

HARBURY PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting
Thursday 24 June 2021 at 7.30pm
Harbury Village Hall

Present

Cllr T Lockley (chairman)	Cllr S Allen
Cllr A Knowles	Cllr C Gibb
Cllr K Thompson	Cllr A Rutherford
Cllr J Balch	Cllr S Ekins
Cllr S Boyd	

Absent

Cllr Thornley

In Attendance

Alison Biddle, Clerk to the Council
County Cllr C Kettle
Carole Gwillam, Minute Secretary

Public

Linda Ridgely for Harbury & Ladbroke News
8 members of the public

21/68 Apologies

Cllr J Thornley, District Cllr Harris

21/69 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Gibb declared an interest in HS2 matters as he has worked for them.

21/70 Dispensations

1 Harbury Village Hall

It was **RESOLVED** to grant dispensation to all current members of Harbury Parish Council in respect of matters relating to Harbury Village Hall which holds a long- term lease granted by the parish council by which all members of the council share a common and direct conflict of interest. Without a dispensation, the number of persons prohibited from participating would be so great a proportion of the council as to impede the transaction of any business relating to the hall.

2 Other Dispensations

There were no other requests.

21/71 Minutes

- 1 It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the annual meeting of the parish council held on Thursday 6 May 2021 as a true and complete record of that meeting; they were duly signed.
- 2 It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the ordinary parish council meeting held on Thursday 6 May 2021 as a true and complete record of that meeting; they were duly signed.

21/72 Public Participation

- The clerk had circulated a detailed email to all members prior to the meeting about concerns on traffic and safety. Speeding and HGVs continue to pose a danger to life and the closure of the A425 has only exacerbated this problem. Signage too is often confusing as these are not removed when work finished.
- All the village should be 30mph. Although the council are sympathetic to this problem and having tried twice in the past to change the speed limited, it is unlikely to be changed as WCC budgets are even more streamlined now. Cllr Lockley pointed out that a residents' group would have more influence and should make an appointment to discuss with County Cllr Kettle. HPC could help and offer advice, but they have no capacity to lead such an initiative.
- A proposal was put forward for 30mph signs replacing 40mph, at negligible cost; however, it was pointed out that changing a speed limit is a long and costly process, which must be legally enforceable, and is not as simple as it appears to be.
- A request was made for Bush Lane/Butt Lane to be improved for cyclists, pedestrians, and equestrians as both are so dangerous that people are afraid to use them.

21/73 Other Organisations

1 Harbury Library

A report had already been circulated; due to the lifting of lockdown restrictions being put back to 19th July, the library and café opening times remain unchanged. There is a repair café this Saturday. There was disappointment with Warwickshire County Libraries for failing to supply a collection of Reading Well books (separate sets of books for children, young adults, and adults, recommended by health experts, covering topics such as mental health, bullying, bereavement, dealing with long term illness, dementia, loneliness and more); this would be followed up at the next meeting of the community managed libraries as well as passing on concerns to the new county ward councillor.

2 Harbury School Governors

Nothing to report.

3 Southam College

Cllr Lockley mentioned the large sum received for the rebuild, virtual events are still prevalent, and it is hoped that Yrs 11 & 13 will be able to hold their school prom after 19 July.

4 **Twining Association**

Nothing to report.

5 **Village Hall**

The building work has been completed. Bookings are now starting to come in again.

6 **Harbury Energy Initiative**

Cllr Balch informed council that she has now attended a few meetings as the PC representative and is becoming more involved.

7 **SDC & WCC**

SDC: No update from Cllr Harris. It was noted that she was very concerned about the way in which the recent consultation on the South Warwickshire Local Plan had been conducted.

WCC: Cllr Kettle reported:

- Highways: Harbury Lane/Fosse Way junction– now finally signed off and work originally due to start in August, but now seems likely to be the autumn; he has a meeting with HS2 and Jeremy Wright, MP shortly.
- HS2 Signage: Unnecessary signage has repeatedly been asked to be removed, but HS2 have not been listening to residents or councils; all villages have suffered results of road closures. However, HS2 is here for a long time, and they are just beginning to respond to local councils' concerns, e.g., the A425 is now set to re-open this summer after all after lobbying by local councillors.
- Cllr Lockley asked Cllr Kettle to investigate better signage for HS2 on the M40. The traffic should be leaving the M40 at Banbury and using the A423 to get to Southam.
- It was pointed out that verges and vegetation need attending to at the Harbury Lane/Fosse Way junction as the overgrowth is affecting visibility. Cllr Kettle will follow this up.
- Crime rates over the past year were mentioned; all villages, however small, are affected in one way or another. Domestic abuse cases continue to rise, there have been instances of drugs cultivation equipment being fly tipped, and county lines are rife in Warwickshire.
- The new chief constable takes up her post shortly, having previously been acting chief and spending her whole career in Warwickshire.

