

HARBURY PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting
Thursday 26 May 2022 at 7.45pm
Harbury Village Hall

Present

Cllr T Lockley (Chair)	Cllr A Rutherford
Cllr J Balch	Cllr J Thornley
Cllr A Knowles	Cllr S Allen
Cllr J Dominik	Cllr S Ekins
Cllr Potter	

Absent

Cllr K Thompson

In Attendance

Mrs Alison Biddle, Clerk to the Council
Mrs C Gwillam, Minute Secretary
District Cllr J Harris
County Cllr Chris Kettle (arrived 7.50pm)

Public

Mrs Linda Ridgley for Harbury & Ladbroke News
9 members of the public

22/80 Apologies

Cllr Thompson

22/81 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

22/82 Dispensations

There were none.

22/83 Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting of the parish council held on Thursday 28 April 2022 as a true and complete record of that meeting.

22/84 Public Participation

- **Traffic in Bush Heath Road, Butt Lane and Station Road**

The residents group had considered WCC's proposal of an extension to the 40mph speed limit along Bush Heath Road at an approx. cost of £3,000 and had noted WCC's suggestion that a feasibility study to consider further traffic calming measures was unlikely to result in a different outcome as WCC does not consider that this road is suitable for a 30mph limit. The residents asked the parish council to support this proposal and suggested that the £500 set aside for the feasibility study could be put towards the cost of extending the speed limit instead. Residents also asked whether the B4452 was included in the proposal and if improved signage (e.g. beware of horses) could be considered.

- **Residential Parking Problems**

Resident in Ivy Lane has a problem with on-street parking. The council is sympathetic to the problem, but people are entitled to park on the road where there are no restrictions. It was pointed out that the playing fields car park is owned by the parish council and this could be used for public parking when there are no events on at the playing fields or village hall. The library car park is owned by the parochial church council (PCC).

- **Future Energy Project**

Bob Sherman and Paul Quinney updated the council on the latest developments. Government funding for the project is only available through WCC so the project group has been working closely with them but it has changed the nature of the scheme. The original cost was estimated at £600k with 25% of the funding to be provided by e-Wheels but the overall cost has now risen to £900k. The deadline for the funding application is 17 June 2022. If accepted, this will be a pilot scheme for the whole of Warwickshire. If the application is to be successful however, the team needs to demonstrate local need, innovation and future proofing (it is now proposed to increase the number of charging points from 3 to 8). It is also recommended that the charging points are moved to the opposite side of the car park. It is proposed that there would be a two tier charging system for residents and non-residents. The bays with charging points would not be designated for electric vehicles only. The project team is asking the parish council to allocate money from the Eastfields Solar Farm community fund towards the project and also to fund the alterations to the car park.

22/85 Harbury Future Energy Project

1 Request for 50% of Eastfields Solar Farm community fund to be allocated towards project

It was **RESOLVED** to allocate £25k from the solar farm community fund of £50k towards this project subject to the success of the project's current funding bid. It was pointed out that the parish council has not yet received the money from the solar farm as it is not payable until construction of the solar farm begins.

2 Consideration of request to allocate some of council's current year's budget towards car park extension and improvements

It was **RESOLVED** that the council would not fund this work which is part of the project scheme and should be funded accordingly. It was also noted that there is no money available in the current year's budget for this level of funding.

22/86 Other Organisations

1 Harbury Library

Report already circulated, main points:

- 10th Anniversary on 12 May 2022 was marked by displaying an illustrated history of Harbury Village Library with free milkshakes (kindly donated by The Milk Shed) and cakes (baked by the Biblio's team) every afternoon during the anniversary week. On Friday 13 May, Jeremy Wright MP visited as he had been present at the official opening in 2012

- Book Bear Club – to coincide with the anniversary, a Book Bear Club scheme was launched with children collecting a passport and getting a bear paw stamp every time they visit and the introduction of a Blue Label library card – working with Harbury Primary School to encourage parents to make sure their children have a Warwickshire County Library card. There is also Bridging the Gap, art and crafts for the over 65s and free refreshments in the library when Biblio's café is closed
- Ukrainian families being hosted in Warwickshire can join as normal library members as they have proof of address
- Nothing to report on the boiler replacement
- As from 30 May 2022, there will be a collecting box for the emonPi voltage devices used in the village for the Voltage Monitoring Project – also, please remember the recycling boxes for marigold gloves, toothbrush heads, bras and empty medicine blister packs
- Events continue to be arranged, i.e. free antiques valuation event and a dramatisation of two Dickens ghost stories

2 Harbury School Governors

Applicants for the head teacher vacancy have been short-listed.

