

MINUTES OF
AN ORDINARY MEETING
OF
HARBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Held in the Village Hall, Harbury Church, Harbury on Thursday 24th February 2011
age 749

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

In Attendance: Mrs N Thompson (Clerk to the Council), Mrs L Ridgley (Harbury News), County Cllr Stevens, District Cllr Mann, Mr P Bushill-Matthews, Mr A Lawrence (Heart of Harbury Games), Mr P Quinney (Harbury Pre-School) and six members of the public.

011/015 APOLOGIES

The Council had received and accepted apologies from Cllr Mancell.

011/016 DECLARATION OF INTEREST ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

The following interests were declared by members:-

Cllr Patrick declared an interest in item 3i, Heart of Harbury Games as she is a member of the steering group and in item 6v, Village Hall as she is a member of the Village Hall Management Committee.

Cllr Thornley declared an interest in item 3i, Heart of Harbury Games as she is a member of the steering group and in item 6v, Village Hall as she is a member of the committee.

Cllr Thompson declared an interest in item 6v, Village Hall as he is a member of the Management Committee.

Cllr Lockley declared an interest in item 11i, Review of Allotments as he is an allotment holder.

Cllr Hancock declared an interest in items 6v, Village Hall and item 3i, Heart of Harbury Games as her husband is a member of both committees.

011/017 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Heart of Harbury Games: There was a short informal presentation on behalf of the Heart of Harbury Games which outlined the proposals for the event. The charges for participants will £5 for adults and £2 for children with spectators also paying £2. There will be ten teams of eighteen people each competing in thirty five events and it is hoped that local businesses and sports clubs will support the event by entering a team and/or sponsoring an event. It is hoped that the event will raise funds for the Village Hall. The group wished to request that the Parish Council consider making a grant of £500 towards the organization of the event which would pay for a PA system and go some way towards covering the costs of insurance. **It was resolved:** to DEFER the decision on this until after item 5 – Harbury Library.

Graffiti at Harbury Playing Fields: Alice Lockley, a Year 6 pupil at Harbury School spoke regarding the amount of graffiti on items of equipment at the playing fields. The Council had received twelve letters of complaint from pupils at the school, which had been produced as part of work done on “letters of complaint” and graffiti. Alice reiterated the points made in many of

the letters, that much of the graffiti is offensive and inappropriate for small children to read and that one idea to combat it could be to install a “graffiti board” specifically to write on. It was agreed that the Properties W/P would carry out some research into this idea and report back to the Council. When a decision has been made on it, the Clerk will report back to children at the school. The Chairman thanked children in Y6 for taking bringing this to the Council’s attention.

011/018 MINUTES - 27th January 2011

It was resolved that the minutes of the **Ordinary Meeting** of the Parish Council of 27th January 2011 having been circulated, be taken as read and signed as a true record.

011/019 HARBURY LIBRARY

Cllr Lockley outlined the current situation with Harbury Library. The library is one of 16 throughout the county which have been identified by WCC as being “unviable” in their current form. A public consultation on this will commence on the 1st March, however, in the meantime, Cllr Lockley has organized a public meeting to be held on Thursday 10th March at which it is hoped to hear residents’ views and hear from representatives from the Library Services and the Wight School trustees. The current grant application from Harbury Pre-School (Item 11iii on the agenda) is also linked to the future of the Library as the Pre-school currently operates from part of the building and has grant funding to renovate the side of it including the provision of new toilets. Mr Bushill-Matthews asked if the Parish Council had written formally to WCC expressing their views about the Library. It was his view that to describe the library as “unsustainable” is not appropriate in a village as many publicly funded services could be viewed in the same light. In reply, Cllr Lockley said that, although to date, there had been no consultation with the County, the PC will be responding formally to the consultation once it has begun. It is understood that the running costs of the Library are currently in the region of £15590 per year including staffing and provision of books, of this, maintenance of the building makes up roughly £7000 per year.

It was resolved: that discussion on the grant application from Harbury Pre-School should be moved from item 11iii to the current discussion. Mr Quinney, on behalf of the Pre-School explained that a number of issues had been encountered during the planning application process before building work could start but that these had now been largely overcome and the project is due to begin on Monday 28th February. The current proposals are a scaled back version of the original plans and include the provision of public, disabled toilet facilities which could be for the benefit of the whole village. However, the Pre-School committee has now realized that it is approximately £10,000 short of the funds needed to complete the project mainly due to VAT considerations. The group intends to partly make up this shortfall by taking £5000 from its reserves but has applied to the Parish Council for a grant of £4000 which is the cost of the proposed toilets. It was noted that the Wight School is not a listed building and that during the course of the building works, the small tree at the front of the building will need to be removed. It was also noted that, if a previously agreed grant of £1500 to the Pre-School for the installation of a canopy, is not made, there remains just under £2500 in the Power of Well Being budget for this year; the remainder of the funding needed could be accommodated from current reserves. Following further discussion, **it was resolved** (prop. Cllr Lockley, sec.

Cllr Thompson): that a grant of £4000 for the provision of toilet facilities should be made to Harbury Pre-School, subject to the previous grant of £1500 being withdrawn.

