

HARBURY PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting
Thursday 28 July 2022 at 7.30pm
Harbury Village Hall

Present

Cllr K Thompson (vice -chair)	Cllr S Allen
Cllr J Balch	Cllr J Thornley
Cllr A Knowles	Cllr S Ekins
Cllr J Dominick	

Absent

Cllr Lockley, Cllr Potter, Cllr Rutherford

In Attendance

Mrs Alison Biddle, Clerk to the Council
Mrs C Gwillam, Minute Secretary
District Cllr J Harris (arrived 7.35pm)
County Cllr Chris Kettle (arrived 7.35pm)

Public

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

The meeting was chaired by Cllr Thompson in the absence of Cllr Lockley.

22/112 Apologies

Cllr Lockley, Cllr Potter, Cllr Rutherford

22/113 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Thompson declared an interest in Harbury Tennis Club should this be discussed, as he is a member of the club.

22/114 Dispensations

There were none.

22/115 Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the ordinary parish council meeting held on Thursday 23 June 2022 as a true and complete record of that meeting.

22/116 Public Participation

- A resident spoke on the WCC Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan. Although Harbury does not figure in this, he felt that it was important for the council to register their interest in cycleways for possible future encouragement as well as maintenance to existing cycleways.
- A resident has already written to the parish council regarding swifts in Harbury and their recent 50% decline in the UK. The proposal is for the council to fund a number of swift boxes/nest bricks at suitable locations in the village to encourage them to come back each May. The RSPB boxes are quite costly but there are patterns for people handy at DIY. She pointed out that there are no eaves on new builds although this could be requested in future. She was keen to include the development at the Old New Inn where they have nested for decades.
- A resident put forward a proposal to build and maintain a community orchard, following the parish council's recent article in the Harbury and Ladbroke News about ideas for using the community fund which is due to be received from the solar farm. The intention is to create and maintain a fruit orchard that is accessible to all residents of Harbury to allow access to fresh fruit and reduce food mileage. He would be keen to lead the project and provide a firmer budget if the parish council is interested. Benefits highlighted are: ready access to fresh fruit/carbon footprint double effect – more fruit the less we transport, and the more trees planted, the more CO2 is captured – low cost/education opportunities for schools/partnership e.g. allotment owners and local garden centres/ ideal for future growth. The main drawbacks are finding suitable land and someone with arboreal knowledge to advise.

22/117 Other Organisations

1 Harbury Library

Report already circulated; main points being:

- The summer reading scheme was important, and it was of significant interest that the split this year appeared to be 50-50 boys and girls (more boys than ever). The special library card helps. The Summer Reading Challenge 2022 ends on 3 September.
- Cooling Centres and Warm Banks – Libraries can be useful in so many ways when the weather is too hot or too cold. Refreshments available too when the café is open, takeaways when it is closed.
- The project to install a new mural in Harbury Primary School has now been completed and the original designs for all of the leaves on the tree are now in display in the library.
- A sub-committee has been formed to gather ideas for the boiler replacement.
- Recent Live & Local events have proven to be successful; plans are now to run smaller events in the library, the first of which will be Friday 2 September.

2 Harbury School Governors

No report.

3 Southam College

No report.

4 Twinning Association

No report.

5 Village Hall

Cllr Rutherford had informed the clerk that when the CCTV was serviced, it highlighted an issue with some trees on the playing field obscuring the view in the car park – these will need trimming.

6 Harbury Energy Initiative

No report.

7 SDC & WCC

SDC

Cllr Harris:

- Thanked the parish council and Harbury RFC for their support of Lighthorne FC whose playing field had been invaded by travellers. There would be a review to mitigate problems of this sort in the future.
- A contract has now been awarded for the Harbury/Fosse Lane Junction; work should start soon.
- There is significant concern about the new development at Upper Lighthorne and the considerable impact on local health services as no provision has been made for a medical centre and therefore new residents will be registering with existing GPs in surrounding villages.

