

MINUTES OF
AN ORDINARY MEETING
OF
HARBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Held in the Village Hall, Harbury on Thursday 22 January 2009 Page 576

Present: Cllrs Lockley (Chairman), Grey, Patrick, Mancell, Knowles, Baldwin & Darlison.

In Attendance: Mrs N Thompson (Clerk to the Council), District Cllr Patrick, District Cllr Mann, PC Hill, Mrs L Ridgley (Harbury News) and 2 members of the public.

09/001 APOLOGIES: Apologies had been received and were accepted from Cllrs Thompson and Thornley. Apologies were also accepted from Cllr Hancock and County Cllr Stevens who both expected to join the meeting later.

09/002 DECLARATION OF INTEREST ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

The following interests were declared by members:-

Cllr Darlison declared an interest in item 10i Harbury Nursery School due to his wife's employment at the Nursery.

Cllr Baldwin declared an interest in item 10i Harbury Nursery School as she is a director of the Nursery.

Cllr Lockley declared an interest in item 8iii, Harbury Tennis Club, as he is a member of the club.

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 and in item 5iv as she is a member of the Twinning Association.

09/003 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mrs M Kennedy, the manager of the Windmills Nursery School was in attendance and outlined the Nursery's reasons for applying for a grant for the installation of a new security door and digital lock. At present getting children in and out of the Nursery involves always having one member of staff standing at the door manning the lock to prevent children leaving and also vetting people coming in. A new digital lock would mean that staff would be able to use their time settling in the children rather than manning the door.

Unfortunately, the lock is not able to be fitted to the existing door and the cost of a new door from the Door Store is £396.99. The Chairman invited Council members who had declared an interest in this application to speak. Cllr Baldwin commented that the position of the Nursery School did not allow for a foyer which made a secure door more important. It was noted that, although there are other users of the room, the Nursery School did not expect to receive any other contributions for the cost of the new door. In conclusion, the Chairman thanked Mrs Kennedy and it was noted that this item would be discussed under Finance & General Purposes.

09/004 MINUTES - 27th November 2008

It was resolved that the minutes of the **Ordinary Meeting** of the Parish Council of 27th November 2008 having been circulated be taken as read and signed as a true record.

09/005 REPORTS FROM OTHER BODIES

- i Harbury School Governors (AW)
The Clerk had received a verbal report from Mrs Winchester. The swimming pool committee is expected to report to the full Governing Body during February.
- ii Public Safety
P C Hill reported that a resident had been convicted of an assault on two young people.
- iii Southam College (SH)
It was noted that Cllr Hancock was absent and that her report would be received when she joined the meeting.
- iv Twinning Association (SH)
It was noted that Cllr Hancock was absent and that her report would be received when she joined the meeting.
- v Village Hall (JP)
The revised plans for the extension of the Hall had been displayed at a coffee morning in the Tom Hauley Rooms. The successful Rural Cinemas project currently requires further volunteers for setting up and operating the projection equipment.
- vi WALC/ NALC
The Clerk will attend a training event on the 27th January on preparing Year End Accounts. Cllrs Thornley, Knowles and Grey have indicated that they wish to attend the annual WALC Seminar to be held on the 7th March.
- vii SDC & WCC Reports
Cllr Patrick reported that it is expected that the budget for the forthcoming financial year will be tighter than last year; council tax is expected to be increased by 3 – 4.5% and even given this increase, cuts will have to be made in some areas.

09/006 DEPPERS BRIDGE**A. Matters Arising**

- i Harbury Station Bridge
Cllr Grey reported that Stagecoach was unable, at the present time, to commit to spending money on smaller buses that would be within the weight limit for the bridge. Cllr Grey will continue to work on this matter.

B Correspondence -none

C Members Items - none**09\007 PLANNING****A. Decisions on Planning Applications****i Permission Granted with conditions by SDC:**

11 The Beeches: The demolition of the existing building and construction of a replacement 5 bedroomed oak framed house on the same site.

Crown Inn, Crown Street: T1, sycamore: crown reduce by 25% and remove deadwood.

Wissett Lodge, Church Street: Closeboard fence to form boundary.

