

MINUTES OF
AN ORDINARY MEETING
OF
HARBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Held in the Tom Hauley Rooms, Harbury on Thursday 26th March 2009 Page 593

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

In Attendance: Mrs N Thompson (Clerk to the Council), District Cllr Patrick, District Cllr Mann, Mrs L Ridgley (Harbury News), Mr D Daly (Head Teacher, Harbury School) and 1 member of the public.

09/030 APOLOGIES: Apologies had been received and were accepted from County Cllr Stevens.

09/031 DECLARATION OF INTEREST ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

The following interests were declared by members:-

Cllr Thornley declared an interest in item 5v, Village Hall – member of the Management Committee

Cllr Patrick declared an interest in item 5v, Village Hall, -member of the Village Hall Management Committee.

Cllr Thompson declared an interest in item 5v, Village Hall – member of the Management Committee.

Cllr Grey declared an interest in item 7i as he is a member of the Deppers Bridge Residents Association

Cllr Darlison declared an interest in item 4 Harbury School Swimming Pool as he is member of the steering committee and a parent at the school.

09/032 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – There were no members of the public wishing to speak.

09/033 PRESENTATION: HARBURY SCHOOL SWIMMING POOL

Mr Daly, Head Teacher of Harbury Primary School gave a short presentation on the proposed new school swimming pool. It had become apparent that the existing pool needed to be upgraded as it is in need of renovation and, because it is open aired, it can only be used for 6-8 weeks of the year. The proposed new pool will not take up any more space than the existing and has been designed to have minimum impact on neighbouring properties. The pool will have a roof, a ground source heat pump, solar panels and a rendered finish possibly of Harbury stone. It is hoped that a management company will take over the running of the pool when completed and that it will be available for hire by other local primary schools during the school day and by village groups up to approximately 7.00pm and possibly also on Saturday mornings. An approach to a fund raising company based in the village had led to the school believing that it will be able to raise the 3/4 of a million pounds necessary to finance the project. The project has already been presented to parents and to immediate neighbours and the response has been generally very positive, the main concern being regarding access and increased traffic from outside users. The school intends to address this by providing a new pedestrian access to the pool and also by providing a mini-bus service to pick

up children from nearby schools. The mini-bus will pick up and drop off only and will not be parked for any length of time in Park Lane. The timeline for the future of the project is that the school hopes to apply for planning permission during the next six months, put the project out for tender in November 2009 with work commencing in the spring of 2010 to be completed in time for September 2010. Following further questions from members regarding finance, running costs and access, it was agreed that the Council is supportive of this project subject to some minor traffic issues being addressed. Cllr Darlison was asked to represent the Council on the Swimming Pool Committee and pay particular attention to traffic issues.

09/034 MINUTES - 26th February 2009

It was resolved that the minutes of the **Ordinary Meeting** of the Parish Council of 26th February 2009 having been circulated be taken as read and signed as a true record.

09/035 REPORTS FROM OTHER BODIES

- i Harbury School Governors (AW)

The Clerk had received a written report from Mrs Winchester. OFSTED had visited the school on the 25th February and had recognized the school as being “Good” overall with all of the 35 sections of the report being either “Good” or “Outstanding”. Two areas identified for further development are “preparing the children to live in a multi-cultural society” and “tracking in Science” in order to assess progress more accurately. There have been 37 applications for 30 places in the Reception class for September 2009; the 30 places have been allocated by the Local Authority on the basis of the school’s admissions criteria. Children from the school have recently taken part in a number of activities including attending a talk by 4 teachers from Pakistan, a visit from the Fire Brigade and holding an “Aztec Day” to celebrate the work they have been doing as part of a Geography project. Finally, Mrs Jackson, the School Secretary, has announced that she will be retiring from her post at the end of the summer term. It was agreed that the clerk should send a card from the Council to her nearer the time of her retirement.
- ii Public Safety – nothing to report.
- iii Southam College (SH)

Cllr Hancock reported that the new Head Teacher had attended a recent Governor’s meeting for the first time and is now in the school approximately two days per week in preparation for September 2009. 210 places have been offered in year 7 for September with a further 18 places being put forward for appeal. The Deputy Head Teacher, Mr Knapp will also be retiring in the summer and the school is currently interviewing for his replacement. His duties include the management of the school’s property and this will be taken over by the appointment of a full-time business manager.
- iv Twinning Association (SH)

