

MINUTES OF
AN ORDINARY MEETING
OF
HARBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Held in the Village Hall, Harbury Church, Harbury on Thursday 27th January 2011
age 741

Present: Cllrs Lockley (Chairman), Ekins, Knowles, Lewis, Patrick & Thornley

In Attendance: Mrs N Thompson (Clerk to the Council), Mrs L Ridgley (Harbury News), County Cllr Stevens, Mr P Quinney (Harbury Pre-School), Mr T Stubbs and Mrs G Guilford (Village with a Vision) and 1 member of the public.

011/01 APOLOGIES

The Council had received and accepted apologies from Cllrs Hancock, Mancell, Summers and Thompson and from District Cllr Mann.

011/02 DECLARATION OF INTEREST ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

The following interests were declared by members:-

Cllr Patrick declared an interest in item 5v, Village Hall as she is a member of the Village Hall Management Committee, and in 3i, Village with a Vision and item 9v – Energy Initiative, as she is a member of the committees of both of those groups.

Cllr Thornley declared an interest in item 5v, Village Hall as she is a member of the committee and in item 8i, Harbury Olympics as this is also being organized by the Village Hall.

Cllr Lewis declared an interest in item 9v Energy Initiative as she is a member of this group.

011/03 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Village with a Vision: A copy of the pack which has been put together by the Village with a Vision group and which is intended for information purposes for potential partners in the scheme, had been circulated to all members of the Council in advance. Through Warwickshire County Council, the group now hopes to organize meetings with the various approved partners; this process should be underway by the end of February/beginning of March. Several possible sites had been identified but negotiations with landowners will be left to the development partner. It was agreed that the Council is broadly very supportive of the aims of VwaV but the Chairman pointed out that the Parish Council would wish to be kept informed and where appropriate consulted on the progress of the scheme particularly with regard to the selection of the site.

Harbury Pre-School: Mr Quinney from Harbury Pre-School outlined the plans for a proposed canopy for the outdoor play area of the Wight School, the written details of which has been circulated to members in advance. The Pre-School has been awarded an “Outstanding” status from Ofsted but one area which had been highlighted for improvement was the provision of a covered outdoor play area. Several quotations had been gained for this and it is

thought that the final cost will be in the region of £6000; funding has also been sought from other sources. It is also possible that solar panels could be fitted to the cover. Cllr Patrick queried whether Listed Buildings Consent would be needed but it was explained that this would not be necessary as the proposed cover would be at the rear of the building. Members also voiced concerns regarding the long term viability of the Wight School given that Harbury Library is under threat of closure. Cllr Stevens explained that a consultation on the future of libraries in Warwickshire would be held between March and June of this year; however it is correct that the Library Service as a whole has lost £1m of its funding and needs to make extensive savings. Mr Quinney explained that, although previously agreed funding had been withdrawn in July 2010, discussions had since been underway with WCC and the trustees to secure the long term use of the building and funding for a limited extension scheme had been agreed. Following discussion, **it was resolved:** to move consideration of this item to this section of the agenda. **It was further resolved:** that Harbury Pre-School be awarded £1500 in grant funding for the purchase of an outdoor canopy. This amount will be ring-fenced in Parish Council funds until the funding for the whole project is in place.

011/04 MINUTES - 23rd November 2010

It was resolved that the minutes of the **Ordinary Meeting** of the Parish Council of 23rd November 2010 having been circulated, be taken as read and signed as a true record.

011/05 REPORTS FROM OTHER BODIES

- i Harbury School Governors (AW)
There was no formal report. It was noted that the appeal against the refusal of the School swimming pool was currently in progress.
- ii Public Safety
It was noted that problems with youths on the car park seem to have lessened recently. The clerk was instructed to e-mail PC Rod Joy for an update. Cllr Stevens reported that the police have had an £11m budget cut overall however, a greater emphasis is now being placed on community policing and it is possible that PCSOs will recommence attendance at Parish Council meetings.
- iii Southam College (SH)
Cllr Stevens reported that the College's recent Ofsted inspection had awarded it "outstanding" status; a written report to parents confirming this will be sent out shortly.
- iv Twinning Association (SH)
The Association will be holding a jazz evening on the 5th March which is aimed at raising funds for the Village Hall. Plans are underway for the visit in May from representatives from Samoia including a proposed wheelbarrow race.
- v Village Hall (JP)
Cllr Patrick reported that the Fundraising Committee hoped to be informed in the near future whether they have been successful in their application to Veolia for funding for repairs to the roof of the building. Work on the roof will shortly

commence. Cllr Lockley queried whether the revised plans for the Hall had yet been finished; it was confirmed that these were not yet complete.

vi **WALC/ NALC**

The Clerk had circulated details of two forthcoming training events from WALC including one aimed at relatively new councilors. Cllr Patrick reported that she had recently attended a “Big Society” event at which representatives from various areas had shared ideas and initiatives.

vii **SDC & WCC Reports**

WCC: Cllr Stevens reported that the County needs to make cuts of £12m per year for the next four years. This will result in the cutting of 1800 posts and a re-organisation of departments and senior management. Further to cuts in the Library Service which had already been discussed, the Youth Service will be re-organised and will receive a reduction in funding, the subsidy for rural transport will be reduced, speed cameras will be cut by 75% but those remaining will be rotated around the existing positions, the Music Service will need to be self-financing which will result in the costs of some lessons being increased.

