

MINUTES OF
AN ORDINARY MEETING
OF
HARBURY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

Held in the Village Hall, Rooms, Harbury on Thursday 23rd July 2009 Page 626

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

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

09/093 APOLOGIES: Apologies had been received and were accepted from Parish Cllrs Lockley and Darlison. County Cllr Stevens and District Cllr Patrick had both sent their apologies for joining the meeting late.

09/094 DECLARATION OF INTEREST ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

The following interests were declared by members:-

Cllr Thornley declared an interest in item 6v, Village Hall – member of the Management Committee and item 11i, Harbury Heritage Group – member of the group.

Cllr Patrick declared an interest in item 6v, Village Hall, -member of the Village Hall Management Committee.

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

Cllr Thompson declared an interest in item 6v, Village Hall – member of the Management Committee.

District Cllr Patrick joined the meeting.

09/095 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Mr Tawney and Mrs Sampson spoke briefly with regard to the grant application made by the Harbury Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme group which has recently been set up in the village. The scheme is well known nationally and gives young people between the ages of 14 – 25 the chance to complete challenges in skills, expeditions, physical and volunteering at three levels, bronze, silver and gold. The group will be expected to be self financing and intends to fund raise, charge a small weekly charge to participants and also approach local groups and bodies for grant funding. It was noted that this item will be discussed under agenda item 11i. The Chairman thanked Mr Tawney and Mrs Sampson for their attendance.

09/096 MINUTES - 25th June 2009

It was resolved that the minutes of the **Ordinary Meeting** of 25th June 2009 having been circulated, be taken as read and signed as a true record.

09/097 REPORTS FROM OTHER BODIES

i Harbury School Governors (AW)

Mrs Winchester had forwarded a short report for the Council. Mrs Jackson, the school's long serving school secretary has now retired following a special school assembly in which she was presented with cards and gifts. Mrs Harris also left at the end of the term after covering two maternity leaves. The PTA

organized a successful Summer Fayre at the end of the term which raised around £1200. A sponsored day of skipping also took place at which the children raised £603 to be donated to the British Heart Foundation. The next full Governor's meeting will be in October.

ii Public Safety

Cllr Grey reported from the recent Community Forum meeting at which Sgt Fretwell had stated that, as Southam no longer has a full time Sgt and he is expected to cover a huge area ranging from Shipston-on-Stour to Southam, priorities will have to be drawn up and only high priority items can be attended to. It was agreed that the clerk would forward feedback on behalf of the Council, that this situation is unacceptable. Cllr Thompson had attended, as an observer, a one day police and UK Border Agency initiative centered on the M40 services. This had been found to be very interesting and Cllr Thompson had been impressed with the level of organization, professionalism and partnership working of the police officers involved.

iii Southam College (SH)

Cllr Hancock reported that the Head Teacher, Mr Thompson and the Deputy Head, Mr Knapp had both retired at the end of term following many years at the school. Cllr Hancock had attended the lower school awards and reported that there are currently 210 children expected to start in September 2009. The College is also at the final stages in applying for a grant to fund the all-weather sports pitch and had recently had an Ofsted inspection of the Modern Languages Department.

iv Twinning Association (SH)

The Association made a successful contribution to the Carnival and has also held a safari supper for Bastille Night.

v Village Hall (JP)

Cllr Thornley reported that the Treasurer and Booking Secretary have resigned their positions. The post of secretary has been filled but the Hall Management Committee is still looking for a new Treasurer.

vi WALC/ NALC- nothing to report.

vii SDC & WCC Reports

SDC: Cllr Mann reported that she had made representations to WCC about visibility at the Bendigo Mitchell crossroads made poor by extremely long grass around the speed camera barrier. Both the clerk and Cllr Hancock had also contacted WCC regarding this. It was noted that the grass has now been cut.

Proposed Wind Farm – Bishops Itchington: A planning application has been received to build a wind farm development on the border of Bishops Itchington and Knightcote. This is expected to meet considerable resistance from local residents, the turbines are planned to be approximately 45m high and will be noisy when in operation.

Harbury Cement Works: A planning application for change of use and siting of portable buildings has now been withdrawn.

