

Harbury Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 25 April 2013 at 7.30pm The Farley Room, Harbury Village Hall

Present

Cllr Lockley (Chairman)
Cllr Summers
Cllr Mancell

Cllr Hancock
Cllr Lewis
Cllr Patrick

Cllr Thornley
Cllr Ekins

Cllr Thompson
Cllr Knowles

In Attendance

Mrs Alison Biddle, Clerk to the Council
County Cllr Stevens
District Cllr Hamburger
Mrs Linda Ridgley, Harbury News
Members of the public: 18

13/049 Apologies: None

13/050 Declarations of Interest:

Cllr Thompson declared a personal interest in an item for the public forum which was a presentation by his daughter in respect of a proposed new children's nursery.

13/051 Public Participation

Banana Moon Nursery – The Dog Inn

The council received a presentation on the children's nursery which is proposed for the ground floor of the former Dog Inn subject to planning permission. The intention is to provide a 50 place nursery for children from 3 months old. The nursery will be open all day and all year round. The nursery will be family run and it is hoped that it will provide employment for local people. The owner of the building wants to preserve its character. He intends to keep the top floor as an apartment. A planning application for a change of use will be submitted in due course and it is hoped that the nursery will open in September 2013.

Members of the public raised concerns about the effect a new nursery will have on the existing pre-schools in the village. The possibility of an increase in noise and traffic was also mentioned. It was suggested that the owners should run a public consultation when they have prepared their plans.

The Pound

It was noted that the damage to The Pound as the result of recent building work at an adjacent property, still needed to be fully repaired. The parish council will make sure that this is carried out. A request was also made that the road should not be blocked by contractors' vehicles. The clerk was asked to write accordingly to the resident concerned.

13/052 Minutes

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

13/053 Library

1. Lease Update

The trustees' solicitor is still dealing with Land Registry issues. No further progress has been made. The problem with the Land Registry must be resolved before the lease is completed.

2. Update Report

Everything is going well. Over 5,700 customers have used the café since it opened. There are not currently enough volunteers to open the café in the afternoons but the library is open 6 days a week. It would be useful to compare the footfall in the library between now and when it was run by WCC and also the book stock. The buy a book scheme is up and running and has so far raised £700 for the purchase of new books. Next month sees the first anniversary of the opening of the new community run library.

13/054 Reports from Other Organisations

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

2. **Public Safety** – none received.

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

4. Twinning Association

Visitors from Samoia will be arriving on 17 May. There are lots of events planned for the Saturday including a safari supper. There will be a tour of Oxford on the Sunday followed by a pig roast at the village hall in the evening. The visitors will leave on Monday morning.

5. Village Hall

The committee is currently waiting to receive the builders' quotes. There will be an auction of promises this weekend as part of the fundraising. It was noted that up to the end of March 2013, the rural cinema had raised £10,000 for the village hall.

6. **WALC/NALC** – nothing to report.

7. SDC & WCC

The following reports were received from county and district councillors:

SDC

- It is proposed that the final draft of the Core Strategy will be published by 21 June 2013. It will then be submitted to the Government and it is anticipated that it will be finally in place by November 2014. A neighbourhood development plan cannot be progressed without the core strategy.

WCC

- The redevelopment of Southam town centre will provide 17 individual homes for older people who need extra care. The work should be completed by November 2014.
- The HS2 community forums are to be revised. The EIA is a lengthy document of 4,000 pages.
- Southam College admission numbers are being affected by the grammar schools which are taking on an additional class.

13/055 Deppers Bridge

1. Proposed Solar Farm

District Cllr Hamburger reported that he had spoken to the landowner who is now thinking about using a different field to the one proposed. At some stage it is hoped that they might consult with local residents. No planning application has been received yet.

2. Litter Bin, Playing Field

It is not known who is emptying this bin at present. If SDC were to empty it, there would be an annual charge of £98.00. It was decided to monitor the situation. If the bin starts to overflow the matter will be reconsidered.

3. **Correspondence** – none received.

4. **Members Items**

It was reported that the hedge between the playing field and a neighbouring property had been trimmed and the debris left on the field. It was not clear whose responsibility it is to remove this. This needs to be clarified before any action is taken.

13/056 **Planning**

1. 13/00867/FUL

Proposed demolition of existing single storey side extension and erection of two storey side extension

2, Wagstaffe Close

It was **RESOLVED** to make no representation.

2. 13/00659/FUL

Proposed construction of 1.8m high brick wall within the curtilage, conversion of shed/lean-to to facilitate storage room and installation of replacement entrance gates

Phoenix House, High Street

It was **RESOLVED** to support this application on the grounds that there will be an improvement to the appearance of this building which is in the centre of the village and the conservation area.

3. 12/02473/LBC

Repainting of exterior walls, replacement soil pipe, proposed construction of 1.8m high brick wall within the curtilage, conversion of shed/lean-to to facilitate storage room and installation of replacement entrance gates

Phoenix House, High Street

It was **RESOLVED** to support this application on the grounds that there will be an improvement to the appearance of this building which is in the centre of the village and the conservation area.

4. **Other Decisions Noted** – see Appendix A.

5. **Neighbourhood Development Plan**

The NDP officer from WRCC will be giving a presentation at the annual parish meeting on 9 May. It was agreed to defer discussion of this matter until after this.

