

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

Held in the Tom Hauley Rooms, Rooms, Harbury on Thursday 26th November 2009

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Present: Cllrs Lockley (Chairman), Thompson, Patrick, Mancell, Knowles, Hancock, Grey, Darlison and Lewis.

In Attendance: Mrs N Thompson (Clerk to the Council), District Cllr Patrick, County Cllr Stevens, Mrs L Ridgley (Harbury News), Mr D Daly (Head Teacher), Mr M McBride (Chairman of School Governors), Mrs A Baldwin (Junior Rugby Club), Mr J Birkbeck (Rugby Club), Mr Bristow (Environment Group) and approximately 15 members of the public.

09/146 APOLOGIES: Apologies had been received and were accepted from Cllr Thornley and District Cllr Mann.

09/147 DECLARATION OF INTEREST ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

The following personal interests were declared by members:-

Cllr Darlison declared an interest in item 7Bii, Harbury C of E Primary School as he is a member of the Swimming Pool Committee and in item 10i, Grants to Outside Bodies as he is a parent of members of the Junior Rugby Club.

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

Cllr Hancock declared an interest in item 6v Village Hall as her husband is Chairman of the Village Hall Fundraising Committee.

Cllr Thompson declared an interest in item 6v, 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.

09/148 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Harbury C of E Primary School: Proposed Swimming Pool: The Chairman explained that Mr Edwards, a resident of Wagstaffe Close, would give a short presentation including showing PowerPoint pictures on his views on this planning application. This would be followed by an opportunity for the school representatives to make comments in reply, followed by questions by councillors and members of the public. Mr Edwards said that he spoke for a large number of near neighbours of the school, none of whom are against school children and swimming in general. However, residents have a number of concerns regarding the proposed pool namely, the size and scale of the building, parking and access to the proposed building, road safety, the commercial nature of the proposed management company and noise leakage from the plant room of the building which is directly adjacent to properties in Wagstaffe Close. Mr Edwards concluded by saying that he and other residents felt that this building was too large a development in a very tight space and, for this reason and those others given, should not be granted. In reply, Denis Daly, Head Teacher at Harbury Primary School, explained to the meeting that, due to an error, the wrong plans had been submitted to SDC. The correct plans, which are slightly smaller in scale and 1.5m further away from the fence bordering Wagstaffe Close will be

re-submitted to SDC. The school had consulted widely with the wider community prior to the application being prepared and the feedback generally had been very positive. During this process, a number of issues raised had been addressed including an amendment to the plans which involved turning the building 180 degrees so that the highest part of the roofline was not next to residential properties. The pool will be open from 9.00am – 6pm only with only occasional hire to organized village groups in the evenings and from 9.00am – midday on Saturdays. Access will be via the Park Lane entrance during school hours and the Mill Street entrance after school and on Saturdays and visitors will be able to use the school car park for dropping off and collecting. A mini-bus will drop off children visiting the school in Park Lane but will not be parked there at any other time. The Wagstaffe Close access is locked after children have entered the school in the morning and again after they have left at night and this entrance will not be used as an access to the pool.

The Chairman requested comments from Council members. Whilst some members supported the plans and felt that this would be an excellent additional facility for the school and the village, other felt that the building would be too big and that a project of this scale is unsustainable given the proximity of other swimming pools such as Southam Leisure Centre and Wellesbourne School. Members of the public were then invited to speak and raised a number of issues including out of term time use, construction traffic, parking, sound proofing of the building, possible use of the Village Hall car park for overflow parking and financing of the project. With regard to this last point, Mr Daly confirmed that the school was receiving guidance from a local fundraising company on the possible sources of finance available and that no building work will commence until all the finance is in place.

Harbury Mini & Junior Rugby Club – Request for Grant: Mrs A Baldwin spoke briefly on the Junior Rugby Club application for a grant towards the cost of providing “tackle bags” for the children training at the club. The club has recently done some fundraising by having a disco and is looking at other means of raising the money but fundraising is currently very difficult due to the economic climate. The club wishes to buy special smaller tackle bags for the younger boys as the adult size are not easy for them to use.

