

HARBURY PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting
Thursday 22 June 2017 at 8.00pm
The Farley Room, Harbury Village Hall**

Present:

Cllr T Lockley (Chairman)
Cllr S Allen
Cllr C Christou
Cllr J Thornley

Cllr S Ekins
Cllr C Gibb
Cllr A Mancell

Cllr A Rutherford
Cllr P Summers
Cllr K Thompson

Absent: None

In Attendance:

Mrs A Biddle, Clerk to the Council
District Cllr J Harris (from 7.30pm)
County Cllr Stevens (from 7.30pm)
Mrs C Gwillam, Minute Secretary

Public:

Mrs L Ridgley, Harbury News
Mr M Wellock, NDP Planning Consultant
Representative, Spitfire Homes
Members of the Public: 10

17/107 **Apologies:** None

17/108 **Declarations of Interest:**

Cllr Lockley and Cllr Thornley both recorded their personal interest in the grant application from Harbury Village Club on account of the fact that they are both members.

17/109 **Dispensations:** None

17/110 **Public Participation**

Wissett Lodge/Spitfire Homes

Mrs Ridgley pointed out that SDC no longer pay for archaeological excavations and that this cost is borne by developers. It was highly unlikely that Spitfire Homes would get planning permission, but this, along with protection for existing trees, should be considered.

Playing Field Path

Thought should be given to any extension to the path around the playing field, bearing in mind the GASS annual bonfire.

17/111 **Minutes**

It was **RESOLVED** to:

- 1 Approve the minutes of the annual meeting held on Thursday 25 May 2017 as a true and complete record of that meeting; duly signed.
- 2 Approve the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on Thursday 25 May 2017; duly signed.

17/112

SDC & WCC

- Traffic lights/Roundabout/Fosse Way & Harbury Lane: Cllr Harris to check qualifying criteria – it was considered part of the planning 106 agreement before any work commences. Cllr Stevens reported that all was in hand regarding this matter. The clerk reported that HPC had not received any written notification about “wish lists”; Cllr Harris would clarify this
- There was doubt over the delivery of the new surgery in Bishop’s Itchington but talks with the CCG are continuing.
- Chesterton has responded to the clerk’s recent enquiry that it is interested in joining with Harbury to commemorate the end of WW1 in November 2018 by having a joint beacon. The clerk will follow this up.
- Cllr Stevens reported that election purdah was now over and savings had to be made on the county’s budget. The cabinet had discussed school places; it transpired that primary level was satisfactory but that there would be a shortage at secondary level. It was anticipated that, by 2020, both Kineton and Southam would be full. It was interesting to note that 30% of the intake comes from outside the county and this would have to be addressed. Also, there was no expansion for grammar schools. As regards the Queen’s Speech, it was more a case of what was not mentioned than what was! No business rates to WCC meant that they would have to reassess budgets for parishes
- No pay freeze on Local Government employees.
- HS2A Phase 2 was confirmed, but was already six months behind. When the main contractor is appointed, then the Ufton Tunnel will start. This may well produce environmental/archaeological digs. It is interesting to note that a Director of Complaints has already been appointed!
- Armed Forces Week – commencing 19 June 2017
- WCC’s cyber crime officer had spoken at the recent community forum. Thanks to Harbury PC for introducing Cllr Stevens to this officer.
- Cllr Stevens will look into the bus service proposals for the GLH development at Cllr Gibb’s request.

17/113

Deppers Bridge

Cllr Ekins had previously asked Cllr Stevens to consider the need for better signage on the approach to the restricted weight rail bridge. Cllr Stevens reported that signage was in place at Southam but as there was nowhere to turn around after this point, there were no further signs along the route. Cllr Ekins asked that further consideration be given to improving the existing signage as many drivers do not appear to notice it. Cllr Stevens will follow this up.

