

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

Held in the Farley Room, Harbury Village Hall, Harbury on Thursday 22nd September 2011 Page 779

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

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

11/114 APOLOGIES

The Council had received and accepted apologies from Cllrs Lewis, Mancell & Thornley and from District Cllr Mann.

011/115 DECLARATION OF INTEREST ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

The following interests were declared by members:-

Cllr Thompson declared an interest in item 6v, Village Hall as he is a member of the Management Committee and in item 10iv, Harbury Tennis Club as he is a member of the club.

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

Cllr Hancock declared an interest in the item 6v as her husband is chairman of the Village Hall fundraising committee.

Cllr Lockley declared an interest in item 5, Harbury Library as he is a member of the Library Steering Group and in item 10iv, Harbury Tennis Club as he is a member of the club.

011/116 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

There were no members of the public wishing to speak. Cllr Thompson reported to the Council that the Royal British Legion is very short of poppy sellers for this year's collection; anyone who is able to help with this should contact Mrs Chris Finch.

011/117 MINUTES - 22nd July 2011

It was resolved that the minutes of the **Ordinary Meeting** of the Parish Council of 22nd July 2011 having been circulated be taken as read and signed as a true record.

011/118 HARBURY LIBRARY

Cllr Lockley reported that the Steering Group is awaiting a decision from WCC on the main application for the Library and has also made further applications for grant funding from the Big Society Fund, Community Computers and to Stratford District Council for a grant to help with I.T. In the event of the Steering Group taking over the running of the facility, it is hoped that all the existing computer equipment will be left in place; however a new telephone/broadband line will need to be installed.

Cllr Lockley referred members to a document which had been circulated in advance of the meeting which proposed that the Parish Council investigate the possibility of taking over ownership of the Wight School site. It was noted that whilst such ownership may prove easier from a management point of view there are a number of risks involved which need to be carefully researched including the ongoing maintenance costs of the building. Following discussion, **it was resolved:** that the Parish Council should research the possibility of assuming ownership of the Wight School site to include discussions with the PCC and WCC regarding this.

011/119 REPORTS FROM OTHER BODIES

- i Harbury School Governors (AW) – nothing to report.
- ii Public Safety
Cllrs Ekins and Lewis had attended a meeting on local policing held in Long Itchington. This had been very informative and it was noted that responses to emergency calls now come from Rugby and that Southam Station is predominantly closed with most issues being referred through Southam Library. Cllr Thompson reported that a PCSO has almost always been in attendance to the Youth Drop-In van which visits the village on Tuesday evenings.
- iii Southam College (SH)
Cllr Hancock reported that, following her resignation, a replacement governor from Harbury had not yet been found. Work on the all-weather pitch is progressing and the GCSE and “A” Level results had been very good.
- iv Twinning Association (SH)
The Association’s AGM will be held on 11th November.
- v Village Hall (JP)
The recent Beer Festival, held in the Hall had been very successful. The Management Committee will now be proceeding with the work to install photo-voltaic panels on the Hall and is also getting quotations for necessary work on the kitchen. There will be an official opening of the Veolia Suite in memory of the late John Ridgley on 29th October and several members of the Parish Council will attend this.
- vi WALC/ NALC
The WALC AGM will take place on Thursday 27th October at 7.30pm at Shire Hall. Any members wishing to attend this should contact the Clerk.
- vii SDC & WCC Reports
SDC: District Cllr Hamburger reported that the District Council will allow 8,000 new homes throughout the district over the next twenty years. This will allow the emphasis on low cost housing to continue in a controlled manner. The District Council had recently turned down an application for 800 new houses near Shottery. Cllr Hamburger also highlighted the current application for a wind farm on the outskirts of Bishops Itchington. The Clerk had circulated a short report from District Cllr Mann to all members. The next “Cllrs Corner” will take place on Saturday 8th October and will be attended by Cllrs Patrick and Summers on behalf of the Parish Council.
WCC: Councillor Stevens reported on the following

- The agenda papers for the Cabinet decision on Harbury Library will be available from 30th September.
- There has recently been a debate in Parliament about HS2; a decision on this is expected in December.
- The Police Bill will allow elections of a Police Commissioner during 2012.

011/120 DEPPERS BRIDGE

A. Matters Arising – nothing to report.

B Correspondence - none

C Members Items

i Telephone Box

Cllr Lockley proposed that the Clerk should investigate installing shelving into the telephone box at Deppers Bridge so that it can be used as a book exchange similar to the one at Harbury Library. **It was resolved:** that a maximum of £50 should be spent on appropriate shelving.

ii HGV Vehicles

Cllr Ekins reported that a number of delivery lorries had been seen travelling over the bridge in Deppers in contravention of the weight limit. It is believed that several of these are Tesco's delivery lorries. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact Tesco's in order to point out that delivery drivers should be told not to use the route through Deppers Bridge.