Sustainable Heat and Power Options for Village: Mr Bristow spoke regarding the need for the village to consider ways in which the community as a whole and as individuals could address climate change. He asked for the Parish Council’s reassurance that this issue is taken seriously and requested permission to set up a working party together with Bob Sherman and representatives from the Council in order to explore options for sustainable heat and power for the village. The working party would then report back to the Council at a later date. The Chairman assured Mr Bristow that this issue is of importance to the Council and the formation of the working party was approved with Cllr Grey, Patrick and Lewis as PC representatives on it.

Harbury Rugby Club: Mr Birkbeck spoke briefly on the plans of the Rugby Club to improve drainage at the rugby field. Although the club has undertaken a number of remedial works over the past few years including aeration and the use of herbicide and fertilizer, this has not been sufficient to improve the surface. The club has now been successful in applying for funding from Warwickshire RFU and intends to apply to BIFFA for further funding in the near future. The proposed work would be carried out by a specialized drainage contractor, no planning permission will be necessary and there will be no impact on traffic on Middle Road during the time the work is being carried out. The club is also seeking Parish Council support for the project and it was agreed that this could

be given; the clerk will write formally to Mr Birkbeck giving PC support for the project.

This item concluded the Public Participation section of the meeting.

09/149 MINUTES - 22nd October 2009

It was resolved that the minutes of the **Ordinary Meeting** of 22nd October 2009 having been circulated, be taken as read and signed as a true record.

09/150 REPORTS FROM OTHER BODIES

- i Harbury School Governors (AW) – There was nothing further to report.
- ii Public Safety
There was no police report or police presence at the meeting and it was noted that the current police policy is to no longer attend parish council meetings. Cllr Stevens expressed his disappointment with this decision. It was agreed that the Chairman would draft a letter to the Chief Constable on this matter and would also ask other parishes for their views.
- iii Southam College (SH)
Cllr Hancock recently attended a day of Health & Safety inspection at the school.
- iv Twinning Association (SH)
The Association's AGM had been held on the 13.11.09. This had been well attended and the committee had been largely re-elected for a further year. The meeting had also voted to accept a slight change in the constitution of the Association to better reflect the actual working practices.
- v Village Hall (JP)
Cllr Thompson reported that the refurbishment of the toilets will commence in January/February following agreement on the final plans for the layout. There will be a fundraising meeting of the Village Hall on the 1st December which members of the Council are welcome to attend.
- vi WALC/ NALC
The clerk had circulated the details of several training events and there had been a good take up of these. Cllr Thompson will attend the session on Chairmanship to be held in December, Cllr Mancell and the clerk will go to the Financial Clinic in January and Cllrs Knowles, Grey and Thompson will attend the Planning seminar in February.
- vii SDC & WCC Reports
SDC: District Cllr Patrick reported on a number of highways items reported to at the recent Cllrs' Corner including repairs at the junction with Chapel Street and Park Lane and ongoing flooding on the corner of Church Terrace and Hall Lane. Regarding recycling, the green bins will be collected throughout the winter this year and more items can now be recycled in the blue bins; the clerk has a poster for this and has also put an item in the Harbury News regarding Christmas tree disposal. SDC continue discussions and consultations on next year's budget and the Planning Committee had recently rejected the planning application for a mast to measure wind speeds in advance of a proposed wind farm mast on the outskirts on Bishops Itchington.
WCC: Cllr Stevens reported that the application from Cemex for Long Itchington has now been rejected. There will shortly be a review of the Early

Years Funding Formula which may lead to nurseries receiving less money. The review of the Fire Service has now finished and the County will next assess the responses. The County also continues to complete its budget for next year; this is a difficult process as it needs to cut around £20m every year for the next 4 years.