WCC

Cllr Kettle:

- The tendering process for the improvements at Harbury/Fosse Lane Junction has taken far longer than expected, but the contract has now been awarded and work should start around the middle of August.
- HS2 have broken through with the tunnel from Ufton; some disruption with the felling of more trees.
- Warwickshire is host of 1241 people from the Ukraine.
- County Councillor Grant Fund is now closed. 3 applications were received (one from Harbury); results are expected shortly.
- With financial restrictions, WCC are unable to fund the clearance of footpaths. Thanks were expressed to volunteers who cleared the path from the end of Middle Road towards Whitnash.
- There were 5 deaths in the UK within 5 days of youngsters swimming in former quarries. The dangers cannot be over-emphasized, however tempting the water may be. The water is extremely cold, and quarries contain hidden dangers.

- A recent 'camping' event was held at Bishop's Hill Nature Reserve which did not have the permission of WWT.
- Covid is still prevalent.
- Commonwealth Games begin tomorrow – coming through Leamington on 7 August.

22/118 Planning

1 [Planning ref 22/01670/TREE - 41 Farm Street](#)

T1 Thuja conifer – Fell.

T2 Fell – Removal of remains of dead tree trunk.

T3 Magnolia – Pruning of the lowest branches to restore shape.

It was **RESOLVED** to make no representation but include a request that consideration be given to planting a replacement tree of a native species.

2 [Planning ref 22/01921/TREE - Harbury House, Butt Lane](#)

T1 – ash – Remove

T2 – ash multi-stemmed – Reduce stems by 4 - 5 metres and balance

T3 – poplar – Reduce height by 3 – 4 metres

T4 – silver birch – Reduce height by 2 – 3 metres

It was **RESOLVED** to make no representation but include a request that consideration be given to planting a replacement tree of a native species.

3 **Delegated Responses**

Noted as per appendix A.

4 **Pre-application meetings – consideration of draft protocol for meetings with developers**

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the draft policy without amendment; Cllr Ekins proposed, Cllr Allen seconded, all agreed.

5 **Upper Lighthorne Healthcare**

It was **RESOLVED** to join other local parishes to support their call for healthcare provision at the new development to avoid additional pressure on GP services in surrounding villages. Cllr Knowles proposed, Cllr Thornley seconded; all agreed.

22/119 Environment

1 **Village Tree Planting**

(a) **Update**

Cllr Rutherford's report had been circulated. The clerk would endeavour to obtain the relevant permissions for new plantings over the summer, and this would be put on the agenda again in the autumn. She will have a better idea of the budget available when the tree inspection has been completed and likely costs for urgent works are known. The very hot and dry weather has impacted on the whips planted on the playing field last March. Some have already died and it is likely that more will be lost.

(b) Consideration of proposal for community orchard

Consensus was that this is an excellent idea, in principle. The main problem is finding suitable land to accommodate 35-50 trees. Some suggestions were made as to possible landowners who could be approached. This would be referred to the Environment Group and the Climate Working Party to work together to source some land. During the course of the discussion, a suggestion was made that perhaps water butts could be provided throughout the village (to help with watering new trees).

2 Streetlights & Pavements Survey - update

This is still ongoing. Cllr Rutherford was not in attendance but will report at the next meeting. The clerk reported that a falling tree in the spinney in Hall Lane had broken the lantern on the streetlight and that she had contacted the landowner to make them aware that the council would be seeking the cost of repair when known.

3 Bush Heath Road Traffic

It was **RESOLVED** to formally approve the project brief and the estimated cost of £3,500 to include extension of 40mph limit and new signage "Beware of Horses/Riders"; Cllr Allen proposed, Cllr Balch seconded; all agreed.

4 Consideration of request for council to fund swift nest boxes

Consensus was that this was an innovative and worthwhile cause. It was **RESOLVED** that (i) the clerk would approach the Men's Shed in Bishops Itchington to enquire if they could make some boxes (ii) Cllr Allen would approach the Old New Inn to ask if they would consider installing some on the new development. An article would also be placed in the Harbury News to encourage residents to put suitable boxes on their properties.