Following discussion, it had been agreed by the Association that the original Twinning Charter should be deposited for safe keeping at the Parish Council’s solicitors. The clerk confirmed that this has been done. It is proposed that a copy of the Charter will eventually be displayed in the Village Hall. A large

group is coming from Samoia at the end of May and the events planned include a welcoming reception and “cream tea”, a recycling event including a car boot sale, a buffet in the Village Hall representing, in a culinary sense, all 27 members of the EU and a visit to Warwick Castle. A Quiz night for the Association will be held this weekend at the Village Club.

v Village Hall (JP)

Cllr Thornley reported that planning permission has been granted for the extensions to the Hall. The changing rooms have been painted by volunteers from Warwick and Coventry Universities and there has been a further meeting of the fundraising sub-committee. The AGM will be held on the 6th April at 7.00pm.

vi WALC/ NALC

The clerk had previously circulated details of two training events aimed at newer councillors. These will be held on the 18th April and the 11th July and any councillors wishing to attend should contact the clerk as soon as possible.

vii SDC & WCC Reports

SDC: District Cllr Patrick reported on the following matters brought up at the recent “Councillor’s Surgery”:

- Highways matters – the “Harbury” sign is missing at the Fosse Way junction with Middle Road and there are continuing problems with potholes in Leycester Close. Cllr Patrick has reported both of these matters to Highways.
- A resident had queried why the library had been closed during days of snow in February. This was due to instructions from WCC for health and safety reasons. It was noted that approximately 100 response forms have been filled in from the village regarding the current Library Consultation.
- Tesco’s application: this pending application will be discussed by the East Area Planning Committee on 29th April commencing at 6.00pm at Southam College.
- Planning Application for vehicle storage at Bishop Bowl Lakes. There has been no further information on this outstanding application although it is understood that WCC Highways have raised objections to aspects of it. Cllr Patrick also reported that there are currently moves to persuade the District Authority to sign up to the Sustainable Communities Act as have a number of other local authorities.

09\036 DEPPERS BRIDGE

A. Matters Arising

i Harbury Station Bridge

Cllr Hancock queried if any progress had been made with the reinstatement of the bus service for Deppers Bridge. Cllr Grey said that he had had a lengthy correspondence with WCC regarding this and their position at the present time is that the bus service is unlikely to be reinstated. WCC have pointed out that the community does still have access to the flexi-bus and that the community links bus is available for groups to hire. There was some discussion on whether an exception could be made for the bus service and whether Parish Council bus vouchers could be reinstated for Deppers Bridge in order to allow residents to use the flexi-bus.

County Cllr Stevens joined the meeting.

Cllr Stevens confirmed that an exception could not be made for buses. He recommended that the PC write to Kevin McGovern expressing their concerns. It was agreed that this would be done before considering other courses of action.

B Correspondence -none**C Members Items - none****09\037 PLANNING****A Decisions on Planning Applications**

- i Permission Granted with conditions by SDC: nothing to report
- ii East Area Planning Committee: nothing to report.
- iii Parish Council Made No Representation On The Following:
Henry's, Bush Heath Lane: Proposed two storey side and rear extension.
- iv The PC Made Representations on the Following :
Tesco Stores Ltd, W of Kineton Road, Land off Northfield Road, Kineton Road Industrial Estate, Southam: Erection of new foodstore with petrol filling station, car park, servicing area and associated landscaping: COMMENT: Whilst the Parish Council appreciates that there may be benefits for local residents in having a new Tesco store in Southam, care should be taken to protect as far as possible the businesses which make up the "market town" essence of Southam itself. Aim 3 (pg 5) of the Stratford District Council Local Development Framework, Draft Core Strategy (DCS) states that "increased economic vitality of the four main market towns" should be promoted. The DCS states that in a future vision for Southam for 2026 "the distinctive character of Southam and its rural hinterland will have been retained, focusing upon a thriving and cohesive market town. Its built heritage and attractive environment will have been enhanced further alongside key developments to ensure the availability of jobs, homes, learning and leisure opportunities". The Parish Council supports this vision but has some concerns as to how it will be achieved particularly in relation to support for local small shops in the main centre of the town. Whilst the proposed provision of a large Tesco's food store on the edge of the town may bring some benefits in terms of employment and diversity of facilities, care should be taken to protect Southam's centre or it will lose the essence of being a "market town".
- 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 Bush Heath Lane Development

