

Harbury Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 24 January 2013 at 7.30pm Tom Hauley Room, All Saints Church

Present

Cllr Lockley (Chairman)	Cllr Hancock	Cllr Thompson
Cllr Patrick	Cllr Summers	Cllr Thornley
Cllr Ekins	Cllr Knowles	Cllr Mancell
Cllr Lewis (from 7.40pm)		

In Attendance

County Cllr Stevens
District Cllr Hamburger
Mrs Alison Biddle, Clerk to the Council
Mrs Linda Ridgley, Harbury News

13/001 Apologies: District Cllr Mann

13/002 Declarations of Interest: None declared

13/003 Public Participation: There were no members of the public present.

13/004 Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the parish council meetings which took place on Thursday, 22 November 2012 and Wednesday, 13 December 2012 (Planning Matter) as a true and complete record of those meetings.

13/005 General Power of Competence

It was **RESOLVED** (proposed by Cllr Patrick, seconded by Cllr Mancell) that Harbury Parish Council meets the criteria for use of the general power of competence as prescribed in ss1-8 of the Localism Act 2011.

13/006 Library

1. Lease Update

The transfer of a parcel of land from WCC to the trustees is going through at the moment. The ICT licence is currently out for signature. Following completion of these matters, the lease between the PC and the trustees will be finalised.

2. Sub-lease between PC and Harbury Library

It was **RESOLVED** (proposed Cllr Mancell, seconded Cllr Thompson) to instruct the council's solicitors to draft this document.

Cllr Lewis arrived during this item.

3. Update Report from Cllr Lockley

The refurbishment of the kitchen will start this weekend and should be completed by the middle of the week. The library continues to pay its way. There are plans for a "Sponsor a Book" campaign. Books are also being donated. There are lots of regular activities. There is no opening on Monday evenings at the moment but this may change with the seasons.

13/007 Reports from Other Organisations

- 1. Harbury School Governors** –none received
- 2. Public Safety** – the last couple of police surgeries were cancelled. The new list of dates is not yet available.
- 3. Southam College** – the latest newsletter could not be downloaded from the college's website

4. **Twinning Association** – the group is busy planning for the visitors from Samoia in May. Various activities are being organised.
5. **Village Hall** – the estimated cost of the planned works is £180,000 and it is expected to take 7 months. The committee is currently seeking quotes so that it can apply for grants. Several fund raising activities are planned. The hall continues to have lots of bookings.

A question was raised about what had happened to the Sec 106 money arising from the housing development in Bush Heath Lane. Perhaps some of this could be used for the village hall (and the school?). District Cllr Hamburger will follow this up.

6. **WALC/NALC**

- Councillors were reminded about the WALC Annual Briefing Day in March.
- The clerk will respond to the NALC consultation re the localisation of council tax benefit.
- Cllr Lockley was nominated to have his name put forward to attend the Royal Garden Party in May.

7. **SDC & WCC**

The following reports were received from county and district councillors:

SDC

- The proposed wind farm planning application will be determined by the area planning committee on 12 February 2013.
- The recent decision on housing at Shottery has opened up the possibility of building houses anywhere in villages despite local objections. The Core Strategy has still not been finalised and villages have little protection at the moment.
- There is a planning application to build 32 houses in Station Road, Bishop's Itchington and another application in the pipeline for a further 70 houses on Gaydon Road. This could have an impact on shared local services e.g. the doctors' surgery and Southam College.

WCC

- The budget will be approved next week. £60 million has to be saved over the next 3 years.
- The parish council was reminded that up to £20,000 was available for works relating to highway safety. There have been no requests from Harbury this time, but applications should be sent in early for next year.
- An announcement is expected early next week re the next part of the proposed route for HS2.
- The new public health organisation takes effect from 1 April 2013.
- The junior football club was successful in its grant application for new goals. There will be a further round of grants available next year.
- Improvements to J12 of the M40 are going ahead. There will be a presentation at the next community forum on 12 March.
- The new police commissioner has announced that he wants to increase community policing.
- The fire service is going ahead with the amalgamation of some of its services with Northamptonshire.
- Cllr Stevens is not aware of any works to the rail bridge at Deppers Bridge as a result of the planned electrification of the line.

13/008 Deppers Bridge

1. **Sewer Problem** – this is now in hand and is to be removed from the agenda.
2. **Proposed Solar Farm** – Cllr Ekins will be attending a meeting with residents next week.
3. **Correspondence** – none received.
4. **Members Items** – none.

13/009 Planning

1. 13/00013/HRN

Remove one section of hedge H1, approximately 353m in length
Flax Hill
Ufton Fields

It was **RESOLVED** to object to this application on the grounds that a valuable resource for wildlife would be lost. The hedge is to be inspected by local volunteers to see whether it meets the criteria for an "important hedgerow" as defined in the regulations. The planning group will formulate a response for the clerk to submit to SDC.

