

Harbury & Deppers Bridge

Annual Parish Meeting

2022



Harbury & Deppers Bridge
Annual Parish Meeting
12 May 2022 at 7.30pm
Agenda

1. Welcome by Cllr Tim Lockley, chairman of Harbury Parish Council.
2. Apologies.
3. Minutes of the virtual annual parish meeting held on 22 April 2021.
4. Matters arising from the minutes.
5. Report from the chairman of Harbury Parish Council.
6. Reports from Harbury Parish Council working parties:
 - Planning
 - Environment
 - Properties
 - Finance & General Purposes
 - Deppers Bridge (report from Cllr Ekins as ward councillor)
 - Climate
 - Seasonal Lights
7. Reports from village organisations (if your organisation has not already provided a written report or you would like to add something further).
8. County & district councillors' reports & questions.
9. Any other business.
10. Close of meeting

Minutes of Harbury & Deppers Bridge Annual Parish Meeting
Thursday, 22 April 2021 at 7.30pm
via Zoom

The meeting was chaired by Cllr Tim Lockley, Chairman of Harbury Parish Council.

Present

18 Electors of the parish (including 9 parish councillors)

In Attendance

Alison Biddle, Clerk to the Council

District Cllr Jacqui Harris

1. Welcome

Cllr Lockley welcomed everyone and opened the meeting.

2. Apologies

County Cllr Andy Crump

3. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 30 May 2019.

The minutes of the annual parish meeting held on Thursday, 30 May 2019 were agreed as a true and complete record of that meeting and were duly signed by the chairman. It was noted that the meeting had not been held in 2020 because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

4. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

5. Report from the chairman of Harbury Parish Council

A written report had been provided and was included in the booklet. Covid-19 has been the biggest crisis in recent history but the volunteer network highlights the spirit of Harbury. It provided a vital service and earned recognition from the High Sheriff of Warwickshire. In addition to the network, the parish council had provided some financial support to community organisations by way of grants. It has been a hard time for everyone and the hospitality sector has particularly suffered.

Thanks were expressed to Tony Mancell, who has recently stood down as councillor, for his many years' service and support.

6. Reports from Harbury Parish Council working parties.

Written reports had been provided by the chairs of the working parties and were included in the booklet for people to read. In addition, the following comments were made:

Planning

The last year has been very quiet. The planning application for further development off Bush Heath lane has recently been withdrawn. The new plans for the Old New Inn had been welcomed and it is hoped that planning permission will be granted. Concerns have been raised about the excavations in Mill Street to provide off road parking for a property in Farm Street. It looks dangerous but both SDC and WCC have looked at it and can't find any problems. No planning permission is required.

Environment

The group is going to be looking at a new tree planting project over the next few months.

Properties

It has been an interesting year, with repeated closures of the recreational areas to comply with the Covid-19 restrictions. The cleaning and re-lining of the car park has been carried out. Repairs to the cemetery chapel will begin soon.

Finance & General Purposes

The precept has increased by 2.92% for 2021/22. Improvements to drainage on the playing field will be investigated. The council is continuing to add to the new cemetery fund and more money has been made available for community grants which are well used.

Deppers Bridge

There has been little change regarding the volume and speed of traffic or the number of vehicles ignoring the weight limit. Cllr Ekins has been working hard with County Cllr Crump on these problems but the HS2 road closures haven't helped. It is hoped that an AED will be installed in the old phone box later this year.

A resident reported that several people had sent photos of the traffic issues to the police, as requested when they attended a PC meeting earlier in the year, but they have received no response. Perhaps the PC could follow this up with the police.

Seasonal Lights

Thanks were expressed to everyone who helped, including those who provided a power supply and those who helped to put up the lights and take them down again. It had been an amazing effort and had provided a huge boost to morale.

7. Reports from Village Organisations

Harbury Village Hall

The hall has been closed for most of the year. A lot of refurbishment work has been carried out, including building the new porch and entrance foyer, and this should all be completed by next week with the official opening planned for 27 May 2021. Harbury Local Market re-opens on Saturday and will be held at the village hall thanks to the support of the parish council which has paid for the room hire. An enquiry has been received re moving the flagpole. Cllr Rutherford will look at the feasibility of this.

HEI (Harbury Energy Initiative)

The finishing touches have now been made to their website regarding the Future Energy Project. A total of 51 people have signed up to take part in the ADVENT project.

Harbury Library

It has been a difficult year. Sharon Hancock, chair of the library committee, was proud of the way their volunteers have responded and managed to maintain the library service. The café has thrived when it has been able to open. There has been a lot of hard work behind the scenes.

Harbury Village Club

It has been a challenging time but they are looking forward to re-opening and membership is increasing.

Harbury RFC

The junior club had received a grant from the parish council to fund first aid training for the coaches. Unfortunately, all training was suspended but will start again soon. There has been a big increase in membership with 240 children now wanting to play so the grant will be well used. Many thanks to the parish council.

Harbury Society

Linda Ridgley reported that the Harbury Society had committed to watering the new copper beech tree which has recently been planted on The Pound.

