

## HARBURY PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting Thursday 28 March 2019 Harbury Village Hall

#### Present:

Cllr S Allen  
Cllr C Christou  
Cllr S Ekins  
Cllr C Gibb

Cllr T Lockley (Chairman)  
Cllr A Mancell  
Cllr A Rutherford  
Cllr P Summers

Cllr J Thornley  
Cllr K Thompson

#### In Attendance:

Mrs A Biddle, Clerk to the Council  
Mrs C Gwillam, Minute Secretary  
County Cllr R Stevens (from 7.45pm)

#### Public:

Mrs L Ridgley, Harbury News  
Members of the public: 8

19/39      **Apologies:** District Cllr J Harris

19/40      **Declarations of Interest:**

Cllr K Thompson: Agenda item 11 - member of the tennis club  
Cllr T Lockley: Agenda item 11 - member of the tennis club

19/41      **Dispensations:** None

19/42      **Public Participation**

3 members of the public spoke on:

- Congestion in the middle of Harbury with cars and delivery vans and HGVs trying to negotiate unsuitable roads, extra signage was needed at entrances to the village; this would be passed to the Environmental Working Party for consideration.
- Although the new dog bin at Thwaites was being well used, there was still a problem with bags of dog mess thrown around. This would be passed to the Environmental Working Party to consider ways to encourage dog owners to be more responsible.
- Gladman Development Agenda Item 7.4
- Henry's variation application; this was subject to enforcement.

19/43      **Minutes:**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the ordinary parish council meeting held on Thursday 28 February 2019 as a true and complete record of that meeting; they were duly signed.

19/44      **Other Organisations:**

To receive reports from the following:

1. **Harbury Library**  
Nothing to report.

## 2. Harbury School Governors

- (i) 3 Section 106 applications had been submitted, amounting to £140,000 to enhance the facilities on Reception, 1 & 2 areas, as well as additional work on the upper years, meeting the condition that this would provide additional capacity. These would go to WCC's Cabinet meeting for discussion in May.
- (ii) The solar panels had now been installed (through grants and interest-free loans) and it was hoped that savings to the school would be seen before too long.
- (iii) Recruitment for a new teacher was taking place.

## 3. Southam College

Nothing to report.

## 4. Twinning Association

Written monthly report already circulated.

## 5. Village Hall

AGM scheduled for 23 April 2019.

## 6. Harbury Energy Initiative

Just a reminder that HEI is running a joint event with RSA on Saturday 27 April on low carbon initiatives for local communities.

## 7. SDC/WCC

### SDC:

Nothing to report at present.

### WCC:

CLlr Stevens had circulated his report *(due to his late arrival (apologies given), this was addressed after agenda Item 9.2):*

- General: Following the budget, March has been quiet apart from departmental reorganisations and plans for the forthcoming District Council elections in 4 of the 5 county's District Councils.
- Fire Service: The County council is the Fire Authority for Warwickshire; the recent inspection will go to cabinet next week. Prevention and operations are good, with most areas of concern relating to administration and HR, a new chief fire officer has been appointed and this will be one of his first tasks. Initiatives to link our fire service with adjacent authorities is complex and proving difficult, although enquiries are being made with the West Midlands fire service. As a result, plans for a new training facility at Southam has been shelved. The national debate regarding a combined blue light service in some way off.
- Public Health and adult care: The county council recently held a public interest debate about combined working between health and adult services; one major concern is communication between authorities and the conflict between sharing information and beaching personal privacy (human rights). The Director of public health retires

next month, an interim appointment has been made pending a permanent replacement.

- Finances: County's revenue finances are healthy; future income streams are unknown as the move away from government grants towards business rates as a source of funding is continuing with pilot schemes in some authorities. Council tax continues to be capped, with some ring-fenced increases. The capital budget is mainly allocated to schools and highway projects to meet the population increase. The new Director of Finance, once in post, will face many challenges.
- Schools: The county's responsibility to education has been somewhat diluted since the introduction of academies and free schools, although they have an obligation to ensure that there are sufficient schools places to meet the need, that pupils can access their local school and there is enough provision for those with special needs. The interface between academies and state-run schools will be top priority for the new Director of Education once appointed. Cllr Gibb commented that the Diocese has refused permission for Harbury to be part of the MATT system which is of some concern to the governors and is something which they are looking into.
- Highways: There is an abundance of road closures and traffic disruptions by HS2 and housing developments causing many problems for the motorist. Stagecoach are trying to produce a bus timetable, sustainable and realistic, but this is proving difficult at the present time.

19/45

**Planning:**

**1 19/00430/VARY**

Variation of Condition 2 (plan numbers), 4 (materials) and 6 (hard landscaping) of planning permission 17/01630/FUL (Full application for 5 no. independent retirement dwellings, communal bin store and footpath link) to allow for the amended design and materials of the entrance walls, amendments to the pedestrian footpath along Bush Heath Lane, amendments to the landscaping details and replacement of slate roof tiles on plots 4 and 5 to Rosemary Multi Brindle.

**Henry's, Bush Heath Lane**

It was **RESOLVED** to comment that this does not reflect what is being built. The deadline date is 2 April. However, the Enforcement Officer was inspecting this tomorrow and the clerk would make the comment after this visit.

**2 19/00686/FUL**

First floor extension to rear, single storey extension to rear, new entrance porch to front, insertion of rooflights to front.

**The Lodge, Hall Lane**

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

### 3 Housing Needs Survey

Consideration of carrying out a new survey

Following last month's visit by the WRCC's Rural Housing Enabler, it was **RESOLVED** (i) that this was a good idea in principle and would provide some security for the future, identifying what type of homes should be built - affordable/sheltered (ii) to ask the Planning Group to consider what to put into the survey as the template provided was only a guide (iii) that the results should be included in the Neighbourhood Plan when revisited in 5 years' time

### 4 Gladman Developments Ltd: new proposal

Cllr Lockley reported that there had recently been a meeting with the developers; this new proposal was to extend the current development by some 120 more homes to the west. A public consultation had been promised before the planning application was to be submitted, although there was no timescale for this at present.

