

**MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF HARBURY PARISH
COUNCIL**

Held in the Farley Room, Harbury Village Hall, Harbury on Thursday 21st July 2011

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

In Attendance: Mrs N Thompson (Clerk to the Council), District Cllr R Hamburger, County Cllr B Stevens, Mr P Ward, Rural Housing Enabler, WRCC & Mrs L Ridgley (Harbury News)

11/098 APOLOGIES

The Council had received and accepted apologies from Cllr Ekins and District Councillor B Mann.

011/099 DECLARATION OF INTEREST ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

The following interests were declared by members:-

Cllr Thornley declared interests in item 7v, Village Hall as she is a member of the Village Hall Management Committee.

Cllr Thompson declared an interest in item 7v, Village Hall as he is a member of the Management Committee.

Cllr Patrick declared an interest in item 7v, Village Hall as she is a member of the Management Committee.

Cllr Hancock declared an interest in the item 7v as her husband is chairman of the Village Hall fundraising committee.

Cllr Lockley declared an interest in item 6, Harbury Library as he is a member of the Library Steering Group.

011/1005 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: There were no members of the public wishing to speak.

011/101 MINUTES - 23rd June 2011

It was resolved that the minutes of the **Ordinary Meeting** of the Parish Council of 23rd June 2011 having been circulated be taken as read and signed as a true record.

011/102 HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY 2011

Phil Ward, Rural Housing Enabler for the Warwickshire Rural Community Council was in attendance and outlined the process of conducting a second Housing Needs Survey which would inform the proposals for phases two and three of the development at Bush Heath Lane. It was noted that the 27 homes mentioned as being under consideration in the covering letter of the survey does incorporate the total number planned for both phases. Copies of the proposed two surveys, one for affordable homes and one for local market homes were circulated to all members at the meeting. It was queried whether the survey should include questions focused on the needs of older people needing extra care facilities of the type proposed by the Village with a Vision group, however it was noted that, as this proposal is planned for a completely separate location

within the village, as yet undecided, this may prove confusing for people filling in this survey. It was also queried whether it will be possible to include some shared ownership properties in the next stages of development. Due to problems within the banking and mortgage sector and difficulties with the tenancy agreements, it was not possible to include this type of tenure on properties in phase 1, however problems with the tenancy agreements used have now been largely resolved and mortgage lenders are starting to advance loans on shared ownership properties once again. Following further discussion, it was agreed that the clerk would circulate electronic copies of the draft surveys to all in order that comments and amendments could be returned to WRCC in September.

011/103 HARBURY LIBRARY

Cllr Lockley reported that the deadline for applications from communities wishing to forward business plans for threatened libraries had been extended to mid-August with the final decision on the future of those libraries expected to be referred to WCC Cabinet in October. Cllr Lockley is meeting with senior staff from Library Services shortly in order to clarify any outstanding issues with the Harbury Library Business Plan. Following a query to WCC, it has become apparent that the original lease expired in c. 1975 and that since then, the lease on the building has been renewed on a three month continuous basis. Cllr Lockley also commented that the long term ownership of the Wight School may need to be resolved at a future date. It was also noted that the resurfacing works at the side of the building being carried out as part of the Pre-school extension will commence on 14th August and it is expected that the parish noticeboard will be replaced at the same time. Details of a new “Big Society” grant which may be suitable for the library scheme has been forwarded to Cllr Lockley for consideration.

011/104 REPORTS FROM OTHER BODIES

- i Harbury School Governors (AW)
There was no formal report, however Cllr Lockley reported that a temporary teacher will be employed next year in order to cover for maternity leave.
- ii Public Safety
The Clerk reported that a number of plants had been removed from the flower box on Treen’s Hill. The box is being left empty at present to prevent further thefts.
- iii Southam College (SH)
Cllr Hancock had recently attended the College’s Awards Day. There is a large amount of construction work being carried out on site at present as the all-weather pitch progresses.
- iv Twinning Association (SH)
The Association has held a Bastille Night dinner.
- v Village Hall (JP)
New curtains have been fitted in the Hall. The Committee has received advice from an SDC catering manager who has provided a contact for a quotation for the proposed new kitchen.

vi WALC/ NALC – nothing to report.

vii SDC & WCC Reports

SDC: District Cllr Hamburger reported that he had attended a meeting with the MP for Stratford on Avon regarding the new Localism Bill, however it had become apparent that a number of issues still need to be clarified.