8. County & District Councillors' Reports & Questions

District Councillor's Report

The death of County Cllr Bob Stevens last July has been a great loss as he gave so much to the community. People working in health care were real heroes as they kept going to work throughout the pandemic. The Harbury volunteer network group was excellent.

County Councillor

Cllr Andy Crump, who had temporarily taken over as ward councillor following Cllr Bob Stevens' death, had sent his apologies for this evening. Thanks were recorded for the help that Cllr Crump has provided over the last few months. It was agreed that the chairman of the parish council would write a letter of thanks to him.

9. Any Other Business

- Cllr Gibb commended the fabulous work done by Wendy Crowder and her Earthworms group on the school pond (supported by a grant from the parish council).
- Cllr Gibb reported that there will be 30 new entrants to the school in September and there are more children on the waiting list. The recent works mean that the school looks great too. They hope to open to the community soon so that everyone can have a look.
- A Deppers Bridge resident asked if it might be possible for the PC to apply to the HS2 community fund for a new public bench and/or an AED?

10. Close of Meeting

The meeting closed at 8.18pm

Parish Council Chairman's Report

We have gradually got back to normal operation in 2021-2. After more than a year of holding parish council meetings via Zoom, we returned to face-to-face meetings in summer 2021. It was good to meet in person, but we have also remained cautious so far as we are able. We did not need to restart the community support network and most village organisations and businesses seem to have coped well. Covid cases have fluctuated over the year and at the time of writing, with all restrictions lifted, cases have spiked once again. We can only hope that cases will fall again in the summer. I look forward to the return of the village carnival in June and to all the jubilee celebrations that I am sure will happen.

We have had more turnover among the councillors than usual this year. After Tony Mancell stood down in April 2021, we co-opted Stacey Boyd who unfortunately left the village only a few months later. We then co-opted Jess Dominick who has taken a quick early interest in environmental matters. Chris Gibb resigned in late 2021 to take up a new railway job in Scotland, and we are delighted to welcome Alex Potter in his stead. It is great to see new people willing to step up and serve the parish bringing new perspectives and ideas to our deliberations.

We made several grants during the year, including supporting the Earthworms group at the school with their renovation of the pond, and the arts project to create a mural at the school to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

The parish council has joined other local authorities in formally declaring a climate emergency, meaning that we will pay particular attention to climate issues when making decisions. We have established a new climate working party, led by Julie Balch, to promote greater understanding about these issues. We will eventually receive funding from the recently approved solar farm at Eastfields, Deppers Bridge, to support environmental initiatives.

Finally, as always, the operation of the council is a collective effort and I am deeply grateful to the hard work of my fellow councillors and the clerk for all they have done over the last year.

Tim Lockley, Chairman of Harbury Parish Council

Harbury Seasonal Lights

The parish council received wonderful feedback from villagers on the seasonal lighting in its first year so were delighted to run these again. Three additional lengths of festoon lights were purchased, upgrading Chapel Street's worn-out rope lights, the star lights in Church Terrace, and adding a new length in Temple End. In total we were able to install:

- 600m of festoon lights
- 20 stars

- 18 wreaths
- 60 spheres

We are blessed with so many wonderful volunteers. The “Sad Dads” installed all of our festoons again this year, with the rest of our volunteers installing stars, wreaths and spheres. Weather conditions on the day were pretty awful but we pulled together and braved our ladders. Covid allowed us to offer a hot drink and bacon or sausage sandwich to everyone helping out which made the wintry weather a little more bearable. We are grateful to everyone helping to install the lights, the 7 households who powered them, Colin Sheasby and Richard Linforth for their help and cherry picker and also to Chris Beaton who installed more hooks making the job so much easier.

This truly is a whole village effort and we look forward to running them again next winter.

Cllr Julie Balch
Seasonal Light Working Party

Properties Working Party

Cemetery

The cemetery is one of our responsibilities and we take health & safety seriously. Cllrs. Thompson & Ekins attended a day’s training on memorial safety. As a result of this we have started safety testing assisted by Cllr. Knowles. Those memorials which are found to be unsafe and are a risk to the visitors to the cemetery have been either cordoned off, supported with stakes, or laid down.

The work on the chapel has now been completed and those village organisations who use the chapel for storage have been able to move their equipment back in.



Play Areas

Weekly safety inspections of equipment are carried out by Cllrs. Dominick, Ekins, Knowles, Potter, Rutherford & Thompson. As a result of these, repairs have taken place throughout the year, including replacement of swing chains and a new safety surface under the junior swings. Our annual external independent inspection only identified a few minor repairs. Well done team!

Allotments

There have been many changes of tenancy this year and all plots are now let, leaving only a couple of names on the waiting list. The 'Well-being Plot' has now been cleared, including the greenhouse and shed that were wrecked by the storm a couple of months ago. It is now ready for the first of the raised beds to be installed. Thanks to all those involved, including the Co-op and County Cllr Kettle who have awarded grants towards this project of £500 and £1000 respectively.

Cllr Steve Ekins

Chair of Harbury Parish Council Properties Working Party

Deppers Bridge

Unfortunately, Deppers Bridge still suffers from speeding vehicles travelling through the hamlet. A traffic survey carried out last year, reported 40% of vehicles exceeding the speed limit of 30 mph by as much as 50mph.