3 Southam College

No report.

4 Twinning Association

No report.

5 Village Hall

Cllr Rutherford reported the recent AGM had taken place this week. Finances were healthy, but income is not meeting the running costs. A price increase for hires fees was due next year. Section 106 monies had been received for repairs. A new treasurer is still required.

6 Harbury Energy Initiative

The school's faulty solar panels were now repaired.

7 SDC & WCC

SDC: Report already circulated, main points being:

- Slow progress still with traffic lights at the Harbury/Fosse junction despite Cllr Harris's best efforts to expedite. A suggestion is that residents write to the Leader of Warwickshire County Council, complaining and asking for an update as to when this project will be delivered
- Concern over the build of 3000 houses in Upper Lighthorne and the infrastructure that will impact on Harbury and the surrounding villages as regards to health provision, GPs and dental provision – this will continue to be monitored as progression takes place

WCC:

- No progress yet on the traffic lights along the Fosse. The tenders close in May and work should start in July!
- With concern over the build in Upper Lighthorne and the possible impact on Harbury, Cllr Kettle urged the parish council to write to the CCG (he would supply the contact name to the clerk) expressing their dismay at not being consulted.
- Ukrainian refugees – SDC have the largest number of households expressing interest. To get children into schools is a top priority as well as people into medical practices.
- Cllr Balch enquired about people in poverty and the fuel crisis, as well as the increases in food, and asked what extra help was there? Cllr Kettle said that he would keep the council updated on what was available

22/87 Planning

1 [Planning ref 22/01322/TREE - The Stonehouse, 2 Mill Street](#)

T1 – yew tree – reduce sides of the tree on the north, east and south side by 30cm and reduce the top by 50cm

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

22/88 Environment

1 **Village Tree Planting – update**

Please see next paragraph below.

2 **Community Engagement – arrangements for carnival**

A list of all possible locations for planting trees is being compiled and will be displayed at the carnival for people's reactions and views; all responses will then be collated.

Warwickshire Tree Wardens have been helpful, advising on various types and how to obtain permission for WCC land. A budget will also be required before planting can take place.

3 **Streetlights & Pavements – arrangements for condition survey**

Village streets will be shared out amongst councillors for checking obstructions to streetlights and the condition of pavements/ problems with overgrown vegetation.

4 **Bush Heath Road Traffic – consideration of latest proposals from WCC Highways**

It was **RESOLVED** to support the proposal to extend the 40mph limit. The clerk will ask Paul Taylor at WCC to provide a fully costed proposal to include improved signage.

5 **Disabled parking – consideration of request for designated disabled bay in High St**

WCC has advised that this would only be considered where absolutely necessary and that it would require a new Traffic Regulation Order which is a lengthy and costly legal process involving public consultation, and in addition, there would be the problem of ongoing enforcement. Councillors were reminded that blue badge holders can legally

park on double yellow lines providing they do not cause an obstruction, and this might be a better option. It was **RESOLVED** not to pursue this request any further. The clerk was asked to write to the resident accordingly.

22/89 Properties

1 **Playing Fields**

(a) **Update on repairs to bollards**

The bollards opposite the entrance to the car park have been serviced by councillors and are now in working order again. A repair has been ordered for the broken bollard at the far end of the car park.

(b) **Consideration of recommendations for courts maintenance works**

It was **RESOLVED** to support the proposal from the tennis club to clean, bind and re-paint the courts this summer. The first quote received is for £11,000. Two more quotes will be obtained for consideration at the June PC meeting.

2 **Cemetery**

(a) **Update on memorial inspection**

This has now been completed, identifying those which need attention. The families concerned would be contacted where possible but, as this would be a lengthy process, repairs would probably not take place until next year.

(b) **Consideration of repair to birdbath placed in memory of John Drinkwater**

This birdbath, which had been provided by the parish council in memory of John Drinkwater, is unstable and is currently a hazard. Also, the Hornton stone has deteriorated and is crumbling. It was suggested that the birdbath should be replaced rather than repaired, which may not be possible, but the clerk was asked to seek the approval of Mr Drinkwater's family first.

22/90 Climate Change

Everything is ready for the carnival, although nothing has been heard from Jeremy Wright, MP. Tables are being loaned by the village hall and Cllr Dominick has organised the children's activities. There will be a meeting in July but August will bring a welcomed rest before resuming in September.

