

MINUTES of the meeting of HARPOLE PARISH COUNCIL held on
15th August 2011
at the Old School Hall, School Lane, Harpole at 7.45 pm.

PRESENT:

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Mr D Ballard (in the chair) | Mrs M Burt | Mr J Calderwood | |
| Mr J Eason | Miss S Eason | Mr B Gibbins | Mrs R Gibbins |
| Mr J L Green | Mrs J Jenkinson | Mrs S Roberts | Mr D Starmer |
| Cllr J Kirkbride NCC. | Cllr J Eliot SNC | Clerk, G Ravine | 4 members of the public |

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE. Mr E J Church (Work) Apology accepted by Council.
Cllr A. Addison SNC,

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST. EC declared a personal interest regarding the Old School Hall; JC and MB as Trustees of the Charity and Youth Club. DB JC SR regarding the Harpole Action Team. DS regarding the allotments and SHLAA. OSH and PFA. MB regarding the PFA. JC declared a personal interest regarding the Churchyard.

3. PUBLIC DISCUSSION.

Surprise was expressed that the illuminated speed signs outside the school were set at 30mph rather than 20mph, and were of limited use because of poor sighting. BG felt that it was wasteful and unnecessary to have 30mph signs within a 30mph limit. Cllr JK was surprised the signs were not welcomed and asked for any comments to be directed to her.

There were further complaints about the state of the grass verges in South View, feeling that the grass looked even more of a mess now it had been cut and that strimming and grass clearance had not taken place. Clerk to contact Mr Warden. It was pointed out that the drains and gullies were neglected.

It was reported that separate Council personnel had marked potholes in the Carrs Lane /Larkhall Lane area, but had still missed the worst pothole. MB reported that Highways had promised all potholes would be done, but not clear when.

Footpath KP13 was reported to be blocked.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of the meeting of 18th July 2011. After one small change was made, it was then proposed, and seconded that the minutes were accepted as a true record. Unanimous. The Chairman duly signed the minutes.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES;

Shed outside 1 Glassthorpe Lane. – Still in place. Cllr JK said it should be removed before the next meeting.

Regarding people and dogs using the Playing Field as a footpath. BG reported undesirable people were still using the playing field as access to a field to the north.

State of the roads around Larkhall Way. Councillors had held a site meeting and photographs were taken as comparisons to those taken prior to the development, which clearly show the deterioration in road surface. The middle strip of tarmac has been replaced but other problems ignored. Clerk to forward photographs to Helen Howard and ask for a site meeting.

Clerk to also write to SDC and ask for fencing on the site to be extended to secure a 4ft drop which was not fenced and felt to be dangerous. The garden at the rear of the empty house has a severe slope and the suggested remedial action had not taken place. Clerk to ask for a site meeting and express disappointment at the lack of care taken on landscaping.

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| | Power | Action |
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6. REPORTS FROM ADVISORY COMMITTEES.

Allotments. MB gave a report on the latest allotments meeting. All Harpole residents on the waiting list were now accommodated; RG was investigating the situation regarding maintenance and hedging and the responsibilities. The stakes had been purchased and put in place. DB thanked John Gibbins for his help. DS said that the ditch was part of the allotments, and that the gates were being left open. A notice to be put on the gates.

* **Resolved.** Council agreed to have a noticeboard erected.

Churchyard. – East gate work under consideration. The metal stay for the gate had been put in place. Spoil heap removal is imminent. Nothing had been done about the hedge, but it was anticipated that it soon would be. JC reported that the raised grave of Edward Scribbens needed attention.

* **Resolved.** Council to commission repair works on this historic grave. JC to seek quotes.

With the removal of the spoil heap, it was felt that clippings, cuttings etc. should now be taken away.

Finance. – Accounts had been sent in, no reply as yet. Precept meeting moved to Mon 14th November.

Footpaths. BG reported that the Rights of Way Team would be taking on responsibility for tree wardens too. He would attend a meeting in Brixworth which would cover many topics he felt relevant to Council. JC referred to Green's Oak, which was in need of restoration, and wondered if funds might be forthcoming. BG thought that money was rather tight. JC reported the passage of an extremely large combine harvester through narrow parts of the village and the disruption caused and potential danger. DB to ask the farmer concerned if another route could not be found.

Lighting. Light 68 switched off. Clerk to follow up on cost to move the light.

7. REPORT FROM PLANNING COMMITTEE.

S/2011/0950/FUL – Two Storey Extension to side/rear of 26 Carr's Way, Harpole. The council had no objections to this application.

S/2011/0933/FUL – Replacement of existing storage building, erection of pair of fishing/leisure lodges including timber fishing jetty (holiday lets) at Land to the rear of Hall Close. The council made the following comments:

- This application is outside the village confines and is situated at the rear of a quiet cul-de-sac within the village of Harpole. The residents of this close, having bought their houses with an outlook over a lake and into the fields, are concerned that the application for holiday lets will increase the traffic much more than it is today.
- An increase of traffic has recently been seen to the site and it is of some concern that this will increase with up to 4 cars per let and a further increase across 24 hours as the fishing business dictates.
- The site, which currently houses an equestrian shelter, has been for some years used for private fishing, however it now seems that this business is to increase as a public concern, although this application is only for holiday lets and not for change of use, we ask that this be looked into and that the hours of use are clearly stated as per item (20) in the application form – this has currently been left blank.

