

MINUTES of the meeting of HARPOLE PARISH COUNCIL held on July 11<sup>th</sup> 2016  
at the Old School Hall, School Lane, Harpole at 7.30 pm.

## PRESENT:

Mrs M Jones (in the chair)	Mr B Briscoe	Mr J Calderwood	Mr S Drinkwater	Miss S Eason
Mr B Gibbins	Mrs R Gibbins	Mr. B. Justice	Mr D Starmer	Mr C Wilkinson
		6 members of the Public		Clerk, G Ravine

- 1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.** Cllr J Kirkbride NCC. Cllr D Ballard had resigned since the previous meeting. Chair thanked Mr Ballard for his years of service, and felt he was a great loss. He would continue to be involved with HAT.
- 2 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** RG re allotments. DS re allotments. JC Churchyard, Charities, HAT. DS re PFA, J16. SE HAT, Harpole Charities, School. J16. SD and JC re planning at Upper High St. DS re green wedges in the Neighbourhood Plan. RG re payments.
- 3 **REGISTER OF INTERESTS UPDATE.**  
**Presentation from Barwoods.** Rebecca Mitchell from Barwoods  
Q. Where are the hard copies? This application has been worked on for at least 18 months and yet there is a significant delay in the paperwork. - A. *No requirement to produce hard copies, but will do so. There have been problems finalising some boundaries, no hidden agenda. Apologised for the delay.*  
CW asked whether the timing had been chosen to “get in Quick” before Harpole’s Neighbourhood Plan (NP) was finalised. - A *RB said Barwoods would respond to the NP consultation. The term “limited weight” is national policy with regard to unadopted NPs, and had not meant to sound dismissive.*  
BG brought up the subject of flooding and referred to the experience of Larkhall Way, where the attenuation measures clearly did not work, and the “experts” had not understood the issues and 11 flooding episodes had occurred in 2 years. A. *RB was confident the engineer’s mitigations plans were sound, and was happy to get engineers Peter Brack to speak to Council.*  
Why has it taken you this long to come to PC? The entire application is within Harpole Parish and yet you have not sought to consult with the PC. A. *RB apologised for any misunderstanding, she had felt that previous meetings had been contacts with Harpole PC, and pointed out that she was at a PC meeting now.*  
Your Statement of Community Involvement says, ‘the only constructive feedback was a recommendation to speak to the football club’. No mention that we were strongly against the deviation from the JCS. Surely all feedback is constructive. A. *It was understood village is against the development.*  
Had the WNJCS been adopted when Barwood started their work on the plans? A. *Work had started just afterwards.*  
Why does the proposed school not sit in the middle of the housing development? RG and SE expressed concerns about the location. – A. *RB felt there were pros and cons for the site; there were no rules for siting.*  
How is it possible for the SLRR to deal effectively with all of the traffic that will be using it with a minimum of 3 roundabouts? Concerns were expressed about running a major road through a housing estate, and why the course of the road in the JCS had been changed. A. *RB understood objections, but was confident that Barwoods technical evidence was sound.*  
Why is there a connection between the development and Sandy Lane south of Larkhall Lane? A. *RB said there would be only a private access road N of Larkhall Lane.*  
Why does the plan show a building on the field next to the current playing field? A. *The building is not definite; it is shown as an aspiration for the PFA.*
- 4 **PUBLIC DISCUSSION.** None.
- 5 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** of the meeting of June 13<sup>th</sup> 2016, and EGM of June 27<sup>th</sup> **Resolved.** The minutes were accepted as a true record and were signed by the Chair.
- 6 **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES.** Clerk reminded to follow up reports on dog at 54 Garners Way.
- 7 **Co-option of a Councillor.** There were 2 candidates. Michael Merkatis and Peter Marlow. A co-option committee had met and recommended both candidates.  
**Resolved.** Peter Marlow and Michael Merkatis co-opted on to Council.
- 8 **REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES and ADVISORY GROUPS.**  
**Allotments. Resolved.** Mr Nickolls quote for £225 for work on Sycamore hedge accepted.  
RG reported that the plotholder referred to last month would be given notice if no change had occurred by July 15<sup>th</sup>. The Allotments Association are making plans for the site that will require funding.  
**Churchyard.** JC reported that there had been complaints about the churchyard; he thanked John Gibbins for his help with grasscutting and weeding. Work on the Yew trees had been done. A meeting would take place with Patrick Green to discuss extending the churchyard. **Resolved.** Louis Gibbins quote for £200 for work on the North hedge accepted.  
**Finance.** The Clerk reported that £15,119.58 of Section 106 money from that Hall Farm development was available