011/121 PLANNING

A Decisions on Planning Applications

i Permission Granted with Conditions:

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

36 Binswood End: Proposed conservatory to front

Harbury Heath: Erection of a two storey detached three bedroomed gardener's cottage to replace existing

ii The PC made no Representation on the Following:

Hauley House and West End Cottage, Mill Street: T1: yew – crown lift to 2.5m, crown reduction overall by 1m (not height) and crown clean leaving a balanced shape

39 Farm Street: Various tree works

39 Farm Street: T1 sycamore – remove large suckers near base, remove limb over neighbour's property and crown thin by 30%

iii The PC Made Representations on the Following:

Coventry & East Mercia Co-operative Society, High Street: Externally illuminated fascia sign: COMMENT: Ideally the sign should not be illuminated all night in order to minimize disruption to neighbours.

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
Confirmation had been received that the 30mph speed limit in Bush Heath Lane will be extended to encompass the new development at Hereburgh Way. It was also confirmed that the dropped kerb at the junction with Manor Road will be installed before April 2012 and that the short section of footpath in Manor Road will be repaired. It was noted that the bench in Bush Heath Lane has not yet been repaired and the Clerk will highlight this with Linfoot Homes.
- ii Housing Needs Survey 2011
The Housing Needs Survey will be sent out with the October edition of the Harbury News; the distributors have been asked to visit all houses including those that do not normally receive the magazine.
- iii National Planning Framework Policy
Brief details of some of the proposals for the National Planning Framework Policy were circulated in the Clerk's Report. It was agreed that some of these, including a presumption in favour of development, could impact negatively on communities. It was agreed that Cllr Patrick would draft a response to the consultation to be circulated to members.

C Correspondence – none**D Members Items**

- i Rose Cottage, Park Lane
Some residents had raised concerns with the Clerk regarding work being carried out at Rose Cottage, South Parade. Whilst it was noted that much of the work appears to be within permitted development, it was agreed that the advice of the Enforcement Officer should be sought.

011/122 PROPERTIES**A Arising from the Minutes**

- i BMX Project – nothing to report.
- ii Playground Reports
Surfacing under Large Swings: This work had now been completed.
Skatepark: The Clerk had now received two quotes for the repair to the skateboard ramp surface and these have been forwarded to the Council's insurers. Due to a delay in obtaining the necessary section however, it is likely to be several weeks before this piece of equipment can be repaired. At present "warning" signs are being regularly placed on the equipment although these are regularly removed. Cllr Summers reported that her research into providing enclosed sides to the skatepark ramps had unfortunately made it clear that this appears to be impractical.
Multi-play: Following a minor accident in the children's play area, Cllr Thompson had carried out a temporary repair to the rope netting climb on the multi-play. The Clerk will highlight this to the play inspectors when they visit the area during October.
The last playground report highlighted some longer term issues to monitor with the aerial runway. The zip liner frames show signs of decay and may need to be replaced in approximately 1 year. The top support post is also split and should fitting of grass mats should be considered.

Dog Bins: The Clerk was requested to research getting an additional dog bin to be placed near to the new footpath to Hereburgh Way.

iii Cemetery Risk Assessment

The Clerk had circulated details of the remaining staked memorials, a method statement and an article for the Harbury News to members of the Properties W/P. It was agreed that the method of work suggested was satisfactory and it is hoped that the assessment can be carried out during October.

iv Harbury Tennis Club

Details of three quotations which had been obtained by the Tennis Club, for the colour coating (repainting) of the tennis courts and repainting the netball and tennis lines on the dual purpose court had been circulated to all members. It was noted that the Tennis Club's preferred option is that from Colourcourt for £3655 which is also the cheapest quote and includes treating the tennis court with a binding agent prior to colour coating. **It was resolved:** that this be accepted.

B Correspondence

i SDC Grounds Maintenance

Correspondence had been received from SDC stating that their current contract with Veolia will end in March 2013. As part of the process of working towards a new contract, SDC wish to know parishes' views on the services they currently provide under this contract and also whether Harbury would wish to revert back to WCC provision for grass verge cutting. Following discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk should respond stating that with regard to the current service, collection of litter from public bins is poor and could be improved. It was particularly noted that the bin outside the Harbury Supermarket is usually overflowing and should be emptied more often. The Council would not wish to consider moving its mowing of grass verges back to WCC provision.

C Members Items

i Gratings – Car Park

It was noted that some of the metal gratings in the centre of the car park are missing; Cllr Thompson has removed these for safekeeping because they were loose. The Clerk pointed out that repairs to the gratings are being carried out on a regular basis and perhaps the whole centre section should be replaced; however it was agreed that the damaged sections only should be repaired at the present time.

