

MINUTES OF
AN ORDINARY MEETING
OF
HARBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Held in the Village Hall, Rooms, Harbury on Thursday 23rd April 2009 Page 602

Present: Cllrs Lockley (Chairman), Patrick, Knowles, Thornley, Hancock, Thompson, and Grey

In Attendance: Mrs N Thompson (Clerk to the Council), District Cllr Patrick, Mrs L Ridgley (Harbury News) Mr R Biddle and two members of the public.

09/045 APOLOGIES: Parish Cllrs Mancell, Baldwin and Darlison.

09/046 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 and item 11i, Harbury Heritage Group – member of the group.

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 Lockley declared an interest in item 11i, Harbury Heritage Group – member of the group.

09/047 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Mrs Guildford, a representative of Harbury Mothers' Union drew the Council's attention to her letter requesting permission to use the playing fields for a public picnic on Bank Holiday Monday 25th May. The picnic will celebrate National Family Week and will form part of an attempt to break the Guinness World Record for the world's largest picnic. It was agreed that permission should be granted for the organizers to use the field. Cllr Thornley volunteered to act as an official witness for the event on behalf of the Parish Council.

09/048 MINUTES - 26th March 2009

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

09/049 REPORTS FROM OTHER BODIES

i Harbury School Governors (AW) – nothing to report.

ii Public Safety

Cllr Patrick reported that, from the 12th May, the police are making a small modification to the way in which crimes can be reported. Emergencies should still be reported by using 999 but members of the public can call in at Southam Station to discuss more minor issues as the station is now being manned for longer hours Mon - Friday. Cllr Lockley has reported the issues of bike riding

- without lights and speeding cars in Temple End to PC Hill during the last month. There has been a fire in a car parked in Farm Street and there are continuing problems with cars accessing the car park after the barrier has been closed. The clerk will investigate this further.
- iii Southam College (SH) – nothing to report.
- iv Twinning Association (SH)
The Association is currently preparing for the forthcoming visit by representatives from Samoia and will shortly be sending a formal invitation to the Chairman of the Parish Council to attend one or more of the events planned.
- v Village Hall (JP)
The committee is continuing to research methods of funding. The AGM, which was held on the 6th April, was attended by 9 members of the public and resulted in one new member being voted onto the committee
- vi WALC/ NALC
The Southam Area Committee had met on the 22nd April but unfortunately Harbury was unable to be represented on this occasion. The Chairman reminded members about the forthcoming training on the Power of Well Being which will be held on the 30th April at Whitnash Community Centre.
- vii SDC & WCC Reports
SDC: District Cllr Patrick reported on the following:
- Refuse Collection: although there had been some initial problems with the new arrangements, particularly in Manor Road, these had now been resolved. It had been pleasing to note that the quantity of loose rubbish left in Church Street and outside the flats in High Street had been completely cleaned up.
 - Concrete Bin Stands: The welcome news had been received that SDC is now arranging for a free collection of the concrete bin stands during May. It was agreed that the clerk would e-mail Robert Weeks offering Parish Council help where possible with moving the stands to the front of resident's properties. It was also noted that Mr Weeks will be attending the "Recycling Seminar" organized by the Twinning Association as part of the twinning visit.
 - Bishop Bowl Lakes: there has been no further news on the 2 outstanding planning applications for the site; it was noted that the company making the applications had gone into receivership.
- WCC: County Cllr Stevens reported on the following:
- Cllr Stevens had recently attended a Highway Safety Seminar. The national trend is for a continuation of the reduction of speed limits on A roads to 50mph and there was also a discussion on the introduction of the 20mph limit in built up areas. Speeding is the biggest cause of accidents followed by drink driving.
 - The full cabinet had discussed HGVs and their impact recently; a report on this is expected back in July.
 - Police Priorities have been refined recently; these currently are (in order) to reduce the number of people killed and seriously injured, burglaries and to improve public trust and confidence in the police.

- Supermarket P/As: Tesco's have placed their application on hold at present in the light of the recent Sainsbury's interest in developing a site in the centre of Southam. It is understood that Sainsbury's will be putting in a planning application in the near future.
- Bendigo Mitchell Crossroads: following comments on visibility at the crossroads, WCC will now review the situation in the Autumn.
- The Cabinet has approved the plans for the proposed traffic calming methods in Harbury. The next stage will be for the PC to liaise with WCC in organizing a public consultation.

09\050 DEPPERS BRIDGE

A. Matters Arising

i Harbury Station Bridge

The Council had sent a letter making official representation on the lack of a practical bus service in Deppers Bridge to WCC and had also copied this into the ongoing consultation being carried out by WCC into bus services generally in the County. The current response received from WCC however is that, at the present time, no changes can be made to the existing service. It was agreed that Cllr Lockley, Mancell, Grey and the clerk would meet to discuss the possible options for the PC to help residents of Deppers Bridge with transport.

