

Harbury Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 28 March 2013 at 7.30pm The Farley Room, Harbury Village Hall

Present

Cllr Thompson (in the chair)	Cllr Hancock	Cllr Thornley
Cllr Summers	Cllr Lewis	Cllr Ekins
Cllr Knowles	Cllr Mancell	

In Attendance

County Cllr Stevens
District Cllr Hamburger
Mrs Alison Biddle, Clerk to the Council
Mrs Linda Ridgley, Harbury News
Members of the public: 17

13/032 Apologies: Cllr Lockley; Cllr Patrick

13/033 Declarations of Interest: None declared.

13/034 Public Participation

Westfield Cottage Planning Application

The applicant explained that the accommodation is required for their elderly father who is ill and needs to live nearby so they can help with his care. They provided a doctor's letter of support. It was explained that unfortunately, this is not a material planning consideration. However, it was also noted that the site cannot be seen from the road and therefore would not appear to impact on anyone else.

Phoenix House Planning Application

The applicant explained that the existing windows were beyond repair. They had commissioned a specialist company to design the replacement windows which are part of the restoration of the building.

Bull Ring Farm Old Farmhouse Planning Application

The applicant explained that he had bought the farmhouse with the intention of renovating it and has tried to establish its history prior to the application.

Victorian Street Fayre

Representatives of the PTA were present in connection with their request for a grant from the parish council. This matter was to be discussed later in the meeting.

Rose Cottage Planning Application

Objections were made to the application on a number of grounds. Details had been circulated to members prior to the meeting.

13/035 Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the parish council meeting which took place on Thursday, 28 February 2013 as a true and complete record of that meeting.

13/036 Library

1. Lease Update

The trustees' solicitor is still dealing with Land Registry issues. No further progress has been made.

2. Update Report

Cllr Lockley was not present and had not sent a report. No one was aware of any problems.

13/037 Reports from Other Organisations

1. **Harbury School Governors** – none received.

2. Public Safety

Dates for the police surgeries have now been circulated. The clerk has information about the problem with the terminal signs in Bush Heath Road which she will circulate. If they are moved, it will be at the cost of the parish council.

3. **Southam College** – none received.

4. Twinning Association

Arrangements for the visit in May have been finalised. 56 people are coming from Samoia, some of whom will be cycling all the way from France. Cllr Lockley, as chairman of the parish council, is to be invited to the pig roast and barn dance.

5. Village Hall

The fund raising events are continuing. Tenders for the extension work will be invited soon.

6. WALC/NALC

WALC has notified all local councils of a Precept Referendum Bill which was recently introduced and which receives its second reading during April. If passed, this would have a serious impact on the parish council's ability to raise its precept in future and thereby support the local community. It was agreed to send a response to the local MP and also to those MPs who had introduced the Bill, pointing out the problems such a law would cause for local councils.

7. SDC & WCC

The following reports were received from county and district councillors:

WCC

- HS2 is still progressing. The judicial review had been mainly in favour of the Government except for the compensation policy. The EIA will probably start at the end of April.
- In those areas where part night lighting has been introduced, there has been a reduction in crime.
- A consultation on the use of Stockton Tip has commenced.
- As part of the Southam town redevelopment, the library will be temporarily relocated to Pendicke Street.
- Public health moves from the PCT to WCC with effect from 1 April 2103.
- Another round of community and highway grants will start soon.

SDC

- Planning permission for 90 houses has been granted for Kineton. This is a result of the recent Shottery appeal which has far reaching implications for local villages.
- It is hoped that the final draft of the core strategy will be approved by SDC in April followed by Government approval in July.
- Neighbourhood plans are very important in order to help villages have some control over planning and development.
- Cllr Hamburger has left the Conservatives and is now an Independent.

13/038 Deppers Bridge

1. Proposed Solar Farm

Cllr Ekins recently attended a residents' meeting. No planning application has yet been received.

2. **Correspondence** – none received.

3. **Members Items** – none.

13/039 **Planning**

1. 13/00407/FUL
New dwelling to rear garden
Westfield Cottage, Westfields Farm
Fosse Way
It was **RESOLVED** to make no representation.
2. 13/00507/LDE
Use of the old farmhouse as a dwelling
Bull Ring Farm
Bull Ring Farm Road
It was **RESOLVED** to support this application on the grounds that this is a good use of an existing derelict building by bringing it back into use as a family home.
3. 13/00503/FUL
Retrospective permission sought for oak framed porch and single storey extension to side/rear of property, together with detached oak framed garage to side of property
43, South Parade
It was **RESOLVED** to object to this application on the following grounds:
 - The size of the garage is disproportionate o the size of the house and dominates the site.
 - The garage roof (estimated at 2.9m) is too high and impacts on the amenity of the neighbouring property immediately to the rear of the garage.
 - There are serious concerns that the garage is being used for business purposes which is an unsuitable use in a residential area.
4. 13/00509/TREE
Crown reductions to various trees
Shakespeare Inn
11 Mill Street
It was **RESOLVED** to make no representation.
5. 12/02524/LBC
Replacement windows
Phoenix House
High Street
It was **RESOLVED** to support this application on the grounds that the replacement windows would improve the building which is in the centre of the conservation area.
6. 13/00421/OUT
Outline application in respect of construction of 2 no. detached dwellings, associated detached garages and creation of shared vehicular access.
Land adjacent to Shenley
Deppers Bridge
It was **RESOLVED** to make no representation.
7. **Other Decisions Noted** – see Appendix A.
8. **Correspondence**
A letter had been received from a resident in respect of the recent planning application for Field House, The Pound. It was agreed that this application had been properly considered by the parish council at its meeting in February and that it was now too late to take into account any further comments from members of the public. The clerk will write to the resident to explain this.