As a result of this, four concerned residents have formed a "20's Plenty" campaign group. The parish council recently passed a motion to support this campaign and has asked WCC to reduce the speed through Deppers Bridge (and Harbury) to 20mph. The group has vowed to continue campaigning and has contacted WCC Highways Agency, County Traffic Commissioner and the WCC cabinet member for transport asking for the speed limit at Deppers Bridge to be reduced.

In response to a request during a public consultation with residents, the PC has recently installed an AED (automated external defibrillator) in the old telephone box.

Cllr Steve Ekins

Ward councillor for Deppers Bridge

Planning

Many thanks to Cllrs Knowles Rutherford & Thompson for their work towards the planning group over the past year.

Planning has remained in flux this past year, combining pandemic adjustments with the more all-encompassing government changes.

Alongside waiting for any revisions to the recently discarded planning reforms of the national frameworks for land use, Stratford upon Avon District Council (SDC) and Warwick District Council (WDC) proposed a merger which would have created a South Warwickshire District Council and began work on a new combined local plan for which an initial 'call for sites' consultation took place in the early summer of 2021. At the time of writing, we understand that plans for the merger have now been abandoned. We do not have any further information at the current time and do not know how this will affect the new local plan, if at all. We will have to 'watch this space'!

The 'call for sites' exercise is a quick way to determine what land has future potential for development. The process identifies sites that 'could' be developed, not 'should' be developed. The 'should' part would be decided at a planning application stage. In principle the identification of such sites makes them more likely than non-identified sites to be developed but **does not** give permission or improve their deliverability.

SDC carefully maintains a very robust 5 year housing land supply, which is land that is more suitable for development. It is very important for this to be above 5 years as less than this creates a 'free for all' presumption of development and is most undesirable. There was 8.42 years' worth of housing land supply as of March 2021 for SDC. Updated figures will not be available until July.

As part of the parish council, all councilors are required to independently examine any planning application upon which we are formally consulted. We continue to aim to provide sound responses to these applications. Do please continue to contact us with any queries, concerns or information about any planning application in the Harbury parish, so that we might remain reflective of the views of our parishioners. You can also directly comment on any application online at <https://apps.stratford.gov.uk/eplanning> We do read all sections of planning applications including these comments to create and align our responses.

We also try to keep an eye on any approved in progress development. Stratford District Council has an enforcement team, but it is often the people who live near a development that might see any non-permitted actions. Again, please contact us if you have any queries, concerns, or information.

Samantha Allen
Chair of Planning Working Party

Finance & General Purposes Working Party

First of all, I would like to thank our clerk Alison Biddle, for her work and support over the past year. Without her assistance, our roles as councillors would be immeasurably harder. I'd also like to add my gratitude for the contributions and commitment of my fellow working party co-councillors - Cllrs Lockley, Balch and Ekins.

Following a turbulent couple of years in the UK, we were mindful of expected cost of living increases for the forthcoming years so took the decision to be prudent this financial year, whilst still allocating funds towards areas to maximise benefits for our parishioners.

The parish precept for the new financial year 2022/23 was therefore increased from £116,683.00 to £119,677.00 (+£2994), making just a 42p yearly increase for a Band D property in the Harbury

parish. Despite the modest uplift, the impact of any rise has been diluted due to the growth in property numbers within the parish.

Beyond funding our normal responsibilities, we also nominally allocated funds to the following areas:

- £10,000 for further drainage work in the playing field.
- £10,000 towards a skate park and BMX track replacement/upgrade project.
- £10,000 for the community grants budget.
- £10,000 towards the new cemetery project to provide burial facilities.
- £8,000 for the street lighting budget, including electricity and repairs.
- £5,000 towards new play equipment, including surfacing.
- £3,000 towards small items – benches and seasonal light replacements.
- £3,000 towards a community wellbeing allotment project.
- £2,800 for councillors allowances (7 elected councillors)
- £1,700 to support community transport and the Harbury Local Market.
- £1,000 for a new noticeboard at the cemetery.
- £1,000 for Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

Our website www.harbury-pc.gov.uk is the best way of finding out any information about the council. We have an office at the Bull Ring Business Centre and our clerk is here four mornings a week, Monday – Thursday.

Cllr Sam Allen

Chair of Finance & General Purposes

Environment Working Party

Many thanks to Chris Gibb for his work as chairman of this group up until his leaving of the village and the council at the end of 2021. Good luck to him in his new job.

The group has new members from our new councillor intake and a new chairman, and we are starting to plan our activities over the coming months. Our first task was to formulate a consensus within the council for the tree planting exercise on the playing field. Future tree planting in the village will involve a greater degree of community involvement in its planning, with thought given to locations and after care.



Our next areas of interest are likely to be roads, pavements, and street lighting. We do expect that opportunities will be created for engaging community views.

Cllr Andy Rutherford

Chair of Environment Working Party

Climate Working Party

In October 2022, Harbury Energy Initiative asked the parish council to formally acknowledge the climate emergency. The parish council was happy to do this and in response, we formed a new climate working party.

The purpose of the working party is to identify opportunities for the parish council to support our community to help fight climate change. The working party will produce a plan of activity including support/guidance available and detail how this will be communicated. Activities will be presented to the wider parish council for approval.

