

HARBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting Thursday 28 September 2017 at 7.30pm The Farley Room, Harbury Village Hall

Present:

Cllr T Lockley (Chairman)	Cllr A Rutherford
Cllr S Allen	Cllr P Summers
Cllr C Christou	Cllr K Thompson
Cllr S Ekins	Cllr J Thornley
Cllr C Gibb	

Absent: Cllr A Mancell

In Attendance:

Mrs A Biddle, Clerk to the Council
District Cllr J Harris
County Cllr R Stevens
Mrs C Gwillam, Minute Secretary

Public:

Mrs L Ridgley, Harbury News
Mr C Mercer, Chair, Harbury Tennis Club
Mrs Judith Christian-Carter, Planning Consultant
Members of the Public: 5

17/148 **Apologies:** Cllr A Mancell (arriving late)

17/149 **Declarations of Interest:**
Cllr Lockley and Cllr Thompson both recorded their personal interest in the Sports Clubs' Licence Review as they are both members of the Harbury Tennis Club.

17/150 **Dispensations:** None

17/151 **Public Participation**

1. Pre-application consultation re: land at Highfield Cottages, Station Road by JCC Planning
Mrs Judith Christian-Carter, on behalf of her clients at Highfield Cottages, Station Road, requested the council's views. Cllr Lockley said that the biggest issue was that this proposal exceeded the housing quota for Harbury under the Core Strategy which had already been met, although the fact that it was an isolated site with no facilities within walking distance, was also an issue. The fact that 200 houses are going on the old cement works site is a factor as there would be a significant increase in traffic along the B4451. The site is also outside the settlement boundary as defined in the draft Harbury NDP; the council felt that SDC would be inclined to refuse this as they have done previous applications for isolated dwellings in the countryside.
Mrs Christian-Carter expressed her grateful thanks to the council.
2. Matters raised by members of the public
 - (i) Trees in school, Park Lane
Concern was raised about the height of trees and the roots affecting the foundations of the bungalow, No.6, which has been on the market for some time. All the trees are owned by WCC. Mr Gavin Callard, WCC's arboriculturist, was happy with his inspection of the trees back in June 2016, but recommended crown lifting. Councillors were unsure as to whether this work has been carried.

RESOLVED: That the clerk write to Mr Callard to ascertain the present situation and would copy in Cllr Stevens.

- (ii) The Environment Working Party were meeting the following day to check on the state of the pathways.
- (iii) The matter of quieter fireworks was mentioned, as it is a very bad night for all animals, but particularly dogs and horses. After some discussion, it was doubtful that anything could be done on this one night in the year.

It was agreed to alter the order of the agenda as follows:

17/152 Review of licence arrangements with sports clubs

Discussion took place on the proposed transferring of tennis club assets to the parish council. A list of assets had been sent to councillors, but concerns were expressed about the clubhouse because this would not be publicly accessible and all the liability would then be transferred to the PC, yet they are not proposing to increase the current contributions from the sports clubs. One quote of £750 for solicitors' fees to prepare the lease had been received so far.

It was **RESOLVED** that

- Colin Mercer would discuss the clubhouse with the club's committee and explain why the PC did not want to accept ownership of this asset.
- Colin Mercer would provide information about maintenance costings for floodlights and electricity costs.
- A further meeting between the clubs and the PC would be arranged to draw up a precise list of requirements for the new arrangements before involving solicitors.

17/153 Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to:

- 1 Approve the minutes of the ordinary parish council meeting held on Thursday 27 July 2017 as a true and complete record of that meeting; duly signed
- 2 Approve the minutes of the extraordinary parish council meeting held on Thursday 7 September 2017; duly signed

17/154 Other Organisations

1. Harbury Library

The recent meeting unveiled exciting new plans for more modernised shelving and layout from S106 monies.

2. Harbury School Governors

None

3. Public Safety

None

4. Southam College

Governors shortly to have first meeting of the new school year.

5. Twinning Association

Two social events: BBQ at Village Club and film night.