B Correspondence -none

C Members Items

Cllr Grey pointed out to members that congratulations should be sent to Mr Townsend, a resident of Deppers Bridge who has recently celebrated his 103rd birthday.

09\051 PLANNING

A Decisions on Planning Applications

i Permission Granted with conditions by SDC:

Village Hall, South Parade: Alterations and extensions to Village Hall to extend Hall. Construct stage with semi-basement under. Replace changing facilities. Replace toilets including wheelchair accessible toilets. Enlarge entrance lobby. Provide Parish Office and two lettable offices.

Stapenhall Farm, Deppers Bridge: Demolition of steel framed dutch barn and construction of a swimming pool.

Henry's, Bush Heath Lane: Proposed two storey side and rear extension.

- ii East Area Planning Committee: nothing to report.
- iii Parish Council Made No Representation on The Following: nothing to report.
- iv The PC Made Representations on the Following : nothing to report.
- 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

The public consultation on the proposed development will take place on the 21st May. The clerk has now taken delivery of the flyers publicising the proposed development and will be sorting these ready for delivery to the Harbury News in the next 2 weeks. Since the March meeting, it had been agreed that WRHA will pay £150 contribution to the HN for this leaflet drop (originally it had been agreed the PC would pay this) – the Council will now contribute £50 in order to make the amount up to £200. In the meantime, WRHA and Linfoot Homes have requested a meeting with the PC Chairman, the District and County Councillors in order to discuss the 106 agreement currently proposed by the County.

ii Mast – Bishop Bowl Lakes

It had been reported to the Council that a mast, possibly for telecommunications had been installed near to the railway line and the public footpath on the Bishop Bowl estate. It is likely that this has been installed by Network Rail who have recently been carrying out work on the line but the clerk will make further investigations into this.

C Correspondence - none

D Members Items

i The Dog Inn, Bull Ring

Members expressed concerns about the recent boarding up of the Dog Inn using steel shutters which are not in keeping with the Conservation Area. The clerk will contact the enforcement officer regarding this. It was also noted that it is proposed to have a meeting of concerned parties including the PC and the Church regarding the future use of the Dog. This will take place on the 28.4.09 and Cllr Patrick will attend on behalf of the Parish Council.

09/052 PROPERTIES

A Arising from the Minutes

i BMX Project

Cllr Thornley reported that she is currently liaising with David Morgan at Stratford CVS regarding the possibility of joining in partnership with other neighbouring villages to apply for funding for the project. No further quotes for the construction of the project had been received.

ii Playground Reports

Cllr Hancock reported on the following outstanding matters:

- Basketball Post: it was noted that the post has been removed leaving behind a hole. The clerk confirmed that it would be put back in position as soon as possible.
- Goalposts – Hole: This work has now been completed.
- Aerial Runway: the contractor had liaised with the play inspector and agreed a scheme of work that would be acceptable in safety terms. The Clerk however is still awaiting his quote.
- Paving Slabs & Levelling of Mole Hills: The following quotations had been received and circulated: MFM Services: Remove and replace 12 broken slabs, levelling remainder where possible £185, for complete re-lift and relay approx. 80 slabs £475. To level mole hills £75. Harbury Landscaping and Groundworks:

To relay slabs – if sub base is sound £1700, if sub base is not sound - £2250. To level off ground in play area and reseed: £600. J & S Landscapers: To replace all broken slabs and relay all the existing slabs: £850, to level the play area with top soil and reseed: £400. **It was resolved:** that the quotation from MFM Services for complete re-lift and re-lay at a cost of £475 is accepted.

- Picnic Table: The original table selected by the Council from the company Earth Anchors had been found to be more expensive than expected – the cost of this including fitting implements would be in the region of £900. The clerk had received one quotation for the restoration of the existing bench from MFM using the existing steel struts which was found to be £195. **It was resolved:** that this quotation is accepted.
- Extension of Water in Allotments: This work has now been successfully completed.
- Top up of Bark Pits: As agreed at the last meeting, the clerk has ordered the bark. It is hoped that this will be delivered in the next two weeks.
- Skateboard Ramp: following a meeting of the Properties W/P, it had been noted that the repair to the skateboard ramp surface is still unsatisfactory and uneven. The clerk was instructed to contact the contractor once again regarding this and also to investigate the possibility of having the sides of the ramp closed in to prevent litter, glass etc from accumulating underneath. In the meantime, the clerk will contact Mr Hall and ask him to sweep out under the ramp when he next visits the park.
- Car Park – Central Gratings: it was noted that the central gratings of the car park are completely blocked by debris, soil etc. The clerk was instructed to get quotes for clearing these out.
- Notices: the clerk was instructed to get the Risk of Grounding notice cleaned and to arrange for the removal of the mini-golf and dog fouling notices.
- Small Children’s Play Area: the long term needs of the small children’s play had been discussed by the Properties W/P. The proposal they wished to put forward was that the existing rocking horse be taken out of service in the future and replaced with a new piece of equipment possibly a see-saw. It was agreed that the clerk should get some brochures together of suppliers for this equipment.
- Plaque at Memorial Garden: the clerk reported that she has not yet had the opportunity to arrange for a replacement plaque but this will be done as soon as possible.