011/020 HEART OF HARBURY GAMES

Following discussion, **it was resolved:** that the organizing group be awarded a grant of £500 to be paid from the budget for the next financial year.

011/021 REPORTS FROM OTHER BODIES

- i Harbury School Governors (AW)
There was no formal report.
- ii Public Safety – nothing to report.
- iii Southam College (SH)
Cllr Hancock reported that the College had been given an “outstanding” rating following the recent Ofsted inspection. A brief overview of the inspection had been sent to parents and the full report is available to download from the College’s website.
- iv Twinning Association (SH)
The Association had nearly completed its plans for the visit from representatives from Samoa in early June. A skittles night is planned in the near future as a fundraiser for the visit. The Association is also organizing a jazz evening as a fundraiser for the Village Hall.
- v Village Hall (JP)
Cllr Thornley reported that work will shortly commence on the roof repairs which may mean some minor inconvenience for hirers of the Hall. The Committee will meet in early March to discuss the recent successful grant application and how this can best be used.
- vi WALC/ NALC – nothing to report.
- vii SDC & WCC Reports
WCC: Cllr Stevens reported that the funding for the Pre-School extension to the Wight School had been agreed (£95,000) provided that the work is completed by the end of March. A further small grant of £100 had been agreed for the Scout Hut in order to replace the door. He requested that the clerk e-mail any last minute footpath repairs to him as there is a possibility that they may be included in this year’s budget. Cllr Lockley reported that the drain in Chapel Street remains blocked and should be treated as an urgent item. Finally, Cllr Stevens reminded members that the consultation on HS2 commences on Monday 28th February.
SDC: Cllr Mann reported that the draft budget for the forthcoming financial year will be discussed on 28th February; the District is currently looking at partnership working with neighbouring Councils in order to provide some services more efficiently.

011\022 DEPPERS BRIDGE

A. Matters Arising

- i Telephone Box

It was noted that some residents have started using the telephone box as a noticeboard. **It was resolved:** that the old noticeboard, which is in a poor state of repair, should be removed.

B Correspondence - none

C Members Items - none

011\023 PLANNING

A Decisions on Planning Applications

- i **11 South Parade:** Extension to garden room
10 Church Terrace: T1 willow – pollard back to previous pollard points
 - ii The PC made no Representation on the Following:
10 Church Terrace: T1 willow – pollard back to previous pollard points
 - iii The PC Made Representations on the Following : nothing to report
 - iv Permission Refused by SDC: nothing to report
 - v Applications Withdrawn: nothing to report
 - vi Appeals:
Harbury Primary School, Back Lane, Mill Street: Construction of Swimming Pool – Appeal Granted
- B Other Planning Matters**
- i Bush Heath Lane Development
The Clerk reported that a further complaint had been received about the number of contractors' vehicles parking in the road, in some cases blocking the entrances to residents' properties. These comments have been forwarded to Linfoot Homes.
 - ii High Speed Rail Link
There was nothing further to report at present; the consultation period commences on 28th February.

C Correspondence

- i Affordable Housing for Local People
Correspondence had been received from the Rural Housing Enabler outlining two sites in the village which had been identified for possible development for affordable housing by Stratford District Council. The two sites identified were in Park Lane, at the junction of Manor Road, opposite the Manor House and in Dovehouse Lane, next to the former Dovehouse Autos site. It was noted that access would be difficult for both sites and also that both are very small and would be unable to accommodate more than two or three houses each. Following discussion, **it was resolved:** that the Clerk should reply, stating the Council's opposition to the use of either of the sites for affordable housing on the grounds that the sites themselves are unsuitable in terms of size and location and also that further capacity for affordable housing exists at Bush Heath Lane. The clerk was also requested to point out that another Housing Needs Survey should be carried out before any further development takes place.

ii Land Availability in Harbury

Correspondence had been received from Caroline Greengrow, a member of the Price Trust, outlining three areas of land in the village which may become available for development. The three areas of land are: Church Street Paddock, land in Bull Ring Farm Road and the paddock adjacent to the Spinney in Hall Lane. **It was resolved:** that the Clerk should respond stating that the Council would not be interested in pursuing these areas of land for housing development at the present time and that it considers that further capacity for affordable or open market housing exists at Bush Heath Lane. However, the Clerk was also asked to point out that one or more of the sites identified may be suitable for extra care housing as proposed by the Village with a Vision group.

iii Stratford District Local Development Framework – Core Strategy Consultation Workshop

The Clerk had circulated details of three workshops on the Local Development Framework taking place over the next month, one of which is to be held at Harbury Village Hall on the 1st April. It was agreed that Cllr Hancock and Thompson would attend this event.

D Members Items

i Gypsy & Traveller Seminar – Warwick University

Cllr Patrick pointed out that she was not longer able to attend this event, along with Cllr Ekins, to be held on 11th March and asked if any other members of the Council would like to take her place. No other members were able to attend however; the Clerk will advise the organizers of the event of the spare place.

