

MINUTES OF
AN ORDINARY MEETING
OF
HARBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Held in the Farley Room, Village Hall, Harbury on Thursday 24th March 2011

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

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

011/031 APOLOGIES

The Council had received and accepted apologies from Cllr Lockley, County Cllr Stevens and Mr G Thorpe (Chairman, Harbury Village Hall).

011/032 DECLARATION OF INTEREST ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

The following interests were declared by members:-

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

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

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

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

011/033 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Harbury Village Hall

It was noted that, due to holiday commitments, neither the Chairman or the Treasurer of the Village Hall Committee was able to attend the meeting, however it was agreed that a brief discussion of the grant application should be conducted under Public Participation to allow those councillors with interests in this matter to participate. Cllr Mancell outlined the main points that had been covered in the meeting held with the Chairman and Treasurer earlier in the month; the notes from this meeting had been circulated to all members. Previous grants made to the Hall had been used to pay for professional, mainly architectural fees and it was proposed that this year's grant, if made, would be used for the same purpose. The Village Hall committee now needs to have revised plans drawn up for the building and then commence on a phased renovation programme. It is likely that the architect's and planning costs involved in this will be in the region of £7500 - £10,000. Members felt that the arrangements for awarding grants to the Hall needed to be put on a more formal basis and that the VH Committee should be expected to provide detailed information on an ongoing basis as to what the grant had been spent on and what the Hall's financial position and needs are. It was also noted that there may be other community buildings in the village, such as the Wight School, that need financial support in the future. It was agreed that a final decision on this matter should be taken under item 11iv.

011/034 MINUTES - 24th February 2011

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

011/035 HARBURY LIBRARY – Report on Public Meeting 10.3.11

The Public Meeting held on the 10th March had been very well attended by approximately 80 people and the notes from this had been circulated to all members. Following on from the meeting, a steering group had been formed which would look into the options for both the library service and the Wight School building itself and would report back to the Parish Council at the April meeting. Cllr Hancock commented that it was not clear why the trustees of the building had granted a new lease to the Pre-school given the uncertainty regarding the building as a whole, also the whole issue of ownership was not entirely clear. It was noted that there may be a need for some interim financial support from the Parish Council in order to support any proposals made for the building.

011/036 REPORTS FROM OTHER BODIES

- i Harbury School Governors (AW)
Mrs Winchester had sent in a short report. Following consent for the development of the swimming pool, a further report on progress on this will be sent once more information is available. Y5 have drawn up an Energy Questionnaire which has been sent to all households in Harbury; the completed questionnaires should be returned by 1st April. The various sports teams at the school continue to do well. The school held a Spanish week in February and there will also be celebrations in school for the Royal Wedding including a celebratory buffet lunch for the children on 28th April.
- ii Public Safety
Cllr Thompson had attended the recent Community Forum meeting – there had been a presentation on the Localism Bill and the Health and Care Bill. There had also been an update on the budgets of the Police and Ambulance Services. The police had reported that five anti-social behavior contracts had been issued to local youths following the break-in at the Village Hall. The clerk reported that the Youth Bus is now visiting the village on Tuesday evenings and has had, so far, a good number of young people attending it.
- iii Southam College (SH) – nothing to report.
- iv Twinning Association (SH)
The Association had held a jazz evening with proceeds going to the Village Hall development fund; this had been very successful and had raised around £1300. The Association is now mainly concerned with organizing the forthcoming visit from representatives from Samoa.
- v Village Hall (JP)
Cllr Thornley said that asking local voluntary groups to hold fund raising events for the Hall had been very successful; more of these events are planned for the future. The Village Hall AGM will be held on the 19th April; all members of the Council are invited to this. The repairs to the roof have now been completed and new fire doors have been fitted to the rear wall of the Farley Room.

vi WALC/ NALC

The Clerk confirmed that the training course for new councillors planned for the 9th April will go ahead. This will be attended by Cllrs Ekins and Summers.

vii SDC & WCC Reports

SDC: District Cllr Mann reported that the Council had set its budget on 28th February. Council tax is to be frozen for this year. It was noted that Richard Tonge has resigned as District Cllr for the Harbury and Bishops Itchington ward due to work commitments. Broadview had been granted permission on appeal to erect a monitoring mast at the site on the outskirts of Bishops Itchington and Knightcote.

