said that the District Authority is currently consulting on proposed car parking charges in the District and it was noted that this is an item for discussion on the agenda. Cllr Patrick said that, as far as he was aware, most problems with the refuse collection arrangements had now been resolved. He was requested to find out the date of the last green bin collection for this year. It was noted that there had been some e-mail correspondence with SDC Planning regarding the consultation time for applications; Parish Councils and other consultees are now being forced to adhere strictly to a three week period whilst

the District have over six weeks in order to process and consider the application. Cllr Mancell queried why for example, on a recent application for Pineham Avenue there had been a six day delay in the application being verified and the details being e-mailed to the Parish Council and Cllr Patrick agreed to query this.

WCC: Cllr Stevens reported that the Speed Limit Review findings have now been confirmed despite opposition from the Police who have concerns regarding enforcement. It has been proposed to merge the Fire Service with that of Hereford and Worcestershire; this will mean however that Warwickshire will lose control of this service. The planning application for a recycling unit at Ufton Landfill Site has been given permission following advice from the County Solicitor. Several conditions have however been imposed including the non-use of Butt Lane for access by vehicles travelling to and from the facility. Two other current planning application of concern in the District are that of Dallas Burston for extension and development of grounds at Polo Club and the plans by Cemex to construct a Climafuel plant outside of Bishops Itchington which will greatly increase the amount of traffic travelling through the village.

08\109 DEPPERS BRIDGE

A. Matters Arising

i Harbury Station Bridge

The weight limit on the bridge has now been referred to the next meeting of the Full Council (WCC) which will be held on 21st October. It is hoped and seems likely, that the limit will be made permanent at this meeting which will allow local Cllrs to then address the issues regarding problems with buses etc.

B Correspondence -none

C Members Items

i Refuse Collection

Cllr Grey reported that Deppers Bridge has now received delivery of its new bins.

08\110 PLANNING

A Decisions on Planning Applications

i Permission Granted with conditions by SDC:

Bull Ring Business Centre, Church Terrace: Change of use of first floor suite from Class B1 to Class A1

16 Vicarage Lane: Retrospective 600mm trellis above existing 2m high boundary fence

West End Cottage, Mill Street: Construction of conservatory at the rear of property.

Fairview, Dovehouse Lane: Single Storey side extension.

The Old Orchard, Mill Street: 3 no. dormers, amendment to 08/00377/FUL.

34 South Parade: Erection of a PVCU conservatory to the rear of property.

Old New Inn, Farm Street: Retrospective application for the replacement of wooden framed windows with UPVC windows.

Harbury Depot, Station Road: Tree works – full details available on request from the clerk.

Normandie House, 9 Pirie Close: T1 Horse Chestnut – crown lift to 3m, crown thin by 15%.

Stapenhall Farm, Deppers Bridge: Substitution of house type (minor amendments to previous approved proposal).

- ii East Area Planning Committee: nothing to report.
- iii Parish Council Made No Representation On The Following:
 - Land South of Sharmer Farm, Fosse Way:** Proposed new glasshouse – for reduction of food miles, carbon footprint and bad weather protection.
 - 11 The Beeches:** Proposed demolition of existing five bedroomed bungalow and the construction of a new two storey five bedroomed oak framed house with associated garage. Erection of wind turbine and related bow hole for ground source heat pump.
 - Harbury House, Butt Lane:** Proposed boundary wall to part rear/side boundary.
 - Stapenhall Farm, Deppers Bridge:** Substitution of house type (minor amendments to previous approved proposal).
 - Normandie House, 9 Pirie Close:** T1 horse chestnut: crown lift to 3m and crown thin by 15%.
 - 15 Manor Road:** Single storey rear extension and erection of detached garage.
- iv The PC Made Representations on the Following : nothing to report..
- v Permission Refused by SDC:
 - 11 The Beeches:** Proposed demolition of existing five bedroomed bungalow and the construction of a new two storey five bedroomed oak framed house with associated garage: this application has been WITHDRAWN.
 - Harbury House, Butt Lane:** Proposed boundary wall to part side/rear boundary: this application has been WITHDRAWN.
- vi Enforcement notices issued - none
- vii Appeals:
 - Bishop Bowl Lakes, Station Road:** 21 lodges, associated car parking and highway junction improvements: APPEAL DISMISSED.
 - Bishop Bowl Lakes, Station Road:** Erection of single storey water sports building: APPEAL ALLOWED.
- viii Tree Preservation Order: none