6. Village Hall

- The beer festival was again very successful, despite numbers being down on last year
- The improvements to the heating, lighting and insulation, as well as the repainting, all looked very good.
- The first cinema event, since the WI took this over, proved to be very popular.

7. Harbury Energy Initiative

Harbury's E-Wheels are getting busier and busier; funding is safe until June 2018. The potential volunteer transport venture with Southam was raised, but it appeared that this would only complement the service to Harbury residents. Reduced fees were given by the car company, but it still costs around £2,000pa.

RESOLVED: HEI requested to make a case, based on usage and costs, as soon as possible with a view to this being considered at the budget meeting in December.

8. WALC/NALC

- The AGM was scheduled for Wednesday 1 November 2017, 7.30pm at Shire Hall; the annual report is available in the office.
- Tuesday 23 January 2018 was the date of the next liaison meeting at Stratford District Council.

9. SDC & WCC

SDC

Cllr Harris reported that the councillors' Code of Conduct was due to be discussed at next month's council meeting; parishes would not be involved until March 2018.

WCC

Cllr Stevens updated on various issues:

General

- WCC still unsure as to what next year's budget allocation will be or when business rates will replace the central Government grant.
- Still struggling to find the required spending savings already reduced
- Party conferences may prove insightful
- November's budget and the Brexit referendum bills/debates may prove interesting

Children's Centres

- In order to meet savings target (£20million over the next 3 years), the council carried out a review of all its services for children. (These were introduced some 10 years ago as part of a programme to assist young mothers returning to work and looking after the health of their under 5s children. However, this role has recently changed with the introduction of 30 hours free nursery provision, sure start programme and the transfer of public health services to local authorities. The final decision has been delayed until mid-November when all the responses (well over 2000) has been reviewed; final recommendations then go to cabinet.
- There is a further consultation regarding home to school transport, and Harbury Parish Council's comments on the effect to the village is sought.

Highways Matters

- Summer months saw massive disruptions to the roads in the Feldon Division, particularly in and around Harbury (with more envisaged even before HS2 starts); this is due to the improvement of village infrastructure to accommodate

the large number of new houses already approved. Highways have been consulted about closing roads already earmarked, but emergencies cannot be planned for.

Schools

- Southam College, as an academy, is no longer under WCC control.
- GCSE and A level results were, again, very good and above the national average.
- Major works to the changing rooms and sports hall took place during the summer, despite travellers descending on the school grounds in early August.
- Secondary school places in this part of Warwickshire are likely to be in demand as more houses are approved and built; as well as expansion of the present secondary schools, it is envisaged that a new school will be needed, although the location has not yet been determined.
- Assurances have been given that primary places do not present a problem; Harbury School continues to be well subscribed.

Grants

- Still time to suggest projects for the county council delegated highways scheme and the smaller community grants scheme.
- Cllr Stevens is supporting the parish council's proposal for a footpath across the playing field and is waiting for final costs for all schemes so that those approved can be started. With staffing cutbacks, and 56 divisions within the Feldon Division, this will take some time.

Community Forum

- Feldon community forum was addressed by the police and crime commissioner (Philip Secombe) who outlined priorities and the role to policing in Warwickshire.
- Speeding continues to be the major problem for the community police team – who are, once again, reorganising.
- Rogue traders were also highlighted

WCC Personnel /General Matters

- There have been some changes in the children's and adult services top management at WCC; exceptionally relevant at a time when school funding is being reassessed and the academy programme continually expanding.
- Cabinet recently set up a committee to investigate the implications/need for a combined Blue Light Service; however, this concept is some way away unless decreed by central government.
- This month's county council meeting includes reports on corporate parenting, health and well-being, Europa Way, Nuneaton town centre improvements (paid for by S106 contributions and central government CWLEP), as well as the audit report on last year's accounts.

17/155

Deppers Bridge

1. Ward Councillor Update

New roundabout at Southam was more or less complete. Could improved signage re the weak bridge be installed now that vehicles can turn here? Cllr Stevens agreed to follow this up with WCC Highways.