Members were informed that the date for the consultation day on the proposed development will now be Thursday 21st May between 2.00pm and 9.00pm at the Village Hall. Arrangements have been made with the Harbury News to distribute flyers produced by WRCC to all households in the village and, following discussion, **it was resolved:** that a contribution of £150 is made to the HN for this service paid for by the Parish Council.

ii Parish Plan Review

Cllr Lockley and the clerk have completed the spreadsheet and returned it to SCVS to be incorporated into the master document which will show all the progress made on parish plans in the area. When the final document is produced the clerk will circulate it to the whole Council for further discussion.

C Correspondence - none**D** Members Items - none**09/038 PROPERTIES****A** Arising from the Minutes

i BMX Project

Cllr Thornley reported that no response had been received to date from the second contractor asked to quote for the construction of the track.

ii Playground Reports

Cllr Hancock reported on the following outstanding matters:

Skateboard Park: the repair on the warped section of the ramp has now been carried out free of charge by the contractor.

Paving, Picnic Bench & Aerial Runway: the clerk is continuing to seek quotations for these items of work.

Play Bark: The clerk had obtained a quotation from the supplier for this which was found to be £48.5 per cubic metre. Based on 12 cubic metres which is the quantity ordered last time (2006) this would cost £582. It was agreed that, although this is expensive, it is a necessary item in order to comply with safety inspections. **It was resolved:** that the clerk order 12 cubic metres of play bark.

Basketball Post: one of the posts at the basketball court has sheared off at the base and fallen over. The clerk was instructed to organise its repair.

Play Inspection Training: It is hoped that Cllrs Thompson and Knowles will be able to attend a training session on playground inspections for volunteers.

Places on the training may be very limited however and the clerk is waiting to hear how many places Harbury has been allocated.

Bench – Memorial Garden: The clerk had been requested to have the plaque from the old bench transferred to the new one at the Memorial Garden.

However, after inspection, both the plaque and the old bench were found to be beyond repair and the clerk was instructed to order a new plaque to be fitted to the bench.

Mini Goal Posts: The clerk had obtained a quotation for the supply of topsoil in order to fill in the hole in front of the mini- goal posts and to cover dangerous protruding fixings at the base of the posts. **It was resolved:** that this be accepted, cost £165 plus VAT

iii Cemetery Risk Assessment

Cllr Hancock reported that a resident had contacted her with a query regarding a family grave that had been assessed as unsafe and staked during the risk assessment. Cllr Hancock had checked the memorial herself and had realized that it would be quite unstable without the staking. This had been explained to the resident concerned who accepted the reasons for the action carried out.

B Correspondence

i Harbury Carnival 13.6.09

Correspondence had been received from the Carnival Committee requesting permission to use the playing fields for the Carnival this year. This was agreed and the clerk was instructed to remind the Committee about the importance of replacing the bollards to prevent cars accessing the fields. The clerk will also inform the police of the date of the event.

C Members Items

i Notice Board – Farm Street Green

It was noted that the notice board on the Farm Street Green was in need of replacement. Cllr Grey agreed to provide a quotation for this.

09\039 ENVIRONMENTA Arising from the Minutes

i Street Lighting

A meeting had been held between the Environment W/P and Bob Yarwood from Warwickshire Street Lighting and the clerk had circulated notes from this to all members. In brief:

- Cracked Columns: A number of the existing concrete columns have been replaced over the past two years based on an informal condition report produced by WCC in 2007. There remains 4 further columns from this report that need to be done this year. It was agreed that the condition of the concrete columns needs to be re-assessed after the winter and the clerk will make an appointment with Bob to carry this out during the next two months.
- Replacement of Mercury Lanterns: WCC have advised all parishes with mercury style lanterns that these will no longer be supplied from 2015 and that it will become increasingly difficult to service these lanterns. Parishes are advised to consider a gradual replacement of the mercury lanterns. Bob had demonstrated some alternatives to the existing mercury lights to the Working Party and it was agreed that the 33W PL was the most suitable to use in the majority of metal lamp posts. This lantern provides a strong white light and will also provide some energy savings. This type of lantern is also not subject to the £5 surcharge levied on CDO style lamps. The cost to fit to a streetlight would be roughly £250 per lamp. It was noted that a gradual replacement of the lights as they fail could be feasible and that time switches which turn the lights off after 11.30pm could be fitted to alternate lights at the same time. The additional cost of this would be roughly £40 -£50 per lantern. There is currently a trial taking place in the Car Park of this type of switching device; unfortunately so far it has been successful in only 2 out of 4 lights there. However, further adjustments may be made and hopefully all 4 lights will eventually switch off at 11.30pm and turn back on at 5.00am (if dark). It was agreed that, further research needs to be carried out, including the possibility of applying for grant funding from