22/91 Platinum Jubilee

It was agreed that the clerk should make arrangements for the flag to be raised on the flagpole at the village hall. The extra bunting has been collected from the twinning association and it has now all been put up. Many thanks to all the volunteers. Cllr Dominick reported that the children's bunting was finished and they had really enjoyed making it.

22/92 Finance & General Purposes

1 **Budget Report to date**

Report had been circulated. There were no questions.

2 Bank Reconciliation for April 2022

This had been completed by the clerk and checked by Cllr Allen. Everything was in order.

3 Approval of cost of new burial register

Discussion took place on replacing the burial register, in use since 1874, which would soon be full. A leather bound one, to replicate the existing register, would cost in the region of £695, but a cheaper cloth bound version was available costing £187. Cllr Lockley felt that the council had a moral duty to preserve tradition by purchasing a leather bound one and councillors agreed. It was **RESOLVED** that the clerk should request a formal quote and if it was no more than £700, she was instructed to place an order.

4 Approval to spend earmarked reserve for office refurbishment costs

It was **RESOLVED** to approve expenditure from the reserve fund in the sum of £1,252.42.

5 Approval of cost of repair to streetlight in Church Street

It was **RESOLVED** to formally approve the cost of repair at £408.48.

22/93 Accounts for Payment

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

22/94 Reports & Questions

- Cllr Thornley suggested starting up the Councillors' Corner again from September. It was suggested that Harbury Local Market would be a good venue on the last Saturday in the month, 10-12.00noon. She would draw up a rota and circulate to councillors; she also wondered if Cllr Kettle would like to take a turn.
- The clerk asked councillors if they were happy for one of the coaches at Harbury RFC to run a basketball session as part of the rugby club's training schedule. He will provide a risk assessment and has already confirmed that the session would be covered by the club's insurance. Councillors agreed that this could go ahead.
- Cllr Ekins mentioned a couple of complaints he had received from people who could not walk their dogs on the playing field because all the football pitches were in use by the football club.

22/95 Exclusion of Public & Press

1 Staff matters – review of clerk's hours

The clerk's workload is continuing to increase and the staffing group had met to discuss this and consider whether an assistant is needed. The clerk is currently keeping a work diary to monitor the situation and the staffing group will meet again at the end of June to discuss further. In the meantime, it was **RESOLVED** to increase the clerk's contracted hours to 25 per week with effect from 1 June 2022.

22/96 Date of Next Meeting

The next ordinary meeting of the parish council will be held at 7.30pm on Thursday 23 June 2022 in Harbury Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.26pm.

Signed Chairman Date.....

APPENDIX A
Accounts for Payment

Accounts for approval 26 May 2022					
Urgent accounts paid since the last meeting and requiring formal approval of the council					
Payee	Payment ref	Net	Vat	Gross	
Squab Removals (out)	220500	287.46	47.80	335.26	
Squab Removals (return)	220501	224.14	35.14	259.28	
		-	-	-	
		-	-	-	
	Sub-total	511.60	82.94	594.54	
Accounts for payment on 26 May 2022					
Payee	Payment ref	Net	Vat	Gross	
Staff Costs	220502 to 05	2,167.55		2,167.55	
Clintplan Ltd (printing APM reports)	220506	84.00		84.00	
Cana Import Ltd (wine for APM)	220507	66.69	13.34	80.03	
Frank Mann Farmers (playing field mowing)	220508	123.00	24.60	147.60	
Harbury Village Show (grant)	220509	200.00	-	200.00	
T Lockley (APM refreshments)	220510	16.56		16.56	
Autopa Ltd (spare bollard keys)	220511	17.40	3.48	20.88	
WALC (Local Council Administration - new editio	220512	136.99	-	136.99	
Pirms (1/4ly inspection)	220513	91.00	-	91.00	
T Bastin (bus shelter & bin cleaning)	220514	40.00	-	40.00	
James Davis (defib & light install)	220515	276.73	-	276.73	
Npower (s/lights electricity - final invoice)	220516	58.04	11.61	69.65	
Npower (Oakfields defib cabinet)	220517	1.21	0.07	1.28	
Autopa Ltd (spare bollard keys)	220518	11.70	2.34	14.04	
SDC (annual bin emptying charge)	220519	399.75	79.95	479.70	
C Beaton (play area repairs)	220520	593.95		593.95	
Adams & Munson (office rent)	s/order	378.50	-	378.50	
Frank Mann Farmers (grds m'nance)	s/order	991.17	198.23	1,189.40	
		-	-	-	
	Sub-totals	5,654.24	333.62	5,987.86	
	TOTALS	6,165.84	416.56	6,582.40	
		-	-	-	