for a contribution towards upgrading existing recreation/open space provision.

**Highways/ Footpaths.** A lengthy and detailed list of potholes etc. had resulted from the Village Walk. Clerk had reported all to Streetdoctor, and apparently to good effect. Work had already started on some areas. Further complaints about the Buddleia at 20 Carrs Way. The hedge on Carrs way from nursery to junction (62 Larkhall Lane) is overgrown

**Lighting.** Clerk had cancelled maintenance contract with Eon and was in the process of switching to Aylesbury mains as requested.

**South View.** BJ reported that the seat on the corner of Sandy Lane was overgrown and felt it should be strimmed around. Some cutting of vegetation had occurred on the south side of the A4500 and in the centre reservation. This had been clumsily done. State of road around the roundabout very poor, despite assurances it would be dealt with after the flooding episodes. Clerk had written to contractor withdrawing the contract to rebuild the bus shelters, as he had not been in contact this year.

## 9 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT & Financial Matters.

	Accounts for payment.	Chq no.	Amount	Incl VAT	Power used
1	SNC – re planning application	Chq 1252	£845.00		Local Govnt Act 1972, ss.124, 126, 127
2	G. Ravine – salary	Chq 1253	£856.59		LGA 1972 s 112
3	Inland revenue. Tax £11.00 Nis £24.00 Emp Nis £27.05	Chq 1254	£62.05		LGA 1972 s 112
4	R Howey- Bus shelter	Chq 1255	£20.00		Clean N/hoods & Env/ Act 2005
5	AH Contracts- Dog bins	Chq 1256	£72.00	£12.00	Clean N/hoods & Env/ Act 2005
6	Hampton Print – newsletter	Chq 1257	£68.95		Local Gv't Act 1972 S111
7	P Warden – Grasscutting Verges	Chq 1258	£448.80	£74.80	Highways Act 1980 S96
8	R Gibbins – Allots expenses	Chq 1259	£67.67		Allotment Act
9	E-on - Streetlighting	Chq 1260	£1629.46	£271.58	Highways Act 1980 S301
10	Nicholls Landscaping – Flagpole maintenance	Chq 1261	£95.00		Parish Councils Act 1957 s3
11	E-on final maintenance payment	Chq 1262	£456.62	£76.10	Highways Act 1980 S301
12	L Gibbins – Yew tree work in Churchyard.	Chq 1263	£530.00		LGA 1972, s. 215

**Bank Balances HSBC 16/6/2016** £91,423.11

**Resolved.** Payments to be made.

- 10 **Planning. Norwood Farm.** A meeting had been held on June 28<sup>th</sup> to keep the village informed. Another meeting with Upton, Duston, Harlestone and Kislingbury had also taken place; with the other villages surprised at much of the information. A further extension could be had for the application. SR wondered whether a “fighting fund” could be established for requesting legal advice. Clerk advised that it would not be feasible for payments to be made between meetings without the consent of the full council. This need not be the case if a grant was given to the Harpole Action Team