The Lymes, Church Street: T1, birch: fell, T2, holly: reduce by 20% and prune to tidy, T3, fir: reduce by 20% and remove deadwood, T4, yew: prune back by 1m.

Fairview House, 26 Vicarage Lane: T1, yew: Prune off basal growth and small elder at base. Prune off branches to clear garage roof by 0.6m and house by 1.5m. Lift lower canopy to approximately 3m by removing small branches. Remove deadwood.

ii East Area Planning Committee: nothing to report.**iii Parish Council Made No Representation On The Following:**

Unit 1, Bull Ring Business Centre, Church Terrace: Change of use from B1 office to A1 shop.

19 Pineham Avenue: Proposed porch to front of property.

iv The PC Made Representations on the Following :

Cranford, Chesterton Road: COMMENT: Single storey extension, demolition of existing garage block and erection of new ancillary accommodation: The Council would like to express some concerns regarding the new ancillary accommodation. The plans for this include an ensuite facility on both floors and whilst it is legitimate for both bedrooms to have this facility, there is the possibility that any future owners of the site could convert one ensuite to a kitchen creating a separate self-contained dwelling.

Tennis Courts, Playing Fields, South Parade: SUPPORT/COMMENT: The Parish Council wishes to declare an interest in this application as it owns the land on which the tennis courts are situated. However, the Council supports this application as it will improve facilities for tennis and netball in the village. Any comments from near neighbours should however, also be taken into account.

Harbury Depot, Station Road: Engineering operations to level part of the site within the area covered by 05/03788/LDE for open storage purposes:

COMMENT: Harbury Parish Council trusts that full consideration has been given to the Masterplan in respect of this application and in particular the Council would like to raise the following concerns regarding this application:

Removal and Control of Asbestos on Site: A walk over survey for asbestos materials included as part of the application concludes that asbestos was present in all pieces of cement tested. It would be impossible to ascertain with a high level of accuracy how much asbestos is present at the site from a walk over survey alone; the survey itself points out the limitations of this and indicates that further materials containing asbestos may be buried underneath

the existing concrete. Given this, the Council would like the applicants to demonstrate a clear and comprehensive method using licensed contractors for the safe removal of asbestos materials from the site in order to prevent possible contamination of surrounding areas including water courses.

Risk of Flooding: The following statements are extracts from the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment submitted as part of this application:

“History of Flooding: At the request of the client, neither the Local Authority, Environment Agency or water authorities has been contacted to obtain a flooding history of the site”. (para 3.2, pg 8).

“It is recommended that the exact requirements of the surface runoff control measure are agreed in writing with the Environment Agency prior to submission of any planning application to prevent unnecessary delays during the planning process”.

The applicants have not demonstrated in this application that they have taken the advice of the relevant agencies with regard to flooding risks at this site. Their assertion that “by reducing the amount of hand standing during the levelling process the parking areas will become self draining and this will assist in providing a natural permeable sustainable storm water surface” is not substantiated by any independent advice. The Council would wish the applicants to demonstrate a more detailed investigation into the history of the site with regard to flooding and that they have taken the advice of the relevant agencies on how the proposed engineering work will affect flooding on the site and in the adjacent areas. The Masterplan for the site adopted by the District Authority in December 2007 clearly states that all development of the site should “avoid, reduce and manage flood risk”.

v Permission Refused by SDC: nothing to report.

vi Applications Withdrawn: none.

vii Enforcement notices issued - none

viii Appeals: none.

ix Tree Preservation Order: none

B Other Planning Matters

i SDC Local Development Framework – Draft Core Strategy

The Clerk had circulated the Council’s draft response to this document to all members. **It was resolved:** that the Clerk should add a final sentence to the response on transport requesting that emphasis should be placed on maintaining existing levels of public transport. With this amendment, the responses should then be submitted to Stratford District Council

ii Parish Plans Database

The Clerk had received a lengthy document from Parish Plans Officer at the Council for Voluntary Service which listed all the actions identified by the Parish Plan and required the Council to assess using a numerical score how it felt it was doing on each one. It was agreed that the Clerk, in conjunction with Cllrs Lockley and Thornley would carry out this process.

