

HARBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting Thursday 26 October 2017 at 7.30pm The Farley Room, Harbury Village Hall

Present:

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

Absent: Cllr C Gibb; Cllr Allen

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
Members of the Public: 2

17/166 **Apologies:** Cllr Gibb; Cllr S Allen

17/167 **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.

17/168 **Dispensations:** None

17/169 **Public Participation**

Mobile Phone Mast

Mr & Mrs Dyson were disappointed in the siting of the new mobile phone mast which has a huge impact on the surroundings and their property. It is not camouflaged in any way. Neighbouring residents were not notified of the original application. SDC has explained that it was sited wrongly on the original map submitted with the planning application and that according to the applicant it has been installed at the intended location which is further away than the location shown on the original plans.

Problems at Oakfields

There have been some maintenance issues regarding the Orbit houses at Oakfields. The clerk and Cllr Harris have followed this up.

Concerns have been raised about the oak trees which still need to have the ivy removed and their water supply from the ditch has been cut off. The clerk has reported this to DWH who have asked their landscaping manager to investigate.

Traffic

A large articulated lorry was seen in Chapel Street today on its way to Oakfields. It eventually tried to access the site via Farm Street. Can improved signage be installed at the Middle Road junction?

Henry's

Local residents have been complaining about the height of the dwellings and the loss of the trees.

17/170

Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the ordinary parish council meeting held on Thursday 28 September 2017 as a true and complete record of that meeting; duly signed.

17/171

Other Organisations

1. Harbury Library

A meeting will shortly take place with a design company for replacement modernised shelving and layout from S106 monies.

2. Harbury School Governors

The fencing has been erected, although there have been a few complaints about its appearance. There is a large access gate in Wagstaffe Close which is for emergency use only.

3. Public Safety

None

4. Southam College

"Any Questions" was recently recorded at Southam College.

5. Twinning Association

None

6. Village Hall

None, apart from it will shortly be Panto time.

7. Harbury Energy Initiative

Harbury's E-Wheels undertake a lot of fundraising themselves. The only cost is the running of the cars, although this is subsidised. There is no charge to users, although sometimes some will make a donation. HEI now has its own bank account, and public liability insurance is included in the annual running costs; this is purely on an ad-hoc basis as it is unclear how long this scheme will run. A sum of £2,000 is required. The consensus amongst councillors was that this invaluable service should continue and should have council support. There was also some discussion about cars, lorries and vans being left running while unattended; this was a national problem, not a village one but there should be some form of awareness campaign to highlight the dangers of this.

It was agreed in principle, to support the continuation of this scheme subject to a formal grant application being made at the next meeting for the £2,000. HEI was advised to contact Phillipa Young at WCC to see what extra funding is available. It was agreed that a notice be inserted into Harbury News and that Cllr Gibb would be asked to contact the school to ask people not to leave their car engines running while waiting for people.

8. WALC/NALC

None

9. SDC & WCC

SDC

Cllr Harris pointed out that any tenants of the David Wilson Homes/Orbit who had any problems should contact her.

WCC

Cllr Stevens' written report had been circulated to members prior to the meeting and included updates on various issues:

- Electoral boundaries are being reviewed.
- The report on the children's centres consultation is due in a couple of weeks.
- There is funding available for safer routes to schools through a pot of money for 'walking through the village'; Cllr Gibb would be asked to investigate.
- Cllr Stevens had noted that there are 2 pubs and a greengrocer closing in Harbury. What is happening? Cllr Lockley pointed out that the Shakespeare Inn would be re-opening in three weeks' time. A planning application had been submitted for minor improvements as the public house is listed and is in a conservation area.