5 [WCC Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan \(LCWIP\) Consultation](#)

It was **RESOLVED** to support this in principle, although Harbury is not mentioned. The clerk will respond to the consultation by email.

22/120 Properties

1 Harbury Future Energy Project – consideration of request for permission to install temporary wind measurement mast

It was agreed to grant permission in principle, subject to the receipt of a detailed method statement for work to be carried out and confirmation that any damage to the field would be fully repaired. Once agreed, then formal permission will be granted.

2 Approval for hire of pitch to HRI Wellesbourne FC for 2022/23 Season

It was **RESOLVED** to formally approve this; all agreed.

3 Maintenance of War Memorial

Concerns had been raised by residents on Facebook about the maintenance of the memorial and surrounding area. In response, Cllr Dominick had tidied the area, and the grass is already mowed every 2 weeks. Cllr Potter has volunteered to look after the memorial in future (no chemicals to be used in cleaning the stone, just water).

4 Maintenance of memorial garden, Chapel Street

The clerk and Cllr Thompson reported that this was in such a poor state that they felt a professional gardener is required. It was **RESOLVED** to (i) approve a sum of money for a day's work, then occasional maintenance (ii) delegate authority to the clerk to spend up to a maximum of £500.

5 Cherry tree in cemetery

The owner of a memorial which is being stained by the aphids feeding on the leaves of this tree, which overhangs the memorial, has asked if it could be pruned. Various options for tree maintenance to mitigate the problem had been offered. It was **RESOLVED** to approve Option 2 which involved balancing of the crown away from the memorial.

6 J Drinkwater memorial bird bath in cemetery

Attempts to contact the family have failed and the birdbath remains in a poor condition. At the last meeting it had been proposed that it should be replaced. The clerk asked if the Properties Group would look at sourcing something suitable and Cllr Knowles offered to enquire about this; this matter will be considered again at the next meeting.

7 Anti-social behaviour in car park

This had been reported by residents a few weeks ago but the CCTV has not recorded any incidents. Anyone who witnesses anti-social behaviour is encouraged to report it to the police as many times as is necessary. The police will then begin to see a pattern and, hopefully, take some action.

8 Update on allotments project

Cllr Ekins reported that Mr Pitman was arranging for them to visit the community group at Wellesbourne Allotments for some ideas on how the well-being group might be run here in Harbury. He will report back at the next meeting.

22/121 Climate Change

Update from working party

There was no meeting this month. The next one is early September when the group will review the feedback from the Eco-Fair.

22/122 Finance & General Purposes

1 Budget Report

Noted. A copy of the reserves position had also been circulated to councillors for information.

2 Bank Reconciliation for June 2022

This had been completed by the clerk and checked by Cllr Allen.

3 CIL funds and purchase of new benches at Deppers Bridge

It was **RESOLVED** to use the CIL funds, amounting to £1,674, towards the new benches – a picnic bench near the play equipment and a standard bench near the back of the fields to take in the views.

4 Formal approval of new BT contract and direct debit mandate

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the new contract and a new direct debit to BT at £49.95 per month. It was envisaged that savings on the new contract would be around £180 pa.

22/123 Council Policies

1 Approval of amendment to Standing Order No.18

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the amendment which removed EU references.

2 Adoption of Statement of Value for Money

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the draft statement without amendment.

22/124 Accounts for Payment

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

22/125 Reports & Questions

- Cllr Knowles reported that benches under trees were in a dreadful state making it undesirable for people to use them (leaves, birds, etc). The clerk was asked to contact the window cleaner to see if he could take this on, either quarterly or bi-monthly, and to provide a quote.
- Cllr Thornley has now organised the monthly Councillor Corner, starting on 24 September in the library between 10.00-11.00am. She would send emails to the district and county councillors for information. The clerk would put the details on Facebook. This would be a trial to see how it goes – if quiet, then it would change to alternate months.
- Harbury Local Market is on this coming Saturday.

