

**MINUTES of the meeting of HARPOLE PARISH COUNCIL held on  
17<sup>th</sup> September 2012  
at the Old School Hall, School Lane, Harpole at 7.30 pm.**

**PRESENT:**

Mr D Ballard (in the chair)	Mr J Eason	Mr B Gibbins	Mr J Calderwood
Mr E Church	Mr B Justice	Mrs J Jenkinson	Mr D Starmer
Mrs R Gibbins.	1 member of the Public	Cllr J Kirkbride NCC.	Clerk, G Ravine

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.** Mr J Green (Holiday), Mrs S. Roberts (Holiday), Miss S Eason (Meeting clash), Apologies accepted. Cllr A Addison. SNC. Cllr J.Eliot. SNC

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST;** JC as Trustee of the Charity and Youth Club. DB, and JC regarding the Harpole Action Team. DS regarding the allotments, OSH and PFA. JC declared a personal interest regarding the Churchyard. EC regarding Scarecrow.

**3. PUBLIC DISCUSSION.**

Cllr Kirkbride would report uncut verges. She congratulated the village on the success of the Scarecrow weekend. She also recommended Councillors take an interest in the election of a police commissioner and attend meetings.

Mr Williams referred to uncut verges on Sandy Lane . He then referred to dogs being taken into the Playing Field, especially at car boot sales. DB said that this was the business of the PFC, not the PC. BG said that there were no valid bye laws prohibiting dogs from the field.

He also congratulated the village on the success of the Scarecrow weekend.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES** of the meeting of 20<sup>th</sup> Aug. 2012. JC questioned the ownership of the ditch between the Bowls Club and the houses on Larkhall lane. DB confirmed that it does belong to the Allotment land, having checked with land registry deeds, this is contrary to normal local practice. The Chairman duly signed the minutes.

**5. Casual Vacancy:** No nominations to fill the vacancy created by the Resignation of Cllr Burt:

**6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES;**

**KP15** BG had found nettles on KP15 – but no obstructions.

**Anglian Water.** Clerk to follow up with Anglian Water on ownership of ex pumping station on Sandy Lane.  
**Red Lion** – it was reported that there was nobody permanently living in the layby, but that the whole area was a mess.

**Bus Stops** – It was felt that the bus stop on High St near Carrs Way should be moved to the Maltings.

**7. REPORTS FROM ADVISORY GROUPS.**

**Allotments.** RG reported that it was felt that dogs should be kept under control in the Allotments, but that the “no Dogs” sign should be left in place. DB wondered whether something should go into the agreement. There had been a complaint about a hedge, which John Gibbins had dealt with. DB thanked him. It was reported that Mr Starmer was willing to allow land to be prepared for allotments prior to the end of his notice period. Trevor Spokes has been approached to do the hedge. It was felt that notice needed to be given prior to the cutting of the School hedge. Several plots were unattended; RG would ask whether holders wish to continue. JC and DB thanked RG for her thoroughness in dealing with the allotments.

**Churchyard.** The Rectory Hedge needs cutting. Clerk to request. Clerk to pursue quotes for wall maintenance.

**Finance.** Clerk reported that the External Audit had been carried out. Council noted that the Annual Return had been accepted unqualified. Clerk reported that all Council employees must be allowed access to pensions as of October 2012. His contract already allowed for a gratuity that comes into practice after 5 years’ service, which would shortly be attained. Retaining this arrangement may be the cheapest option for both Clerk and Council.

**Roads and Footpaths.** An Ash in the hedge between 53 and 55 Larkhall Lane is dead. Clerk to contact SNH.

Potholes reported on Glassthorpe Lane had been reported and filled. Pothole at junction of Larkhall Way and Garners Way to be reported.

**Lighting.** All found the PFI scheme confusing. Clerk to ask them to come to meeting and translate. No decision taken.

**South View.** Cars have re-appeared but then gone again. Concerns were raised about parked cars impeding cleaning vehicles, but as this is public road there is no straightforward remedy. Gutters and drains are still blocked, bollards are still lying, and no bollards are in place in the pedestrian crossing entrance. Clerk to contact Helen Howard.

## 8 REPORT FROM PLANNING COMMITTEE.

S/2012/0549/FUL	24 Glassthorpe Ln	Installation of external platform and metal ramp	Approved
S/2012/0547/FUL	14 High Street	Two and single storey rear extension	Pending.
S/2012/0553/FUL	48 Manor Cl.	Single storey extension forming enlarged kitchen /dining room.	Approved
S/2012/0632/FUL	27 South View	Replace existing kitchen/dining room extension with two storey side & rear extension	Approved
S/2012/0832/NMA	Red Lion Cafe Weedon Road Upper Heyford	Non-material amendment to alter size of proposed extension to retain boiler room/wc and alter position of window/door. etc.	Refused
S/2012/0772/FUL	16 Sandy Lane Harpole	Single storey and two storey rear extensions	Approved
S/2012/0891/FUL	9 South View	Erection of a conservatory	Approved

**Joint Core Strategy.** DB gave a report and made recommendations. He drew attention to the removal of a park and ride scheme, and other shortcomings.

