

**MINUTES of the meeting of HARPOLE PARISH COUNCIL held on Oct 20th 2014
at the Old School Hall, School Lane, Harpole at 7.30 pm.**

PRESENT:

Miss S Eason (in the chair)	Mr B Briscoe	Mr D Ballard	Mr E Church	Mrs R Gibbins
Mr J Calderwood	Mr J Green	Mr D Starmer	Mr C Wilkinson	Mrs M Jones
		Cllr J Kirkbride. NCC	8 members of the Public	Clerk, G Ravine

- 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.** Mrs J Jenkinson (Family Funeral) B Gibbins (injury) Mr B Justice (Holiday). Apologies accepted by Council. Cllr A Addison SNC.
- 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** JC Churchyard, Charities, HAT. DB Harpole Action Team. DS regarding land on Manor farm and PFA. RG re allotments. DB re allotments.
- 3 REGISTER OF INTERESTS UPDATE.** None
- 4 PUBLIC DISCUSSION.** The question of a speed limit for Glassthorpe lane was raised, as the new regulations were only in force for an additional 50 yards. The sign installed interfered with visibility from the farm gate. Reference was made to poorly parked cars causing inconvenience. Chair explained that this was a police matter if they block pavements or highways. Parking issues to be highlighted in Newsletter. Cllr JK reported that NCC were working on their budget which was problematic in times of cutbacks.
- 5 APPROVAL OF MINUTES** of the meeting of 15th Sept. 2014. **Resolved.** The minutes were accepted as a true record, and signed.
- 6 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES.** The Pony field gate had been made safe. Responsibility for this was unclear. Council thanked Mr Gibbins for attending to this.
- 7 REPORTS FROM ADVISORY GROUPS.**

Allotments. RG reported that an Allotment Association had been formed, had met and had had a first meeting and around 20 members. They would prioritise jobs. A padlock had been replaced. RG felt a list of contractors would be useful. JG expressed willingness to stand down from Allots committee.

Churchyard. Clock in process of being repaired. War memorial has been cleaned. JC reported that there would be a bulb planting programme.

Resolved. Church hedge to be cut by Louis Gibbins at a cost of £200.
JC reported that Rectory hedge was in need of cutting.

Finance. £10 received from Old School Hall as back rent from 2011 onwards and for the period up to 2020 at £1 per annum. This is a peppercorn rent.

Footpaths. High St water flow still a problem. BB reported that street signs on walls at Larkhall Lane/High St, and High St sign on RH side now illegible. Street sign for Larkhall Way still not replaced. Nothing done about kerb outside church. Sandy lane grips need digging out. Gulleys in and around the Red Lion layby are all blocked. Path outside 19 Glassthorpe Lane has subsided. Trees at Turnpike obscuring light, not felt to be a problem at present. Pathway alongside nursery on Carrs Way a problem, central gulley has sunk. Responsibility for tree outside 48 Larkhall Lane to be checked.

Lighting. Replacement Light in Hall Close was on order. 2 possible sites identified for light that needs relocating on Glassthorpe lane. Lights out at bottom of Chester Ave, and light no 34 on School lane

South View. No report

8 Planning.

S/2014/1748/FUL	22 School Lane	2 storey rear ext, single storey side ext, new entrance porch & detached double garage	No objections –felt that although this application will be seen from footpath at the rear of the land, that it will improve the site
S/2014/1611/OUT	Land to rear of 10 Park Lane	New detached bungalow and parking area (Outline)	New access road will see removal of part ancient Animal Pound Wall. Application seems squashed into the site – imprint of proposal too confining – over development of site. Access for 4.5 is applied for, more than needed for this proposal. The application form (item 12) states that this is not near any watercourse and is not liable to flooding. However silted up pond nearby, and end of Park Lane prone to flood. The access is through open countryside. The driveway is outside of the building line. Feel not enough information to make decision and will ask householders to permit a visit to site. An extension will be asked for and views of neighbouring properties will be sought. Where does the sewerage access the main sewerage?
S/2014/1901/TCA	Green Glassthorpe L/High St	Maple Tree. Crown lift; remove dead wood & slight crown thin. Remove damaged branches to clear BT lines.	

Inspector's Report into the West Northants Joint Core Strategy was discussed. DB reported that 3 areas affect village. Norwood Farm still a part, but the Green space buffer will now be west of sandy lane. The Country Park has gone. The West Northampton SUE would be restricted to a primary school, allotments and green space. The Junction 16 development is restricted to an area between the Red Lion and J16 on the

South side of the A4500. DB felt that this was a good result, and felt that the Inspector had listened to Council's concerns, and had stressed that Harpole should be recognised as an individual village. The report is not yet accepted by the three participating bodies. It is hoped that the Inspector's report will be endorsed in December.