6. **Correspondence** – none received.

7. **Members Items**

It was reported that District Cllr Hamburger had followed up the planning application for Rose Cottage, South Parade, with officers at SDC. The applicant has now been asked to provide clarification regarding the discrepancies on the plans. Cllr Hamburger is still waiting to receive an explanation from SDC as to how they intend to deal with this matter.

13/057 **Properties**

1. **BMX Track** – the contractor has advised that the refurbishment works are scheduled for June.

2. **Skate Park** – a conditional grant offer has been received. The clerk will process this.

3. **Play Areas** – nothing to report.

4. **Playing Fields**

The damage to the field caused by preparations for the bonfire last November, is looking worse now that it is drying out. The clerk will ask the contractor if more can be done to improve the field. If there is an extra cost, GASS should be approached. It was agreed to invite GASS to the next PC meeting to discuss arrangements for this year's bonfire.

5. **Car Park**

One of the bollard locks has seized up. Cllr Thompson will investigate. If this fails, the clerk will contact a locksmith.

6. **Cemetery** - nothing to report.

7. **Correspondence** – none received.

8. **Members Items**

- The clerk had contacted Network Rail about the grit bin near the bridge in Bull Ring Farm Road and they had told her that it did not belong to them. It was agreed that the PC would move it to the side of the road. Cllrs Lockley and Patrick will see to this.
- It was noted that both sets of gates at the village hall were now open at night. This is because there is no longer a problem with people driving in there at night so it was decided that the gates could be opened.

13/058 **Environment**

1. **Street Lighting**

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

The clerk had been advised by E.on that a shade is not available for this type of lamp. Cllr Lockley had passed this information on to the resident and suggested that blackout blinds might be a suitable alternative.

ii. **Request for More Lights in Centre of Village**

A resident had contacted the clerk to ask if the council would consider installing more lights in the centre of the village as it is very dark at night. These comments were noted. However, part of the problem is the fact that the Dog Inn, which used to help illuminate the village centre, has now closed. It was agreed that when the proposed planning application for the Dog Inn is received, the parish council would ask if a light could be fixed to the outside of the building.

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

3. **Traffic Calming**

i. **Terminal Signs, Bush Heath Road**

It was agreed that the cost of moving these, at £3500, was too high. Also, WCC had advised that it would not significantly reduce the speed of vehicles approaching the village. It was therefore agreed not to take this matter any further at the moment.

4. **Energy Group**

Cllr Lewis reported that she was no longer able to attend the HEI meetings. It was agreed that the committee would be asked to provide a report to the PC as necessary.

5. **Tree Works**

This related to the recent felling of a diseased tree on the green at the corner of Queens Close and Butt Lane. No one is sure who owns this piece of land but the tree was dangerous and had to be removed for public safety. It was **RESOLVED** to make a contribution of £200 towards the cost of removing the tree. It was noted that a resident who lives next to the green had also offered a contribution. The clerk will make a search of the Land Registry to see if the identity of the owner can be established.

6. **Correspondence** – none received

7. **Members Items**

New light, Bush Heath Lane

What appears to be a new light has been noticed in Bush Heath Lane, opposite Manor Road. A faulty light was recently reported to WCC but it is not known if this is the same light. Cllr Thornley will take a look and report back to the clerk.

Field Entrance, Mill Street

The meeting arranged for tomorrow morning between parish councillors, WCC and the farmer has had to be cancelled at short notice. A new date will be arranged.

13/059 Finance & General Purposes

1. Insurance Review

The valuation of the cemetery chapel has been carried out by a local surveyor. It was reported that there are 3 holly trees very close to the building which may cause some damage. There is also a lot of ivy covering the building. This needs to be dealt with.

2. Correspondence – none received

3. Members Items – none received

13/060 Accounts for Payment

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

13/061 Annual Parish Meeting – 9 May 2013

The guest speaker will be the Neighbourhood Development Officer from WRCC and will start at 7.30pm. The clerk and the chairman will organise the refreshments. Members were reminded that they should send their annual reports to the clerk no later than 2 May 2013.

13/062 Reports & Questions – none received

13/063 Date of Next Meeting

The annual meeting of Harbury Parish Council will be held on Thursday, 23 May 2013 at 7.30pm in Harbury Village Hall. This will be followed immediately afterwards by the next ordinary meeting.

Meeting closed at 8.54pm.

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....

APPENDIX A

Planning Applications – Decisions to be noted 25 April 2013

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

1. 13/00500/FUL
Proposed erection of single storey rear extension, porch to rear, replacement porch to front and insertion of second floor window in west facing gable end
17, South Parade
No representation

SDC Decisions

1. 13/00232/FUL
Proposed amendments to design of previously approved detached garage including change from hipped gable roof, insertion of dormer window to front and fenestration alterations.
Field House, The Pound
Permission with conditions

Appeal Decision

1. Appeal Ref: APP/J3720/A/12/2185934
Davis Equestrian Centre
Bull Ring Farm Road
Harbury
The development proposed is mobile security accommodation unit at existing equestrian training and horse sanctuary.
<http://apps.stratford.gov.uk/eplanning/AppDetail.aspx?appkey=LYRLWOPM01600>
The appeal is dismissed