JC expressed concern that it is not clear what the strategy is, and that the village had lost the battle on the Charity lands, although the village would benefit from the money gained from the sale. It was not clear, when or whether the developments would take place or whether any promises would be kept. In theory the final document would be statutory, and nothing outside the denoted areas should be considered, so it might protect the village. DB felt a boundary review should take place if the developments did take place, as the Parish would be a divided community.

**\*Resolved.** DBs comments to be submitted.

9. **Housing proposal** – The possible use of Council land at Larkhall Lane as an entrance to a development site was discussed. The Clerk reported that the legal aspect of a transfer might prove problematic, as it was technically allotment land. DB reported that as this was outside the village envelope, that SNC was unlikely to be sympathetic. EC felt that the ditch should not be piped as it needed to carry a lot of water way. There was little enthusiasm to sell the land and it was felt that no response was necessary unless proposal were forwarded.
10. **Scarecrow Event** – EC reported on this year's event. It was felt to have been a success and there was a timetable for reports. DB congratulated Sharon Frost and the team on the success of the event and thanked them for all their hard work.
11. **Neighbourhood Plan** – Clerk read a report from SR. It was proposed to remove the land covered by the SUE from the NP. It was agreed that this was the best approach to take because it should help to stop Harpole becoming a divided community in the future, and it stops the Harpole NP being responsible for what will in effect be part of Northampton. However, we want to ensure that :
- Harpole PC is fully engaged in the proposals for the SUE, whoever leads it.  
Harpole charity land is impacted by the SUE, and the approach to this, needs to be agreed by the Charity trustees.  
The Harpole heritage and green space that the SUE covers needs to be reflected in the plans for the SUE.
- \*Resolved.** The Parish Council confirm that they support the recommended change to the NP designated area.
- Housing survey.** Both HAT and the Parish Council are concerned about the level of financial disclosure required by the survey, feeling that this unnecessary at this stage, it is felt that many Harpole Parish Council September 2012.

Clerk

Clerk

- would find this off-putting. Clerk to contact SNC.
- 12. White Lines.** – Still not restored in Manor Close, Carrs Way and Larkhall Lane. BG felt that Road Hill should have white lines; EC felt this would be a waste. Clerk to ask Helen Howard.
- 13. SLCC – Conference** – Nottingham 12<sup>th</sup> Sept. Clerk gave a report on this annual conference – which he felt to have been useful in keeping up with current local government issues. The conference had covered Pension, Employment, Neighbourhood Planning and Localism. He reported a great deal of controversy on the implementation of the latter two issues.
- 14. Hedge between Allotments and School.** – This is considered a fire hazard. Hedge cutters felt that they could not get at it as Allotment plot holders pile things against it as nothing will grow. It now encroaches a metre onto the Allotments. It is felt that the School does not have the funds to properly deal with the situation. School is aware of the situation.

### 15 CORRESPONDENCE. –

Audit Commission.- notice that BDO would continue to be Auditors for next here years.- noted  
 Birmingham City Council - front Runners interview. .- noted  
 Carter Jonas. RE: Land at Larkhall Lane, .- noted  
 BDO – audit report .- noted  
 Clerks and Councils direct .- noted  
 NCC- re New Lights – Clerk to reply.  
 NCC re Bus stops  
 Re School admissions. .- noted  
 SNC = re Energy Consultation .- noted  
 - Re wind Farm Appeal. .- noted  
 - SNVB – re Village Networks. .- noted

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

### 16. Accounts for payment.

Name	Chq no.	Amount	Incl VAT	Power used
G. Ravine – salary	Chq. 875	£500.52		LGA 1972 s 112
Inland revenue	Chq. 876	£125.13		LGA 1972 s 112
R Howey – Bus shelters, benches.	Chq. 877	£20.00		Clean Neighborhoods and Environment Act 2005
P Warden - Grasscutting	Chq. 878	£765.60	£127.60	LG(MP)A 1953 s4
AH Contracts –Dog bin clearing.	Chq. 879	£60.00	£10.00	Clean Neighborhoods and Environment Act 2005
J. Nickolls – Flagpole Maint.	Chq. 880	£85.00		LG(MP)A 1953 s4
L Gibbins – Church Hedge	Chq. 881	£60.00		LG(MP)A 1953 s4
BDO – Annual Return	Chq 882	£342.00	£57.00	Acct and Audit regs 2003

Bank balances HSBC Community Account £60,415.20. 16/8/2012

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

**18. Items for next agenda.** Dignity at Work Policy. To consider the introduction of a 20mph speed limit.

### DATE OF NEXT MEETING.

Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> 2012

*There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.19.*

<http://www.harpole.org.uk>