

MINUTES OF
THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
HARBURY PARISH COUNCIL FOLLOWED BY AN ORDINARY MEETING

Held in the Village Hall, Harbury on Thursday 24 May 2007 Page 444

Present: Cllrs Lockley, Biddle, Patrick, Thompson, Mancell, Winchester
Hancock, & Thornley.

Apologies: Parish Councillor Ellis, P C Hill, PCSO Reading, District Cllr
Patrick

In Attendance: Mrs N Thompson (Clerk), County Cllr Stevens, Mrs L Ridgley
(Harbury News)

07/057 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

The Clerk requested nominations for the position of Chairman. **It was resolved:** that Cllr Lockley be elected as Chairman, proposed by Cllr Winchester, seconded by Cllr Patrick.

07/058 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

The Chairman invited nominations for the position of Vice-Chairman. Cllr Thompson indicated that he would be prepared to put his name forward for this. **This was resolved:** proposed by Cllr Lockley and seconded by Cllr Patrick.

07/059 SIGNING OF DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

The Chairman signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and this was witnessed by the Clerk.

07/060 APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO SERVE ON WORKING PARTIES

The following appointments were made:

Finance & General Purposes: Cllr Mancell (Chairman), Cllrs Lockley, Hancock and Ellis.

Planning: Cllr Patrick (Chairman), Cllrs Mancell, Ellis, Winchester and Thompson.

Properties: Cllr Hancock (Chairman), Cllrs Thompson, Thornley, Biddle and Winchester.

Environment: Cllr Ellis (Chairman), Cllrs Thornley, Lockley, Patrick, Biddle

07/061 APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

The following appointments were made:

Village Hall Committee: Cllrs Patrick, Thornley and Thompson.

Harbury School Governors: Cllr Winchester

Bishop Bowl Site Masterplan: Cllrs Lockley and Patrick.

Biffa Liaison: Cllr Thornley

WALC & NALC: members to attend on a rotating basis.

THE MEETING THEN PROCEEDED AS AN ORDINARY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

07/062 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – There were no members of the public wishing to speak.

07/063 MINUTES - 26th April 2007

It was resolved that the minutes of the **Ordinary Meeting** of the Parish Council of 26th April 2007 having been circulated be taken as read and signed as a true record.

07/064 DECLARATION OF INTEREST ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

The following interests were declared by members:-

Cllrs Thornley, Patrick and Thompson – item 5v Village Hall as they are members of the Village Hall Committee.

Cllr Thornley – item 8i BMX Track as she is the Treasurer of the Group set up to progress the Track.

Cllr Lockley – item 10, Harbury Girl Guides, Grant Application as the founder of the group is a personal friend.

07/065 REPORTS FROM OTHER BODIES

- i Harbury School Governors (KE)
Cllr Winchester has attended a training session for new Governors and has attended a meeting of the Governing Body.
- ii Public Safety- nothing to report.
- iii Smartwater (JP)
The Clerk reported that the village would need to achieve 20% coverage of Smartwater in order to display signs stating that it is a “Smartwater Area”. However, individual roads, if they achieve 20% could have signs covering that road only. The clerk has agreed to distribute the Smartwater leaflets for Percival Drive.
- iv Southam College (SH)
The College’s appeal against the County Council’s decision to restrict the permitted admission number to 210 has been rejected by the adjudicator.
- v Twinning Association (SH)
The Association had hosted a very successful visit for representatives from Samoa. The Association will shortly be participating in the Carnival fundraising events and are planning a Bastille night in July.
- vi Village Hall (JP)
Cllr Thornley reported that a Business Plan was currently being formulated for the plans to extend/improve the Hall.
- vii WALC/ NALC – nothing to report.

07\066 DEPPERS BRIDGE**A. Matters Arising**

- i Appointment of Councillor
Following the resignation of Cllr Van Spall, the statutory notices had been posted advertising the resignation and inviting any electors wishing to have an election in the ward to contact the Returning Officer. The Clerk awaited a reply from the Officer concerned but it seems likely that the Council will be able to co-opt a new member. An article has been placed in the Harbury News asking

for anyone interested in becoming a councillor to come forward. Following discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk will circulate any letters of application from candidates to all councillors and that these will be voted on by the Full Council in the usual way.

ii Harbury Station Bridge

It was reported that a 7.5T weight restriction had been imposed on the bridge as a temporary measure for the next 18 months. During this time the County Council will carry out a consultation into the three viable options of a permanent weight restriction, traffic lights and the installation of a footpath alongside the road. Following representation from the Parishes, better signage will be installed and there is a possibility that an exception may be made for farmers with heavy machinery who need to use the bridge. Cllr Patrick commented that there may be difficulties with buses using that route and that this may effectively leave Deppers Bridge without a bus.

B Correspondence – none.

C Members Items – none.