B Other Planning Matters

- i Bush Heath Lane Site

A meeting had been held on the 17.9.08 between members of the Planning W/P, Cllr Lockley and representatives of the developers, WRCC and WRHA. The purpose of the meeting had been to provide further information on the progress to date on the site and minutes of the meeting had been circulated to all members. Following discussion of these the following points were raised

 - Cllr Mancell queried whether it was necessary to update the Housing Needs Survey before commencement of phase 1, however it was generally felt that this would not be necessary. It was agreed that it may be helpful for WRCC to provide details of the numbers of people in Harbury currently on the SDC Housing Waiting List and for this information to be available at the Public Consultation.
 - Cllr Thompson queried whether the proposed plan to divert sewerage pipes across the playing fields and the car park was the best option. It was agreed that further comments could be made on this following the Consultation.
- ii Parish Plan Progress

Cllrs Thornley, Patrick and Baldwin had attended a meeting with David Morgan, the CVS Parish Plans Outreach Officer. The intended outcome had been to discuss ways in which the aims of the Parish Plan could be achieved but the guidance given, whilst of value, was in much more general terms. Mr Morgan had however, been given an update of how much progress to date had been made.

C Correspondence

- i Stratford District Council: Rural Housing Enabling Event 8.10.08
Cllr Thompson will attend this event on behalf of the Council.

D Members Items – none

PCSO Katrina Pedlar joined the meeting and, after discussion, it was resolved that the Council would deal with the item no 6ii on “Public Safety” followed by item 10 “Environment” (Traffic Management to be handled first) in order that she and Mrs Groves could then leave the meeting if desired.

08/111 Public Safety

PCSO Pedlar reported that there had been a burglary in the village recently. Police have been active in issuing nuisance youths with S59 warnings and in carrying out speed checks in Napton and Long Itchington. It is expected that Harbury will be targeted for these in the near future.

08\112 ENVIRONMENT

A Arising from the Minutes

- i Traffic Management

Following the visit by Graham Stanley, WCC to the village, members were presented with various options (previously circulated) for traffic calming measures in the village. Briefly, these were as follows: Binswood End – proposed pavement bollards, estimated costs £250, Church Street – proposed one-way, estimated costs £6000, village gateways (Bishops Tachbrook style signing), estimated costs £4000 for 4, Temple End – proposed refuge and carriageway markings, estimated costs £3500, gateways including antiskid, crocodile teeth and 30mph roundels, estimated costs £970, Safety Audit Assessment £1600, staff fees for detailed design and drawings - £640. There will also be statutory undertakers costs and a commuted sum for future maintenance both of which will be advised subject to the scheme being approved. Cllr Lockley explained that the Council was requested at this stage to choose which parts of the scheme were felt to be viable and desirable; these proposals will then be forwarded to the Joint Area Committee for consideration for funding. It was also noted that the Council will be required to make a financial contribution (to be determined) to the proposals. There was discussion regarding the general levels of speeding in the village; the clerk pointed out that speeding on Butt Lane continued to be problematic and Cllr Darlison suggested that publication of the number plates of offenders could be effective. It was generally felt however that this would be too confrontational. It was also agreed that the Council should not prioritise a proposed one-way system in Church Street at the present time. Following further discussion, **it was resolved:** that the Council request that the proposals for Binswood End, Temple End, four village gateways and a portable speeding sign be requested as items for consideration for the Area Committee. Cllr Baldwin will take photographs of the gateways at