011/024 PROPERTIES

A Arising from the Minutes

i BMX Project

Some small scale flooding is continuing on the site after heavy rain. It was agreed that a meeting with the contactor should be held during March to discuss what further work needs to take place.

ii Car Park & Playing Field – Security & Access

The timer on the lights in the car park has now been corrected. The Council has also been contacted by the Youth and Community Service from Stratford – this group intends to begin visits to Harbury as the village has been identified (at the Community Forum) as being in need of youth provision. It is possible that the Rural Mobile Youth Vehicle may be able to make some visits to the village after half term. The Clerk was requested to ask when these visits will be taking place. Cllr Thompson reported that the lockable bollards had been left in the down position and volunteered to put them back in place.

iii Playground Reports

A number of items of repair including the replacement of one of the supporting struts on the aerial runway and the repair of the surfacing under the large swings had been carried out since last month. The following items were discussed:
Multi-Play: A small hole on one section of the wooden platform had been identified by the play area report. It was agreed that this should be monitored until it can be repaired by the play inspectors on their next visit.

Painting of Equipment: the Clerk had received a quote for painting all the equipment in the small children's area of £96 for labour plus materials. **It was resolved:** that this work should be carried out.

Slabs at perimeter of Tennis Courts: the Clerk was requested to get a quotation for the repair of the broken slabs.

Aerial Runway: the Clerk was requested to get a quote for the repair of the main platform of the runway.

Picnic Table: the Clerk was requested to let Cllr Hancock have some details on the various types of picnic tables available in order for the Properties W/P to research this and report back.

- iv Cemetery Risk Assessment – nothing to report.

B Correspondence

- i Graffiti at Harbury Playing Fields

It was noted that this item had been discussed under Public Participation

C Members Items - none

01\025 ENVIRONMENT

A Arising from the Minutes

- i Street Lighting

The Clerk had received confirmation that there would be no extra charge for the 30W LED lights as opposed to the 60W and had consequently placed the order with E-on for five of these as agreed at the January meeting. Cllr Lewis proposed that the lights that should be prioritized for replacement should be the remaining four in Manor Orchard plus one in Sutcliffe Drive; this was agreed.

- ii Village Improvements – nothing to report.

- iii Traffic Management

Regarding turning the speed visor in Mill Street round to monitor traffic coming from the other direction, a response had been received from Graham Stanley, WCC stating that this would not be feasible as it is too far over to detect traffic on the opposite side of the road. An alternative would be to have the pole and visor resited to the other side of the road. This may cause problems with parking and local residents and there would also be a charge to the Parish Council for doing this. It was agreed that the visor should be left in its current position at present.

- iv Update of Parish Plan

The group had met again at the beginning of February and agreed the final changes to the Parish Plan survey. Since then, all the changes had been incorporated in the survey and a copy of this sent to SDC for final suggestions. The Clerk had also provisionally arranged for an insert in the Harbury News advertising the survey (cost - £25 for 1000 copies) and also the printing of 250 hard copies of the survey for those residents who do not wish to fill it in online. It is envisaged that hard copies will be held at the Library, The Post Office and the Parish Office. Although it is hoped that most residents will fill in the survey online via a link on the Council's website to the SDC server, any hard copies received will need to be entered manually onto the online system so that all the responses can be analysed together. A copy of the questionnaire had been

circulated to all members and, following discussion, it was agreed that an amendment should be made to it to remove details of the proposed Village with a Vision sites and replace with a more general question on which sites in the village would be considered suitable or unsuitable. With this amendment, the content of the survey was agreed. The survey will go "live" on 7th March. The Chairman thanked the Clerk for her hard work in getting the survey to this stage.

v Energy Group

Cllr Patrick reported that the last meeting of the Energy Group had been very well supported and that the Group is planning to have a centre page article in the Harbury News for this month outlining some of the measures that residents can take to cut fuel bills and save energy.

B Correspondence - none

C Members Items - none

011\026 FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES

A Arising from the Minutes

i Review of Allotment Rents & Cemetery Charges

The Clerk had carried out some research into allotment charges at neighbouring parishes - this had mainly revealed that there are not many parish council run allotments in the area. There are no parish council run allotments in Bishops Itchington, Ufton, Kineton, Ladbroke, Southam, Napton or Farnborough. The Council at Stockton has allotments and charges £10 per plot for a slightly smaller area than ours, at Whitnash, the charges are £27 per annum. **It was resolved:** to DEFER both this item and that regarding Cemetery charges, to the March meeting.

ii Audit 2010/11

An interim internal audit report had been received and circulated to all members. The final part of the audit will be carried out after the year end at the end of March.

iii Donations to Outside Bodies: Harbury Village Hall

It was resolved: to DEFER this item to the March meeting.

B Correspondence - none

C Members Items - none

011\027 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT Proposed by Cllr Thompson and seconded by Cllr Summers. As per appendix B – full details on request from the Clerk.

011\028 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

i The Cottage, High Street

Cllr Summers reported that she had received complaints from residents concerned about the lack of lighting or reflective strips on the scaffolding currently on The Cottage in High Street. She had however spoken to the builders and this had now been rectified.

ii Apologies

Cllr Lockley gave his apologies for the March meeting. This will be chaired by Cllr Thompson

011\029 ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA - none

011\030 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

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

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.

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