17/172

Deppers Bridge

1. Ward Councillor Update
No news.
2. Correspondence received
None
3. Members' items
None

17/173

Planning

1

17/02973/FUL – Cell 75425, Bull Ring Farm, Bull Ring Farm Road

Erection of 19 metre high telecommunications monopole with 3 no. mounted antennas and 2 no. mounted dishes, 3 no. equipment cabinets and 1.2 metre high timber fencing (retrospective)

It was **RESOLVED** to make no representation, but to request a planning condition for mitigation of the impact on neighbours after full consultation with all parties.

2

17/02966/TREE – Yew Tree Cottage, Mill Street

T1 – Sycamore – Fell

It was **RESOLVED** to make no representation but to request suitable replacement planting to maintain the streetscape.

3

Harbury Neighbourhood Development Plan

The relevant documents are being prepared for submission to SDC. The NDP section of the parish council's website needs updating.

4 **Harbury Cement Works**
Update on new surgery: None

5 **Gypsies & Travellers' Sites Consultation**
None.

6 **Delegated Responses**
None

7 **Members' Items**
None

17/174 **Properties**
Updates were reported on the following:

1 **Play Areas**

- i The annual inspection report had been received, although it did not appear to differ from previous years. All items noted were low risk and it was evident that some items didn't meet new standards. The clerk would shortly be ordering the parts for the Sputnik at a cost of approximately £200, and had requested a spanner from Playforce so that some minor repairs to the climbing wall would be easier with the proper tool.
It was **RESOLVED** to (i) look for alternative quotes for the annual inspection when the current contract is up for renewal (ii) to budget in the next financial year for a contract to carry out minor odd jobs on behalf of the council.

2 **Playing Fields**

- i New path:
Since the last meeting, it has transpired that the footpath does not qualify for Sec 106 funds, as originally suggested, because it is not a designated PROW in legal terms.
It was **RESOLVED** that HPC should fund the £3,468, as requested by WCC, as their contribution towards the upgraded tarmac surface of the existing path and extending it to the car park.
- ii Adult Fitness equipment:
The clerk reported that two quotes had been obtained so far. It was suggested that Wicksteed is contacted for a third quote and reported back to the next meeting.

3 **Car Park**

- i Update on overhaul of entrance system
The clerk reported that she, along with Cllrs Thompson and Summers had met JMT Engineering from Ladbroke who were confident that they can make new pins for the plates and mend the flap to lock the central post in position; they have taken the plates away and will clean out the teeth at the same time. The cost is expected to be between £150-£200.

4 Cemetery

i New burial ground:

The Environment Agency require HPC to provide a Tier 1 risk assessment as a minimum in order to obtain their approval for use of the site as a cemetery, but it is unclear at present if a Tier 2 is needed. The process will be lengthy and complicated so professional help from the beginning could save time and money in the long term.

It was **RESOLVED** that the properties working party look at the quotes received and make a recommendation at the next parish council meeting.

ii Friends of Harbury Cemetery:

The next meeting was scheduled for 2 November (10.00am-12.00 noon). Nigel Chapman had donated a quantity of bulbs which need to be planted as soon as possible.

5 Allotments

The properties group met to discuss a more effective management of the allotments following complaints about overgrown plots and spreading of weeds. It was proposed to inspect the allotments annually in March and write to anyone not cultivating their own plot, giving them 3 months to make improvements.

Another inspection would follow in June; if the condition had not improved, then the tenant would be given notice to quit.

It was **RESOLVED** that the clerk send out the appropriate letters to the allotment holders as soon as convenient.

It was reported that a new tenant had uncovered a quantity of rubbish when clearing an overgrown plot and needs the PC's help to remove it. The clerk will make a site visit with the grounds maintenance contractor next week.

6 Correspondence

None

7 Members' Items

None

17/175

Environment

Updates were reported on the following:

1 **Street lighting**

No update; still awaiting the quote from WCC for the painting of the lampposts.

2 **Traffic & transport**

No update; despite best efforts, it has proven impossible to engage young people's interest in using the buses.