011\037 DEPPERS BRIDGE**A. Matters Arising – nothing to report.****B Correspondence - none****C Members Items - none****011\038 PLANNING****A Decisions on Planning Applications**

i Permission Granted with Conditions: Nothing to report

ii The PC made no Representation on the Following:

Hazebrook, The Pound: Construction of a timber framed art studio and workshop

19 Mill Street: Single storey timber outbuilding to replace existing dilapidated garage

The Granary, 1 Greenhill Farm: Proposed single storey oak framed rear extension

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

iv Permission Refused by SDC:

Ufton Hill Farm, Ufton: Retrospective change of use of agricultural storage yard to commercial vehicle storage area for up to 7 HGV wagons and 7 flatbed trailers and 10 “35 yard” skips.

B Other Planning Matters

i Bush Heath Lane Development

There had been 253 applications for the affordable housing, 81 of which had a local connection. It was noted however, that some candidates may have made multiple applications on different properties. The Clerk was requested to ask for information on progress on the Local Market houses for the April meeting.

ii High Speed Rail Link

The consultation on the proposed High Speed rail link is now available to be completed. The Chairman asked for members’ views on whether the Parish Council as a body should make a response to the consultation and, if so, what that response should be. Although some members felt that the rail link would damage Warwickshire, destroy important woodland and ultimately not provide any jobs for the area, others felt that residents should be informed about the

consultation and then be allowed to make up their own minds about it. **It was resolved:** that this item be DEFERRED until the April meeting. The Clerk was instructed to place an article in the Harbury News informing residents how to access the consultation.

C Correspondence - none

D Members Items

- i Gypsy & Traveller Seminar – Warwick University
Cllr Ekins had attended a seminar on local authority provision for gypsies and travellers; this had been very interesting and informative. There are roughly 300,000 travellers in the UK of whom 20% have nowhere fixed to live. Under the 2004 Housing Act, local authorities must carry out an assessment of the needs of travelling families in the local area and it was suggested at the seminar that Parish Councils could give travellers consideration in the provision of affordable housing for example.

011/039 PROPERTIES

A Arising from the Minutes

- i BMX Project
Cllr Knowles and the Clerk had met with Bob Cooper from Sutherpark during the month in order to discuss how best to improve the drainage on the track. Following this a quotation had been received from Sutherpark for diverting the standing water to the adjacent ditch for £1250 plus VAT. It was noted that there are sufficient funds in the BMX ring fenced account to cover this. The possibility of putting a limestone coating on the track in the future was also discussed. Mr Cooper's opinion of this was that it would be unadvisable because it would make the track much faster and consequently more dangerous. There are examples of track covered in a similar coating but they generally are only operated under supervision and are aimed at serious BMX enthusiasts. To coat the track in this way would also be very costly. Following discussion, **it was resolved:** that the quotation for drainage work be accepted and that that no covering should be applied to the track at the present time.
- ii Playground Reports
Painting of Equipment: The Clerk reported that she had met with the contractor but that the quotation for painting the equipment had not been received to date.
Graffiti Board: The Properties W/P had discussed the possibility of installing a "graffiti board" following a request from members of Y6 at the school. Cllr Hancock said that it was felt that such a board would only encourage offensive graffiti rather than artistic and that it would do little to limit the graffiti on other items of equipment. **It was resolved:** that the Council should not purchase a board at the present time but should continue to clean graffiti from the equipment as much as possible. The Clerk was instructed to reply to Y6.
Picnic Bench: The Properties W/P had looked at some examples of picnic benches and had chosen one from the Glasdon catalogue which might be suitable. Cllr Hancock circulated details of this. **It was resolved:** that the Clerk get an updated quotation for the bench and for installation of it and, providing this is satisfactory, that the bench is ordered.
- iii Cemetery Risk Assessment – nothing to report.