Harbury is very lucky to have several volunteer organisations working to fight climate change and this working party will help communicate their activities to the wider village. To ensure our efforts were aligned, representatives from these organisations were invited to join the working party. We are thankful for their support. These organisations include:

- Harbury Energy Initiative
- Harbury Future Energy
- Harbury Environmental Group
- Harbury Repair Café

The working party has met each month and plans to host an eco fair at Harbury Carnival. This will provide an opportunity for the groups to showcase their activities in one area. Each organisation will have space in a marquee, and we plan to hold demonstrations, repair household items, and provide fun activities and snacks for children to spark interest and encourage villagers to get involved. We will also survey our community to identify areas they need help with.

The working party is also coordinating an area on the parish council's website communicating our activities, providing ideas that the community can progress, and links to relevant organisations to assist.

The above activities are our main focus at this time; however, we are collating a list of things that we can advise/assist the community on later in the year. Survey results will form part of this list.

The parish council is committed to support activities that will help fight climate change and consider the environment when making decisions or take action. We believe that every individual, household, business or corporation has a part to play, and by working together we can make a difference.

Cllr Julie Balch
Chair of Climate Working Party

Reports from Village Groups & Organisations

Harbury Village Hall

The last year has been an interesting one for the village hall, with successful completion of our most recent development phase; the construction of the new foyer with modern disabled access. The project was completed on time and on budget with much assistance from Brian Wade (our excellent Project Manager), and Phillip Mayer who worked hard to achieve grants from HS2 and Biffa Award.

The use of the hall has been lower than normal with Covid still having a major influence. During the year we saw various levels of restrictions, on different types of activities, but in more recent months restrictions have eased and booking levels are seeing a steady increase. There is still a level of nervousness about, which does affect attendances at events.



Our annual financial statements are still being prepared for our own annual meeting, and I am happy to say that our losses have been manageable. We have received grants from Covid impact funds, but our income from donations and hire charges has been much reduced.

Warwickshire County Council organised delivery of 7 HEPA air filters from their Covid Response Unit. These were very welcome as they reduce viral load and dust in the main hall particularly.

The hall management committee is still looking for a new treasurer, as our current treasurer is giving up the role at the end of the year. Geoff Thorpe resigned from the management committee during the year after an amazing length of service. (He doesn't like to say quite how long !)

Andy Rutherford
Chairman, Harbury Village Hall

Harbury Energy Initiative

Knowledge about the climate and environmental situations is now very different from when HEI first started - the science is beyond dispute, and environmental concerns are mainstream rather than fringe. Therefore, at our meeting in June 2021, HEI members decided it was time to make an official acknowledgement of the climate emergency. HEI then approached the parish council to do the same.



Importantly, the small group making the case to the council included Joe Quinney, emphasising the point that the issue is of greatest concern to younger generations. We said that our national, county, and district government representatives had all declared a climate emergency, and our parish council should also acknowledge the issue. As we expected, the council was very sympathetic to this approach, and resolved unanimously to make the acknowledgement. We were delighted that the council acted on this acknowledgement by setting up a council working party. HEI will support this in every way possible.

On the international stage, 2021 ended with the twenty sixth United Nations Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow, which 'kept alive' the possibility of restricting global heating to 1.5 degrees, but only if urgent and resolute action is taken internationally. Global emissions need to be halved by 2030 - but they are still rising. The Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is currently in its sixth assessment cycle, which will culminate with its Synthesis report in September 2022. The working party reports which contribute to this make grim reading but do show how the emergency could be resolved. The press release accompanying a contributory working party report that came out in February said "Our assessment clearly shows that tackling all these different challenges involves everyone – governments, the private sector, civil society – working together..." Harbury may be a small part of this, but we must do what we can.

Consequently, it is extremely pleasing to see how many different climate and environmental organisations are now working in Harbury. Each may have a slightly different focus, but all contribute to the same objective of reducing the carbon intensity of our lives. Apart from the parish council's own working party, these include the Harbury Environmental Group, Harbury Future Energy, the church eco group, the bike workshop and repair café, the library's green label scheme and the Low Carbon Warwickshire Network. Many HEI steering committee members have leading roles in these groups.

In relation to HEI meetings, this year has been another very strange one globally, never mind for HEI. Because of Covid 19 restrictions, very few meetings have been in person, and our most recent meeting was in fact a hybrid, with some people physically present in the library and others joining via Zoom - courtesy of the library's very good wi-fi connection. We have also enhanced our presence on social media,

One HEI focus continues to be the carbon consumption of the village community buildings. The village hall committee has done a very great deal over the years, and additional insulation was installed some years ago at the library and the rugby club. Approval is close for the church to upgrade its heating system and install LED lighting, together with an audio-visual system and

repairs to the stonework. Given the urgent need to move to renewable sources of space heating, it is disappointing that the heating system will have to be gas fired - as is the case for nearly all replacement household boilers. Let us hope green hydrogen will eventually come to the rescue.