JC

Clerk

- Also on the application form there is a question about whether the application is within 20 metres of a stream, this box has been ticked as no, however there is a stream running underground down from the fields and into the lake.
- The access to the site is of some concern, as the highways regulations are different for holidays lets, as to if it is used as a Commercial Business, with full size emergency vehicles having increased difficulty in accessing the site. Especially as this will be the third business running on this site all using the same access.
- Most of the lodges of this kind are built in traditional timber; however these are of brick/slate.
- Both the residents and the committee are concerned about the probability of crime in this area which will increase with the lake being open not only to those who are using the lodges but also to those who are fishing there from all over the world as evidenced within the letters accompanying this application. Also in these letters, which is of further concern, is the interest from a member of the Scottish Shooting Team, shotguns being bought into the area would bring further anxiety. However if a clause be put in that only those staying in the lodges be allowed to fish this may reduce the risk.
- There is a caravan still on the site which should have been removed under the previous application for the equestrian shelter.

* **Resolved.** Council endorsed the recommendations of the Planning Committee. DS abstained.

8. Co-option of Councillors. – there were two candidates, both from South View. Co-option panel favoured Mr Justice.

* **Resolved.** Council co-opted Mr Justice as a councillor.

Clerk to write to Mr Harper expressing Council's regret that only one place was available and hoping that he would come forward again if there were another vacancy.

9. South View – no further reports required.

10. NCALC – AGM and conference. 22nd Oct.

* **Resolved** Clerk to attend on behalf of Council. Overtime costs to be shared with Heyford PC if possible.

11 NCALC – Training Courses Autumn Winter.

* **Resolved** Clerk to attend Budgets and Precepts course on Oct 4th and claim appropriate overtime.

Councillors to contact clerk if they wish to attend courses.

12. Pocket parks. MB had attended a meeting at Manning Watts house, and reported that residents were unhappy at the prospect of a Pocket Park in that area. Another site needed to be found if the plan were to progress.

13. Neighbourhood Plan. SR reported that HAT would follow Yardley Gobion's lead. A questionnaire would be prepared – and as much input as possible would be sought. Feedback would need to be analysed, and it would be important to keep SNC briefed. It was also hoped to get funding as a front runner. It is anticipated that these neighbourhood plans would become local planning legislation.

14. Website. SR and JJ gave a report on progress. It was felt that the website looked complete. It was anticipated that it would cost £1000 to initiate and 200- 250 p/a to maintain, and should be approaching completion by January. The money would come from reserves: the project

Clerk

felt to be to the benefit of all in the village.

* **Resolved.** £1000 to be allocated to the project.

* **Resolved.** The domain name Harpole.org.uk to be used

* **Resolved. The project to go ahead, based on the initial report.**

15. Safeguarding information and chequebook in the event of emergency or the clerk's demise or incapacity. If the clerk were to copy all files onto a flashdrive each month and pass to the chair along with a spare cheque book, Council would at least be able to function, before other measures were taken to recover files and information.

* **Resolved.** Clerk to purchase suitable Flashdrives at a cost of approx. £5 each

16. Standing Orders. Deferred until next month.

17. CORRESPONDENCE. –

Britain in Bloom – noted and circulated.

East Midlands Councils –invitation to join - noted and circulated.

HAT minutes - noted and circulated.

NCALC re agm and conference - noted and circulated.

Training Courses - noted and circulated.

Santander – - noted and circulated.

SNLT – re grants. - noted and circulated.

SNH Homes – newsletter. - noted and circulated.

SNC Council Tax training session - noted and circulated.

BG drew attention to the forms regarding election expenses sent out by SNC and urged councillors to return them. SR had not received one.

SNC – South Northants Council NCC– Northamptonshire County Council OSHMC – Old School Hall Management Committee EMRA – East Midlands Regional Assembly. NCALC – Northants County Association of Local Councils. CLASP – Community Landscape & Archaeology Survey Project. WNJPU – West Northants Joint Planning Unit. SNH –South Northants homes

18. Accounts for payment.

| Name | Chq no. | Amount | Incl VAT of | Power used |
|--|----------|---------|-------------|--|
| G. Ravine – salary | Chq. 756 | £461.96 | | LGA 1972 s 112 |
| Inland revenue Tax rebate of £264.57 – all now refunded. | Chq. 757 | 28.77 | | LGA 1972 s 112 |
| G.Ravine – expenses, stationary etc. | Chq. 758 | £85.91 | | LG (FP)A 1963 s5 |
| R Howey – Bus shelter cleaning And work on church gate. | Chq. 759 | £90.00 | | LG(MP)A 1953 s4 |
| P Warden - Grass | Chq. 760 | £765.60 | 127.60 | Highways Act 1980s96 |
| A+H Contracts Dog Bins | Chq. 761 | £60.00 | 10.00 | Clean Neighborhoods and Environment Act 2005 |
| P Betts – poppy wreath | Chq 762 | 18.50 | | LGA 1972 s 137 |
| Nickolls Landscaping - flagpole | Chq 763 | £85.00 | | Local Government (Misc. Prov.) Act 1976, s. 19 |
| Late additions | | | | |
| Anglian Water - allotments | Chq 764 | £228.60 | | Allotments Act 1950 |
| HFS Timber- allots stakes | Chq 764 | £29.75 | | Allotments Act 1950 |

Bank balances HSBC Community Account £35904.62 16/7/2011 Scottish Widows. £29271.24 1/4/2011 Income-

* **Resolved.** Payments to be made.

19. Items for next agenda. Standing Orders, Website, Neighbourhood Plan, Deeds – whereabouts.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING. Sept. 19th 2011

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.33