Biffa, but that the most feasible course of action would be to start replacing the lanterns as they fail with the 33W PL monitoring after one year how many have been replaced and the cost of this. The clerk will make further enquiries and will report back on this.

ii Traffic Management

It was noted that the proposals for traffic calming in the village referred to the Joint Area Committee have now been approved for funding. Cllr Stevens advised the clerk to get in touch with WCC in order to find out the approximate timescale for the project.

iii Village Improvements

It was noted that the daffodils planted in the village by volunteers have now started to come up. It was agreed that the possibility of a greater number being planted for next year could be investigated. Cllr Lockley commented that it was pleasing to see that the pavement on the corner of Leycester Close had, at last been repaired by WCC.

iv Visibility at Bendigo Mitchell Crossroads – Fosse Way

Cllr Patrick had attended a meeting with an engineer from WCC regarding the new section of bollards installed to protect the speed device on the Fosse Way. There have been a number of complaints that this reduces visibility at the crossroads. At present WCC argue that the barrier is necessary and will make a contribution to road safety at the junction. County Cllr Stevens will be meeting with the engineer this week in order to further discuss this and will report back to the Parish Council.

B Correspondence - none

C Members Items

i Sewerage Overflow – Mill Street Pumping Station

District Cllr Patrick reported that a meeting had been held between the interested parties and Severn Trent on the 2nd March but that since then action from ST has been at best patchy. Some of the residue of the overflow has been cleared up but some still remains, compensation payment to the two landowners has not been made and ST is very reluctant to rebuild the culvert. It was also disappointing to note that there seems to be very little interest from the Environment Agency. Discussion on this matter will continue to be ongoing.

ii Visibility – Corner of Farm Street and Temple End

The clerk was instructed to contact the owners of the Old New Inn in order to request that the bushes on the corner of Farm Street and Temple are cut back to improve visibility.

09\040 FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES

A Arising from the Minutes

i Grants to Outside Bodies: The Alzheimer's Society

The Council had received a request for funding from the Alzheimer's Society in order to fund an Information Service for sufferers and carers and correspondence on this had been circulated to all members. Although members agreed that this

is a very worthwhile cause, it was also agreed that it did not meet the Council's criteria for awarding grants for the specific benefit of residents of Harbury.

ii Power of Well Being

Training on the Power of Well Being has now been organised in conjunction with WALC and Whitnash Town Council for the 30th April commencing at 7.30pm at Whitnash Community Centre. Harbury has 9 councillors able to attend. Further details on the location are available from the clerk.

B Correspondence - none

C Members Items - none

09/041 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT As per Appendix B; full details on request from the clerk.

09/042 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

i Biffa Liaison Meeting

Cllr Patrick reported on the recent Biffa Liaison meeting held on the 19th March. Building work on the IVC building, which is at present clearly visible from the road, will have screening planted in the Autumn. Due to the changing economic climate, the original plans for landfill directly from the IVC system will not now go ahead. This will result in the current landfill facility only having approximately 4-5 years of life left and that projected lorry movements will be reduced from 133,00 per annum to 45,000 per annum. The next liaison meeting, which will include a tour of the site, will be held in July.

ii Green Bin Collection

Members were reminded that the green bin collection will recommence in the week beginning the 13th April. It was confirmed that this service will continue throughout the winter.

iii Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Tuesday 19th May in the Village Hall. Heads of the Working Parties were reminded that their reports should be forwarded to the clerk for inclusion in the Annual Parish Report no later than 11th May.

09/043 ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA - none.

09/044 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 23rd April 2009 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.

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