Harbury Future Energy (HFE) is waiting on the planning decision for its plans for electric vehicle charging points in the playing fields car park, supported by a vertical axis wind turbine, solar panels, and battery storage. The decision is due in May, and if it is favourable, HFE will then look for ways to raise the necessary funds - though it knows that this will not be easy.

The scouts are receiving a Warwickshire Green Shoots grant to enhance the insulation on the scout hut, and the library is hoping to carry out some major developments which will include upgrading its ceiling insulation and heating. Hoping that it might prove possible to apply for a grant, HEI is assisting the rugby club to get quotes for installing solar PV on its roof. There have also been some discussions with the village club on the same topic, but these are much more preliminary as at least part of the club roof needs replacing. HEI is also working hard to understand the economics of the installation of the solar panels at the school, and to ensure that the fault that developed during Covid is rectified as soon as possible.

Members are working on the no-idling zone in the centre of the village and around the school. We were also delighted to hear that the parish council and the scout group are planting trees as part of the Queen's Green Canopy for her Platinum Jubilee in 2022, and we will be very happy to help in any way we can.

David Bristow
Chair of HEI

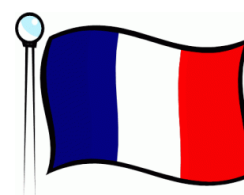
Harbury Village Club & Institute

We would like to acknowledge the very kind grant received from the parish council in June 2021 of £500. All of this was put towards the cost of replacing all of the old guttering and downpipes which were leaking and now are in black instead of brown. The outside now looks more attractive, and this has also meant that there are no more leaks within the premises. Without this money it would not have been possible to complete the task. Our thanks once again.

Judy Morrall
Secretary, Harbury Village Club

Harbury Twinning Association

Our activities started again in late August of last year having not being able to meet up for eighteen months. Our first event was a game of boules, also known as pétanque, with a glass or two of prosecco followed by tea and cakes after the game.





The winning team, called Django and seen above, won the Robin Bernes Cup. Since then, we have held a number of other events including a French film evening, a Christmas party and a skittles evening.

More recently, the association hosted a coffee morning at the Tom Hauley Rooms where we wanted to raise money for UNICEF and the work that they are doing for children in Ukraine. We have raised nearly £600 with donations still coming in. All credit to the volunteers of the association and also to the generosity of the people of Harbury.



Samois-sur Seine, which we are twinned with, is a commune south of Paris, very near to Fontainebleau, and is a lovely place to visit.



We had a visit to Samois planned just as the pandemic started so, of course, we could not travel. It was agreed that we would reschedule the trip to June of this year but did not realise that the weekend we had chosen was the same one as the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations. The majority of our members were keen to be here in Harbury for the celebrations so our visit to Samois is postponed again. Some of our friends from France are, however, coming to Harbury that weekend and will join in the street celebrations with the families they are staying with.

We have over forty members and meet regularly for a number of differing and enjoyable events. Getting together with our friends from Samois is always special. If anyone would like to join our association and take part in what we do each year, please contact me at drtemple@hotmail.co.uk. We have a BBQ planned for the summer and it would be nice to welcome new members to it.

Ron Temple, Chairman
Harbury Twinning Association

Bridging the Gap - A Platinum Jubilee Arts Project

Bridging the Gap is a partnership between Arts Uplift CIC, Harbury Primary School/PTA, Harbury Library and up to 15 older residents of Harbury. It is a visual arts project with workshops with the older people and about 60 children from different year groups culminating in an indoor mural in the hall of Harbury School.

In June 2022, Jessica Hartshorn, an experienced community artist, will deliver three half day painting workshops with the school children and three half day workshops with older people in the at the library. The themes of the workshops will explore how schools have changed over the last 70 years to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

In the workshops will be split into small groups, each group taking a theme or aspect of school life. They will all work on producing different parts of the artwork (the leaves of the tree) which would be combined afterwards into one piece. Jessica will design the artwork that will hold all the community artwork together (which is the school emblem of a tree and an open book) and they will all be digitised and printed professionally. She will create a 1.5m x 1.5m wall hanging. The older people will receive a coaster with the final design on it, so they have something to keep. We will have an opening event, if safe to do so (Covid permitting), with the children and older people once the design is printed and installed in July.



As this is an intergenerational project, some of the children will meet the older people and share stories about their school lives and thoughts on the themes they are working on using nostalgic objects to help them remember.

The children will benefit from learning from a professional artist and also learning about what schools were like in the past. The older people in Harbury also will learn from a professional artist and will learn about what schools are like today. They will also come together and socialise which will reduce isolation and hopefully make new friends and improve their well-being. The children and

older people will also feel a sense of pride when they see the mural on the school hall. The children and older people will also forge new relationships with each other which breaks down the barriers between them.

Jenny Davis

Founder and Director of Arts Uplift

Harbury Village Library



This month marks the tenth anniversary of the opening of Harbury Community Library and Biblio's Café. It took a leap of faith by a dedicated group of volunteers led by parish council chairman, Tim Lockley, to believe our village could sustain it. Ten years on, and despite all the challenges of the Covid 19 pandemic, the library and its café are at the heart of village life. Some of our wonderful volunteers have been there since the start, others, many new to the village, have just joined. Thanks to them we have a valuable asset which I trust will go on serving the community for decades to come.