19/46

#### Properties

#### 1 **Playing Fields**

(i) To approve pitch hire agreement with senior football club – final draft agreement had been circulated.

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

(ii) To receive update report

Cllrs Allen and Gibb were still sourcing alternative prices; it was hoped that they would be received in time for next month's council meeting.

#### 2 **Cemetery**

(i) Chapel repairs – soakaway update

The new soakaway had now been installed; the area now needs levelling and re-seeding. The next jobs were the roof and the tarmac footpath.

(ii) Water supply - quote for new tap

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the quote of £450 + vat for the installation of the stand pipe, housing and associated pipework, this being in addition to Severn Trent's charges (£986.84 +vat; total cost of £1436.84 +vat, plus an additional £69.39 for inspection of completed works to ensure it complies with current regulations).

(iii) Friends of Harbury Cemetery

Nothing to report at present, weeding scheduled for next week – looking very nice.

#### 3 **Allotments – plot clearance**

A badly neglected allotment at the end of the track has quite a bit of rubbish as well as a willow tree growing. The clerk has found a company willing to tidy this up providing the council is agreeable to them bringing their van along the track.

It was **RESOLVED** that the clerk (i) follow up this proposal and (ii) obtain a quote for the removal of the tree.

19/47

## Environment

### 1 Street lighting

(i) **To discuss and agree action for damaged lighting column, Neales Close**

Although an emergency repair has been carried out, this column is structurally unsafe and needs to be replaced, costing approximately £1,000. Unfortunately, there is no evidence of who did the damage in the first place, British Gas or Balfour Beatty. It was **RESOLVED** that the clerk place the order for this replacement as soon as possible.

(ii) **To receive quotes for renewal of energy contract & consider delegating authority to the clerk to place order**

The clerk reported that, although E-On looked the best with only a minimal increase, it was difficult to compare with other providers as they all did differently, and it was not like-for-like.

It was **RESOLVED** that (i) the clerk and Cllr Gibb look at the various providers and (ii) that this be put on the agenda for the next council meeting.

### 2 Bus Service: Report of meeting with Stagecoach & WCC

Cllr Gibb reported that he, Cllr Thompson and Cllr Christou met with WCC and Stagecoach that afternoon, expressing their dissatisfaction about the whole service. They were listened to sympathetically and promises were made to take their comments on board and improve the service, i.e. more reliable timetables adhered to, as well as more economical fares. A written response was expected, and it was hoped that this would be received before the next council meeting.

*There was a break in proceedings as the Chair asked County Cllr to comment on agenda Item 6.7*

19/48

## Finance & General Purposes

1 **Monthly financial report & bank reconciliation:** Noted; the clerk apologised for omitting to circulate the bank reconciliation although this had been done with no problems.

### 2 New bank account:

(i) Approval and signing of new mandate

It was **RESOLVED** that all councillors present would sign the new mandate, and this was passed round for signatures.

(ii) Approval of transfer of funds to open new account

It was **RESOLVED** to transfer the sum of £50,000 and all councillors duly signed authorisation.

(iii) Consideration of transfer of deposit account

It was **RESOLVED** to defer this until the next council meeting so that the best interest rates could be investigated.

### **3 Grounds maintenance contract – agreement of cancellation of standing order pending new banking arrangements**

It was **RESOLVED** to cancel the standing order and pay the contractor by cheque until the new bank account is up and running, a new monthly standing order or BACS payment can then be made – the contractor is happy with this arrangement.

**19/49**

#### **Sports Club Licence: Review of draft document and next steps**

A lengthy discussion took place. Cllr Lockley had sent out a draft document to all councillors after his meeting with the sports club who were not happy with the draft lease prepared by our Solicitors. Councillors were asked for their opinions; Cllr Thompson's only comment was the floodlights were omitted and they should be included. The clerk was concerned about the extra cost of going back again to the solicitors, but the chair pointed out that costs for both sides should come from the sinking fund. It was suggested that the onus should be put on the club to amend the draft if they did not agree. Although the clerk expressed some concern about the VAT implications, it was noted that the auditors were fine with rent and that we should proceed on this basis.

It was **RESOLVED** to (i) to ask for the floodlights to be inserted in Schedule 2 and (ii) to ask the Sports Club to submit their comments on the draft document.

The Chair wanted it noted that, as an interested party, he was not part of any decision-making, only a facilitator of information.

**19/50**

#### **Accounts for Payment**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the accounts for payment as per Appendix B (Cllrs Summers and Gibb to sign).

**19/51**

#### **Reports & Questions**

- Councillors were asked to give some thought to an interesting speaker for the Annual Parish Meeting in May
- The new hedge in the play area is looking very nice, although there are one or two gaps which could do with some fencing. This would be put on the next agenda
- The derelict and neglected bungalow in Dovehouse Lane was now occupied and looking very smart.
- Mugglestones, the greengrocer's shop, was still empty. Although a listed building, there is no planning application to date.
- Councillors' Corner in the Library this coming Saturday; Cllr Thompson to attend with Cllr Thornley.

**19/52**

#### **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 matters:

None.

**19/53**

**Date of Next Meeting**

The next ordinary meeting of the parish council will take place on Thursday 25 April 2019 at **7.30pm** in Harbury Village Hall.

**The meeting closed at 8.47pm**

Signed ..... Chairman Date.....

DRAFT

**APPENDIX B**

**Accounts for payment 28 March 2019**

DRAFT