Bishops Tachbrook for members to see and the clerk was instructed to research the costs of a portable speed sign.

ii Street Lighting

The clerk was requested to investigate the costs and feasibility of the following:

- new streetlight in Temple End. It was noted that this would need to be a Windsor.
- Additional light in Butt Lane, possibly near to Harbury House. It was noted that these lights are owned by the County Council .
- A solar lamp in Bull Ring Farm Road

Following a request from the Environment W/P, the clerk had researched the costs of switching off lights in the village from 1.00am to 5.30am. This would save electricity and a new standard charge could be negotiated with E-on, however not all of the lighting columns in the village are suitable for adaptation to a timer system, the Windsors for example could not be adapted to this system. There would also be a charge in the region of £1800- £2000 from WCC for fitting the necessary timers to the lamps and consideration needed to be given as to whether this would offset the electricity savings. Public safety is also a consideration. Following discussion, **it was resolved:** that the clerk should carry out further research on this matter with a view to also holding a public consultation on it.

iii Village Improvements

Cllr Baldwin reported that the plans to plant daffodils at various points around the village had been progressed. The clerk has provisionally ordered 500 bulbs which will be planted by volunteers including the Earthworms groups at Harbury School.

B Correspondence

i SDC: Proposed Car Parking Charges Consultation

Details on the proposed car parking charges had been circulated to members. It was noted that Wood Street car park in Southam was included in the consultation and the clerk was instructed to reply to SDC that the PC would be opposed to any charges at this car park as Southam relies heavily on visitors to its market, shops and other amenities.

ii Parish Paths Partnership

The Chairman signed the Parish Paths Partnership for 2008-09. It was noted that the following work is planned for the forthcoming year:

- An update of the survey of the parish footpaths and bridleways
- Drawing up of a programme of works based on the updated survey.
- To continue to seek a second easy-going route for local walkers.

C Members Items

i WCC Wood Chipping Service

Cllr Patrick drew member's attention to the Home Wood Chipping Service now being provided by WCC and suggested that the service could be requested to visit the Village Hall car park in early January in order that residents could use it to have their Christmas trees turned into usable chippings. **It was resolved:** that the clerk should organize this and that the costs should be paid by the Parish Council (based on £15 per hour visit).

ii Footpath in Dovehouse Lane

The condition of sections of this footpath, which is overgrown in sections with weeds was discussed. It was agreed that Cllr Thornley will speak to the resident concerned.

- iii Drain Cover – Francis Road
Cllr Thornley reported that a drain cover in Francis Road has been damaged by a Verdant lorry leaving it in a dangerous condition. This has been reported to Verdant.
- iv Sewers – Drinkwater Close
Some residents in Drinkwater Close have experienced problems with their foul sewers. Unfortunately, following research by Cllr Thornley, the clerk and District Cllr Patrick, the responsibility for these had been found to rest with the householders.

08/113 PROPERTIES

A Arising from the Minutes

- i BMX Project
Cllr Thornley reported that two contractors had been asked for updated quotations for the construction of the track. A cheque for £1815.55 has been received from the Harbury Youth Project as a donation to the Parish Council; this is to be ring fenced for the cost of the track. Members thanked Cllr Thornley and the Youth Project for this.
- ii Playground Reports
The following items were discussed:
Skateboard Park: Members of the Properties W/P had visited the park and recommended that a quotation for removing some of the scrub and trees to the northern side of the ramps be gained in order to improve visibility and reduce the possibility of further vandalism. It was noted however that the costs of this would need to be weighed up against the possible gains. The Clerk was instructed to update the insurers with this information.
Moles: **It was resolved:** that the Council takes out a one year contract with Prevent Pest Control at a cost of £50 per quarter. This will cover both the Cemetery and the Children's Play Area.
- iii Harbury Tennis Club – Surround Fencing
A second quotation had been received for replacement of two sections of the surround fencing and had been circulated to all members in advance of the meeting. **It was resolved:** that the quotation for £1975.90 plus VAT from Rollason Fencing be agreed, the amount to be paid from the Sinking Fund. The clerk advised member's that the Council will be able to claim back one-third of the VAT liability but that two thirds will be deemed to be the responsibility of the Tennis and Netball Club. Cllr Mancell said that discussions had been held between himself and representatives of the Tennis Clubs and it had been provisionally agreed subject to agreement by the Council that the contribution of the Council be increased by £550 per year. It was agreed that this should be included in the budget for 2009-10.
- iv Village Hall – Boundary Fence
Village Hall Boundary Fencing: It was noted that the contractor is currently onsite completing this work.