21/74 **Planning**

1 [Planning ref 21/01867/TREE – Hill Cottage, 2 Farm Street](#)

T1 and T2 – conifer – reduce by 3-4 metres.

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

- 2 [Planning ref 21/01539/FUL – 25 Binswood End](#)
Proposed single storey rear extension.
It was **RESOLVED** to make no representation.

- 3 [Planning ref 21/01866/TREE – Dennys Close, Temple End](#)
T1: Holly – reduce height and spread by up to 3m.
T2: Thuja – reduce height and spread by up to 3m.
T3: Golden Thuja – reduce height and spread by up to 2m and reduce girth.
T4: Lawson Cypress – reduce height by up to 2m and reduce spread.
It was **RESOLVED** to make no representation.

- 4 [Planning ref 21/01553/FUL – The Manor House, Park Lane](#)
Permission requested to install a greenhouse in the rear garden to replace a wooden playhouse of similar footprint which is standing on a base of concrete slabs.
It was **RESOLVED** to make no representation.

- 5 [Planning ref 21/02839/FUL \(amended\) – Land near to Bishop’s Itchington \(Knightcote Road\)](#)
Construction of a solar farm (82.5ha) together with associated works, equipment, and necessary infrastructure.
(N.B. Harbury PC consulted as an adjoining parish only).
It was **RESOLVED** to make no representation (as previously) but with an added comment that a robust traffic plan should also be included.

- 6 **Proposed Solar Farm at Deppers Bridge**
Members of the council had recently met the developer, JBM Solar, to learn more about the proposed development at Eastfields Farm which is on the north side of the railway and largely out of public view. Access would be from the B4452. Councillors had requested that the developer run a public consultation prior to submitting their planning application. It seems likely that the application will come forward for formal consultation later this summer.

- 7 **WCC Local Walking & Cycling Infrastructure Plan (LWCIP)**
There had already been several comments in the public participation part of this meeting, as well as on the interactive map provided by WCC. Cllr Gibb would like to see Darke Lane included for improvements to make better use of this footpath which is a popular route to school. In addition, Bush Heath Road, Butt Lane, and Bush Heath Lane would all benefit from improvements to make them safer for pedestrians, cyclists, and equestrians. Middle Road needs better connectivity between the village, the rugby club, and the caravan site. The footpath between the Great Western and Harbury, alongside the B4452, also needs to be made wider. It was agreed that the clerk would draft a response and circulate it to councillors for comment before submitting it to WCC.

8 Draft Local Enforcement Plan Consultation - Stratford-on-Avon District Council

The deadline for responses had been extended to 19 July following a complaint by the clerk. Planning permissions and conditions are generally not enforced which continues to be a significant problem which the draft plan does not seem to address. It was suggested that perhaps building control could check on permissions at the same time as they make site visits to check on building regulations.

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Lockley and Cllr Allen draft a response and circulate this to members for approval before submission to SDC.

9 Delegated Responses

Noted as per appendix A

21/75 Environment

1 Village tree planning project

Cllr Gibb had not yet met with the scouts but would be doing so shortly.

2 Drainage in Park Lane & Chapel Street

Cllr Gibb reported that WCC had made a huge effort to unblock the drains which seems to have been successful.

3 Traffic in Bush Heath Road/Butt Lane – consideration of further action by PC

Already discussed in public participation.

21/76 Properties

1 Playing Fields

a) Harbury Future Energy Project

Just prior to this evening's meeting, members had met with Paul Quinney in the car park where he had marked out the extent of the battery store for them to see. It was agreed that the preferred location was lengthways towards the hedge by Constance Drive, thereby losing only 1 car parking space and having the kiosk looking over the playing fields. The project team would need to go back to WCC highways for permission to use the verge. The footpath is on village hall land and the team would need to approach the village hall committee about using this area.

b) BMX & Skate Park

A proposal had been received from a member of the public for upgrading/renewal of these facilities. Discussion took place on the whole or partial revamping of the site, taking into consideration the ideas and costings sent prior to the meeting by email (and bearing in mind that the wind turbine for the future energy project may be sited at the end of the skate park). The facility is a popular one which young people themselves helped to design and raise initial funds for many years ago. The commitment of young people to pursue this now is key, as they would be likely to

have more success in obtaining grant funding. The project is too expensive for HPC alone to fund, but the council would be happy to support an application and contribute a token gesture. HS2 and Biffa award grants specifically for sports would be worth pursuing.

c) Deppers Bridge – Application to HS2 fund for AED and benches

Cllr Ekins reported that he had made an initial approach to HS2 to find out if funding would be available, but the response received said this was unlikely as our area has already had a lot of funding; however, he and the clerk would go ahead with submitting the application as there was nothing to lose. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the consent conditions on the application form as requested from the landowner. Cllr Gibb abstained for reasons already declared.