Sharon Hancock

Chair of Harbury Village Library

Library

The one statistic that best illustrates the work the library has done throughout the pandemic, and its several lockdowns, is that there wasn't a single month in which we didn't lend a book. Since restrictions were significantly lifted, our footfall has returned to 60% of pre-pandemic levels and book issues to 70%, both figures above current national averages. There have been approaching 100 new library registrations and most significantly, almost all of our library volunteers have returned, and several new volunteers have been recruited.



We use the tagline "More than Books and Coffee" to illustrate the fact that we are part of the national trend for community libraries to become community hubs. In addition to our traditional services we now:

- Run children's craft workshops
- Host activities such as the Murder Mystery Evening, Meet the Author events, and book group meetings
- Run Tunes and Tales sessions for toddlers and their parents, and story time for children from Harbury Pre-School
- Promote live performing arts events at the village hall, in collaboration with Live & Local

- Sell tickets and fundraising merchandise on behalf of other community groups
- Display work by local artists
- Run French and German language classes
- Provide a venue for meetings
- Provide a collection point for the local food bank
- Support Harbury Environmental Group recycling initiatives by placing collection boxes in the building foyer

We are working with other local and national groups to expand this list of offerings.

Of course, none of this would have been possible without the tremendous, and continuing ,support of our library volunteers, and of the wider community.

Richard Fowler **Harbury Village Library Lead**

Biblio's Café

The café opened outdoors to the public again on the 14th of April 2021. We opened from Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. Many of our regular customers supported us during this period and we would like to thank them for that support.

From the 19th of May we moved back indoors and opened from Wednesday to Saturday. It was necessary for us to revise how we operated, in order to comply with the Covid regulations. Our volunteers received amended procedures and were asked to read them and ask any questions that they might have. The menus disappeared from the tables, everyone was wearing masks and sanitising regularly. Tables and chairs were sanitised when customers left them. The number of seats in the café was reduced in order that we complied with Covid regulations.

We managed to remain open for the remainder of the year and I would like to thank those volunteers who covered for colleagues during this period. Many of our regular customers returned and some new people started to come to the café on a regular basis. We introduced a booking system during this period.



Our footfall and takings were significantly reduced when compared with pre Covid times. However, the social aspects of the café remained, and we were still able to support many of our customers who had not been able to get out and about. As the year went on more people felt confident enough to come into the café.

The café is also supported by a very dedicated group of volunteers, those who serve and those who bake. I would like to pay tribute to them all as without them Biblio's Café would not exist. There are many other people in the village who also support us in different ways, and I would also like to thank them for their support.

We look forward to 2022 and hope that it will be a safer time for all and that Biblio's will continue to provide a service for the benefit of the library and the village in general.

Jill Credland
Biblio's Café

Harbury Local Market

The last year was a challenging year for the market, having to make sure we complied with the Covid restrictions of the time. Having said that, the team Karena, Steve, Jane, and Mandy rose to the challenge and we still had lots of support from our local traders. The support received from the



parish council enabling us to hire the village hall has made a huge difference; we no longer have to worry about the weather and customers to the market know it's on the last Saturday of each month and at the village hall. We have quickly grown into the village hall and most months we have to turn stall holders away as we are full.

This last year from May 2021, when we were able to have our first market, to date we have raised £5,498.80 for local

charities/groups. The charities and groups we supported this year were Harbury Church, Harbury Pre-school, Harbury PTA, Harbury Scouts, adult football, Senior Citizens, Harbury Tennis Club, Harbury Village Club and Chesterton Church.

We are looking forward to another successful year and would like to thank the parish council for their continued support.

Jane Ekins
Harbury Local Market

Harbury Village Show



The Harbury Village Show has, according to our records, been taking place since at least 1911. Then, as now, it is a showcase for villagers to demonstrate their prowess in a variety of skills, talents and originality. The aim is to be accessible to all and not make a profit. We have over one hundred entry classes to enable people of all ages and capabilities to showcase what they can do.

The costs of putting an event like this is not insignificant. Materials, entry cards, judges and facility hire typically costs approx. £700. To offset this we stage various fund-raising events throughout the year – coffee mornings, plant sales at the carnival etc. and we have also received a grant from Tesco's blue token scheme to purchase display boards to mount the photography/artwork sections of the show. These boards are available to any other village organisation who wishes to use them.

A significant part of our costs is the hire of the village hall, and in past years we have been extremely grateful to have been awarded a grant towards this expense by the parish council. The Harbury Village Show Committee hopes that the parish council considers that the grant is money well spent!



Gordon Robbins
Harbury Show Committee

Harbury Primary School's Wildlife Pond Renovation

We are happy to report that our pond has undergone an amazing transformation. Where once we worried that the school pond was at risk of becoming such a safety concern that it would need to be filled in, it has now been re-established as a valuable resource for both the wildlife that live there and the children who visit.

The star feature of our new wildlife pond is of course, the pond dipping platform. The non-slip timber decking area built by Black Sheep Fencing provides a large, safe area for the children to access the pond. The children have all been very excited about this—it has been Earthworms' 'special treat' at the end of our weekly sessions to go into the pond area. One 7-year-old (who had talked non-stop the entire session) even shushed me as we entered so that we wouldn't disturb the

frogs! For the first time in years, teachers have started to take children in as well, including Mrs James and her reception class.