S/2016/1324/EIA	Norwood Farm	Hybrid planning application seeking both full and outline planning for a sustainable urban extension comprising: 1,900 dwellings etc.	ongoing
S/2016/1276/FUL	44 High Street	Erection of a timber framed rear garden room.	Approved
S/2016/1210/FUL	43 Carrs Way	2 storey side extension and first floor dormer extension to rear.	No Objections
S/2016/1149/FUL	9 Orchard Way	Proposed single storey extension to front	No Objections

**Resolved.** Comments to be passed to SNC.

- 11 **Internal Auditor reports.** Last year the internal audit identified the following issues
- the level of free cash reserves (approx. £52,500) compared to the precept of £39,000
  - options for acquiring land for additional cemetery space, specifically whether options exist for this need to be accommodated through developer contribution as part of the planned housing development in the parish
  - the earmarked pension / gratuity for the Clerk, in the light of the impending reforms for workplace pensions that apply to all employers including the Council
  - the proper conduct and recording in the Minutes of the budgeting and precepting processes
  - the failure to review and (re)confirm the asset register during the audit year.
- He felt that these had not been dealt with, and Clerk and Council therefore created an action plan to deal with them which was accepted by the Internal Auditor, and was submitted to the External Auditor. In this year’s report he identified these additional items.
- a claim for recovery of VAT for years 2014-15 and 2015-16 was submitted in January 2016 but that the repayment of £6039.96 was not made by HMRC until 07 April 2016. Clearly, a further reclaim for the current year will have to be submitted during the course of this year.
  - the website no longer displays the Council’s Minutes; the last available Minutes date from October 2014. I understand that the site is maintained on a goodwill basis by a parishioner and that it was ‘hacked’ some time ago, but in the light of the Transparency Code it is perhaps appropriate for the Council to now investigate whether a more formal i.e. commercial approach to the operation and maintenance of the site is appropriate.

Clerk would forward a request for a VAT refund at the appropriate time. Council would be looking at an alternative website.

- 12 **Country park Application.** Application in progress. CW distributed plans of the scheme that had been approved at the EGM. Landowners would be informed.  
**Resolved.** Council agrees with the support report (finalised by HAT) being handed in with the planning application.  
 DS abstained. Duston and Harlestone would be informed.
- 13 **Youth Club – Resolved.** Grant request for £3500 to be paid from Section 106 monies. Clerk to approach SNC.
- 14 **Churchyard extension.** – Meeting to take place with Green family. The amount of space needed was difficult to assess. An extension cemetery might need to be considered in the future.
- 15 **Village Signs.** – Deferred.
- 16 **Neighbourhood Plan** – SR reported that the consultation would end next week, and that there had been 14 e-mail responses thus far. Feedback was being collated and reports being refined.
- 17 **Scarecrow event.** – MJ gave a report on a recent meeting.
- 18 **Website** – situation to be discussed at September meeting.
- 19 **CORRESPONDENCE.** –

*L Barras/ J Harrison/H Howard – re parking on Npton Rd – noted.*  
*G Bransbie – re Yellow lines in School Lane, Motts – not felt practical at this time.*  
*Came and Co – name change – noted.*  
*ERTA - re Roade forum – noted.*  
*L Bailey SNC – re Barwoods– noted.*  
*NCC flood consultation – circulated*

*SNC - [SHELAA] Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment - Invitation to Join. – circulated*  
*SNC - (SAConsult) Sustainability Appraisal Consultation - Invitation to Join - Circulated*  
*SNC re Section 106 – noted.*  
*L Studley – re Churchyard. – noted.*  
*Youth Club accounts/ reports. – noted.*  
*P Blantyre/J Shepherd re Norwood Farm – noted.*

SNC – South Northants Council NCC– Northamptonshire County Council NHB – New Homes Bonus, 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. JCS. Joint Core Strategy. SDF (Strategic Development Framework)

- 20 Items for next agenda.
- 21 **DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS.** Highways Committee. July 25<sup>th</sup>. Full Meeting Aug 8<sup>th</sup>, would be Planning and Finance only.

*There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.51*

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