The clerk reported that the electrician had examined the electrics for the old phone box and was confident that he could fit whichever AED cabinet the council decided upon.

2 Cemetery

a) Update on chapel repairs

Cllr Ekins reported that the stonemason was nearing completion. Unfortunately, stone seemed to be in short supply, and this had held progress up a little.

b) Valuation of chapel for insurance

Three quotes have been obtained.

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the quote of £250 + vat from Hawkesford; the clerk would progress this.

21/77 Finance & General Purposes

1 Budget Report

Cllr Allen reported all was on track. There were no questions.

2 Bank Reconciliation

The bank reconciliations for April and May 2021 had been completed by the clerk and checked by Cllr Allen. All correct.

3 Update of mandate for NS&I account

It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr Allen as the third signatory to this account in place of Tony Mancell who has recently resigned from the council. The relevant forms were duly signed.

4 Amendment of banking authority level for Cllr Allen

It was **RESOLVED** to amend Cllr Allen's level of authority so she could now also view the account, as chair of the finance group.

5 Grant application from Harbury Village Club for roof repairs

Discussion took place on the request for £500 towards the roof repairs (£1700 in total); it was pointed out that the club had a responsibility to fund maintenance itself, but these were unprecedented times, and they were contributing the majority themselves.

It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant of £500.

6 Donation to church for use of Tom Hauley Room for lights storage

It was **RESOLVED** that the parish council would donate £250 to the church HLS project for the temporary storage of the seasonal lights.

7 Review of emergency plan

Cllr Balch volunteered to update the contacts.

21/78 Accounts for Payment

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the accounts for payment as per Appendix B (to include formal approval of accounts for 27 May 2021); Cllrs Thompson and Allen to authorise payment. They will confirm that they have checked the invoices (circulated prior to the meeting) by email.

21/79 Working Parties

Following the annual meeting last month, some changes to membership of the various groups had been requested and appointments were confirmed as follows:

Planning: Cllr Allen (chair), Cllrs Gibb, Thompson, Rutherford, Knowles

Properties: Cllr Ekins (chair), Cllrs Thompson, Balch, Knowles, Boyd

Environment: Cllr Gibb (chair), Cllrs Thornley, Rutherford, Balch, Boyd

Finance & General Purposes: Cllr Allen (chair), Cllrs Ekins, Gibb, Lockley

Staffing: Cllr Thompson (chair) Cllrs Ekins, Balch (Cllr Lockley – reserve)

21/80 Reports & Questions

- Cllr Ekins reported that the properties group would be carrying out a survey of all the PC's benches in the village. They had recently been cleaned and painted by the grounds maintenance contractor who had found problems with some of them.
- Councillors requested that in future, the public participation part of the meeting be more strictly controlled to ensure plenty of time for council business, which is the purpose of the meeting. It was agreed that ward councillors will be asked to provide written reports in advance of the meeting in future, and members of the public will be limited to a maximum of 3 minutes speaking time each.

21/81 Exclusion of Public & Press

1 **Memorial Application**

The memorial in question was slightly larger than the others in this area of cremation plots. There are no specific rules about the size of memorials in the cemetery regulations. The council considered whether this might set a precedent for the future but **RESOLVED** to approve the memorial design as submitted.

2 **Local Council Award Scheme**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve an extra 32 paid hours for the clerk to progress the council's application. Cllrs Lockley and Steve volunteered to assist the clerk in preparing the council's submission.

21/82 Date of Next Meeting

The next ordinary parish council meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Thursday 22 July 2021** at Harbury Village Hall.

** The meeting would be chaired by Cllr Thompson (vice-chairman) as Cllr Lockley will not be able to attend; Cllr Ekins also offered apologies.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm

Signed Chairman Date.....