One of the other main purchases we have made with the grant funding we received from the parish council, is the sturdy new pond-dipping equipment. Our order was, of course, delayed but any moment we expect to receive our pond nets, sample trays, magnifying glasses, bug viewing pots, clipboards and identification keys. The weatherproof storage



box is ready and waiting to hold these new supplies. Years 4 and 5 are first in line to give everything a test run as they some pond-dipping to go along with what they have been learning about lifecycles. We have also purchased a waterproof, battery operated wildlife camera from the RSPB as well as a supply of rechargeable batteries and a battery charger, so that classes can set up the camera in different locations around the pond and the school to study wildlife and different habitats around the school grounds.

Our other purchases though perhaps less exciting, have been equally vital for the work to restore the pond. We now have a large, sturdy net which we will suspend above the pond (using hooks attached to the platform and two or three stakes in the planted area) to catch leaves in autumn. This is crucial to stopping the main source of the water pollution, as the leaves rob the pond of oxygen as they rot. Suspending the net in this way will allow wildlife (such as the hedgehogs we know visit the pond) to continue to safely get at their water source.

We have also purchased plants for the pond and the border behind it. In the pond we now have oxygenators, a water lily, water mint, marsh marigold, water forget-me-not, and some marsh grasses. Around the pond we have plants that will provide good ground cover in the tricky dry shade, including periwinkle, geranium macrorrhizum and wood asters. These were purchased as small plants in order to make the most of our funds so they are only just starting to establish, but we are looking forward to a more lush-looking area around the pond very soon.

This has very much been a community effort. The PTA kindly topped up the grant we received from the parish council in order for us to meet increased timber costs for the pond dipping platform without having to sacrifice any of the other supplies we wanted to be able to purchase. We must also mention the hard work of our Duke of Edinburgh volunteers over the past few years to clear the weeds and old carpet underlay and create the woodchip seating area and benches, and the ongoing supply of woodchip from Village Green Tree Surgeons.

The pond is also still a work in progress. We need to nurture the new planting, keep on top of the autumn leaves, and finish removing some of the silt and old flag iris later this autumn. But the work we have been able to do so far has already been appreciated not only by the children, but also by the local frogs, as we had a good amount of frogspawn earlier this month, and by the newts too, as Mr Shephard reports having spotted both smooth and palmate newts recently.

Wendy Crowder
Harbury School Earthworms

Parish Council Attendance Record April 2021 to March 2022

There were 11 meetings in total during the year, including the annual meeting of the council. There were no extraordinary meetings. The meetings in May 2021 were held remotely with a return to face to face meetings from June 2021. A total of 60 members of the public attended during the year.

Name of Councillor	Number Attended	Percentage Attended
Cllr Tim Lockley, Chairman	10	91%
Cllr Keith Thompson, Vice-chairman	11	100%
Cllr Sam Allen	9	82%
Cllr Julie Balch	10	91%
Cllr Jess Dominick (joined Nov 2021)	5 of 5	100%
Cllr Steve Ekins	9	82%
Cllr Alan Knowles	10	91%
Cllr Alex Potter (joined Jan 2022)	3 of 4	75%
Cllr Andrew Rutherford	10	91%
Cllr Janet Thornley	8	72%
Cllr Stacey Boyd (resigned Oct 2021)	4 of 5	80%
Cllr Chris Gibb (resigned Dec 2021)	7 of 7	100%

Parish Council Working Parties

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

Environment: Cllr Rutherford (chair), Cllr Dominick, Cllr Thornley, Cllr Potter

Properties: Cllr Ekins (chair), Cllr Thompson, Cllr Dominick, Cllr Knowles, Cllr Potter

Finance & General Purposes: Cllr Allen (chair), Cllr Ekins, Cllr Balch, Cllr Lockley, Cllr Rutherford

Climate: Cllr Balch (chair), Cllr Ekins, Cllr Thornley, Cllr Dominick

Seasonal Lights: Cllr Allen, Cllr Balch, Cllr Lockley

Staffing: Cllr Thompson (chair), Cllr Balch, Cllr Ekins

Harbury Parish Council Financial Report 2022

The following is an extract from the full financial report (unaudited) which will shortly be available on our website. The report is a supplement to the council's official statement of accounts which is contained in the Annual Governance and Accountability Statement 2021/22 (subject to audit) which will also be published on our website in due course.