09\151 DEPPERS BRIDGE

A. Matters Arising –

- i British Telecom – Adoption of Telephone Kiosk
The clerk reported that the adoption process is in its final stage and she is waiting to hear confirmation from BT. Cllr Grey said that he had asked a number of residents for ideas as to what the kiosk could be used for after adoption but, apart from a notice board, not many ideas had been received.

B Correspondence - none

C Members Items – none.

09\152 PLANNING

A Decisions on Planning Applications (Appendix A)

- i Permission Granted with conditions by SDC:
West of Kinton Road, Land off Northfield Rd, Kinton Industrial Estate: Erection of new foodstore with petrol filling station, car parking, servicing area and associated landscaping.
The Byre, 7 Greenhill Farm, Bishops Itchington: Erection of a single storey extension to rear.
Lower Westfields Fam, Middle Road: Change of use of outbuildings from tack room and store to office for building contractor and store.
Hazebrook, The Pound: Erection of single storey rear extension.
The Cottage, Leycester House Farm, Chesterton Rd: Demolition of existing dwellings and replacement dwelling with associated garaging.
 - ii Area Planning Committee: nothing to report.
 - iii Parish Council Made No Representation On The Following:
The Cottage, Leycester House Farm, Chesterton Road: Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of replacement dwelling with associated garaging and change of use of existing agricultural track to domestic access drive.
Wisett Lodge, Church Street: Internal alterations to ground and first floor.
Allington House, 1 Farm Close: G1 group of sycamores – crown reduce by approximately 25%. Lift crowns on garden side to 4m.
30 Percival Drive: Detached double garage and ground floor extension to side.
Land off Ufton Rd: Extension to time limits for implementing planning permission for application 06/0205/FUL, decision date 3.1.07, for proposed demolition of existing workshop building and replacement with new business use/workshop.
 - iv The PC Made Representations on the Following :
 - v Permission Refused by SDC: nothing to report
 - vi Applications Withdrawn:
 - vii Enforcement notices issued - none

viii Appeals: none.

ix Tree Preservation Order: none.

B Other Planning Matters

- i Land East of Bush Heath Lane: Hybrid application – full application for the erection of 13 two storey affordable dwellings and 9 local market two storey dwellings (mix of 2, 3 and 4 bedrooms) and outline application for up to 27 dwellings consisting of affordable and/or local market.
Cllr Lockley had drafted a response to this application which had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. Following discussion, **it was resolved** that, with certain minor, amendments noted by Cllr Lockley, this draft will be forward to Stratford District Council as a comment on the application. It was further resolved that a sentence should be added to the representation stating that the application should read “...and outline planning for up to 27 dwellings consisting of affordable and local market dwellings”; the existing application reads “and/or local market dwellings”. The response should make clear the Council’s preference for affordable housing to be included in phases 2 and 3.
- ii Harbury C of E Primary School: Proposed Swimming Pool Building
It was noted that the plans submitted to the District Authority had been incorrect and that new plans have or will be submitted which show the building to be slightly smaller and 1.5m further away from the boundary fence. However, even taking into account these revised plans, the scale and size of the building were a concern for some members as were the issues raised previously by residents concerning access, parking etc. Following discussion, **it was proposed:** that the Council objects to the application on the grounds of its size and near proximity to the boundary with Wagstaffe Close; following a vote this proposal was **not carried**, 3 for and 5 against. It was noted that any comments made on the plans on the basis of size and scale were likely to be ineffectual as comments are usually used to trigger conditions on applications only. It was therefore **proposed** that the Council make a comment on the application on the following areas: noise levels of the plant room and the proximity to near neighbours, opening hours, access via Wagstaffe Close, parking, out of hours and school holiday time use and use by private hirers. **This was resolved.**

Cllr Darlison gave apologies and left the meeting.

C Correspondence

- i Former Post Office, Church Street.
Correspondence had been received from Ms N Toner who has expressed an interest in buying the former Post Office and using the ground floor as a solicitor’s office whilst the first floor would be for residential use. In principle, members had no objections to these plans and the clerk was instructed to reply to Ms Toner accordingly.