2. 13/0008/FUL

Proposed erection of conservatory to side
The Stables, Harbury Hall
Bull Ring Farm Road
It was **RESOLVED** to make no representation

3. Other Decisions Noted – see Appendix A.

4. Correspondence

The application for 8, Dovehouse Lane will be determined by the area planning committee on 30 January 2013. Cllr Patrick will attend on behalf of the parish council.

5. Members Items – none

13/010 Properties

1. BMX Track – the refurbishment is scheduled for spring.

2. Skate Park

It was agreed that Cllr Thornley and the clerk should apply for grant funding based on the quotation received from Park Leisure.

3. Play Areas – the bark needs replenishing as soon as possible. Some equipment needs re-painting in the spring.

4. Playing Fields

i. **Ground Repairs** – the weather conditions have been appalling. The contractor will make good as soon as possible. Perhaps the junior football pitch can be moved further over for next year.

ii. **Hedge Cutting** – this was authorised at a cost of £180.

iii. **Harbury Carnival** – use of the field for the carnival was agreed subject to usual provisos

iv. **Drainage Problem** – Cllr Knowles will investigate and report back.

5. Car Park – the contractor will tidy and weed spray in the next few days. The sign for emergency access contacts is on order.

6. Cemetery – a complaint has been received from a resident whose garden fence needs replacing but they can't do this because the cemetery hedge has grown over it. The clerk will ask the resident if they can remove the fence to enable to contractor to cut the hedge back.

7. Correspondence – none received.

8. Members Items

- Harbury School PTA will be holding a Victorian street fair on 5 October 2013. The parish council had no objections to this.

- The dog litter bin on New Inn Green has been replaced with a dual purpose litter bin but people aren't aware that it is dual purpose. The clerk will place a notice on the bin and in the Harbury news.

13/011 Environment

1. **Street Lighting** - it was agreed to order 6 x replacement columns with Marlin LEDs at the end of the current financial year.
2. **Village Improvements** – it was agreed to order a larger second hand bin to replace the one outside the post office. The only cost will be an installation charge of £150.
3. **Traffic Calming** – crocodile teeth are to be painted on the road at the entrance to the village in Bush Heath Lane but it is not known when this will be done.
4. **Energy Group** – nothing to report.
5. **Correspondence** – none received
6. **Members Items**
 - A resident has requested an additional grit bin in Bull Ring Farm Road. The council decided that as there is already one grit bin in this area, another is not necessary.
 - It was noted that the county highways' gritting teams had done very well in keeping the roads clear during the recent snow and ice.
 - The hedge on the corner of Manor Road and Park Lane which is overhanging the footpath has still not been cut. There was a discussion about who is responsible for it. It was agreed that the parish council's contractor should be asked to trim it back.
 - A resident has enquired whether the parish council will be switching off the street lights at night (in line with other parts of the county). It had been previously agreed that it would actually cost more money to do this and also, the new LEDs were designed so that they can be left on at night without wasting energy. The lights are currently timed to be on between dusk and dawn. The clerk will put a note to explain this in the Harbury News.

13/012 Finance & General Purposes

1. Budget 2013/14

The draft budget had been circulated to members prior to the meeting and was reviewed.

Library

Members were reminded that it had been agreed to underwrite the library running costs for 3 years by setting aside £5,000 per annum. The library is doing well and to date only £1700 of this year's budget has been used to pay legal fees. On this basis, it is proposed to carry forward the remaining balance to next year to underwrite the running costs as opposed to setting aside £5,000 again. In addition, a further £5,000 has been set aside for the maintenance of the library building. This will be paid into an interest bearing account to build up a sinking fund and had been previously agreed by the council at its meeting in May 2012.

Other Costs

An estimated increase of 2.5% had been applied to most other items including salaries and grounds maintenance. Quotes for insurance are currently being obtained and it is likely that next year's premium will be several hundred pounds less as a result of this exercise.

Overall Increase

Overall, the draft budget had increased by £5,800 but of this, £5,000 was for the library maintenance fund which had already been agreed.

2. Calculation of Precept 2013/14

The method of calculating the precept has changed this year owing to the new local council tax benefit system which has had the effect of reducing the tax base. A new council tax support grant (CTSG) is to be deducted from the budget requirement in order to work out the level of precept required. The CTSG will be paid to the parish council at the same time as the precept to compensate for the reduction in the tax base.

2013/14 Total budget requirement	£81,530 (rounded down to nearest £5.00)
Less CTSG	£4,070
	<u>£77,460</u>

This equates to an increase of approximately 80p per month on a Band D property.