- 9 **Scarecrow** – No chair in place after AGM. Newsletter should mention that if no chair in place, the future of the event may be in doubt. Many team members now have experience and should be able to carry on their work.
- 10 **Red Lion Layby** – The 4 “residents” have been reported to SNC and the police. Police say that they will investigate, but any infringement of parking regulations would be the responsibility of Highways. Clerk to copy Cllr JK into correspondence.
- 11 **BDO External Auditors report.** - BDO reported that the form should have read n/a not zero for Council trust Funds; that minutes had been supplied unsigned, and that no proper report on the appointment of an internal auditor had been given. The Clerk reported that he would have sent photocopies of signed minutes had the auditors asked for them. The appointment of a qualified and suitable internal auditor is automatic for Council as part of the NCALC scheme and paying the subscription shows that this has been done. The internal auditor was also considered in the review of the internal audit. Clerk had consulted new Internal Auditor who felt these were not significant problems. Clerk would ensure that appointment of the internal auditor be minuted separately in future. If minutes were requested in future he would enquire as to whether photocopies of signed minutes were required.
Resolved. Council accepted the BDO report.
- 12 **Clerk's Forum SNC November 27th** **Resolved.** Clerk to attend with appropriate overtime and mileage expenses.
- 13 **Standing Orders – Resolved.** Para 31 of standing orders to be amended to read “Photographing, recording, broadcasting or transmitting the proceedings of a meeting by any means is now permitted provided it does not disrupt the meeting.”
- 14 **New Homes Bonus** – Council considered Playing Field request for £8,000 towards tennis court resurfacing. There was disagreement as to the sum left in Harpole's NHB allocation. Clerk insisted that £8,000 would almost clear Harpole's allocation but would check figures with grants officer. Tennis club members said they had applied for £15000; Clerk failed to understand how this could be serviced by the NHB.
- 15 **Staff Assessment** – Chair and Clerk had completed the Assessment forms and Chair felt the situation was satisfactory and recommended that salary for 2014 -15 be increased by one point to SCP 32 (equivalent to £25536 p/a if full time).
Resolved. Increment allowed as per contract.
- 16 **Bin outside OSH** – Clerk to ask SNC about whether it could be moved. It is felt that the location was now problematic, given that people were putting dog waste into the bin, despite its proximity to a dog bin. MJ to put a sign on it.
- 17 **Report on NCALC AGM on Oct 18th** – Clerk reported that NCALC was in the process of structural change which would mean that grant money had now been exhausted and the subscriptions would have to be increased. The meeting voted for this, feeling that the service was extremely good and would seem very inexpensive when set against the alternative of paying solicitors hundreds of pounds per hour. There is a move towards PCs having uniform websites linked to local government. There was a presentation about localism that concluded that it has not happened and we are actually moving towards larger governmental units rather than seriously devolving powers downwards. Clerk also reported that he had attended a workshop on Election readiness for May 2015 on Council's behalf. The Government is encouraging Councils to show that democracy is alive at the lowest tier of local government by having contested elections. The clerk felt that the fact that forms were not available online and had to be personally handed in by prospective councillors militated against this.
- 18 **Allotment Committee terms of reference.** - **Resolved.** Terms of Reference to be adopted.
- 19 **Grasscutting** – The grasscutting contract for the verges would be put out to tender again for a 3 year contract. Clerk to prepare a contract and maps.
- 20 **Neighbourhood Plan** – DB felt Council should be approaching SNC and asking what the future of the parish was in terms of administration. Should the existing Parish Council take over all the new housing areas, or should these become a separate Parish.
- 21 **Dog Waste** – MJ suggested getting children to design a poster promoting awareness of problems associated with dog waste. Clerk to pursue siting of dog bin in Northampton Rd. Problem perceived to be getting worse and would worsen further with the onset of dark evenings. .
- 22 **Meetings for 2015.** – JJ had drawn attention to the short period between many meetings and the deadline for the newsletter. Changing the day of the meeting was discussed but no conclusion was reached. Discussion deferred. RG to check hall availability.
- 23 **Correspondence**

BDO Audit conclusion.

Came and co Insurance docs.

Highways re Larkhall Way adoption.

Harpole Heritage group – funding request.

NCALC Update

NCC re evacuation plan

- Consultations.

NRHA Annual report

SNC re Housing needs. WNJPU- JCS inspector's report.

Western Power – re lighting inventory.

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

Accounts for payment.	Chq no.	Amount	Incl VAT	Power used
G. Ravine – salary .	Chq. 616	£593.71		LGA 1972 s 112
Inland revenue Tax 145.80 , NI 8.16, Emp NI 9.38	Chq. 617	£163.34		LGA 1972 s 112
R Howey – Bus shelters..	Chq. 618	£20.00		Clean N/hoods & Env/ Act 2005
AH Contracts –Dog bin clearing.	Chq. 619	£75.00	£15.00	Clean N/hoods & Env/ Act 2005
Hampton Print – Newsletter	Chq. 620	£63.00		Local Gv't Act 1972 S111
P Warden - Grasscutting	Chq. 621	£224.00	£37.00	Highways Act 1980 S96
D Gamble – churchyard grass. 2 x invoices	Chq. 622	£384.00	£64.00	LGA1972, s. 214(6)
J Nickolls Flagpole maint	Chq. 623	£190.95		
Eon – lighting maint ¼ ly	Chq. 624	£436.10	£72.68	Parish Councils Act 1957 s3Highways Act 1980 S301
Eon – Streetlighting electricity	Chq. 625	£1274.24	£212.37	Parish Councils Act 1957 s3Highways Act 1980 S301
BDO – External Audit charge	Chq. 626	£240.00	£40.00	
Autela – ¼ ly invoice	Chq. 627	£30.00		
INCOME				
Old School Hall – back rent @ £1 p/a		£10.00		For period 2011 – 2020.
SNC precept		£19,500.00		

22. Accounts for payment.**Resolved** Payments to be made.

Bank balances HSBC Community Account £103311.37 16/10/2014

23. Items for next agenda.

DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS. Nov 17th 2014
There being no further business the meeting closed at.21.35

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