

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

Held in the Farley Room, Harbury Village Hall, Harbury on Thursday 10 May 2012 immediately following the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council 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), County Cllr R Stevens, District Cllr B Mann, District Cllr R Hamburger, Mrs L Ridgley (Harbury News), and 10 members of the public

12/076 APOLOGIES: None

12/077 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 Lockley declared an interest in item 5, Harbury Library as he is Chairman of the Library Steering Group

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 and also in 11B.i as his daughter is a member of the netball club.

12/078 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Members of the public expressed concern about the planning application for 8 Dovehouse Lane because it includes a large part of the verge in Frances Road which is owned by SDC and is currently public open space. One resident recalled that some years ago, SDC had agreed that it would not sell this piece of land without the parish council's consent. How much would it cost to lease the land from SDC? It might also be worth exploring the Community Right to Buy provisions under the Localism Act. The parish council has no plans to lease the land from SDC at the moment.

The applicant for the site was also present. He confirmed that there was no change to the original planning application and stated that he owned a strip of land on the verge, adjacent to the existing building, for maintenance purposes although the deeds do not show any measurements. This is still to be agreed between SDC and the applicant. There is no current agreement to purchase the land from SDC but this might not be necessary if SDC gives permission for the applicant to build on its land. The proposed development has been brought forward onto the green in order to provide adequate garden space.

Other concerns raised about the application included the fact that the plans showed incorrect elevations, that there is a public right of way across the verge, there may be asbestos in the roof of the existing building, inadequate space for parking and refuse bins, extra traffic, the height of the proposed building, the general suitability of the site for the proposed development.

Residents stated that they were not against development of the site as long as it was reasonable.

It was agreed to hold a special parish council meeting to consider the planning application at 7.00pm on Thursday, 24 May 2012.

The chairman decided to alter the order of the agenda as follows:

12/079 HARBURY JUNIOR NETBALL CLUB – GRANT APPLICATION

It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant of £565 to the club which is raising funds to buy various pieces of equipment. This represents 50% of the funding required. The club was advised to apply again in 3 months if it is struggling to reach its target.

12/080 MINUTES – 26 APRIL 2012

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Parish Council of 26 April 2012 having been circulated, be taken as read and were therefore signed as a true and complete record of that meeting.

12/081 HARBURY LIBRARY

Cllr Lockley reported that the library opened today and the café opens next week. Cllr Thompson asked that the PC formally records its appreciation and thanks for what is a really good achievement.

Working Party Report

Lease

The working party had met to consider the lease between the parish council and the Wight School Trustees and to answer the parish council's solicitor's questions. They could see no problems with the lease and recommended that the PC accepts it.

Car Park

The car park is not included in the lease. The parish council has been asked if it would consider making a contribution to the maintenance costs. The working party considers that there are 2 options available:

1. To leave things as they are which means that the car park and its maintenance remains the sole responsibility of the PCC, or
2. To make an agreement with the PCC that the parish council contributes 50% of the maintenance costs in return for its use as a public car park. The car park would still be excluded from the lease and would still be under the ownership of the PCC. It is estimated that £1,000 pa would cover the maintenance costs.

Following some discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to adopt option 2.

Boiler

This has been inspected and is in good working condition. However, a service and maintenance contract is required.

Maintenance Fund

The working party estimates that a sinking fund of £5,000 pa will be needed to maintain the building, the car park and the boiler. It was proposed to set this up from the next financial year. This will be in addition to the £5,000 pa which it has already been agreed will be paid to Harbury Library Group for the first 3 years of the organisation. It was noted that it is still not decided how the bills will be shared with the pre-school but Cllr Lockley is looking into this at the moment. The licence between the parish council and Harbury Library Group is yet to be written. The part of the building for which the parish council is responsible is separate to that of the pre-school.

It was therefore **RESOLVED** (proposed by Cllr Hancock and seconded by Cllr Thornley) to set up a maintenance sinking fund of £5,000 pa from the next financial year.

12/082 REPORTS FROM OTHER BODIES

- i Harbury School Governors
None received
- ii Public Safety
There have been several incidents recently noted in the police reports.
- iii Southam College
There are lots of admissions for Y7. There is still no decision on whether to become an academy.
- iv Twinning Association (JP)
53 villagers enjoyed the trip to Samoia last weekend. The French will return here next year.
- v Village Hall
The new kitchen is finished. The next phase includes a permanent stage. The flat roof needs replacing.
- vi WALC/ NALC
It was agreed to share the cost of the clerk's training in respect of the new general power of competence with Bishop's Itchington Parish Council.
- vii SDC & WCC Reports

SDC
Cllr Mann was congratulated on her re-election to SDC.
The wind farm planning application on land between Bishop's Itchington and Knightcote is out for public consultation. It might be possible to see it from Harbury and AM, which can travel 10km, may be a problem.