B Correspondence - noneC Members Items

i Bench in Bush Heath Lane

Cllr Patrick pointed out that the bench in Bush Heath Lane has been vandalized and is currently missing five slats. It was agreed that the Clerk should ask Linfoot Homes if they could help with the repair of this.

01\040 ENVIRONMENTA Arising from the Minutes

i Street Lighting

A quotation for street lighting maintenance had been received from Warwickshire County Council. This was found to be for £6.83 per lighting point which would result in a saving of around £1700 for the next year. WCC had explained this reduction by saying that a new contractor had tendered an extremely competitive quotation for street lighting. **It was resolved:** that the quotation be accepted.

ii Village Improvements – nothing to report.

iii Traffic Management

Cllr Lewis said that one of the bollards in Binswood End had been removed and would not be replaced as local residents could not agree to its repositioning outside their properties.

iv Update of Parish Plan

To date 91 online responses had been received together with approximately 20 hard copy forms. It was agreed that the current response rate is not likely to be considered representative of the village and it was necessary to promote the survey as much as possible. Councillors agreed to use e-mail contacts to draw attention to the plan and the Clerk will let members have hard copies of the survey and the flyer promoting it.

v Energy Group

A draft constitution for the group had been circulated to all members. Cllr Lewis queried whether it should be necessary for a member of the Parish Council to be a member of the group and to be present at the AGM at the election of the Chairman but, following discussion, it was agreed that the wording of the draft was for “a representative” of the Parish Council, not necessarily a member. **It was resolved:** that the constitution be agreed.

B Correspondence

i Reduction in Bus Services – WCC

Details of the proposed reduction in bus services had been circulated to all members; the village will retain the hourly services to Leamington and Southam but the flexibuses, the bus to Coventry and all evening buses will be cancelled. Cllr Mancell observed that the cancellation of the bus to Coventry will mean that some specialist medical services which have been transferred to Walsgrave Hospital will be harder to access. It was agreed that the Clerk to write to WCC setting out the Council's opposition to cuts.

B Correspondence - none

C Members Items

i The Spinney

Cllr Knowles requested that the Clerk write thanking the resident in Hall Lane who had trimmed back overgrowth from the Spinney again this year.

011\041 FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES

A Arising from the Minutes

i Review of Allotment Rents & Cemetery Charges

Details of comparative charges for both the allotments and the cemetery had been circulated to members in the Clerk’s report. Following discussion, **it was resolved:** Allotments – twelve months’ notice to increase the rent to £25 per annum should be given, effective from September 2012.

Cemetery Charges – the charges should increase to: Interment - £100, Purchase of Plot - £125, cremated remains - £75, erection of headstone - £75, effective from 1st April 2011.

ii Review of Standing Orders & Parish Office (Lease)

It was noted that both of these items would be considered by the F & GP Working Party when it met during April.

iii Donations to Outside Bodies: Harbury Village Hall

Following the earlier discussion of this item, **it was resolved:** that a grant of £5000 is made to the Village Hall, subject to it being ring fenced for the payment of professional services only. Members further agreed that it should be made clear that future grant requests would be considered on their merits and should be supported by evidence of the Hall’s finances and proposals for the future.

B Correspondence - none

C Members Items - none

011\042 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT Proposed by Cllr Knowles and seconded by Cllr Lewis. As per Appendix B – full details on request from the Clerk.

011\043 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

i Annual Parish Meeting

Clerk reminded the heads of the working parties that they should forward their reports for the Annual Parish Report to her no later than 5th May.

011\044 ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA - none

011\045 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Thursday 28th April 2011 in the Farley Room, Harbury Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm.

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