iii Cemetery Risk Assessment

It was noted that an urgent piece of repair work to one of the stone pillars at the entranceway to the cemetery which had become necessary since the last meeting had been successfully carried out. Cllr Hancock requested that the Properties W/P be given copies of the latest guidance issued on Cemetery risk management. It was noted that this guidance would need to be taken into account when conducting the next stage of the risk assessment.

B Correspondence -none

C Members Items -none

09\053 ENVIRONMENT

A Arising from the Minutes

i Street Lighting

The clerk reported to members that an invoice had now been received from E-on for the year April 2008 – March 2009. This had been found to be approximately

47% higher than the invoice for the previous year, a fact that the clerk had queried with E-on. E-on had responded verbally to explain that the large increase was due to the fact that the rate paid by the Council had not previously been increased for at least 5 years. The clerk has requested written confirmation of the rate increase and notification letter and will await these before sending the cheque.

ii Traffic Management

The Area Committee approval for the traffic calming had been given in March and the Cabinet approval for finance for the project had also now been given. Following this, the PC will need to liaise with WCC regarding possible consultation and how to proceed.

iii Village Improvements

It was noted that the Japanese Knotweed growing Bull Ring Farm Road has now reached approximately 1 metre in height. The clerk will inform WCC of the need to treat this urgently.

B Correspondence

i Mobile Home

E-mail correspondence had been received from a member of the public complaining about the continued presence of a large mobile home blocking the bus stop in Binswood End. This has now been moved following intervention by the police.

C Members Items

i Sewerage Overflow – Mill Street Pumping Station

District Cllr Patrick reported that there continued to be very little progress on the situation in Mill Street despite continued pressure being put on Severn Trent.

ii Sewers – Francis Road

It was reported that, as a result of ongoing problems with the sewers in Francis Road, the private company used by residents to unblock the pipes had produced a good map for future reference of where the problem areas are.

iii Highways Matters

It was reported that there is a pothole in Temple End outside New Stone House. The clerk will pass this information to Highways.

iv Hedges

Following a complaint about one overgrown hedge in the village, Cllr Lockley said that he would include a request for residents to trim hedges in the quarterly report.

09\054 FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES

A Arising from the Minutes

i Grants to Outside Bodies: All Saints Church Youth Group

Correspondence had been received from Rev. Craig Grocock requesting possible financial assistance in setting up a new Youth Club to be based in the Tom Hauley Rooms. The Group would ideally wish to purchase some items of equipment such a game console, table tennis table etc. Following discussion, **it was resolved:** that the Youth Group is asked to provide firm costings for the equipment they wish to purchase in order to allow the Council to better consider

their request. It was also noted that a separate letter had been received from group running the Youth Van which has been meeting on the playing fields car park thanking the Council for the use of the car park over the winter months. The group will now be meeting on the field over the summer.

ii Budget Monitoring

It was agreed to defer this item until the May meeting.

B Correspondence

i Harbury Heritage Group

Correspondence had been received from the Heritage Group asking for written Parish Council support for the project. It was agreed that the clerk would liaise with Cllr Thompson in order to provide this confirmation.

ii Emergency Planning

The clerk drew member's attention to a case in Southam recently heard by the Standards Board which has relevance for the implementation of the Council's emergency plan.

C. Members Items - none

09/055 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT Proposed by Cllr Hancock and seconded by Cllr Thompson. As per Appendix B – full details on request from the clerk.

09/056 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

i Quarterly Report and Reports for APM

Cllr Lockley said that traffic calming, the bus service in Deppers Bridge, streetlighting, the planning application for Bishop Bowl lakes and cutting hedges would all be included in his quarterly report. Members were also reminded that they should forward their reports for inclusion in the Annual Parish Report to the clerk no later than 11.5.09.

ii Repair of Notice Board

Cllr Lockley thanked Cllr Grey for taking the time to repair the notice board on the Farm Street Green.

09/057 ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA - none.

09/058 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on **Tuesday 19th May 2009** at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Thursday 28th May** at 7.30pm in the Village Hall and will be followed by an Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.

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