9. **Members Items**

Cllr Mancell thought that the way the planning applications had been dealt with at tonight's meeting, i.e. with the planning group having previewed them and then making its recommendations to the full council in a public meeting, was a good idea and should be continued. The clerk agreed but reminded everyone that there will still be some applications which will require a response before the next scheduled PC meeting and that these will have to be dealt with using delegated powers. A special meeting of the parish council will be called to deal with any application which is judged to be contentious.

With the agreement of the council, the order of the agenda was altered as follows:

13/040 Grant Application for Victorian Street Fayre

A grant of £2400 had been requested by the PTA towards the cost of this event. It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant of £1200. The PTA representatives were advised to apply again later in the year if more funding was still needed.

13/041 Properties

1. **BMX Track** – the improvement works have been ordered for the spring.

2. **Skate Park** – a grant application has been submitted to Awards for All.

3. Play Areas

The play area bark has been delivered and the bark pits will be replenished soon. The wood trim around the side of the slide bark pit has broken. The broken piece has been removed on safety grounds and it will be mended soon.

It was noted that the litter bin in the play area at Deppers Bridge doesn't seem to be emptied very often. The clerk will follow this up with SDC.

4. Playing Fields

Fields in Trust Plaque & Sign

The properties group will meet to consider the location of the plaque. It was agreed that the sign should be installed at the entrance near the bus stop in South Parade. The clerk will organise this.

5. Car Park

Nothing to report.

6. Cemetery

A meeting had been held with the new contractor. He will provide a quote for removing the brambles which are encroaching on the burial ground at the far end of the cemetery.

It had been agreed that the properties group would carry out a survey of all the benches in the village so that the contractor would know what work was needed in terms of painting etc.

The clerk will provide some laminated signs for the cemetery bins so that people use the right bins for recycling etc.

7. Correspondence

An email has been received requesting permission to dedicate a bench to a former resident. The clerk was asked to find out the preferred location.

8. **Members Items** – nothing to report

13/042 Environment

1. **Street Lighting**

i. **Extra Light , Bush Heath Lane**

The problems of fixing a light to an existing power column were discussed. It was also noted that the other existing lamps in Bush Heath Road are mercury ones and will have to be replaced by 2015. It was therefore agreed that it would be preferable to install a new steel lighting column. The total cost for this is £1755.00 but after taking into account a contribution of £750.00 from Linfoot Homes, the cost to the council would actually be £1005.00. This was compared to the cost of fixing a lantern to an existing power pole which would cost £850.00. It was therefore **RESOLVED** to install a new steel lighting column at a cost of £1005.00. The clerk was asked to order this.

ii. **Request for Street Light Cover, Heber Drive**

Cllr Lockley has not yet been able to meet with the resident concerned but will organise this as soon as possible.

iii. **Light Cleaning Schedule**

The cleaning is part of the maintenance contract with the next clean due in 2014. However, WCC is happy to bring this forward to the current year, if requested by the parish council. It was agreed that the clerk should organise for this to be done.

iv. **Light Column Painting**

A quotation of £1533.98 plus vat has been received from WCC for painting the Windsor lamp columns. It was agreed that this should be further discussed by the Environment Group and that the cost should be included in the 2014/15 budget. Alternative quotes should also be sought.

2. **Village Improvements** – nothing to report

3. **Traffic Calming**

i. **VAS Installation, Bush Heath Road**

This is due to be installed during April.

It was noted that the 40mph signs are faded. The clerk was asked to report this to WCC.

4. **Energy Group** – nothing to report

5. **Correspondence** – none received

6. **Members Items**

Field Entrance, Mill Street

Cllr Hancock requested a meeting between the parish council, WCC and the farmer to discuss the possibility of strengthening the section of footpath at the field entrance in Mill Street. Despite the repairs carried out last summer, there has been further damage as a result of numerous heavy farm vehicles crossing the footpath. The clerk will contact WCC and copy County Cllr Stevens in to her email.

13/043 Consultations

1. **SDC Electoral Review**

Individuals may respond to this. The council did not wish to make a response.

2. **Waste Core Strategy**

This is a follow up to the previous consultation. The council did not wish to make any further comments.

3. **Green Infrastructure Strategy**

The council did not wish to respond.