Year Ended 31/03/21		Income & Expenditure		Year Ended 31/03/22
		GENERAL PARISH FUND		
£	Income			£
113,378.00	Precept			116,683.00
-	Council Tax Reduction Grant			-
25.82	Interest received - deposit account			31.69
256.26	Interest received - Tennis & Netball Courts Fund			3.60
1,183.52	Allotment rents			1,301.98
1,545.00	Cemetery fees			2,735.00
1.00	Playing field hire			1.00
35.63	Wayleave			34.31
1,076.33	Grass verge contribution - SDC			1,083.86
500.00	Grant funding			500.00
-	Sec 106 & CIL			-
-	Sports clubs conts to Tennis & Netball Courts Fund			3,736.26
-	Harbury Supermarket Appeal (donations received)			-
31.00	Other contributions/misc			2,251.37
118,032.56	TOTAL INCOME			128,362.07
	Expenditure			
31,659.30	General administration			33,591.57
-	Harbury Supermarket Appeal (donations t/f to supermarket)			-
425.00	Training			843.09
42.96	Purchase of office equipment			228.37
4,542.00	Parish office			4,732.83
11,739.00	Grants			7,770.00
1,195.68	Covid-19 community support			-
-	Neighbourhood Plan			-
	Running costs:			
1,430.49	Allotments			1,710.00
16,322.05	Cemetery			22,576.79
7,235.26	Open spaces			6,453.88
29,208.05	Playing fields & car park			12,482.59
870.00	Tennis & netball court works			1,605.00
1,816.08	Non-estate roads			1,855.32
7,740.95	Street lighting			3,842.18
6,686.13	Purchase of village assets / village improvements			6,524.63
3,500.00	Councillors allowances			3,043.00
124,412.95	TOTAL EXPENDITURE			107,259.25

- 6,380.39		SURPLUS/DEFICIT FOR YEAR				21,102.82
613.74		Transfer to/from Tennis & Netball Courts Fund				- 4,008.60
-		Transfer to/from Library Maintenance Fund				-
- 10,000.00		Transfer to/from New Cemetery Fund				- 10,000.00
5,344.83		Transfer to/from Sec 106 & CIL Fund (net)				-
-		Transfer to Office Refurbishment Reserve				- 2,772.00
- 10,421.82		Balance				4,322.22

Year Ended 31/03/2021		SPECIFIC FUNDS (Earmarked Reserves)	Year Ended 31/03/2022	
£		Tennis & Netball Courts Fund		£
		<u>Income</u>		
256.26		Interest received		3.60
-		Contributions from parish council		1,873.74
-		Contributions from sports clubs		3,736.26
- 870.00		<u>Less expenditure</u>		- 1,605.00
- 613.74		TOTAL INCOME		4,008.60

4. Grants Paid							
Payee		Nature of Payment				£	
Harbury Pre-school		Covid cleaning & IT upgrade				1,550.00	
Harbury School PTA		Earthworms Pond Renovation Part 2				3,235.00	
Harbury Viillage Club & Institut		Roof repairs				500.00	
Harbury Village Show		Village hall hire				200.00	
Harbury Local Market		Village hall hire				512.00	
Harbury School PTA		Platinum Jubilee Arts Project				1,773.00	
						-	
						-	
					Total	7,770.00	
5. Grants & Donations Received							
From whom received		Nature of payment				£	
Heart of England Co-op		Grant for allotments project				500.00	
						0.00	
						500.00	

Funds Statement						
Year Ended 31.03.2021					Year Ended 31.03.2022	
£			General Fund		£	
137,812.68			Balance at 1 April		127,390.86	
- 10,421.82			Add surplus/less deficit for year		4,322.22	
127,390.86			Balance at 31 March		131,713.08	
			Tennis & Netball Courts Fund			
36,648.05			Balance at 1 April		36,034.31	
-			Add payment into account		5,610.00	
256.26			Add interest for year		3.60	
- 870.00			Less payment out of account		- 1,605.00	
36,034.31			Balance at 31 March		40,042.91	
			Library Fund			
8,303.00			Balance at 1 April		8,303.00	
8,303.00			Balance at 31 March		8,303.00	
			New Cemetery Fund			
27,256.00			Balance at 1 April		37,256.00	
10,000.00			Add t/fer from general fund		10,000.00	
37,256.00			Balance at 31 March		47,256.00	
			Sec 106 & CIL			
5,344.83			Balance at 1 April		-	
-			Add t/fer from general fund		-	
- 5,344.83			Less expenditure		-	
-			Balance at 31 March		-	
			Office Refurbishment			
			Balance at 1 April		-	
			Add t/fer from general fund		2,772.00	
			Less expenditure		-	
			Balance at 31 March		2,772.00	
208,984.17			Total Net Assets		230,086.99	

Balance sheet as at 31 March 2022									
Year ended 31.03.2021				Year ended 31.03.2022					
£			Current Assets	£					
1,669.90			Payments in advance	200.19					
3,775.05			VAT Debtor	2,162.54					
-			Other debtors	-					
100.00			Cash with clerk to the council	-					
204,114.28			Cash at bank	228,338.59					
209,659.23				230,701.32					
			Less current liabilities						
- 675.06			Creditors & receipts in advance	- 614.33					
208,984.17			Total Net Assets	230,086.99					
			Represented by:						
137,812.68			General fund balance b/f	127,390.86					
- 10,421.82			Less deficit/plus surplus	4,322.22					
127,390.86			Balance 31 March	131,713.08					
			Specific funds:						
36,034.31			Tennis & Netball Courts Fund	40,042.91					
8,303.00			Library Maintenance Fund	8,303.00					
37,256.00			New Cemetery Fund	47,256.00					
-			Sec 106 & CIL	-					
-			Office refurbishment reserve	2,772.00					
208,984.17				230,086.99					

Contact Your Parish Council

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