

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

Held in the Farley Room, Harbury Village Hall, Harbury on Thursday 22 March 2012
at 7.30pm

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

In Attendance: Mrs A Biddle (Clerk to the Council), District Cllr R Hamburger,
County Cllr B Stevens, Mrs L Ridgley (Harbury News), and 10
members of the public

12/034 APOLOGIES: Apologies had been received and were accepted from
District Cllr Mann.

12/035 DECLARATION OF INTEREST ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

The following interests were declared by members:-

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

Cllr Lewis declared an interest in item 11 Ai, as she is involved with Harbury
Pre-School.

Cllr Lockley declared an interest in item 5, Harbury Library as he is Chairman
of the Library Steering Group and also in item 11 Ai, as he is involved with
Harbury Pre-School.

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

Cllr Thornley declared an interest in item 6i as she is a member of Harbury
Heritage Group which now has a dedicated room at Harbury School and also
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.

12/036 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The following matters were raised by members of the public:

Dovehouse Lane: A member of the public expressed deep concern about the
recent planning application for the former Dovehouse Autos' site which he felt
was not large enough for residential development. He felt strongly that the
green area on the corner with Frances Road, which has a public right of way
running across it, should be preserved as public open space and proposed
reinstating the boundary hedgerow. Mention was also made of the remains of
the old stone wall, which can be seen on the gable end of the existing building,
as being worthy of preservation. Another member of the public reminded the
meeting that previously, planning permission for a bungalow had been granted
for this site, which he felt was a good compromise. Alternatively, it could
remain as commercial premises with small workshops or offices. He too felt
that the stone wall should be preserved.

The parish council was broadly in agreement with the proposal to re-instate the hedgerow. It was agreed that further discussion would be held with the clerk with a view to drawing up a proposal for consideration by SDC, which is the landowner.

Bloor Homes Letter: A letter from Bloor Homes has been sent to local residents about SDC's proposal for future housing development in the district under the Draft Core Strategy. It was pointed out that this letter had been written from the developer's point of view and that the figures it contains are misleading.

Independent Police Advisory Group (IPAG): The next meeting will take place on 23 April 2012 at Stratford Police Station. It was felt that it would be useful for a member of the parish council to attend but no one was available. The member of the public who raised this will attend on the parish council's behalf and send a report to the clerk.

12/037 MINUTES – 23 FEBRUARY 2012

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Parish Council of 23 February 2012 having been circulated, be taken as read and were therefore signed as a true and complete record of that meeting.

12/038 HARBURY LIBRARY

Car Park

It was agreed in principle to consider making a contribution towards the maintenance of the car park in return for its use by the general public to help ease parking problems in the centre of the village. The details need to be worked out and agreed. The clerk was instructed to contact Vikki Hall to discuss this.

Energy

As there does not appear to be any urgency in respect of the boiler, it was agreed to leave that alone for now and to proceed with the roof insulation.

Other Matters

It is hoped that the opening date will be 10 May but it may be later as the floor has still not been laid.

The insurance costs have been cut by taking out a joint policy.

There is still no news from the solicitors re the lease negotiations.

12/039 REPORTS FROM OTHER BODIES

- i Harbury School Governors (JT)
The Heritage Room is now finished and the official opening will take place on Saturday, 21 April 2012. The parish council has been given an official invitation to attend. The recruitment of a new head teacher is underway and the result will be known soon.
- ii Public Safety
The clerk was asked to continue to circulate the police incident reports.
- iii Southam College
There was no official report. County Cllr Stevens reported that governors had attended an away day recently which was well supported. The budget process

for next year is underway. Finances are healthy at the moment. No decision has yet been made on academy status.

- iv Twinning Association (JP)
Events are well supported. A trip to Samoia will take place soon.
- v Village Hall
The Farley Room has been painted and new lighting installed. It is possible that the plans for the changing rooms will not now go ahead as there may not be enough use for them. The AGM takes place on 12 April 2012.
- vi WALC/ NALC
Nothing to report.
- vii SDC & WCC Reports
SDC: District Cllr Hamburger reported that the Draft Core Strategy Consultation is the main event at the moment. It was noted that Cllrs Patrick and Thompson have responded on behalf of the parish council. The clerk was asked to check that their report had been circulated to all members.
WCC: County Cllr Stevens reported that the HS2 judicial review is going ahead. There is a separate appeal against the compensation process. The NHS Bill should be passed by Easter. The procedures for Community Forums are under review, including the process of allocation of community grants. There is increasing pressure by Government for primary schools to become academies.