3 **Poppy Planting**

The clerk reported that, unfortunately, the proposal to plant poppies along Station Road was not acceptable to WCC Highways who were concerned about the safety of the guides while doing this. Cllr Gibb suggested planting around the war memorial and leaving the area unmown until the poppies have finished flowering. The guide leader was also requested to contact the vicar to enquire if seeds can be planted in the churchyard.

It was **RESOLVED** to allow the guides to plant poppy seeds along a narrow strip behind the war memorial just in front of the church wall.

4 Damage to village greens

The clerk reported that, unfortunately, she had received no response from the developer at the Spinney and she would chase them up. However, someone had re-seeded the corners of The Pound where it meets Dovehouse Lane (possibly the utilities company who was recently connecting services) but that it had been driven over again. It was planned to replace the bollards once the builders have gone.

5 Correspondence received

None.

6 Members' Items

None.

17/176

Finance & General Purposes

1 Monthly Financial Report

- (i) Cllr Mancell reported that finances were on target at present and that a budget meeting would be arranged before the Christmas recess.
- (ii) Sec 106: The clerk would send an invoice to SDC for the Hillside development now that the climbing wall has been installed.

2 Review of licence arrangements with sports clubs

The clerk and Cllr Mancell had obtained advice from the council's solicitors and had met with the clubs again to discuss the options of a licence or a lease. The clubs were keen to transfer all the fixed assets which include the clubhouse and the floodlights to the parish council's ownership. They had also requested a long-term licence of 25 years. The solicitor had advised that in these circumstances, a lease would be more appropriate.

It was **RESOLVED** that the fixed assets, including the clubhouse, be transferred to the parish council's ownership and that a lease is drawn up with the legal fees to paid for from the sinking fund.

The clerk will clarify the exact details regarding the assets and the clubs' shared arrangements for the clubhouse before contacting the solicitor again.

Cllr Ekins left the room for 2 minutes following this last item.

3 Correspondence

None

4 Members' items

Cllr Mancell reported that:

- (i) Councillors' email addresses was still a work in progress.
- (ii) May 2018 sees changes to the Data Protection Act which impacts on the parish council. The clerk reported that she is going on a training course about this in November and she would enquire as to whether Cllr Mancell could join her.

Cllr Lockley reported that his quarterly report to Harbury News was due.

17/177

Consultation: Planning for the Right Homes in the Right Places

It was **RESOLVED** to make the following response:

“Harbury Parish Council welcomes any measures that make housing needs surveys easier, more transparent, and comprehensible. However, we do not think that using house prices as an indicator is a useful metric for housing need. Building ever increasing numbers of houses in the southeast of England is not sustainable in terms of traffic or pressure on education or health services. It is surely a better strategy for investment to be made in other parts of the nation to attract jobs and therefore housing in regions that have under-performed in recent years.

Harbury Parish Council also thinks that allowing principal authorities to set the housing needs for parishes with NDPs in place is micro-management and against the spirit of localism”

17/178

Assets of Community Value

Cllr Christou asked for this item to be deferred to the next meeting in November.

17/179

Accounts for Payment

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

17/180

Reports & Questions

- A reminder was given about this year’s Remembrance Service; all meeting at 10.00am, as usual. The clerk would email Chris Finch regarding the council’s wreath.
- Cllr Thornley gave her apologies for the November PC meeting.

17/181

Confidential Matters

A request has been received from a Southam resident for a burial in Harbury cemetery. St James’ churchyard in Southam is now closed; it was pointed out that Southam Town Council, although not a burial authority, is actively trying to rectify this but it is a long process. HPC has strict criteria for burials from outside the village in that there has to be/or has been a close connection with the village. If one exception is made, then it will open the doors to other requests.

After some discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to refuse this and other similar requests.

17/182

Date of Next Meeting:

The next ordinary meeting of the parish council will take place on Thursday 23 November 2017 at 7.30pm in Tom Hauley Room, All Saints Church, Harbury

The meeting closed at 9.13pm

Signed

Chairman

Date.....