Local entrepreneurs are being offered the hire of a market stall for £10.00 per day.

The Olympic torch will be in this area on 1 & 2 July.

It could be several more months before the draft core strategy is finalised.

WCC

Please could any reports of road floods etc. be sent to WCC via the clerk?

There are 4 judicial reviews on HS2 to be heard in October.

Church schools are to be encouraged to join federations.

There is to be a debate at WCC about how community forums will allocate funding.

12/083 DEPPERS BRIDGE

A Matters Arising

The sewage problem is ongoing. WCC has accepted responsibility for the damage incurred when the safety barriers on the bridge were installed. Severn Trent is reluctant to repair the pipe or take any responsibility. There is a meeting tomorrow morning. Cllr Ekins wants to keep this on the agenda. Cllr Stevens will also follow it up.

B Correspondence

None

C Members Items

The weight limit sign on the bridge is missing, as approached from the Harbury direction. The clerk will report this.

12/084 PLANNING

A Decisions on Planning Applications

i Permission Granted with Conditions:

Hérons Cabin, Bush Heath Lane: T5: Blue Atlas Cedar - Fell

Blenheim House, 4 Farm Close: Various trees – pruning work

ii The PC made **representation** on the following:

Land off Ivy Lane: Proposed new dwelling on existing vacant plot utilising existing access and garaging.

Comment: The parish council is concerned that this is backland development and is also over development of the site.

iii The PC made **no representations** on the following:

19, Farm Street: T1: Cypress – Fell

iv Permission Refused by SDC: Nothing to report

v Applications Withdrawn: Nothing to report

vi Appeals: Nothing to report

B Other Planning Matters

None

C Correspondence

None

D Members Items

None

12/085 PROPERTIES

A Arising from the Minutes

i BMX Project

Nothing further to report

Skate park

The properties working party is to meet with the young person who has put forward proposals for improvements.

ii Playground Reports:

Play Area

A quotation has been received from Wicksteed for the repairs to the multi-play area. It is expensive and did not include the rope ladder as requested. It will be necessary to work out the cost of replacing the surfaces which are in the worst state of repair.

The "No Fouling" sign and the litter bin are to be replaced. The clerk is dealing with these.

iii Cemetery

There is an overhanging tree into a garden in South Parade. The clerk will arrange for it to be inspected.

iv Playing Fields

Nothing to report

v Car Park

Nothing to report

vi Footpath in Mill Street

This still needs to be inspected.

B Correspondence

None received

C Members Items

None

12/086 ENVIRONMENT

A Arising from the Minutes

i Street Lighting

Nothing to report

ii Village Improvements

WCC has looked at the possibility of installing a safety barrier outside the Co-op and thinks it is feasible.

iii Traffic Calming

Cllr Patrick is going to take some photos of traffic calming in other areas.

iv Energy Group

Nothing to report

B Correspondence

None

C Members Items

There is still a problem with flooding in Penelope Close. Residents say that nothing has been done about this although according to WCC, surface dressing was carried out in 2012. Patch Byrne (WCC) is aware of the problem and Cllr Stevens will raise it again.

It was noted that there are lots of potholes along Dovehouse Lane on the way to the Pound. It is believed that this stretch of road is unadopted.

Notification has been received that owing to the closure of South Parade next week for road works, buses are to be diverted along Church Street. This caused lots of problems last time and residents need to be asked not to park there. Cllr Patrick has already contacted WCC and will follow it up tomorrow.

The Heber Drive road name sign has disappeared. The clerk is already aware and has reported it to SDC.

12/087 FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSESA Arising from the Minutes

i Village Green – Frances Road

This had already been discussed during the public forum.

ii The Spinney

Nothing to report

B Correspondence

i Harbury Junior Netball Club – see 12/079 above

ii Hire of Football Pitch

It was agreed that the fee for a single hire of the pitch should be £50.00

C Members Items

None

12/088 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

It was **RESOLVED** (proposed by Cllr Patrick, seconded by Cllr Thompson) to pay the accounts as detailed in Appendix B. For more information, please contact the clerk.

12/089 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- i Annual Parish Meeting
There will be no speaker this year. Cllr Mancell gave his apologies in advance.

12/090 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

A Special Meeting will take place on **Thursday, 24 May 2012 at 7.00pm in Harbury Village Hall**, to discuss an urgent planning application. The next Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council will take place on **Thursday, 28 June 2012**.

The meeting closed at 9.49pm.

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