Verdant: Verdant crews have threatened industrial action although action planned for this week has been postponed for 1 week pending further talks.

09\098 DEPPERS BRIDGE**A. Matters Arising**

- i Harbury Station Bridge – nothing to report.

B Correspondence -none**C Members Items**

- i Cllr Grey reported that Severn Trent had contacted residents to give notice that the B4451 through Deppers Bridge will be shut for a period of time during August in order to repair a water leak.

09\099 PLANNING**A Decisions on Planning Applications**

- i Permission Granted with conditions by SDC:
 - Chesterton House Farm, Mill Street:** To relay the existing trackway, to make safer access for farm vehicles and in the interests of road safety. To dig out, lay a mix of crushed stone and brick and finish with road planings. To create an earthen maize clamp (temporary).
 - Western Villa, Deppers Bridge:** Conservatory to rear.
 - Sycamore House, Butt Lane:** T1 sycamore, reduce overhang to property and balance canopy.
 - Laurel Cottage, Hall Lane:** Hardwood, double glazed orangery.
- ii Area Planning Committee: nothing to report.
- iii Parish Council Made No Representation on The Following:
 - Leycester House Farm, Chesterton Road:** Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of associated garaging.
 - New House, Bull Ring Farm Road:** Porch to front.
 - Eastfields Farm, Deppers Bridge:** Demolition of existing farmhouse and buildings, construction of a new detached house and garage.
 - Harbury Rugby Football Club, Middle Road:** Closure of existing vehicular access and proposed new vehicular access 40m to the west. Erection of 2no. feature walls either side of new access.
 - Northcote, Deppers Bridge:** First floor extension to rear, porch to front.
- iv The PC Made Representations on the Following :
 - Laurel Cottage, Hall Lane:** COMMENT: The wood used for construction should be from managed or sustainable forests.
- v Permission Refused by SDC: nothing to report
- vi Applications Withdrawn:
 - Harbury Cement Works, Bishops Itchington:** Change of use of previously developed land to vehicle storage. Siting of portable buildings for office use, security, rest room and W.C. Erection of handover buildings and 2 buildings for the preparation of cars.
- vii Enforcement notices issued - none
- viii Appeals: none.
- ix Tree Preservation Order: none.

B Other Planning Matters**i** Bush Heath Lane Development

Following the June meeting, further clarification had been received from SDC regarding the 2004 Housing Needs Survey stating that, given that no other housing schemes had been completed in the village since the last survey, SDC would regard the 2004 survey as sufficient basis for phase 1 of the development to proceed. Following discussion, **it was resolved:** that Parish Council support should be given for phase 1 of the development but that a new Housing Needs Survey will need to be undertaken before any possible commencement of phase 2 and 3.

A request had been received from Linfoot Homes for the Council to appoint a solicitor to act on its behalf regarding the drawing up of the easement to allow a sewerage pipe and rising main from the development to cross the site. It was noted however that formal Council approval of this route for the pipe had not been given and insufficient information had been supplied to allow the Council to adequately resolve this issue at the present time. **It was resolved:** that the clerk should respond to Linfoot Homes requesting full details of the planned route of the pipe and the likely costs to the Council. **It was further resolved:** that the Council appoint Charles McKenzie of Wright Hassall solicitors to act on behalf of the Council should legal advice be required on this issue.

County Cllr Stevens joined the meeting.**C** Correspondence - none**D** Members Items - none**09/100 PROPERTIES****A** Arising from the Minutes**i** BMX Project – nothing to report.**ii** Playground Reports

Playground reports for July had been received and had highlighted some minor items of work which the clerk will arrange to be done. The following items of work had been completed since the June meeting:

- paving slabs adjacent to the children's play area – these have now been re-laid.
- Aerial runway repair – this work has been carried out. Cllr Knowles queried whether the Council would consider attaching a strap to the base of the runner and/or a small step on the mounting platform in order to aid smaller children but members felt that the runway was specifically for older children and should only be used by younger ones when accompanied by an adult. The clerk was instructed to organize the removal of some overhanging branches in the path of the runway.
- Picnic table – the overall finish of the table had not been as good as members hoped and it was also disappointing to note that the table had already been extensively vandalized.
- Bollard at entrance to playing field – the new bollard has now been installed.