- iii Harbury Cement Works – Engineering Works to Level Part of the Site
- The Clerk pointed out to members that the comments contained in Appendix A regarding this application were draft only at present and had not been submitted to SDC because further clarification was required as to whether the Council's response should be "comment" or "object". **It was resolved:** that it should be "comment" on this occasion. It was noted that a further application had been received for the site for "Part change of use of previously developed land to vehicle storage, siting of portable buildings for office use and erection of handover buildings and two buildings for the preparation of cars". It was agreed that this should be dealt with under delegated powers as normal with the Clerk acting in consultation with Cllrs Patrick and Lockley.

C Correspondence - none

D Members Items

- i Notification of Planning Applications in respect of the Bishop Bowl Site
- It was noted that neither of the recent applications for the Bishop Bowl Site (Harbury Cement Works) had been correctly notified to Bishops Itchington Parish Council. Cllr Lockley commented that it was of paramount importance that both Harbury and Bishops Itchington are both notified about applications on this sensitive site and requested that the District Cllrs ensure that this happens in future.

09/008 PROPERTIES

A Arising from the Minutes

- i BMX Project
- The Clerk reported that Cllr Thornley was still trying to get an alternative quotation for the construction of the site.
- ii Playground Reports
- The Clerk reported on the following items:
- Work on Hedge to the front of the skateboard park: following on from the November meeting, the Clerk had checked the correct time for any work to be carried out and had found that all work should be completed by the end of February or delayed until the end of July. As the work had been recommended to increase the visibility of the skateboard park which is most used in the summer, it was felt that the work needed to be carried out before then. A quotation from Mr Sheasby had been previously circulated and **it was resolved:** that this be accepted, cost £480.
 - Playground Reports: At the November meeting, the Clerk had been asked to research alternative providers of these reports. It had been found that ROSPA would provide a quarterly inspection and report for approximately £160. The current provider (Coventry CC) charges £122.50. The Clerk pointed out that, whilst some aspects of the current report were definitely not of an acceptable standard, there were advantages of employing Coventry CC as they can also carry out urgent repairs on occasion. Following discussion, **it was resolved:** that the clerk ask for a "one off" inspection from ROSPA and also let Coventry CC that this is happening and the reasons for it.
- iii Harbury Tennis Club – nothing to report.

- iv Cemetery Risk Assessment – nothing to report.
- v Pineham Farm Allotments – Extension of Water Supply
Following on from the November meeting, the Council had received a quotation from J B France Builders for £370 net of VAT for extension of the water supply and provision of a new stand pipe. Following discussion, **it was resolved:** that this quotation be accepted subject to the clerk checking that it includes all aspects of the work. The Clerk will also advise the contractor that it may be best to wait until Spring to carry out the work.

B Correspondence - none.

- i Grass Mowing 2009 Season
The Council had received a quotation, details of which were circulated in the Clerk's report, from MFM Services for mowing the playing field for this summer's season; this was £46 per cut based on 22 cuts during the season, an increase of £1 per cut. **It was resolved:** that this quotation be accepted.

C Members Items

- i Car Park – Central Drainage
Cllr Patrick highlighted a potential issue with the central drainage section on the car park. Over a number of years this has become blocked and this may cause flooding in the future. It was agreed that the clerk should research quotations for the clearance of this during the next financial year.

09\009 ENVIRONMENT

A Arising from the Minutes

- i Street Lighting
The Clerk had received two alternative quotations from WCC Streetlighting to resolve the issue of the broken timer switch for the car park lights. To replace the battery in the time switch would cost £250 plus VAT whilst fitting part night cells individually to the four lights in the car park to allow them to turn on and off according to light conditions would be £40 per lamp plus VAT. **It was resolved:** that the part night cells are fitted as the most cost effective option.
- ii Traffic Management
It was noted that the proposed traffic calming measures for the village will be discussed at the next meeting of Area Committee on 23rd January.
- iii Village Improvements – nothing to report.

