

# HARBURY PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting Thursday 25 June 2020 at 7.30pm Remote Meeting

### Present

Cllr Lockley (chairman)	Cllr Allen
Cllr Knowles	Cllr Gibb
Cllr Thompson	Cllr Rutherford
Cllr Balch	Cllr Ekins

### Absent

Cllr Mancell; Cllr Thornley

### In Attendance

Alison Biddle, Clerk to the Council  
County Cllr Stevens  
District Cllr Harris  
Carole Gwillam, Minute Secretary

### Public

Linda Ridgley, Harbury News  
6 members of the public

### **20/65 Apologies**

Cllr Mancell  
Cllr Thornley

### **20/66 Declarations of Interest**

- Cllr Ekins declared a personal interest in agenda item 6.1 as his wife works at the pre-school.
- Cllr Allen declared a personal interest in agenda item 6.1 as her child attends the pre-school.

### **20/67 Dispensations**

None

### **20/68 Minutes**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the ordinary parish council meeting held on Thursday 28 May 2020 as a true and complete record of that meeting; they were duly signed.

### **20/69 Public Participation**

A resident of Deppers Bridge expressed concerns about speeding in Deppers Bridge. The situation is getting worse with an estimated 80% of drivers exceeding the 30mph speed limit. The wheelie bin stickers have been no use. It is not safe for children to cross the road.

### **20/70 Community Grant Applications**

#### **1 Harbury Pre-school**

Extra costs had been incurred in making the pre-school as safe as possible for children and staff. After some discussion, it was felt that, in these exceptional circumstances, the pre-school - having attained outstanding from Ofsted and being vital to the village – deserved the council's support. It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant of £2679.

## **20/71 Other Organisations**

### **1 Harbury Library**

A virtual steering meeting was due to take place this coming Monday. The click & collect service had worked well and was carrying on but plans for a more formal opening on July 4<sup>th</sup> were dependent upon Government guidelines and a decision by WCC re WCC stock. From Wednesday 8 July, Biblio's is starting takeaway coffee & cake each Wednesday and Saturday, and outside seating will be provided on the grassed area outside the scout hut. Cllr Thompson had been asked to help with the risk assessment, which he was happy to do.

### **2 Harbury School Governors**

Cllr Gibb reported that the school had opened for Reception, Y1 & Y6 Monday to Thursday. Friday was closed for cleaning and staff training but was still open for vulnerable children and those of key workers. The last week of term will see this reversed when Y2, 3, 4 & 5 will attend to remind them of their surroundings and for the setting of work for the holidays. It is hoped that the school will return to normal in September, but this is not definite at present. The new outdoor classroom, built from PTA/S106 monies, is finished and in use. There are 30 new pupils due to start in September, which is good for the finances and for the school's long-term future.

Cllr Thompson reported that the heritage room had now been refurbished, thanks to Bill Timpson and his team, Murphy's for the disabled ramp (as part of their community project) and to Severn Trent who awarded a grant.

### **3 Southam College**

Governors will next meet on 9 July. Y10 had been in, but other years were having Zoom lessons, with face-to-face on occasions. The on-line lessons had been well organised so that some education was provided in these difficult times. Guidelines for September were eagerly awaited.

### **4 Twinning Association**

The clerk reported that our French friends had sent 60 or so handmade face masks; a letter of thanks would be sent to them, appreciating the fact that they had been thinking of us.

### **5 Village Hall**

Cllr Rutherford reported that it is looking likely that village halls will be re-opening on 4 July. There is a lot of preparation to do before hirers (with differing needs) start coming back – deep clean, sanitizers, hand dryers to disconnect, etc. Cllr Thompson is helping with the safety check and, all being well, the hall will open on 21 July.

### **6 Harbury Energy Initiative**

Nothing to report at present.

## **20/72 SDC & WCC**

### **SDC**

Cllr Harris had emailed parish councils about a national lottery grant for a heritage survey for storing records and reported that hospitals were improving by starting to do pre-op assessments which was a positive way forward. It was hoped that day surgeries would commence mid-July, with a caveat of isolating 2 weeks prior to appointment.