12/040 DEPPERS BRIDGE

A Matters Arising

- i Station Cottages – Sewerage
Cllr Ekins reported that the sewerage problem may have been resolved.

B Correspondence

Nothing to report

C Members Items

The safety barriers have been installed on the rail bridge but this doesn't solve the weight problem. Lorries are still crossing the bridge. Cllr Stevens reported that it is hoped there will be enough money available to improve the signage on this road which will help to prevent this happening.

12/041 PLANNING

A Decisions on Planning Applications

- i Permission Granted with Conditions:
Leycester Barn, Chesterton Rd: Insertion of new windows and rooflight
11 Neales Close: Proposed sun lounge and first floor en-suite extension
- ii The PC Made no Representation on the Following:
Field House, The Pound: Two storey extension to side, ground floor extension with new pitched roof over existing garage, new dormer windows to first floor and new detached double garage with storage space in roof.
Westfield Cottage, Westfields Farm, Fosse Way: Two storey rear extension
Blenheim, 4 Farm Close: Various Tree Works

- iii The PC Made Representations on the Following:
- Village Hall, South Parade:** Various tree works including T1 Horse Chestnut – fell: COMMENT: If possible, the Parish Council would like to see the horse chestnut replaced by a semi-mature specimen of a suitable species.
- Hérons Cabin, Bush Heath Lane:** T5, blue atlas cedar – fell: COMMENT: Whilst appreciating that the recommendation to remove the tree has been made due to suspected damage being caused to the property, the Parish Council would wish to request that the Tree Officer visits this site to ensure that removal is absolutely necessary. The tree in question is a fine, mature specimen that it would be detrimental to remove if this was unwarranted.
- Davis Equestrian Centre, Bull Ring Farm Rd:** COMMENT: the Parish Council would wish to see a condition added to the permission for this application stating that the mobile caravan is to be used for the purposes of running the equestrian business only. The siting of the caravan should in no way allow for it to be used for domestic/residential purposes.
- iv Permission Refused by SDC: nothing to report
- v Applications Withdrawn:
- vi Appeals: nothing to report

B Other Planning Matters

- i 8 Dovehouse Lane 12/00165/FUL
This item had been withdrawn from the agenda as the application had been declared invalid by SDC.

C Correspondence

- i An anonymous letter had been received about the keeping of chickens in a back garden in Frances Road. It was agreed that no further action should be taken.

D Members Items

Complaints have been received about the height of a hedge belonging to a resident in Farley Avenue which is 2m. However, this is still within the legal limit. It was not proposed to take any further action.
Cllr Thompson reported that he had attended the Draft Core Strategy workshop recently. It had been well conducted and was a useful process. The expectations on the village seemed reasonable.

12/042 PROPERTIES

A Arising from the Minutes

- i BMX Project
Cllr Thornley reported that a quote had now been received which seemed reasonable. The working party proposed that the work should go ahead subject to checking the insurance cover and the provision of a risk assessment and method statement by the contractor. The contractor also needs to be made aware that some drainage has already been installed and asked whether this will be adequate. If not, he must be asked to provide details of the additional drainage required and the cost of this.

- ii Playground Reports
Multi-Play Unit – the surface on the platforms and the rope ladder need replacing. The clerk was asked to contact Wickstead for an estimate.

- iii Cemetery Assessment
There are 3 memorial stones which need to be re-tested.
There has been a complaint about the practice of placing the soil from a newly excavated grave on top of the existing adjacent grave. This has caused one particular family a great deal of distress in the last few days. However, it has been confirmed by the gravedigger that this is normal practice and is always done very respectfully with the soil being placed on wooden boards to protect the existing grave. Once the soil has been removed, the grave is restored to its former condition. It is necessary to work in this way for practical reasons. The family concerned has received apologies from both the clerk and the gravedigger. Furthermore, the deceased's husband had accepted these apologies. The deceased's son however has asked for the fee for installing a memorial to be waived as compensation for the distress the family has suffered. The son had been abusive to the clerk and had made some serious threats. This kind of behaviour is unacceptable. The council considered the circumstances of the case but felt that as normal practice had been followed, there was nothing further to investigate. It was agreed that the fee should not be waived. The chairman will respond to an email received from the family to advise them of the council's decision.