22/126 Exclusion of Public & Press

It was **RESOLVED** to exclude the public under Sec 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 in order to discuss the following confidential matters:

1 Consideration of application for new kerbed memorial in cemetery

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the application. However, the clerk was asked to make the council's concerns about long term maintenance known to the family and ask them to give this their consideration before proceeding any further.

22/127 Date of Next Meeting

The next ordinary meeting of the parish council will be held at 7.30pm on Thursday 22 September 2022 in Harbury Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.45pm.

Signed Chairman Date.....

APPENDIX A

Planning Applications – Delegated Responses

28 July 2022

1 [Planning ref 22/01854/FUL - Montgomery House, Mill Lane](#)

Conversion of existing garage into kitchen and utility room. New entrance canopy. Demolition of part & conversion of existing coach house. Demolition of modern lean-to and restoration of existing house.

No objection but ask that the following comments are taken into account:

- Would like to see a bat/bird survey on the coach house prior to demolition.
- House not listed but of heritage value so all efforts to maintain character should be made - there is no indication of material reuse other than a 'materials consistent' comment in the heritage statement. Would like to see the greatest amount feasible of removed stone from the front section of the coach house and the back wall of coach house adjoining garden are reused in the rear extension of the coach house/closing of the garage bays/yard wall. This is local Lias stone and should be preserved.
- Of primary concern is the access 'road.' Mill Lane is a narrow lane barely suitable for vehicular movements. Many of the listed buildings directly on Mill Lane have no footings. Please consider a restricted weight/ limit for contractor and supplier deliveries for the build.
- We request that a visual assessment/condition survey of the lane should be undertaken prior to any works to ensure no damage or weakening occurs to neighbouring property or the lane itself.

2 [Planning ref 22/01479/FUL - Stapenhall Farm, Orchard Cottage, Deppers Bridge](#)

Proposed garden room

No representation but request a planning condition that the garden room cannot be used as a separate dwelling.

APPENDIX B
Accounts for Payment

Accounts for approval 28 July 2022				
Urgent accounts paid since the last meeting and requiring formal approval of the council				
Payee	Payment ref	Net	Vat	Gross
T Bastin (bus shelter cleaning)	220620	40.00	-	40.00
Yu Energy (street lights electricity - 00859132)	220700	401.17	80.23	481.40
J Dominick (bunting expenses)	220701	178.58	-	178.58
Npower (Oakfields defib)	220701A	1.12	0.06	1.18
YU Energy (streetlights electricity - 00859133)	d/debit	29.00	1.38	30.38
YU Energy (streetlights electricity - 00859134)	d/debit	13.13	0.66	13.79
YU Energy (streetlights electricity - 00859136)	d/debit	42.96	2.15	45.11
	Sub-total	705.96	84.48	790.44
Accounts for payment on 28 July 2022				
Payee	Payment ref	Net	Vat	Gross
Staff costs	220702 to 06	2,612.57		2,612.57
Frank Mann Farmers (playing field mowing)	220707	184.50	36.90	221.40
Bull Ring Garage (office electricity)	220708	52.30	10.46	62.76
Viking (storage boxes & stamps)	220709	133.56	18.39	151.95
Glasdon (new benches)	220710	2,486.64	497.32	2,983.96
A Biddle (expenses)	220711	26.04	-	26.04
Marshalls (bollard repair)	220713	239.63	47.93	287.56
T Bastin (bus shelter & bin cleaning)	220714	40.00	-	40.00
SLCC Enterprises Ltd (t/course)	220715	35.00	7.00	42.00
A Biddle (expenses)	220716	30.00	-	30.00
C Beaton (maintenance contract)	220717	50.00		50.00
WALC (training - A Biddle)	220718	30.00	6.00	36.00
Edge IT Systems Ltd (MFA set up)	220719	10.50	2.10	12.60
BT (b'band & phone)	d/debit	39.45	7.89	47.34
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	7,339.86	832.22	8,172.08
	TOTALS	8,045.82	916.70	8,962.52
		-	-	-