07\067 PLANNING

A Decisions on Planning Applications

i Permission Granted with conditions by SDC:

Crown Inn, Crown Street: Construct new extension to rear area to form new entrance and extend kitchen. Reform external pergola with cedar shingle roof, form new disabled toilet and reconfigure ladies toilet access. Remove existing restaurant bar and form new corner dispense bar.

Allington House, 1 Farm Close: 2no. damson: fell, T3 ash: 20% selective crown reduction and crown lift to 6m

35 Farm Street: T2 conifer: fell.

Pool Yard, Temple End: T1 willow: pollard at no less than 3m above ground level.

16 Farm Street: T1, T4 – 4 no. field maple – cut at ground level (coppice)

ii East Area Planning Committee:

iii Parish Council Made No Representation On The Following:

1 Deppers Bridge: Extension to side of existing house.

Stapenhall Farm, Deppers Bridge: Renovation of existing listed dwelling and conversion of barns to dwelling accommodation.

Laurel Cottage, Hall Lane: Relocation of east timber garage unit 6m from back of pavement.

Kingston House, 4 Mill Street: Erection of single storey and two storey extension together with repositioned conservatory to rear of Kingston House.

iv The PC Made Representations on the Following : nothing to report.

v Permission Refused by SDC: nothing to report.

vi Enforcement notices issued - none

viii Tree Preservation Order: none

B Other Planning Matters

- i Bishop Bowl Lakes – Appeal into Use of Land as Distribution Centre
Cllr Lockley and District Cllr Patrick had attended the Public Enquiry into use of the site as a distribution centre. The Inspector's report is expected to be published in three weeks.

C Correspondence

- i RPS Consultants : Bishop Bowl Lakes, Consultation on Leisure & Recreation
Correspondence had been received from RPS Consultants who are employed to act on behalf of the owners of the Bishop Bowl Lakes site, inviting comments from the Parish Council on facilities for leisure and recreation that could be incorporated into the masterplan. Cllr Lockley reported that the Masterplan Working Party had met and explored a number of ideas which could be included in the response. **It was resolved:** that Cllr Lockley should prepare the response for approval by the Council in consultation with Bishops Itchington and Ufton Parish Councils.

D Members Items – nothing to report.**07/068 PROPERTIES****A** Arising from the Minutes

- i BMX Project
Cllr Thornley has contacted a local designer who will be able to draw up plans for the Track in readiness for planning approval. The design layout will be made available for the Parish Council and affected residents to inspect before planning permission is sought.
District Cllr P Barton joined the meeting.
- ii Playground Reports
The clerk reported that the entrance post to the children's play area had been re-concreted in but that the contractor had not re-laid the slabs as the work needed was more extensive than originally envisaged. It was agreed that Properties would look at the slabs to see how many needed replacing. The clerk was requested to ask Highways if the signs alerting drivers to the children's play area in Deppers Bridge could be replaced as these appear to be missing. The clerk was also requested to arrange the removal of the graffiti on the play wall and its treatment with anti-graffiti paint. It was noted that the chain at the entrance to the playing fields from the car park had not been secured yet allowing vehicles to access the field. The clerk has asked the Village Maintenance Contractor to do this. The clerk passed some details of dog fouling bins to Properties for consideration; it has been confirmed that SDC will empty both those purchased directly from SDC and ones purchased privately within reason.
- iii Cemetery Path
The extension of the Cemetery path had been completed and it was agreed that the work was of a satisfactory standard. During the course of the work, the contractor had pointed out the condition of the main path which would benefit from being resurfaced in the near future; it was agreed that Properties would consider this for inclusion in next year's budget. The clerk was instructed to follow up once again the new glazing for the Chapel. Properties will shortly be conducting a risk assessment on the safety of memorial stones within the Cemetery.

iv Resurfacing of Basketball Court

It was noted that a further quotation for the resurfacing of the basketball court had been received and circulated and that this was in excess of £10,000. A previous quotation had been for £6048. It was agreed that the clerk would take advice from the Play Inspectors as to the necessary standard for resurfacing.

B Correspondence

i Playground Inspections 2007/08

A quotation for £488.08 from Coventry City Council to carry out playground inspections for the year 2007/08 had been received and circulated. **It was resolved:** that this quotation be accepted.

Mr & Mrs J Lauder

Correspondence from Mr & Mrs Lauder had been received thanking the Council for allowing them to speak at the last meeting and expressing the wish that the situation with nuisance from young people using the play area and adjoining path could be resolved in the near future. Cllr Hancock reported that Properties had visited the path and would like to make the recommendation that, although a chain link fence would not be a suitable option, there was scope for filling one new gap in the hedge which had been caused by a dead tree and also replanting some of the hedgerow nearest to South Parade which had also become damaged. An older established "cut through" further up the path would be left unaltered. Following further discussion, the clerk was instructed to request further feedback from the Police regarding noise and general nuisance, to request a quotation for carrying out the work on the hedge and research with Warwickshire County Council and the Allotment Holders Association the possibility of closing off the footpath to cars. The clerk was also requested to reply to Mr & Mrs Lauder informing them of the Council's plans.