APPENDIX A

Planning Applications – Delegated Responses 24 June 2021

- 1 [Planning ref 21/01695/TREE – 4 Vicarage Lane](#)
T1 ash – fell; T2 sycamore – remove; T3 clump of sycamore and holly tree – remove sycamore and reduce height of holly to 2.4 metres; T4 clump of sycamore – remove.
No representation

- 2 [Planning ref 21/01615/TREE – 9 Church Terrace](#)
T1 – spruce- fell.
No representation

- 3 [Planning ref 21/01484/TREE – 7 Binswood End](#)
H1 conifer hedge - remove.
No representation

- 4 [Planning ref 21/01090/FUL – The Old Mill House, Mill Lane](#)
Replace the existing prefabricated concrete garage with a timber clad garage.
No representation

- 5 [Planning ref 21/01439/FUL – 59 Mill Street](#)
Single storey flat roof front and side extension
No representation

- 6 [Planning ref 21/01449/FUL – 10-11 Chapel Street](#)
Removal of existing mineral felt and Perspex roof and installation of new flat rood with rooflights. Alterations to windows and doors.
No representation

- 7 [Planning ref 21/01545/FUL – All Saints Church, Church Street](#)
Removal of an existing window in a link between the church and a church hall, and replacement with glazed timber doors.
No representation. This would provide easier access.

- 8 [Planning ref 21/01430/ADV – Co-op Store, High Street](#)
Installation of two off internally illuminated fascia signs and two sets of externally applied window graphics.
No representation. New look is welcome. Can location of ATM be confirmed?

APPENDIX B

Accounts for approval 27 May 2021				
Urgent accounts paid since the last meeting and requiring formal approval of the council				
Payee	Payment ref	Net	Vat	Gross
B A Hookway (2nd payment - chapel roof)	210500	1,967.60	-	1,967.60
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Sub-total	1,967.60	-	1,967.60
Accounts for payment on 27 May 2021				
Payee	Payment ref	Net	Vat	Gross
Staff costs	210506 to 09	2,120.21		2,120.21
E.ON (s/lights electricity)	210510	256.33	51.27	307.60
WALC (training - S Boyd))	210511	25.00	5.00	30.00
T Bastin (bus shelter & bin cleaning)	210512	40.00	-	40.00
Harbury School PTA (Earthworms grant)	210513	3,235.00		3,235.00
NALC (training event - A Rutherford)	210514	43.09	8.62	51.71
Camlock Systems Ltd (bollard keys x 5)	210515	61.05	12.21	73.26
SDC (bin emptying)	210516	363.97	72.80	436.77
PIRMS (q/ly play inspection)	210517	91.00	-	91.00
King Ramps Ltd (skate park repairs)	210518	726.00	145.20	871.20
B A Hookway (chapel roof 3rd payment)	210519	1,967.60		1,967.60
Adams & Munson (office rent)	s/order	378.50	-	378.50
Frank Mann Farmers (grds m'nance)	s/order	971.74	194.35	1,166.09
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Sub-totals	10,279.49	489.45	10,768.94
	TOTALS	12,247.09	489.45	12,736.54

Accounts for approval 24 June 2021				
Urgent accounts paid since the last meeting and requiring formal approval of the council				
Payee	Payment ref	Net	Vat	Gross
B A Hookway (final balance - chapel roof)	210520	3,907.79	-	3,907.79
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Sub-total	3,907.79	-	3,907.79
Accounts for payment on 24 June 2021				
Payee	Payment ref	Net	Vat	Gross
Staff costs	210601 to 04	2,120.21		2,120.21
E.ON (s/lights electricity)	210605	264.88	52.98	317.86
WALC (training - S Boyd)	210606	14.00	2.80	16.80
WALC (training - S Ekins)	210607	25.00	5.00	30.00
Edge IT Systems Ltd (annual Office 365 & email)	210608	464.40	92.88	557.28
Frank Mann Farmers (mowing & swing fitting)	210609	175.00	35.00	210.00
A Biddle (desktop speaker)	210610	13.68	-	13.68
Fenland Leisure Products Ltd (swing parts)	210611	115.40	23.08	138.48
T Bastin (bus shelter & bin cleaning)	210612	40.00	-	40.00
WALC (training - S Allen)	210613	30.00	6.00	36.00
Glasdon UK Ltd (new bench)	210614	768.48	153.70	922.18
Viking (hand sanitiser etc.)	210615	25.75	5.15	30.90
BT (phone & broadband)	d/debit	152.30	30.46	182.76
Adams & Munson (office rent)	s/order	378.50	-	378.50
Frank Mann Farmers (grds m'nance)	s/order	971.74	194.35	1,166.09
		-	-	-
	Sub-totals	5,559.34	601.40	6,160.74
	TOTALS	9,467.13	601.40	10,068.53
		-	-	-