

Harpole Parish Council Newsletter

Issue 04 – April 2015



Present:

Miss S Eason (Chair), Mr B Briscoe, Mr D Starmer, Mr D Ballard, Mr C Wilkinson, Mr E Church, Mr B Gibbins, Mrs J Jenkinson, Mr B Justice, Mr J Green, Mr J Calderwood, Mrs . R Gibbins, Clerk G. Ravine,

Apologies:

Mrs M Jones (family) & Cllr. J. Kirkbride, Cllr. A Addison

Public / 5

April is our Annual Parish meeting where village organisations are invited to give a report to the council. Sarah Eason gave the following report as Chair of the PC.

Many things have happened in the past 12 months to try our patience, to challenge us or to be proud of. Volunteers have worked on this council trying, where possible to keep this village clean, tidy, and safe and as a village community. Mistakes are made and lessons learnt however we move on, to the best of our abilities, striving to succeed.

On October 8th the long awaited Inspector Report was published. And after the hard work of many people at the hearing in March the Inspector's comments – had some good news – good in respect of Junction 16 being reduced in size, with the development being on the South Side of the A4500, so that Harpole will not be so impacted. Also there will be no houses south of Nobottle Rd. Instead the NW SUE will come over the Nobottle Rd - with parks, a new Primary School, allotments and green spaces, all needed for the housing development proposed on the other side of the road.

Norwood Farm/Upton Lodge – will now have 3,500 houses instead of the 2,565 originally suggested. This means that the park/ green space behind South View and to the east of Sandy Lane, which was previously in the strategy has been removed. The development does extend over the Sandy Lane, but the space to the west of Sandy Lane must be used for 'structural green space' (country park etc.). Maybe the road to nowhere will be finished at the end of all this.

Following the examination hearing, members of the Parish Council started to meet with John Holden the Director of Pegasus Planning Group representing Redrow Homes – to discuss the villages needs for the 'green spaces' to try to lessen the impact on the village. Unfortunately this link has disappeared as Redrow are no longer interested in the land. The HAT team are continuing to work on the Neighbourhood Plan, which will then become our tool for future Planning Applications.

Contact us on:-

Twitter @harpole_village

Visit our Website <http://www.harpole.org.uk/>

Following well attended public meetings - proposed planning applications to Northampton Road and Larkhall Lane, were refused and subsequently went to appeal – Northampton Road was withdrawn by the agents and Larkhall Lane was refused on appeal. My thanks go to those councillors who attended this hearing and who spoke on our behalf.

Hall Farm continues to evolve, unfortunately the addresses of these properties are now within Glassthorpe Lane and not with new names as the council envisaged would happen. Parking and traffic is continuing to be a problem in this area and the roads, kerbs and verges are being churned up because of the problems. Residents in this area are having to put up with a lot of disruption and should be thanked for their co-operation.

We continue to report problems with our highways, with hedges, fly tipping, potholes and pavements. Our new highways committee has now been set up to deal with these matters.

Dog Mess continues to be a problem within the village and we have installed a new bin in the area of Carrs Way / High Street. Many thanks to Maxine for her sterling work in the fight against those owners who chose not to pick up and keep our village clean.

The ever progressing problem of the layby of the Red Lion on the A4500 is ongoing and future councillors need to keep this in mind as another term starts. If we keep reporting, the rubbish, the rats, and the bus then eventually, hopefully, something will be done to eliminate the problems and it will be one less problem to deal with.

In April after much deliberation over the new wording of the Allotment Agreement - to be used for the 2 Acre Plot, the council took advice and decided to revert back to the original Terms and Conditions for allotment lease.

The Allotments are looking good and most are well kept. The Allotment Association has now been set up and holders are working together maintaining the area, cutting hedges, sorting ditches, installing new gates and attending to jobs as they arise. Thanks to Rita for taking the time to work with the holders.

The battle for the Church Clock rumbles on – much of the feedback has been positive, however due to one negative complaint we are having to think about how to proceed and make the best choice to protect the council, the villagers and to make the best use of a truly quaint village tradition.

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I would like to thank all Parish Councillors who have sat on this council, whether it is for a short time or for many years and to those who are stepping down from the council and will not be re-joining.

This village thanks all of you for your hard work, for the time you give each month, day or week and thank you for showing your support to me as Chair over my term in office.

Organisation reports were given by following Village Organisations:

1. **Northamptonshire County Council** – presented by the clerk on behalf of Cllr J Kirkbride
2. **Heritage & Clasp Group** – presented by Jennifer Smith
3. **Youth Club** – presented Mark Calleran
4. **FOHS** – presented by the Clerk on behalf of Gina Lawrence.
5. **Allotment Association** – presented by John Gibbins
6. **Pre School** – presented by Sharon Matthews
7. **Harpole Charity** – presented by the clerk on behalf of Mary Burt
8. **Old School Hall** – presented by Janet Jenkinson
9. **Scarecrow Festival** – presented by Ricky Vallance
10. **Playing Field** – presented by David Starmer.
11. **Harpole School Governors Report** – presented by Sarah Eason.
12. **Harpole Boys Brigade Report** – presented by Sarah Eason.
13. **Harpole WI** – presented by Rita Gibbins on behalf of Avril Judge
14. **Neighbourhood Watch Report** presented by the Clerk on behalf of David Ballard

A set of these reports will be on the board or on the website or available from the Clerk to the council in due course.

Following the Annual Parish Meeting a shortened Parish Council meeting took place to discuss any urgent issues.

The areas discussed in the PC meeting were as follows:-

Election – 14 people are standing for the parish council so there will be an election.

Parish Clock – on-going Clerk working through correspondence.

School Hedge reported – Mrs R Gibbins has spoken to Mark Calleran to raise at School Governors meeting.

New light needed in Hall Close.

Red Lion Layby and the unofficial layby in Larkhall Lane.

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Further information on these topics will be in next month's newsletter, should you require more information please contact the Clerk.

Field Footpaths, Gates & Livestock

It was reported at the PC meeting that the kissing gates from Knights Close through Callowell have been left open, this has allowed the sheep and their lambs to become separated which can cause both the mother and baby lamb(s) to die, please be thoughtful and considerate and close the gates, also all DOGS must be kept on a lead and you MUST stick to the footpaths, again recently a dog walker was found off the footpath and the dog off the lead, when approached by the farmer the walker contacted the police and reported the farmer. The fields/footpaths are there for everyone to enjoy hopefully the majority will not abuse this so that everyone can continue to enjoy our lovely countryside, everyone is reminded that the land owner/farmer is in their right to shoot animals if they are seen to be worrying livestock.

A report from the Footpaths and Highways Committee will be in next month's newsletter.

Defibrillator

The Old School Committee have recently applied to the British Heart Foundation for a Defibrillator as part of the 'NATION OF LIFESAVERS COMMUNITY DEFIBRILLATOR PACKAGE' The cost for this is £400.00 which the Parish Council have very kindly paid for but the device is for the whole community, more information will be in next month's newsletter.

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday May 11th 2015

All members of the public are welcomed and encouraged to attend.

Copies of the full minutes can be located on the Parish Council Notice Board outside the Old School Hall. Further information can be found on the Harpole website or by contacting the Clerk to the Council.

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