v Cemetery Risk Assessment

Members of the Properties W/P and the clerk had met with the contractor and discussed the forthcoming assessment which will take place during October. The clerk has advertised the assessment widely throughout the village and the surrounding villages. It was agreed that a revised Public Notice on the assessment be placed in the Leamington Spa Courier.

vi Memorial Garden, Chapel Street

The Clerk has been assured that a final decision on the grant should be received within the next couple of days. Following this, the work will go ahead as soon as possible.

B Correspondence

i Bonfire Night: 8.9.08

Correspondence had been received from the GASS Committee for permission to use the Playing Fields as usual for the bonfire and firework display. **It was resolved:** that permission is granted.

C Members Items

I Bollards – Village Hall Car Park

Cllr Thompson reported that, following an incident on the playing fields during a football match when an ambulance had had to be called, a key to the bollards has been given to the Senior Football Team. Copies of the key are also held by Cllr Thompson and Lockley.

ii Green – Neale's Close

The clerk was requested to ask for a new dog fouling sign for this area.

iii Barrier – Car Park

The clerk reported that unfortunately, Mr Winchester would like to step down from opening and closing the barrier at Christmas. It will now be necessary to find a new volunteer(s) for this.

iv Gratings – Car Park: It was noted that a 2m section of the gratings and the surrounding block paving has been damaged possibly by a heavy vehicle of some description. It was agreed that the clerk would arrange for repair of this as a matter of urgency as the gratings are currently a safety risk.

08\114 FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSESA Arising from the Minutes

I Parish Office

It was agreed that the clerk should order a sign for the office window at a cost of £45 plus VAT.

ii Audit 2008

The Clerk reported that the external auditor had signed off the audit for the year ended March 2008 and the Council had been given an unqualified audit opinion. The auditor had requested copies of the review of the effectiveness of the internal audit and an up to date copy of the asset register both of which had been forwarded to them.

iii Grants to Outside Bodies: Harbury Village Hall

Correspondence had been received and circulated to all members regarding a grant payment of £5000 to Harbury Village Hall. This will be used to pay part of the architects and other fees in relation to the Hall's planning application. It was noted that this item had been included in the budget for 2008-09. Following discussion, **it was resolved:** that the grant is paid in full.

B Correspondence

I Harbury Horticultural Society

A letter of thanks had been received from the Harbury Horticultural Society for the grant of £400 made to it for the purchase of display boards.

ii WRVS

Thanks had been received from the WRVS for the grant of £20 which had purchased a new torch for the group.

C Members Items

I Budget Monitoring

It was noted that, due to an error, this had been omitted from the original agenda although the clerk had circulated copies of the up-to-date budget spreadsheet to members. The following items were noted:

- Street lighting: The cost centre for new columns is overspent although the overall cost centre for new columns and maintenance of existing is still within budget.
- Equipment Inspection and Maintenance is currently overspent although some of the budget for New Equipment could be transferred to this.
- S137 – it seems likely that some of this budget may need to be transferred to the cost centre for Parish Office.

08\115 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT As per Appendix B – details on request from the Clerk.

08\116 ANY OTHER BUSINESS - none

08\117 ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

I Harbury Primary School: School Swimming Pool

08\118 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 23rd October 2008 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 10.10pm.

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