2. Correspondence received

None.

3. Members' items

Residents were grateful to the council for allowing them to use the playing field for parking recently.

17/156

Planning

- 1 17/02544/FUL – Jaguar Land Rover, Gaydon Test Centre**
Demolition of an existing store building and construction of an extension to the Southern Design Studio to the south of GDEC together with associated works
Harbury consulted as neighbouring parish only

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

- 2 Harbury Neighbourhood Development Plan**
Thanks were expressed to Mr Michael Wellock, Planning Consultant, for his excellent work on preparing this draft on behalf of the council.

It was **RESOLVED** to formally submit this final draft to SDC; Cllr T Lockley proposed, Cllr J Thornley seconded, all agreed.

- 3 Harbury Cement Works**
No news on the surgery. The clerk reported there was no longer free access across the wider site and protective fencing had been erected around the trees. The transfer of the nature reserve to Warwickshire Wildlife Trust is imminent. WWT has been invited to the Bishop's Itchington PC meeting in November.

- 4 Gypsies & Travellers' Sites Consultation**
No news, apart from Warwick District's Local Plan is now approved.

- 5 Delegated responses – Appendix A**
Noted

- 6 Members' items**
None

17/157

Properties

Updates were reported on the following:

- 1 Play Areas**
- i New equipment: One quote for adult equipment had been circulated for £8,500 – this was for a starter kit comprising 4 pieces plus an outdoor table tennis. However, 3 quotes were needed. The clerk was asked to confirm the amount of Sec 106 funding currently available. It was suggested that this equipment be sited around the path, all the way to the car park. However, this could be discussed nearer the time.
It was **RESOLVED to obtain 2 more quotes for similar equipment.**
 - ii The new climbing wall was in situ and is due to be handed over to the PC tomorrow following the post installation inspection.
- 2 Playing Fields**
- i New path:
There was some discussion on what type of surface. Completing the path from the gate to the car park was in the region of £8,875. However, rhino paved, eco surfacing along the whole length was in the region of £50,295 + VAT. WCC had submitted 3 options: (a) gravel @ £17,391 (b) tarmac @ £20,859 or (3) planings @ £13,345, all of which included upgrading the surface of the existing path and the extension to the car

park. Cllrs felt that tarmac would be the most durable and cost effective. The clerk had received an email from WCC asking if the parish council chose tarmac, would they be willing to contribute £3468, the difference between gravel and tarmac, towards the cost?

It was **RESOLVED** that this contribution would not be unreasonable, but WCC should be asked first about how much was remaining in the footpaths budget from S106 monies from the Bush Heath Lane development.

ii Annual bonfire:

Last year's event went well, and there was no reason to expect that this year's on Saturday 4 November would not be just as good. The clerk was asked to book the tractor for the morning at the PC's expense. Cllr Lockley will discuss the question of noise with GASS.

3 Car Park

i Overhaul of entrance system

There was a meeting scheduled for next week with JMT Engineering.

4 Cemetery

i New burial ground:

Good progress had been made; the site has been measured out and a plan produced by the council's surveyor in agreement with the landowners' agent. The next step is to commission a specialist company to survey the watercourse, soil, etc. There was a £5,000 budget for this work; one quote was for £3-4,000.

It was **RESOLVED** that the clerk would obtain 2 further quotes if possible and to delegate authority to the clerk to select the best quote and place an order for the work to be carried out.

ii Friends of Harbury Cemetery:

The meeting scheduled for Thursday 5 October (10.00am-12.00 noon) had been posted on the noticeboard. Help was needed for general weeding and the planting of bluebell bulbs. The fencing was due to come down and disposing of it on bonfire night would solve the problem of disposal.

5 Allotments

It had been a busy time. There was still a waiting list, but 3 new tenants had signed up. There had been some complaints about a few rented plots being overgrown. It was pointed out that there was a set of rules about this and the impact on others.