17/114

Planning

1 17/01548/VARY – Wissett Lodge, 10 Church Street

Variation of condition 2 (approved drawings) of Listed Building Consent 16/02667/LBC for the “Relocate pantry to form an open plan sitting area serving the kitchen. Re-plan the existing boot room to contain a utility. Refurbish and connect the remaining outbuildings (via new internal door) to form games room.” Variations seek to insert glazed doors to south gable, paint the south gable, replace two windows to the games and boot room with matching and erect a canopy over the kitchen door on the south elevation

It was **RESOLVED** to make no representation

- 2 **16/03142/REM (Amended) – Harbury Cement Works**
Application for approval of reserved matters (scale, layout, appearance and landscaping) for 195 residential dwellings, following grant of outline planning permission (Ref 13/03177/OUT) and alterations to affordable housing provision. (Nature reserve to be subject to a separate Reserved Matters application)

It was **RESOLVED** to make no representation

- 3 **Spitfire Homes – Land off Vicarage Lane (Pre-planning consultation)**
The planning group had met with the developers to find out about their current proposals for 10 x 2/3 bedroomed homes, to include a signature building with a thatched roof. They had discussed the specification of materials, the use of Harbury stone, retention of trees, boundaries, etc. The representative from Spitfire Homes reported that they had invited all adjacent residents to a public meeting on Thursday 29 June 2017, between 3.00pm-8.00pm, in the Tom Hauley Room. In order to properly gauge public opinion, they felt that individual appointments, on a one-to-one basis of 30 minute sessions, would be more mutually beneficial than a general meeting. It was hoped that Spitfire would provide feedback in due course. They hope to submit their application at the beginning of July.

- 4 **SDC Site Allocations Plan – Scoping Consultation on Built up Area Boundaries for Local Service Villages**

It was **RESOLVED** to make no representation on the grounds that Harbury was not included on the list for consultation because its NDP is already so far advanced.

- 5 **Members' Items**

There were none

17/115

Properties

Updates were reported on the following:

- 1 **Play Area & Playing Fields**

i Climbing wall: Cllr Gibb felt it would be a good idea to ascertain the views of the village children and volunteered to go and visit Y6 students at the school before the end of term; he would report back at the next meeting

ii Play equipment repairs: Although it was thought that all repairs were now completed, it transpired that there were still a few small things to do, e.g. Sputnik, rocking horse's head, bench, slide/multi play to paint - the contractor was doing a good job.

iii New path notice boards, path extension and location of third bench: It was reported that 2 benches were installed but that there had been an objection to the third as it was close to a house. Two quotes had been obtained each for £800. Consensus was that this was too expensive. It was **RESOLVED** to install the third bench by the little copse of trees but there would be no extension to the path at this time. The properties group would review the upgrade of the path surface at a later date. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the design of the information board and leaflets.

iv Replacement of broken bollards at Deppers Bridge play area:

The clerk informed the council that replacing the bollards with plastic ones posed a problem because they could not accommodate the

chain. A discussion followed on the purpose of the chains, i.e. allowing access for mowing and deterring cars from parking on the field, as well as alternatives such as wooden bollards or reconstituted materials. However, it was **RESOLVED** to replace as existing for now and explore other possibilities in the future.

2 Car park

There were problems with the crocodile teeth; they were worn but to remove them would be counterproductive in dealing with potential joyriders and travellers which was why they were installed in the first instance. The central post can no longer be locked in position, and the gate is no longer locked at night, although they remain a deterrent. The clerk reported that they needed a revamp with a new plate and bolts, perhaps by a local engineering company. She felt sure that she could find out who the original supplier was to ascertain quotes. It was **RESOLVED** that the clerk should go ahead up to a maximum £200 spend; anything additional would need council approval.

3 Cemetery

No news apart from the Beavers being busy weeding!

4 Allotments

Nothing to report.

5 Correspondence received

None received.

6 Members' Items

Progress had been made with the noticeboards and delivery was imminent; the contractor would install it as soon as convenient

17/116

Environment

Updates were reported on the following:

1 Street cleaning & litter

Cllr Gibb reported that the environment group recently met and reviewed the litter bin outside the Co-Op. Several complaints had been received about it always being full to overflowing. The manager too was concerned about this, and promised to look into it. It was decided to enquire whether the district council would supply a larger bin which would also take dog waste. There was a map showing the location of all the bins, and Cllr Gibb would undertake to compile an up-to-date inventory; all members' feedback would be welcomed.