B Correspondence

- i Warwickshire Climate Change Partnership
Correspondence had been received from the Climate Change Partnership (WCC) offering to make a presentation to the Parish Council about their work. It was agreed that the Clerk should ask for this presentation to be made at the Annual Parish Meeting on the 14th May.
- ii Sewerage Pumping Station – Mill Street
The Council had been kept fully informed of the problems in Mill Street caused by the overflow of sewerage from the pumping station into an adjacent ditch by Mr Ridgley of the Parish Paths Partnership. Due to the ditch being blocked,

some sewerage had also flowed onto the pathway. District Cllr Patrick said that further investigations were currently underway into who is responsible for clearing the ditch and whether compensation payments are due to the landowners for the overflow. The Council requested that the clerk write to Mr Ridgley, thanking him for all his work on this matter.

iii Southam Farmers' Market

Correspondence had been received from SDC regarding proposed signs for Southam Farmers' Market. The District Council proposes to have signs advertising the Market made to a size of 610mm x 1220mm in vinyl graphics. A copy of the proposed layout and wording of the sign was shown to members. The signs will be erected on a temporary basis on posts by a local farmer some days before a market and then removed again afterwards. Following discussion, **it was resolved:** that a sign should be ordered for Harbury and that the best location for it would be to the front of the Village Hall on the grass verge, to the right hand side of the existing notice board.

C Members Items - none

09\010 FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES

A Arising from the Minutes

i Grants to Outside Bodies: Windmills Nursery School

Members had noted the comments made by Mrs Kennedy earlier in the meeting. Following discussion, **it was resolved:** that the Council forward a grant to the Nursery School for the full amount of the cost of the new door up to the value of £396.99 under the power of S137.

Cllr Hancock joined the meeting.

ii Budget Setting & Precept 2009/10

A spreadsheet and additional information had been circulated to all members before the start of the meeting. Cllr Mancell went through the three options which were to increase the precept by 16.14 %, 7.6% or 3.35 % respectively. It was noted that if, as expected, a surplus was carried over from the current financial year, this could be used to increase the S137 budget further. **It was resolved:** that the Council request a precept of £63137.00 (Option 2) for the financial year 2009/10, proposed by Cllr Lockley and seconded by Cllr Knowles.

B Correspondence

i Letters of Thanks for Donations Received

It was noted that letters of thanks had been received from Harbury Village Hall, Harbury Youth Group and Harbury Albion Football Club for grant payments made to them.

C Members Items – none

County Cllr Stevens joined the meeting.

As Cllr Hancock and Cllr Stevens were both now present, it was resolved to take items 5iii, 5v and 5vii from earlier in the agenda.

09/011 REPORTS FROM OTHER BODIES

- i Southam College
Cllr Hancock reported that the Governing Body had appointed a new Head Teacher. Further details on the successful candidate will be available shortly.
- ii Twinning Association
The Twinning Association is currently busy getting ready for the next visit to Samoa.
- iii WCC Report
Cllr Stevens reported on the following WCC matters:
 - The budget for WCC for the forthcoming year is likely to be increased by around 4 – 5%.
 - The traffic calming scheme for Harbury has been costed and will be discussed by the Area Committee on the 23rd January.
 - The library consultation will take place in June, however the budget for purchasing new books has already been cut.
 - The hearing into the Cemex planning application will take place on 6th March. It is hoped that the new plant will be sited in Rugby rather than in Long Itchington.
 - There is a current consultation on the Rugby Grammar Schools which has been brought about by a complaint from schools in Northamptonshire that the catchment area for the grammars is not being strictly applied. A decision on this is expected in March.

09/012 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT As per Appendix B – details available on request from the Clerk.

09/013 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- i Mr Winchester
Cllr Mancell asked if a letter of thanks had been sent to Mr Winchester for his help in opening and closing the barrier at the car park for a number of years. The clerk replied that a thank you card and small gift had been given in time for Christmas.
- ii Emergency Planning Seminar
The Clerk reported that Council members had been invited to a talk on Emergency Planning at SDC on 18th February. Cllrs Hancock, Thompson and Grey will attend this on behalf of the Council.
- iii Bush Heath Lane Site
It was noted that there had been no further news on the proposed development at Bush Heath Lane.

09/014 ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

09/015 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 26th February 2009 at 7.30pm in the Farley Rooms, Harbury Village Hall.

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The meeting closed at 8.55pm.

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