Community grants are expected to continue to be available but will be reduced. Cllr Lockley reported that, during the recent, bad weather before Christmas, gritting on the Fosse Way had been inadequate on some occasions.

SDC: Nothing to report.

011\06 DEPPERS BRIDGE

A. Matters Arising

i Telephone Box

It was noted that the telephone box remains unused. Cllr Ekins pointed out that the noticeboard next to the box is coming to the end of its life and it was agreed that the Clerk should investigate using the inside of the telephone box as a noticeboard instead.

B Correspondence

i Picnic – Royal Wedding

A request had been received from a resident of Deppers Bridge for a “street party” picnic to commemorate the Royal Wedding at the Deppers Bridge play area on the 30th April. This may include the use of flags/bunting, recorded music and games for children. Residents would be asked to bring their own food, picnic tables etc. It was agreed that the Council had no objections to this but that that the organisers should be advised that the event is “at their own risk” as it is unlikely to be covered by the Council’s public liability insurance.

C Members Items - none

011\07 PLANNING

A Decisions on Planning Applications

i Permission Granted with conditions by SDC:

Harbury House, Butt Lane: T1, cedar – repair weight of limbs over the lawn by 10-15%, repair damaged branches, T2, cedar – recent storm damage, reduce weight of long lateral limbs by 10-15%, T3, cedar – reduce weight of vulnerable limbs by 10-15%

40 Farley Avenue: Conversion of roof space to living accommodation including the provision of dormer windows

Lullington Lodge, 1 Dovehouse Lane: T1, yew – reduce crown by 30%

7 Farm Street: Two storey pitched roof extension to side elevation of property

Manor Cottage, Park Lane: Conversion of existing roof space with the insertion of no. 3 dormer windows. Extend at first floor level over existing front porch

The Dog Inn, Bull Ring: Proposed installation of external ductwork extraction unit

ii Parish Council Made No Representation on The Following:

4 Queen's Close: Erect a car port to the principal elevation

18 Farley Avenue: First floor extension over existing garage

11 South Parade: Extension to existing garden room

iii The PC Made Representations on the Following: nothing to report

iv Permission Refused by SDC:

v Applications Withdrawn:

4 Queen's Close: Erect a car port to the principal elevation

B Other Planning Matters

i Bush Heath Lane Development

A number of complaints had been received regarding the extremely muddy state of the road outside the new development. Both the Clerk and the Chairman have contacted Linfoot Homes regarding this and have received assurances that it will be cleaned. The Clerk has also been assured that the verges will be repaired and that all litter will be collected. Following enquiries into the extension of the 30mph speed limit to include the development, Cllr Stevens reported that this has been included on the agenda for Area Meeting deciding Highways grants; this committee meets on 28th January. It was further reported that the Harbury sign on Bush Heath Lane has been hit by a lorry.

ii High Speed Rail Link

E-mail correspondence had been received requesting that the Council consider budgeting for a possible future contribution to the Action Group fighting HS2. Following discussion, **it was resolved:** that no such provision should be made at the current time.

C Correspondence – none

D Members Items - none

011/08 PROPERTIES

A Arising from the Minutes

i BMX Project

It was noted that there remains some problems with drainage on the BMX site which has not been resolved by the recent drainage work. It was agreed that the clerk will organize meeting with the contractor in order to discuss what further work can be carried out in the spring in order to solve this.

ii Car Park & Playing Field – Security & Access

The Clerk reported that, although the new timer has been fitted to the car park lights, this is not working properly and, at present, the lights are continuously off. This has been reported to WCC Streetlighting.

iii Playground Reports

The Clerk reported that the annual free independent inspection of the play areas by contractors employed by SDC at both Harbury and Deppers Bridge will be carried out during February. However, SDC has advised that, due to spending cuts, this will be last year that they are able to provide this service.

Following the Council's successful grant application to the Area Fund, the agreed supplier, Durasport had been asked to confirm their price for doing the work this spring/summer. Due to increases in the costs of the raw materials, the price has increased from £9525 exc. VAT to £9858 (grant funding £5000).

However it was also advised that, if the Council wished to exclude the cost of painting the surface in either green or terracotta specialist sports paint, this would result in a saving of £400. Following discussion, **it was resolved:** that the quotation excluding the sports paint be accepted, cost £9458 excluding VAT.

It was noted that the area around the goal posts on the playing fields is currently becoming increasingly muddy due to use by the football clubs and poor drainage generally on the field. It was agreed that Cllr Lockley will speak to the Chairman of the Junior Football Club about the possibility of using sharp sand or sawdust to counteract this.

iv Cemetery Risk Assessment

Cllr Summers had reviewed the list of outstanding names and this has resulted in two new contact names being found. The clerk will write to these asking them to repair their relative's memorial.