011/123 ENVIRONMENT

A Arising from the Minutes

i Street Lighting

The Clerk had received two quotations from E-on for the further replacement of the concrete columns. These were found to be as follows:

To replace with 5m hockey stick column and Philips SGS252 42w PLT lantern:
£1105 per column

To replace with 5m hockey stick column as before and Marlin 30w LED lantern:
£1365 per column.

It was noted that recent electricity invoices and figures supplied by Central Networks seem to show that the savings available from LED lights may be lower than previously thought, particularly when their higher purchase price is

considered. The Clerk has requested further information from Central Networks regarding this in order to allow the Council to make a decision on which to order. It was noted that the recommendation of the Environment W/P is to replace four concrete columns during this financial year.

Following a query from a resident, the Clerk had checked with Linfoot Homes if the wattage in the LED lights at Hereburgh Way is 30w as specified. It had been confirmed that it is and it was agreed that no further action could be taken regarding this.

It was reported that one of the footpath lights in the footway linking Percival Drive to South Parade is not working; the Clerk will report this to WCC Streetlighting. It was also reported that trees are obscuring two streetlights in Hall Lane; the Clerk will request that they are cut back.

The Clerk was also requested to gain a quotation for painting all the lights in Manor Orchard black so that they match the new ones.

ii Village Improvements

The Environment W/P had completed the Footpaths' survey and this had been sent to the Area Surveyor.

iii Traffic Management

Following a complaint by a resident, the marking of the bus bay at Binswood End had been considered. However it was agreed that there had never previously been markings there. Cllr Summers will speak to the resident concerned regarding this. Cllr Lockley has also spoken to the Doctors' Surgery regarding parking and it had been agreed that the Surgery will display a notice encouraging patients and other visitors to show courtesy to residents when parking.

iv Update of Parish Plan

Cllr Lockley reported that, due to time pressures, a meeting regarding the results of the Parish Plan survey had not yet taken place, however this will be re-arranged in the near future.

v Harbury Energy Initiative

The Energy Initiative group had asked for a letter of support from the Parish Council for its Energysshare bid; this was agreed. Cllr Patrick reminded members about the "Green Memories, Green Future" day at Harbury Primary School on 8th October.

B Correspondence – none

C Members Items

i Biffa Liaison Meeting

Cllr Thornley had attended the last Biffa Liaison meeting and had forwarded a report to the Clerk which was read out to the meeting. The site is operating satisfactorily in accordance with the Environment Agency and there have been no complaints since the last meeting six months previously. The re-profiling of the site has improved the aesthetic appearance to a large degree but further work does need to be carried out. There has been a reduction in the volume of traffic to the site through Ufton village. Biffa are currently trying to encourage householders to make better use of the green bins by using them for food waste.

011/124 FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES**A Arising from the Minutes****i Audit 2010/11**

The Clerk reported that the audit has been returned completed by the external auditor. An unqualified audit opinion has been given.

ii Budget Monitoring

The Budget Monitoring Report up to the end of September had been circulated to members. The following items were noted:

- There remains a balance in the BMX budget which is pending further work being carried out on the track.
- £5000 has been provisionally budgeted for as a grant for the Village Hall; the Village Hall Management Committee needs to submit a grant application for this.
- The contribution to the Sinking Fund has not yet been made for this year; the Clerk confirmed that this is in hand.
- There remains a balance in the Power of Wellbeing budget which is available for grant funding to organizations.
- Further maintenance work will be carried out in the cemetery including the risk assessment and the pollarding of some trees.

iii Clerk's Appraisal

The Clerk's appraisal will take place during October. Cllr Lockley proposed that he together with Cllrs Patrick and Mancell be re-appointed to the Staffing W/P in order to carry out the appraisal for this year. **This was resolved.**

iv Harbury Post Office

Due to changes proposed by Royal Mail, Harbury Post Office may no longer be able to keep parcels and recorded delivery letters for residents to be collected at Harbury; instead residents would have to travel to Leamington to collect these. Cllr Lockley said that he had attempted to meet with representatives from Royal Mail but as yet had not received a response from them.

v Boundary Commission Review

Cllr Lockley pointed out that if the proposals contained in the current Boundary Review are put in place, Harbury would form part of Rugby constituency. It was agreed that Cllr Lockley will draft a response to the consultation on behalf of the Council.

B Correspondence –none**C Members Items - none**

011/125 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT Proposed by Cllr Patrick and seconded by Cllr Thompson, as per Appendix B. Full details are available on request from the Clerk.

011/126 ANY OTHER BUSINESS - none

011/127 ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA**i Remembrance Sunday**

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It was noted that this will be on 13th November. Further details will be discussed at the next meeting.

011/128 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council will take place on **Thursday 27th October 2011** at the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.08pm.

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