WCC: County Cllr Stevens reported that there will shortly be a major consultation on schools as approximately 80 - 90% of secondary schools are expected to convert to academy status within the next year. Primary schools are able to form “federations” or clusters in order to gain a similar control over their own budgets as is offered to academies. A survey of all WCC properties has now been completed. There will also be a consultation on care home arrangements with a new emphasis on extra care and both the police and fire services are looking at collaborative arrangements. Following a query from a member of the Parish Council, Cllr Stevens confirmed that it is not expected that any PCSOs will be made redundant.

011/105 DEPPERS BRIDGE

A. Matters Arising – nothing to report.

B Correspondence - none

C Members Items - none

011/106 PLANNING

A Decisions on Planning Applications

i Permission Granted with Conditions:

Churchlands Farm, Bascote Rd: Erection of building for use as workshops/offices (use classes B1 and B2) with parking and turning area.

Village Hall, South Parade: Alterations and extensions to extend the existing Village Hall, relocating sports changing rooms and forming a new entrance and meeting room.

14 Constance Drive: Proposed erection of single storey flat roof extension to side.

Denys Close, Temple End: T1 – Holly, reduce in height, T2 – Thuja, reduce in height, T3 – willow, 30% crown reduction, T4 & T5 – conifers, trim

ii The PC made no Representation on the Following:

Westbury House, Mill Street: Proposed erection of two storey rear extension.

The Cabin, Bishop Bowl Lakes: Erection of proposed two storey manager’s dwelling – revised design to dwelling approved under planning permission ref: S89/1653 of which material commencement was confirmed through the grant of a Certificate of Lawful Existing Use or Development under ref: 10/00281/LDE.

36 Binswood End: Proposed conservatory to the front.

Denys Close, Temple End: Proposed widening of vehicular access, rebuild of boundary walls and installation of solar panels.

iii The PC Made Representations on the Following:

Harbury Heath, Beggars Lane: Erection of a two storey detached three bedroomed gardener’s cottage to replace existing: COMMENT: The Parish Council would wish to see the proposed development incorporate as high a level of energy efficiency measures as possible and use timber from sustainable

sources. It could also be possible to incorporate a method for collecting and using grey water for recycling.

Village Hall, South Parade: Harbury Parish Council fully supports the extension plans for the Village Hall which will provide a greatly improved facility for the whole community. The Council does have one concern regarding the visual impact of the proposed north and south elevation of the extension to provide changing facilities, store, office, Fosse Room etc. in that this incorporates pointed sections of the roof which are not in keeping with the rest of the building. However, the Council would like to stress that, in general, it supports this much needed extension.

iv Permission Refused by SDC: nothing to report

v Applications Withdrawn: nothing to report

vi Appeals: nothing to report

B Other Planning Matters

i Hereburgh Way, Bush Heath Lane

Several councillors and the Clerk had attended the opening ceremony of the development on 28th June. It was queried whether the new streetlights had had the original temporary sodium lights replaced with LEDs yet; it was agreed that Cllr Lewis will check this.

ii 8 Dovehouse Lane – Proposed Development

Members of the Planning W/P had met with the developers and highlighted areas of concern regarding parking and density of building. The owners are now expected to consult further with their architect before submitting further draft plans for consideration at a meeting between the Parish Council and SDC.

C Correspondence – none

D Members Items

i Chapel Street – Proposed Extension

Revised plans had been received by SDC following consultation between the property owner and neighbours.

011/107 PROPERTIES

A Arising from the Minutes

i BMX Project

Members of the Properties W/P had met with Mr Renison, a local BMX track enthusiast, to discuss how the track could be further improved. It was agreed that Cllr Thornley will contact a company based in Leamington Spa in order to discuss relatively small refinements that could make the track safer. It is possible that some volunteers may be available to help with labour and keep costs down.

ii Playground Reports

The Properties W/P had also inspected the Skatepark. It was noted that some rubbish collects underneath the ramps and that these may be better being boxed in. It was agreed that Cllr Summers would research this further with the

provision that any material used should not be flammable. Providing sides to the ramps may also reduce noise caused by users.

Following a weekly inspection of the play equipment, it had been noted that a section of the rope bridge of the multi-play unit is broken. The play inspectors have been instructed to carry out an urgent repair and notices have been put up on the equipment warning users not to cross the bridge.

Surfacing under Large Swings: Quotations from four separate contractors had been researched by the Clerk and these had been circulated to all members. The Clerk had also clarified the issues with repairing the existing surface; this may be problematic as it will be difficult to get a new section of wetpour to adhere correctly to the old section. Repairs of this type may last for several years in some cases but only a few months in others. It was agreed that a more permanent long lasting covering for the entire area was preferable and that the quotation from Durasport for covering the area with synthetic grass was the most competitive option at £2236 although interest was also shown in the synthetic tiles provided by Matta Play. Following discussion, **it was resolved:** that the final decision should be delegated to the Clerk, in consultation with the Properties W/P after further details of the synthetic grass had been received along with the final quotation from Matta Play.