B Correspondence

i Harbury Olympics 18.6.11

Correspondence had been received requesting permission to use the playing fields on 18.6.11 for "Harbury Olympics", a fund raising event for the Village Hall. Permission to use the fields for this event was agreed; the organisers will also attend the February Council meeting with more information about the event.

C Members Items - none

01\09 ENVIRONMENT

A Arising from the Minutes

i Street Lighting

The Clerk had been given a quotation from E-on for the replacement of up to six of concrete columns with steel columns, using either the 42 W PLT lantern or an LED lantern manufactured by either Marlin or Philips. The quotes for these were as follows: 42w PLT - £1049.00, Marlin 60w LED - £1354, Philips 60w LED - £1749. Following discussion, **it was resolved** that the Council should order 5 steel columns with the Marlin LED but that the Clerk should request a lower wattage bulb as will be used in the Bush Heath Lane development. The Clerk was also requested to check what level of guarantee is offered with the Marlin lantern.

ii Village Improvements – nothing to report.

iii Traffic Management

Cllr Lewis reported that that WCC had agreed to move one of the bollards in Binswood End to a more favourable position. The Clerk was requested to remind WCC about turning the speed sensor in Mill Street to face in the opposite direction.

iv Update of Parish Plan

The Working Party had met in early December and formulated a draft questionnaire which can be uploaded onto the SDC website and completed online by the majority of respondents. There will also be hard copies for those residents who do not have access to a computer or prefer to complete a hard copy. At the beginning of January, letters were also sent out to all voluntary and sporting groups in the village asking if they had any particular issues that they would like to see reflected in the survey. The responses to these will be collated for consideration at the next meeting of the Parish Plan group on Friday 4th February.

v Energy Group

Cllr Patrick had circulated a short report to all members in advance of the meeting. The group is planning a display in the Village Hall on 22.2.11 on photovoltaic panels; this will link with a talk arranged jointly with the Village Hall by Eco2Solar. The Energy Group also plans to have a Carnival stall to raise awareness and requested that the Council consider funding this. It was agreed however that the group should set up its bank account and draft a constitution before any funding can be given. Future meetings of the Energy Group are open to all and will be held on 22.3.11 and 25.5.11.

B Correspondence

i Parking in Crown Street

Two letters had been received from residents concerned about parking difficulties in Crown Street, one of whom is the carer of an elderly disabled resident. It was agreed that the Clerk would request that Highways consider whether a disabled space could be provided in the road.

C Members Items

i Bio Fuel Production

Cllr Lewis said that she had been interested to see that a site on the edge of the village had been considered by WCC for the possible production of biomass.

011\010 FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSESA Arising from the Minutes

i Budget & Precept 2011/12

The Finance & General Purposes W/P had met twice since the November meeting and had drawn up a proposed budget for 2011/12 which would result in a 1.51% increase in the precept. The Clerk had also further adjusted the figures, bringing forward savings from the current financial year made on village maintenance – this would allow a 0% rise. Following discussion, Cllr Lockley proposed that the Council accept the budget giving a 1.51% rise for 2011 and resulting in a precept of £67256.00 for the financial year 2011/12. **This was resolved**, five members voting in favour and 1 against.

ii Review of Allotment Rents & Cemetery Charges

It was agreed that this item should be DEFERRED to the February meeting of the Council to allow the Clerk to carry out research into what similar parishes are currently charging for allotments.

iii Audit 2010/11

The Clerk reported that the first stage of the internal audit is being carried out this week. This will result in the auditor needing to check year end balances only at the end of the financial year.

iv Donations to Outside Bodies: Harbury Village Hall

Correspondence had been received from the Village Hall requesting the release of a £5000 grant set aside in the Council’s budget for this purpose. Members expressed some concerns that more information on the Hall’s current and future needs and current financial position was required. **It was resolved:** that this item be DEFERRED to allow for further information to be provided by the Village Hall and consideration of the funding needs of the Hall to be made.

B Correspondence - none

C Members Items - none

011\011 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT Proposed by Cllr Patrick and seconded by Cllr Thornley. As per Appendix B – full details on request from the Clerk.

011\012 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- i Royal British Legion: The Great Poppy Weekend
Correspondence had been received regarding plans from the Royal British Legion for a Great Poppy Weekend on the 10th, 11th and 12th June 2011; this is to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the Royal British Legion. It was agreed that it may be difficult to accommodate an additional event on this weekend as it is Carnival weekend, however the Clerk was asked to contact the Choir School regarding this.
- ii Annual Meeting of the Parish Council
Cllr Lockley pointed out that he will be unable to attend the Annual Meeting of the Council currently scheduled for 26.5.11 and requested that the Council consider changing this date. **It was resolved:** that the date should be changed to 24.5.11 subject to a suitable venue being available.

011\013 ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

- i Harbury Olympics

011\014 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Thursday 24th February 2011 in the Farley Room, Harbury Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

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