### **WCC**

Cllr Stevens reported that:

- Covid-19 cases in Warwickshire, previously one of the highest rates in the country, was starting to drop, although Nuneaton/Bedworth rates were still worrying.
- The county roads surveyor for this area is away until August.

- HS2 traffic control chaotic with managers from different areas not knowing what each are doing. Dates are still tentative, and they use the Environment Act to justify what they want to do when they want to do it. It is still not certain when the tunnel boring machine will be here, but the cabling will not arrive until the end of September.
- There is still £4,000 in the Community Grant Fund, with the second round due soon.
- The delegated Highways Grant has been revamped for bigger schemes next year.

## 20/73 Planning

### 1 [Orchard Barn, Deppers Bridge](#)

Planning ref: 20/00732/FUL

Retention of wooden building used for domestic storage

It was felt that the building was sufficiently distant from the neighbouring property to have minimal impact on their amenity. It was **RESOLVED** to withdraw the previous objection submitted under delegated powers and make no further representation.

### 2 [The Stone House, Mill Street](#)

T1 – Holly – Fell

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

### 3 [Cherry Cottage, 8 Ivy Lane](#)

T1 – cherry- Crown lift and reduction to sides of 15% up to 3.8 metres.

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

### 4 [8 Farm Street](#)

T1 - willow - Re-pollard to previous pollard points

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

### 5 **Delegated Responses**

There were none to report.

### 6 **Housing Needs Survey**

No further progress, Cllr Allen would report back at the next meeting.

## 20/74 Environment

### 1 **Deppers Bridge Traffic – Wheelie Bin Stickers**

Cllr Gibb reported that the speed limit through Deppers Bridge and lorries exceeding the weight limit over the bridge had been a cause for concern for a long time. The problem is exacerbated when there are road works and diversions. He had proposed buying a further 100 bin stickers, but after hearing the resident's comments this evening that the stickers were ineffective, he withdrew his proposal. Something more permanent was needed; however, WCC were not willing to help as there was no history of serious accidents. Cllr Harris said that she would speak to County Cllr Crump (portfolio holder for road safety) again about this on-going problem and it might be worthwhile raising it at the community forum. There was no obvious solution to this problem apart from pushing harder for enforcement by the police. The clerk was asked to invite the police to the next parish council meeting.

### 2 **Chesterton Road Speed Limit**

As agreed at a previous PC meeting, the clerk had written to WCC requesting that the speed limit is lowered from 60mph to 50mph. WCC had advised that the PC should ask Cllr Stevens if he would be willing to use his delegated budget to fund this lengthy and expensive legal process. It was agreed to push for enforcement rather than a reduction in speed limits and to include Chesterton Road in a wider village scheme to enforce the speed limits

## 20/75 Properties

### 1 **Playing Fields**

#### a) CCTV Scheme

Cllr Rutherford reported that the village hall was looking to share the costs 50/50 with the parish council. The total cost would be £6,930 including VAT and includes signage and installation. It was **RESOLVED** that the parish council would pay 50% of the total cost of the scheme which includes 2 cameras focussed on the playing field car park which is owned by the parish council. The village hall will place the order.

#### b) Mobile Coffee Shop

The applicant had done some research with other organisations, including the football club, and it seems that a mobile coffee shop attending events on the playing field would be welcome and not adversely affect anyone else.

It was **RESOLVED** to grant permission for the mobile coffee shop to visit the playing fields, subject to a written agreement (to be drafted by the properties group) which would include the following conditions:

- The van is parked on the hard standing on the field, just beyond the bollards (to avoid taking up space in the car park)
- The bollards are replaced afterwards.
- Rubbish is taken away and the site left in a good, clean condition.
- The agreement shall be for a period of 12 months, September – August, then reviewed.