D Members Items

09/153 PROPERTIES

A Arising from the Minutes

- i BMX Project
Following on from the October meeting, Cllr Thornley and the clerk had met and completed the application form for the WCC Community Development

Fund; this was then signed by Cllr Stevens and forwarded to WCC, Stratford Area Office. The PC has made an application for £10,000 from the fund (the maximum allowed) which, together with funds already held, would allow the project to be completed to include landscaping but excluding a path to the site. The Council will be informed after 1st February 2010 whether the application has been successful. Work on the project cannot commence until after the application has been determined as this would invalidate the grant.

ii Playground Reports

Following the October playground reports, an additional tyre had been fitted to the aerial runway as recommended by the play inspector. Work had also been carried out to repair the wetpour surface under the swings, to clean the vandalised signs in the car park, trim back overhanging branches from some pieces of equipment and clear out the alligator teeth from rubbish and debris. The clerk has placed an order with MFM for two additional posts for the car park in order to prevent vehicles from accessing the field after the barrier has been closed. The Properties W/P also requested that the clerk obtain the price of a “Gull-wing” see-saw supplied by Record Play Equipment to replace the small rocker in the children’s play area. This price was found to be £1060 plus installation and possibly an extension to the wet pour surface; the clerk has asked AGD for a quote for this work. An equivalent see-saw from Wickstead had been quoted as £2082 plus £620 for installation. Following discussion, **it was resolved:** that the “Gull-Wing” see-saw is purchased subject to their being no need to extend the existing wetpour surface.

iii Cemetery Risk Assessment

Following a meeting of the Properties W/P, its recommendation is that those memorials currently staked are dealt with in the following way: a faculty is obtained to potentially cover all memorials although it is hoped that only a smaller number of them will need to be made safe under the new lighter touch guidelines. Notices will be placed in the Harbury News, Bishops Itchington Scene and on notice boards in the village and at the cemetery advising that the assessment is to be updated and that some memorials, if found to be unsafe, may need to be laid down. Letters will also be sent to those residents that we have contact names for who have not taken action to repair memorials. Following this period of consultation (minimum 2 months) the cemetery will be assessed again by cllrs using the “hand” method of retesting the memorials. A maintenance contractor will be on site at the same time to lay down any memorials that fail the test. The clerk had met with AGD at the cemetery to discuss the proposed work; his quotation is for an hourly rate of £20 per hour – memorials will need to be laid within i.e. to the front of the existing grave space in order not to verge on the plot behind. Following discussion, it was agreed that this was the best method of proceeding with this difficult situation; it was also agreed that any complaints regarding the ongoing situation at the cemetery should be referred to the working party rather than being dealt with by the clerk.

B Correspondence - none

C Members Items - none

09\154 ENVIRONMENT

A Arising from the Minutes

i Street Lighting

WCC have carried out an update of the remaining concrete columns and have recommended that columns 1, 2 and 4 in Farley Avenue and column 2 in Sutcliffe Drive be replaced this year. The remaining columns should be replaced as part of the ongoing rolling program. The clerk had obtained two quotes for the replacement lights – both with 42w lights: WCC £1294 and ABB £1007 – both excluding VAT. **It was resolved:** that the quotation for 4 lights from ABB should be accepted. The clerk had also asked about the possibility of timers being fitted to some of the lanterns so that they would turn off at night. This would cost approximately £20- £40 per light to fit and could be fitted to most although not all lights. WCC have suggested that the Council could trial this on one estate in the first instance in order to gauge the response. **It was resolved:** that the Council could allocate up to £400 initially to this project; the clerk will liaise with the Environment W/P as to which lights are selected. The clerk was also asked to find the cost of the tariff per lighting unit between the hours of 12.00pm and 5.00am.