2 Street Lighting

There was nothing new to report. The last tranche of replacement Windsors is on order. The remaining mercury lights are to be replaced by LEDs from next year.

3 Roads & Transport

Cllr Gibb reported that there had been a most disappointing take-up of teenagers' travel vouchers from the library (200 available, each valid of 12 months); for whatever reason, they were reluctant to visit the library and ask for them. To make the most of what is available, he was going to go the school bus stops and hand them out to the students.

4 Correspondence received

The clerk reported that she had received an email about Dovehouse Lane and the sat nav directions for large lorries. The bollards at the end of the road have disappeared, although there was no damage to any trees. It was **RESOLVED** to replace the bollards with proper oak ones, 2-3ft high.

5 Members' Items

- Concern was expressed about a car being regularly parked on the green area in Neale's Close. It was unclear who owns the green, although WCC mows it. Cllr Thornley will send an email to the police, informing them of the situation and requesting their advice.
- Cllr Thornley reported on an empty house in Dovehouse Lane which is in a deteriorating condition. The parish council has no powers of enforcement in these circumstances. It could be reported to the environmental health officer if there is a risk to public health and safety.

17/117

Finance & General Purposes

1 Financial Report Year Ended 31 March 2017

- i It was **RESOLVED** to accept the Internal Audit Report 2017 (noting the need to review the licence arrangement with the sports clubs, insurance and fidelity guarantee)
- ii It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Financial Report 2017 which was duly signed by the chairman and clerk.

2 Annual Return Year Ended 31 March 2017

- i Completion of the Annual Governance Statement, y/e 31 March 2017: The chairman read out all the questions at section 1 of the annual return and councillors answered all questions in the affirmative. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the annual governance statement which was signed accordingly by the chairman and the clerk.
- ii Approval of Accounting Statements y/e 31 March 2017: It was **RESOLVED** to approve the accounting statements at section 2 of the annual return which the chairman signed accordingly. These had already been signed by the clerk prior to the PC meeting.

3 Monthly Financial Report

The report had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was noted that there is £12,000 in the new play equipment budget. The new climbing wall is already in hand but what about spending some money on adult fitness? The clerk will look into the cost of this. It was also noted that there appears to be an overspend on village assets. The clerk will investigate and report back.

4 Grant Application: Harbury Village Club

An application had been received for £910 to refurbish 2 snooker tables. The general feeling was that they were well used at the club and it was a reasonable amount being asked for. Therefore, it was **RESOLVED** to approve this application. However, it was suggested that recognition be requested of HPC's contribution. (It was pointed that the terms & conditions

of grants require this, but it is not generally enforced – this should change). The clerk suggested that the council should have a logo which could then be provided to grant recipients to help them publicise the parish council's role.

5 WW1 Centenary Project

This was now completed and can be removed from the agenda. There is a small balance of funds remaining which will be used for future maintenance and the provision of additional plaques as necessary.

6 Correspondence: There was none.

7 Members' Items: There were none.

17/118 Accounts for Payment

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the accounts for payment as per Appendix A (Cllrs Thornley and Thompson to sign).

17/119 Appointments 2017/2018

It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr Rutherford to both the planning and environment working parties, and as a PC representative to the village hall committee of which he is already a member.

17/120 Reports & Questions

- i Cllr Thornley and Cllr Summers would be attending an HS2 seminar on community funding.
- ii Cllr Lockley, reported that he was shortly to have a meeting with Cllr Baldwin of Ufton PC to discuss the creation of a path between Harbury and Ufton using HS2 community funding.

17/121 Confidential Matters

1 Staff Matters: It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Mrs Carole Gwillam as Minute Secretary; contract to be based on an average of 6 hrs per month.

17/122 Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 27 July 2017 at 7.30pm in Tom Hauley Room, All Saints Church, Harbury

The meeting closed at 9.40pm

SignedChairman

Date.....