#### c) Field Drainage

Cllr Lockley has spoken to Murphy's who are proposing installing a drain into the ditch near Pineham Farm. They will update Cllr Lockley again next week when they have discussed it further.

### 2 **Allotments**

A resident had suggested the possibility of making a plot available for use by people with dementia. Councillors were supportive but there is currently no available plot and there is also a long waiting list. The rents are due at the end of September and this is usually the time when people think about giving up a plot. It was agreed that the clerk would make mention of the proposal in this year's rent letters as there may be someone who feels a full plot is too much work and who would consider relinquishing half of it for this purpose.

## 20/76 Finance & General Purposes

### 1 **Bank Reconciliation**

The bank reconciliation for May 2020 had been completed by the clerk and checked by Cllr Mancell. Everything was in order.

### 2 **Budget Report**

The clerk explained that the May payments were late being authorised and therefore didn't leave the bank account until June which means that both the May and June invoices will show as being paid in the same month on the accounting system.

### 3 **AED in Old Phone Box, Deppers Bridge**

It had been suggested that the phone box could be used to house an AED. The clerk reported that she was waiting for a response from WMAS to obtain a quote for a machine that complies with their requirements. The cost is likely to be around £1800. The electricity supply

also needs to be checked. A defibrillator will require weekly checks, but these can be included as part of the weekly play area inspections. The clerk will report back next month.

**20/77 Accounts for Payment**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the accounts for payment as per Appendix A; Cllrs Thompson and Allen to authorise payment. They will confirm that they have checked the invoices (circulated prior to the meeting) by email.

**20/78 Reports & Questions**

- Cllr Lockley reported that the volunteering network would shortly be winding down; he was due to attend a meeting to discuss this and would report back at the next meeting.
- The photo competition had been judged; the clerk would provide the chair with a list of winners. Thanks were expressed to Nigel Chapman and Linda Ridgley for judging the 35 entries.
- Cllr Thompson took this opportunity to inform councillors of the recent death of Bill Middleton, a former parish councillor.
- The play area will probably open on 4 July following the easing of the lockdown restrictions. In anticipation of this, safety inspections had now started – this included both children’s and adult equipment. Cllr Balch had offered to help and was going to shadow the other councillors on the rota to see how things are done. Cllr Thompson will draw up a new rota.

**20/79 Exclusion of Public & Press**

There were no confidential matters to discuss.

**20/80 Date of Next Meeting**

The next ordinary meeting of the parish council will take place on Thursday 23 July 2020 at 7.30pm. The venue is yet to be confirmed but it is likely that this will be a remote meeting. Details will be published with the agenda in due course.

**The meeting closed at 9.00pm**

Signed ..... Chairman      Date.....

**APPENDIX A**  
**Accounts Payable**

<b>Accounts for approval 25 June 2020</b>				
<b>Urgent accounts paid since the last meeting and requiring formal approval of the council</b>				
<b>Payee</b>	<b>Payment ref</b>	<b>Net</b>	<b>Vat</b>	<b>Gross</b>
		-	-	-
GASS (grant)	200600	550.00	-	550.00
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Sub-total	550.00	-	550.00
<b>Accounts for payment on 25 June 2020</b>				
<b>Payee</b>	<b>Payment ref</b>	<b>Net</b>	<b>Vat</b>	<b>Gross</b>
Staff payments	200601 to 0	1,548.11		1,548.11
E.ON (s/lights electricity)	200605	265.53	53.11	318.64
F M Farmers (field mowing)	200606	212.00	42.40	254.40
Serfis Construction & Engineering Ltd (cem path)	200607	7,617.40	1,523.48	9,140.88
Viking (office supplies)	200608	40.72	8.14	48.86
Adams & Munson (office rent)	s/order	378.50	-	378.50
Frank Mann Farmers (grds m'nance)	s/order	953.47	190.69	1,144.16
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Sub-totals	11,015.73	1,817.82	12,833.55
	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>11,565.73</b>	<b>1,817.82</b>	<b>13,383.55</b>