WCC also advised that a bulk change of the lights will commence in April 2010 and all the lanterns will be cleaned at that time. If the Council wished the Windsor lanterns to be cleaned at two yearly intervals instead of 3 yearly, the annual charge for that would be £831.79 pa. This suggestion was however rejected on the grounds of cost.

ii Traffic Management

The clerk was instructed to contact Graham Stanley at WCC regarding when the installation of the traffic calming will begin.

iii Village Improvements – nothing to report.

iv Update of Parish Plan

The Environment W/P had met and discussed the possible update of the Parish Plan. It had been agreed that reducing the village's carbon footprint should be an additional item within the new plan and the W/P had started to organize an "eco" event to be held at the Village Hall on 6th March. Disability access to shops in the village, particularly the Post Office, had also been discussed. Cllr Lockley requested that the other working parties discuss their input into a new plan when they next meet.

v Christmas Tree Chipping

The clerk reported that she had been informed by SDC that Christmas trees will be picked up at the same time as the green bin collection in January and that she had put a short article to this effect in the Harbury News. There was some ambiguity as to whether this will be at any green bin collection or simply the one immediately after Christmas and District Cllr Patrick agreed to clarify this.

B Correspondence - none

C Members Items

i Signpost at Fosse Way Junction with Middle Road

Cllr Hancock requested once again that this sign should be re-instated.

09\155 FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES

A Arising from the Minutes

i Grants to Outside Bodies: **Harbury Village Hall**

Correspondence regarding this grant application had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting. **It was resolved:** that a grant of £5000 as identified in the budget 2009/10 be made to the Village Hall.

Harbury Junior Rugby Club: Correspondence regarding this application had been previously circulated and members had also noted the comments made earlier by Mrs Baldwin. Following discussion, **it was resolved:** that a grant of £600 is made to the Junior Rugby Club.

ii Power of Well Being

The clerk had now been successful in passing Section 7 of the CiLCA portfolio. It was noted that by referring to the Statutory Instrument 2008 No 3095, the Parish Councils (Power to Promote Well-Being) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2008, the council is eligible under the following criteria:

- A minimum of 2/3rds of the total number of council seats filled at the last ordinary elections.
- A qualified clerk.
- 80% of members have attended training in the use of the power; this may include co-opted members.
- A published Statement of Intent for Community Engagement.

It was resolved: that the Council should adopt the power of well being and that it will no longer therefore use the powers given under S136 of the Local Government Act 1972. Before exercising the power, Councils should have regard to the local principle authority(s) sustainable community strategy(s) and should also comply with any guidance provided by the Secretary of State on exercising the power. The power remains eligible until the day before the annual meeting after the next ordinary elections.

iii Quality Parish Status

The application pack and evidence for re-accreditation had now been completed and forwarded to WALC. The panel next meets on the 8th December and the Council will hear soon after that, whether it has been successful.

iv Budget 2010/11

Cllr Mancell reported that the Finance & General Purposes W/P will meet on 14.12.09 and again on 18.1.10. Following this, a recommendation will be made to the full Council at the meeting to be held on the 28th January. Cllr Lockley commented that it may be appropriate at a point in the future to consider greatly increasing the precept in order to make larger grants to the Village Hall. In his opinion however this, could only be done after holding a Parish Poll to test the views of the village.

v Book Exchange

Cllr Lockley thanked Cllr Grey for the construction of the bookshelves which are now in place in the foyer of the library. The book exchange is now fully available and the clerk has put a short information article in the Harbury News about it.

vi Change to Bank Mandate

It was resolved: that Cllr Lewis is added to the bank mandate to allow her to sign cheques on behalf of the Council.

B Correspondence

i Christmas Lights 2009

It was noted that an e-mail had been received from the Christmas lights group saying that it will be necessary to hire Mr Sheasby's lift in order to inspect and repair the lights at the top of the Christmas tree ready for it to be lit again this year. It was agreed that this would be an acceptable expense.

C Members Items - none

09/156 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT Proposed by Cllr Thompson and seconded by Cllr Patrick – as per Appendix B. Full details available on request from the clerk.

09/157 ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA - none

09/158 ANY OTHER BUSINESS - none

09/159 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Thursday 28th January 2010** at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 10.10pm.

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