13/044 Finance & General Purposes

1. Grant Application for First Aid Courses

It was **RESOLVED** to award £200 care of Harbury Library to subsidise the cost of first aid courses for the unemployed and pensioners.

2. Amendment to Standing Order for Grounds Maintenance Contract

The previous standing order is to be cancelled and a new one set up for the new contract. The clerk had prepared instructions for the bank which were duly signed by the clerk and two councillors.

3. Insurance Quotes 2013/14

Two quotations had been received to compare to last year's renewal premium. It was **RESOLVED** to accept the quote of £1539.00 from Came & Company.

A review of the insurance schedule had highlighted the need to look at the current valuations for the chapel and war memorial. The clerk was asked to obtain new valuations and then ask Came & Company for a revised quote to include the new valuations. The council will then decide whether to pay the increased premium or to self-insure.

4. Training Courses

It was agreed that the clerk could attend training on allotments and cemetery management as soon as there is an available course. It was also agreed that the cemetery assistant should be offered the opportunity of attending training too. The cost of the courses varies from £70.00 to £125.00.

5. Office Equipment

It was agreed that the clerk should purchase a digital camera. A basic model will cost about £70.00.

6. Correspondence

i. Grant Application from Harbury School PTA – Victorian Street Fayre

This matter had already been dealt with at 13/026.

ii. Grant Application from Southam & District Children's Centre

It was **RESOLVED** to refuse this application on the grounds that this organisation is not based in Harbury.

iii. Request for Dedication of Bench

This matter had already been dealt with under 13/027.7

7. Members Items – none received

13/045 Accounts for Payment

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

13/046 Annual Parish Meeting

It was agreed that an officer from WCC should be invited to give a presentation on the planned improvements to J12 of the M40. Failing this, the clerk will arrange for someone to deliver a talk on neighbourhood plans.

It was agreed that the parish council needs to give some more consideration to a neighbourhood plan and that this should be included on the next agenda.

13/047 Reports & Questions – none received

13/048 Next Meeting

The next ordinary meeting of Harbury Parish Council will be held on Thursday, 25 April 2013 at 7.30pm in Harbury Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 9.20pm.

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

APPENDIX A

Planning Applications – Decisions to be noted 28 March 2013

Parish Council Responses (made since last parish council meeting using delegated powers)

None

SDC Decisions

1. 13/00205/FUL
Change of use of agricultural land to private recreational equestrian including the creation of a ménage for the occupiers of the dwelling house.
The Ranch House, Chesterton Road
Permission with conditions

Appeals

1. 12/00330/FUL
Erection of 4 wind turbines and ancillary development
Land between Bishop's Itchington and Knightcote
This application was refused by SDC on 12 February 2013. The applicant has now appealed. The appeal will be dealt with at a public inquiry conducted by a planning inspector. Appeal ref: APP/J3720/A/13/2193579/NWF

APPENDIX B

Accounts for payment 28 March 2013				
Urgent accounts paid since the last meeting and requiring formal approval of the council				
Payee	Cheque no	Net	Vat	Gross
			-	-
				-
	Sub-totals	-	-	-
Accounts for payment this week				
Payee	Cheque no	Net	Vat	Gross
				-
			-	-
Staff payment	101688	660.32	-	660.32
Coventry City Council	101689	530.40	106.08	636.48
E.ON (street light electricity)	101690	297.90	59.58	357.48
Sureway Heating Services (pump at library)	101691	1,500.00	300.00	1,800.00
Sureway Heating Services (call out at library)	101692	60.00	12.00	72.00
Post Office Ltd (cemetery rates - SDC)	101693	364.98	-	364.98
Frank Mann Farmers (new goals installation)	101694	343.00	68.60	411.60
Fenland Leisure Products Ltd (play area bark)	101695	261.00	52.20	313.20
S Ekins (cllrs allowance)	101696	200.00	-	200.00
A Knowles (cllrs allowance)	101697	200.00	-	200.00
T Lockley (chair's allowance)	101698	300.00	-	300.00
A Mancell (cllrs allowance)	101699	200.00	-	200.00
J Patrick (cllrs allowance)	101700	200.00	-	200.00
K Thompson (cllrs allowance)	101701	200.00	-	200.00
J Thornley (cllrs allowance)	101702	200.00	-	200.00
HMRC (PAYE)	101703	731.26	-	731.26
Cash (petty cash)	101704	96.02	-	96.02
Harbury Library (first aid courses)	101705	200.00	-	200.00
Adams & Munson (office rent payable 01.03.13)	s/order	305.00	-	305.00
PAC Grounds Maintenance (payable 28.03.13)	s/order	849.66	169.93	1,019.59
BT (Phone and internet - payable 28.03.13)	d/debit	93.20	18.63	111.83
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	Sub-totals	7,792.74	787.02	8,579.76
	TOTALS	7,792.74	787.02	8,579.76
Petty Cash Analysis				
Stamps		£ 54.00		
Dictionary & Thesaurus		£ 4.99		
Postages		£ 1.80		
Postages		£ 5.90		
Bin liners		£ 2.93		
Stamps		£ 26.40		
	Total	£ 96.02		