It was **RESOLVED** that the working party meet to agree new guidelines to manage the problem of tenants who are failing to keep their plots tidy and report back at the next PC meeting.

6 Correspondence

There was none.

7 Members' Items

- It was pointed out that there was a period of 5 years to spend S106 money for playgrounds, expiring 20 September 2022.
- Brambles by the bench in the playground were causing a problem; Cllr Summers volunteered to cut these down.
- The refurbishment of the roundabout in the play area is almost complete.

Environment

Updates were reported on the following:

1 Street lighting

There is a meeting of the environment group tomorrow when they will also be inspecting the footpaths following the recent roadworks.

24 mercury lights remain to be replaced at a cost of approx. £9,000; this would be completed next year and should show a further reduction in the electricity bills. It was suggested that the lampposts be repainted.

2 Traffic & transport**Southam transport scheme for medical appointments.**

The clerk had received information from Southam Town Council on how the £4,000 running costs were calculated; this was mainly room hire, telephone, heating, etc. Council were assured that there was no conflict with the E-Wheels, quite the contrary – it would actually complement this service as they are over-subscribed and have to turn people away. Harbury' PC's contribution towards the scheme, based proportionally on number of residents, equated to £560 pa. It was **RESOLVED** that the clerk would (a) contact Southam Town Council to join this scheme on a trial period for 12 months and (b) request a breakdown of how many Harbury residents used the scheme so that 'value for money' could be determined.

3 Review of street cleaning/litter

It was reported that SDC has no problem with the contractors, nor the frequency of the service. It was noted that the Co-op bin continues to overflow with rubbish. SDC has formally written to the manager reminding them of their obligations. Cllr Gibb is considering whether some of the village bins could be re-deployed more intelligently.

4 Low Carbon Britain Conference

This is to be held in central London in November; 2 free places have been booked for Cllr Christou and Bob Sherman to attend on behalf of the PC and HEI. However, registration is from 8.00am, with the first speaker at 9.00am; this means an extremely early start, costly travelling in peak hours, or an overnight stay, again costly. Both Cllr Christou and Bob Sherman have people they can stay with if the council were willing to cover the cost of train fares (cheaper if bought in advance).

It was **RESOLVED** that the council would cover the cost of the train fares for both.

5 Poppy planting

A request to plant poppies had been received from the guides. This is a national initiative. It was proposed that a ribbon of poppies could be planted alongside the road to the Great Western. However, mowing would be an issue. The clerk advised that WCC Highway's permission would be required as they own the verge.

It was **RESOLVED** that the council were happy to support this initiative.

6 Replacement tree at Manor Orchard green

After some discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to accept the quote for an ornamental plum tree at a cost of £110 + VAT.

17/161

Assets of Community Value

There was some concern that too many public houses were being considered for registration, was there justification for all of these to be a unique asset to the village? Yes, the club should, but could the surgery be registered? The allotments were also considered.

It was **RESOLVED** to proceed with registering the village club and all the pubs but to seek advice from SDC.

17/162

Accounts for Payment

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Accounts for Payment as per Appendix B (Cllrs Lockley and Allen to sign).

17/163

Reports & Questions

None.

17/164

Confidential Matters

None.

17/165

Date of Next Meeting:

The next ordinary meeting of the parish council will take place on Thursday 26 October 2017 at 7.30pm in Harbury Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

SignedChairman Date.....

APPENDIX A

Planning Applications – Delegated Responses 28 September 2017

- 1 17/02697/TREE
T5 Magnolia: Reduce canopy spread by 1 metre in height and 1 metre laterally and thin crown by up to 30% - T6 Pear: Fell and grind out stump.
Upper Harbury Hall, Bull Ring Farm Road
No representation

- 2 17/02283/LBC
Removal of existing brick pier within the ground floor of the existing listed building.
Western House, Station Road
No representation

- 3 17/02519/FUL
Demolition of existing conservatory, new single storey extension to rear and alterations to front porch roof.
Willow Bank, Vicarage Lane
No representation