C Members Items

i Various

The following items were raised:

- Cllr Thornley reported that there had been a fire in the Spinney. The Police had been called but there had been some damage to trees and undergrowth within that area.
- A resident of Margaret Close had contacted the Council with regard to the hedgerow in the playing fields which is overgrown and pressing on her fence. The clerk was instructed to ask the Maintenance Contractor to take a look at this.
- It was noted that the small shelter within the wall around the Paddock had been repaired. The clerk was instructed to thank the owner of the Paddock for carrying out this work.
- It was noted that the drain cover had been replaced on the grass verge on the corner of South Parade near the Cemetery.

ii Harbury Tennis & Netball Courts

It was noted that the surround tarmac of the Netball Court had been re-laid to the satisfaction of the Clubs.

07\069 ENVIRONMENTA Arising from the Minutes

i Street Lighting

The Clerk reported that a streetlight in Farley Avenue had been demolished by a car which has not secured its handbrake sufficiently. This matter was now being dealt with by the car driver's insurance company. Cllr Thornley had carried out a periodic review of the streetlights and passed the details of this to the Clerk. Cllr Lockley had received an e-mail requesting that the Council consider installing "Windsor" style streetlights in Pineham Avenue and had replied, on behalf of the Council, that this would not be possible due to cost considerations.

- ii Village Improvements – nothing to report.
- iii Traffic Management –
There is nothing further to report at present; County Cllr Stevens will continue to raise this issue with the relevant Officer.

B Correspondence – none

C Members Items

- i Japanese Knotweed
The presence of knotweed had been noted in Bull Ring Farm Road and reported to Highways by Cllr Stevens.
- ii Lighting – Drinkwater Close
A complaint had been made to District Cllr Patrick with regard to a lack of lighting in Drinkwater Close. Following the relocation of the main streetlight there, the residents had been promised a security light by SWHA. The clerk had previously dealt with this and will contact SWHA again to follow it up.

07\070 FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES

A Arising from the Minutes

- i Upgrade of Office Equipment
Cllr Mancell requested the Council's permission to use his credit card to purchase the projector and screen as previously agreed by the Council. A Council resolution allowing him to do this will allow the VAT to be claimed back on the invoice. **This was resolved.**
Cllr Mancell reported ongoing problems with the proposed website to be provided by SDC and paid for by the Awards for All grant. The templates for the website were still not ready to be viewed and the project had not progressed with the speed that might have been hoped for. Despite this, the Council now needed to complete an end of grant form for Awards for All and Cllr Mancell recommended that the Council agree that it was still committed to moving ahead with the SDC proposals as soon as they became available. **This was resolved.**
- ii Revised Code of Conduct for Local Authorities
Details of the revised Code of Conduct had been circulated by the clerk but there had not been sufficient time to do this in advance of the meeting. Because of this, it was agreed that this item be deferred to the June meeting for discussion. The clerk informed members of a training meeting organized by SDC to be held on Monday 11th June.

B Correspondence

- i Harbury Pre-School – Grant Application

Correspondence had been received from the Pre-School requesting financial assistance in the cost of providing a trip to Compton Verney for the children and helpers. **It was resolved:** that a donation of £147 be paid.

ii 1st Harbury Girl Guides – Grant Application

An application for grant funding to start up a new Girl Guides group within the village had been received. A schedule of costings for the setup of the group were enclosed amounting to £300. **It was resolved:** that a donation of £300 be made.

iii “Moving Pictures”

Further details of the proposed “Moving Pictures” scheme and a questionnaire had been received from SDC. These details were passed to Cllr Thornley who will pass them on to the Village Hall Committee.

iv Harbury Village Hall

Correspondence had been received from the Village Hall Committee thanking the Council for its donation of £5000 towards professional fees.

v GASS Committee

Correspondence had been received from the Guides & Scouts Support Group thanking the Council once again for its financial support for the work on the Scout Hut roof. The work has now commenced following successful applications for grants from various other bodies. Councillors were invited to attend an Open Day of the refurbished Hut on 14th July.

C. Members Items

i Harbury Nursery School

Cllr Lockley said that the Nursery School Committee had approached him to find out if the Council would, at a time in the future, consider allowing the use of the car park for a car boot sale. Although members were sympathetic towards the Group’s aims, it was felt that the car park was not a suitable place for such an event to take place as it is already well used by the football club and other groups for parking at weekends.

07/071 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT As per Appendix B, details on request from the clerk.

07/072 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

i District & County Council News

Cllr Patrick reported that the next Councillor’s surgery will take place in Harbury on Saturday 16th June. SDC had now commenced the first stages of formulating the Local Development Framework which will eventually replace the Local Plan and it is essential that parishes have a say in its development. A preliminary questionnaire has been circulated to members of Planning; Cllr Lockley requested that he also be included in the circulation list for this.

07/073 ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA – none.

007/074 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 28th June 2007 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm.

Chairman.....Date.....