iii Cemetery Risk Assessment

Since the June meeting the clerk had contacted the contractor who carried out the inspection once again for further advice and had also contacted the Council's insurers for their recommendations. Full details of the outcome of these two

actions had been circulated to the Properties W/P. The contractor had suggested that further testing is unnecessary and had provided a quotation of £30 per memorial for part-burial in the ground. The Council have been advised that any action carried out by the Council on the memorials whether part-burying or laying flat will mean that the Council takes over responsibility for the memorial for all time. It was agreed that the clerk should research the next actions further based on a procedure of removal of the stakes, re-testing by the hand method and then laying flat or part-burial where this is necessary.

Cllr Hancock reported that a resident has contacted the Council with regard to a beech tree in the cemetery which overhangs their property placing their garden in partial shade. The arboriculturist has looked at the tree and recommended that, whilst there is scope to carry out a small amount of work now, ultimately the tree is relatively immature and will grow eventually to be much larger in size. The resident has agreed to give this matter some thought before commenting further.

B Correspondence -none

C Members Items - none

The Chairman proposed and **it was resolved**: that the running order of the agenda be altered at this point in order to take item 6vii - WCC Report.

09/101 WCC Report

Cllr Stevens reported on the following matters:

- Bendigo Mitchell Crossroads: Cllr Stevens had spoken to the Area Surveyor regarding visibility at the junction.
- Highways Resurfacing Schedule: Parishes are being invited to submit suggestions for inclusion in the Minor Works Scheme for 2010. It was suggested that Mill Street be included in this.

09\102 ENVIRONMENT

A Arising from the Minutes

i Street Lighting – nothing to report.

ii Traffic Management

The consultation on the proposed traffic calming scheme for the village had gone ahead at the Tom Hauley Rooms on the 18th July. The event had been well attended and both positive and negative comments had been received; it had been the impression of the traffic engineer attending that about two thirds of residents who looked at the plans were broadly in favour of the proposals. Feedback from the event had been circulated to all members. It was noted that two items of further correspondence had been received after the consultation from residents in The Beeches and Percival Drive and that both had been responded to. There were further suggestions to better indicate the layby in Temple End and a member of the public present also suggested that countdown indicators may be useful when approaching a 30mph limit. Broadly, members felt that the proposals were positive and should be progressed to the next stage. The plans will be further displayed in Harbury Library for the next two weeks.

iii Village Improvements – nothing to report.

B Correspondence - none

C Members Items - none**09\103 FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES**A Arising from the Minutes

- i Grants to Outside Bodies: Harbury Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.
Members felt that the introduction of the scheme to the village would be extremely positive for those young people taking part. **It was resolved:** that the group is awarded a grant of £250. Members also felt that it may be appropriate for the group to re-apply for further funding once it is better established.
- ii Power of Well Being – nothing to report at present.
- iii Quality Parish Status
Further guidance had been received on test 8, Citizenship & Democracy and the clerk had forwarded this to Cllr Lockley and Mancell for comments.

B Correspondence

- i Harbury Twinning Association
A letter of thanks had been received from the Twinning Association for the grant awarded at the June meeting.
- ii Update of Emergency Plan
The template of the updated format of the Emergency Plan had been received from WCC by the clerk. The clerk will liaise with Cllrs Thompson, Hancock and Grey in updating the plan for this year.

C Members Items - none

09/104 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT As per Appendix B. Full details available on request from the clerk.

09/105 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- i Biffa Meeting
Cllr Thornley reported that the Biffa Liaison meeting scheduled for the 9th July had been cancelled and will now take place on the 10th September by which time the site should be fully operational.
- ii Harbury House, Butt Lane: Boundary Wall to Part Rear/Side
Cllr Thompson called member's attention to the planning application for Harbury House. It was noted that all members had had a chance to look at the application and that the response returned to SDC should be that of no representation.

09/106 ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA - none.

09/107 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Thursday 24th September 2009** at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

23 July 2009

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