- iv Playing Fields
The clerk is meeting with Angela Lewis from Fields in Trust on Monday.

- v Car Park
A budget of £500 has been set aside for a feasibility study. The council agreed that it would like to start the process by looking at the options available and the costings. It was suggested that Karena Ellis-Greenway may be willing to quote for the feasibility study. The clerk was instructed to contact her and if she is interested, to arrange a site meeting with the Properties Group.

B Correspondence

- i Tree in Cemetery
A letter has been received from the parent of a person buried in the cemetery asking for the council's permission to remove a tree which had been planted in memory of their son and which has become diseased, and to replace it with a new one of a suitable species. This was agreed

C Members Items

Nothing to report

12/043 ENVIRONMENT

A Arising from the Minutes

- i Street Lighting
The three further LED lights are still on order. The windsor lamps need cleaning. It is dark by the school; it was agreed that Cllr Lockley would approach a resident to see if they would be willing to have a sensor activated light placed on their property.

- ii Village Improvements
There is a problem with speeding traffic in Bush Heath Lane. It was agreed to ask WCC if they can suggest a solution, particularly in the light of the proposed further housing development.
- iii Traffic Management – see above
- iv Energy Group
The “Green Deal” exhibition takes place at the school on Saturday afternoon. Members were asked to attend if possible.
- v Bench – Bush Heath Lane
It was agreed that the old bench should be scrapped.

B Correspondence

The tree on the junction with Bush Heath Lane and Bush Heath Road has been felled. It would be nice to replace it with an oak tree but WCC doesn't want to do this. Cllr Lewis volunteered to find out about the costs involved.

C Members Items

The Clerk was asked to write to Chesterton House Farm to ask them to clean up the mess on the road in Mill Street which has resulted from tractors going to and from the farm. The pavement is also breaking up where the farm drive crosses it. The Clerk was asked to report this to WCC.

Cllr Thompson reported that he had seen the workmen cleaning out the drains which were full of tree debris.

12/044 FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES

A Arising from the Minutes

- i Grant Applications from Outside Bodies – Harbury Pre-School
There is no more money for this left in the current year's budget. It was agreed that they should be asked to re-apply in April/May and to provide a breakdown of the work to be done along with an explanation of the costs, including how much they have raised and how much they need.
- ii Clerk to the Council
This item was deferred until later in the meeting when the public had been excluded.
- iii Parish Council Elections 2012
The clerk has the nomination papers. It is recommended that the completed forms are taken personally to SDC. The deadline is 12 noon on 4 April 2012.
- iv Parish Council Photocopier
This is not working properly. The clerk was asked to monitor its use and compare the cost of replacing it to using a printers for bulk copying e.g. the annual report.
- v Bank Mandate
It was agreed that the new clerk, Alison Biddle, should be added as a signatory to the bank account and the new mandate was duly completed.

vi Village Green – Frances Road

The process of designating an area as a village green is a lengthy one which would involve legal costs. It was agreed instead to follow up the proposal of re-instating the hedgerow (made during the public participation session). The council will not therefore pursue the possibility of registering this area as a village green at the moment. It was noted that SDC’s permission would be required before any planting could be carried out.

B Correspondence - none

C Members Items - none

12/045 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT Proposed by Cllr Thornley and seconded by Cllr Knowles. It was RESOLVED to pay the accounts as per Appendix B. For further details, please contact the Clerk.

12/046 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

i Annual Parish Meeting

As this is an election year, it is necessary to hold the parish council meeting within 14 days of the election. The date for the parish council meeting will therefore be Thursday, 10 May 2012. The Annual Parish Meeting was therefore fixed for the 24 May 2012. The clerk will check whether the village hall is available for these dates. Members were asked to let the clerk know if they had any ideas for a guest speaker.

12/047 ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

There were none suggested.

12/048 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council will take place on **Thursday 26 April 2012 in Harbury Village Hall.**

In view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted (item 12/044 ii having been deferred earlier in the meeting), the public and press were temporarily excluded and they were instructed to withdraw, for if they had been present during the consideration of such business, there would be disclosure to them of exempt information under paras 1 and 11 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

12/049 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

It was agreed that the clerk’s annual leave entitlement should be 25 days per annum pro rata. Following this, the contract was signed by the chairman and clerk.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm.

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