It was **RESOLVED** (proposed Cllr Mancell, seconded Cllr Hancock) to approve the budget and set the level of **precept for 2013/14 at £77, 460.**

3. Grant for Harbury RFC

A request had been received for funding towards the installation of a toilet for disabled people. It was agreed to pay a grant of £1010 which is half the cost.

4. Grant for Harbury Village Hall

The village hall had provided details of the professional fees incurred to date in connection with the improvement works. £5,000 had been set aside in this year's budget for this purpose. Payment of a £5,000 grant was approved.

5. Correspondence

A letter of thanks had been received from the Heritage Group which has purchased a computer with a grant received from the parish council a few years ago.

6. Members Items

- The chairman will be submitting his quarterly report to the Harbury News
- It was noted that two former parish councillors, Midge Keen and Neville Ellis, had both died recently.

13/013 Accounts for Payment

It was **RESOLVED** (proposed Cllr Patrick, seconded Cllr Lewis) to approve the accounts payable as per Appendix B.

13/014 Reports & Questions

- Cllr Thompson gave his apologies for the next parish council meeting.

13/015 Confidential Items

Grounds Maintenance Contracts 2013-16

Cllr Summers declared an interest in this item as her husband has the prospect of employment with one of the contractors who had submitted a tender.

Details of the tenders had been circulated to members. It was **RESOLVED** to award the new contract to MFM Services on the basis of best price and very good references.

13/016 Next Meeting

The next ordinary meeting of Harbury Parish Council will be held on Thursday, 28 February 2013 at 7.30pm in Harbury Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Signed.....Chairman Date.....

APPENDIX A

Planning Applications – Decisions to be noted

Parish Council Responses

The following applications required a response before the next scheduled parish council meeting and have therefore been dealt with using delegated powers, in consultation with the parish council's planning group.

1. 12/02700/FUL
Proposed construction of first floor side extension
43, Mill Street
No representation. Comment: As the building occupies a prominent position, the parish council would like to see the use of matching materials.
2. 12/02832/FUL
Proposed erection of two storey and single storey rear extensions
Four Acres, 10 Greenhill Farm
No representation.

SDC Decisions

1. 12/02087/FUL
Proposed erection of two storey side extension and single storey rear extension
5, Vicarage Lane
Permission with conditions
2. 12/02051/FUL
Demolition of double garage and toolshed to rear of property and erection of replacement single garage. Laying of block paving to provide hard standing.
13-15 Mill Street
Permission with conditions
3. 12/02226/FUL
Demolition of existing prefabricated garages and erection of single bungalow
Land adjacent car park at Old New Inn
Farm Street
Refusal
4. 12/02232/DEM
Demolition of existing prefabricated garages
Land adjacent car park at Old New Inn
Farm Street
Consent granted with conditions (conservation area consent)
5. 12/02700/FUL
Proposed construction of first floor side extension
43, Mill Street
Permission with conditions

Other

1. 12/02380/FUL
Proposed erection of oak framed porch and single storey extension to rear/side of property.
Erection of detached brick built carport/garage and erection of detached brick built workshop/garage
43, South Parade
Application withdrawn

APPENDIX B

Accounts for payment 24 January 2013				
Urgent accounts paid since the last meeting and requiring formal approval of the council				
Payee	Cheque no	Net	Vat	Gross
Adams & Munson (office rent - payable 03.12.12)	s/order	305.00	-	305.00
A Biddle (toner cartridges)	101659	214.20		214.20
E.ON (street light electricity)	101661	310.64	52.81	363.45
Harbury Village Hall (room hire)	101662	72.00		72.00
Severn Trent Water Ltd (allotments)	101663	54.44		54.44
Bishops Itchington PC (shared training & subs)	101664	144.00		144.00
Staff salaries	101665	678.53		678.53
A Biddle (postage & allotments law book)	101666	33.45		33.45
PAC Grounds Maintenance (payable 31.12.12)	s/order	849.66	169.93	1,019.59
BT (Phone & broadband - payable 02.01.13)	d/debit	86.60	17.32	103.92
Adams & Munson (office rent - payable 02.01.13)	s/order	305.00		305.00
	Sub-totals	3,053.52	240.06	3,293.58
Accounts for payment this week				
Payee	Cheque no	Net	Vat	Gross
				-
				-
Staff salaries	101667 to 101670	1,197.67	-	1,197.67
Harbury Church (room hire)	101671	21.00	-	21.00
E.ON (street light electricity)	101672	329.82	65.96	395.78
Harbury Village Show (grant)	101673	200.00	-	200.00
WCC (street lights maintenance contract)	101674	917.76	183.55	1,101.31
				-
PAC Grounds Maintenance (payable 31.01.13)	s/order	849.66	169.93	1,019.59
				-
				-
	Sub-totals	3,515.91	419.44	3,935.35
	TOTALS	6,569.43	659.50	7,228.93