Picnic Bench: It was noted that fire damage has been caused to the table of the picnic bench. Replacement slats are available for this type of bench but it was agreed that no further action should be taken at the present time.

- v Cemetery Risk Assessment – nothing to report.

B Correspondence

i Harbury Bonfire 5.11.11

Correspondence had been received from the GASS Committee requesting permission to use the playing fields for the annual village bonfire on 5th November and also to place a banner on the front railings of the Village Hall, advertising the event. Both of these were agreed but the Clerk was instructed to ask the group to ensure that all debris is removed from the site afterwards including nails, pieces of metal etc.

ii Re-filling of Grit Bins

It was noted that the Clerk had received confirmation from WCC that all grit bins in the village are filled once at the start of the winter; following this further supplies will only be made if stocks allow.

C Members Items

i Car Park Cover Plates

It was confirmed that the repair to the car park cover plates has been agreed and that this work is in hand.

ii Bird Excrement – Deppers Bridge

It was noted that the swing seats at the Deppers Bridge play area are prone to being covered in bird excrement; it was agreed that Cllr Ekins should be asked if a local volunteer could be found to clean them.

011/108 ENVIRONMENT

A Arising from the Minutes

i Street Lighting

The new LED light in Sutcliffe Drive has now been replaced and is working. It was queried whether the three new lights at Hereburgh Drive had now had LED lanterns fitted to replace the temporary mercury ones; it was agreed that Cllr Lewis would check this. The Clerk had received an e-mail from Warwickshire County Council streetlighting advising of the advantages and disadvantages of removing the LED lights from the streetlighting inventory for the purposes of maintenance. It was noted that, whilst this would result in a cost saving, the equipment would need to be electrically tested after six years and that the Parish Council would be responsible for arranging this; this is currently covered by the maintenance contract. Following discussion, **it was resolved:** that the lights should be removed from the inventory for maintenance purposes.

ii Village Improvements – nothing to report.

iii Traffic Management – nothing to report.

iv Update of Parish Plan

Cllr Lockley reported that he had met with Cllrs Patrick and Summers in order to discuss the findings of the Parish Plan Update Survey. He commented that although the response rate to the survey had not been high, it had provided a useful sampling of opinion although there was undoubtedly a bias towards older age groups and a slight bias towards women rather than men. It is envisaged that a short report will be produced giving an overview of the results and selected sections of the report will be sent to village groups who may be able to make use of the results. It was agreed that the Council should work towards providing an appendix to the original Parish Plan giving the results of the update.

v Harbury Energy Group

Cllr Patrick reported that Harbury's bid for the energy share grant had been successful in progressing to the next round.

B Correspondence

i Proposed Footpath and Cycletrack

The Clerk reported that residents living in Hall Lane and Bascote Road near to the proposed footpath and cycleway had contacted the Council and expressed a wish to be kept informed of any developments with this.

C Members Items

i Overgrown Bushes, Binswood End

It was suggested that there is a large bush overgrowing the footpath and obscuring visibility in Binswood End, at the corner of Hillside but the details of this were not clear. It was agreed the Clerk would check this and Cllr Lockley would put a short article in the Harbury News, requesting that residents cut back overgrown bushes if necessary.

011/109 FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES

A Arising from the Minutes

i Risk Assessment and Review of Insurance

The Clerk had attended a training seminar on risk assessment and insurance during July and details of this had been reported back to members in the Clerk's report. It was agreed that the F & GP W/P should carry out a review of the Council's insurance policy with a view to making recommendations for any

changes to the Council. It was agreed that the Clerk would arrange a meeting in early October for this.

B Correspondence

- i Harbury Rugby Football Club
Correspondence had been received from Harbury Rugby Club thanking the Council for a grant of £500 towards the cost of a storage facility.
- ii Queen’s Jubilee Beacons
It was noted that information on the lighting of a beacon to celebrate the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee in 2012 had been passed to Harbury Church.

C Members Items

- i Quarterly Report
Cllr Lockley suggested that the following items be included in the Council’s quarterly report in the Harbury News:
 - Installation of LED lights
 - Resurfacing of basketball court
 - Grant to Rugby Club for provision of store
 - Commencement of analysis and consideration of results from Parish Plan update
 - Completion of minor repairs at the play areas
 This was agreed.

011/110 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT Proposed by Cllr Thornley and seconded by Cllr Hancock. As per Appendix B – full details available on request from the Clerk.

011/111 ANY OTHER BUSINESS - none

011/112 ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA -none

011/113 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council will take place on **Thursday 22nd September 2011** at the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.02pm.

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