

# Harpole Parish Council Newsletter

Issue 04

Meeting held on April 10<sup>th</sup> 2017



## **Annual Parish Meeting – reports from various organisations were received.**

### **Present:**

Mrs M Jones (Chair), Miss S. Eason, Mrs S. Roberts, Mrs R. Gibbins, Mr M. Marketis, Mr J. Calderwood, Mr B. Gibbins, Mr B. Justice, Mr C. Wilkinson, Mr D. Starmer, Mr P. Marlow & Clerk G. Ravine.

### **Apologies:**

Mr B. Briscoe & Mr S. Drinkwater, also Cllrs A. Addison, K. Cooper & J. Kirkbride.

### **Chairman's Report:**

Maxine Jones presented this report highlighting the work which has been done over the past 12 months. Including subjects on highways, fly tipping, potholes, the Red Lion Lay-by, Hat & planning issues, the Neighbourhood Plan, communication, allotment & future changes to the area.

Thanks go to Maxine for a very full report & for all her hard work.

### **Financial Report:**

Presented to the meeting by the Clerk.

The Annual Precept requested by the PC stays the same as last year standing at £39000. Expenditure consists of lighting, admin, a salary for the Clerk, insurance, bus shelters, notice boards, allotments, churchyard, highways & grants to other organisations. Income is received from Section 106 grants, allotments, water rates, churchyard burial fees, donations & NCC grass cutting.

### **District & County Council Report:**

In the absence of both District & County Councillors the report received was a joint one on news from SNC for the 2016/2017 Council Year.

Council Tax proposed increase of 2% - average £5 on band D. A reduction of 18.85% in the Government Grant. New Homes Bonus continues to be paid out, car parking in Towcester. Retirement of Sue Smith Joint Chief Executive & replaced by Yvonne Rees. Kislingbury Neighbourhood Plan has been granted approval by the inspector – referendum 4<sup>th</sup> May the same day as County Council elections.

### **Village Organisation Reports:**

Jenny Smith presented reports from Heritage – thriving although needs new members. And Clasp – plans for a dig in 2018. AGM held at the Bowls Club since receiving reports about excellent facilities for meetings. Currently housed in Norton however looking for larger permanent premises. Thank you to Parish Council for assisting them with a grant for the work they do.

### **Harpole Charities report presented by Mary Burt.**

First instalment of money for the sale of the Charity Land received in December. Assets include Duck Lane cottage. Distribution of money to oldest lady & gentleman from the Coat & Gown fund, also from the Bread & Coal fund, as well as payments given in recognition to those whose lives are changed in caring for others. Trustees are appointed by the Parish Council & include the Church Rector as ex officio. A joint umbrella charity had been formed to handle the large amounts of money, it is anticipated that this will be closed once all of the funds have been received & each charity (Harpole Charities & the Free School Charity) will continue in their own right.

### **Youth Club presented by Sharon Matthews.**

Currently 40 on the role. Trips out including Willen Lakes & Boost. Building has refurbished with Financial Assistance. Building being used for party bookings, assistance given by young people doing their DoF. Senior sessions unfortunately ceased due to low attendance. Thank you to the PC representatives for help on committee.

### **Pre-School Presented by Sharon Matthews.**

A successful year for families both inside and outside of the village. Voluntary run committee of 13 mums with a passion for running the group. Acknowledgement of parking issues, however ongoing work to try to alleviate the problems.

Thanks go to Sharon for all her hard work with the youth throughout the village.

### **Old School Hall Presented by Sharon Matthews.**

Another steady year, bookings are keeping the place ticking over. Redecoration of some of the rooms and corridor. The environmental Health have again rated the kitchen area a '5'. Advice was received from Environmental Health that the urn should not be on a stand as it is not safe and needs to be put away for the rating to stay. The outdoor area has been tidied up & any odd jobs are completed as & when they arise. This group is struggling for members and the Treasurer is standing down at the agm.

WI Read out by Rita Gibbins. Interesting programme including oils, wreaths, corn dollies and garden birds. Annual dinner at Bowls Club, bowling at Kingsthorpe, baking, crafts and sporting games. Filling of shoeboxes, freezer at Cynthia Spencer & selling of raffle tickets. Visiting other areas & keeping a constant presence in the village at fund raising events.

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#### Playing field Presented by David Starmer.

Lucky with the weather for the Car Boot Sales, this is the main source of income. Improvements have included New Gates, which have been funded from grants. Thank you to the volunteers on the committee & for the Parish Council for their help with applying for the grants.

#### Allotments Presented by John Gibbins.

The Allotment Association is now in its third year of existence. Significant improvements are taking place with the School Boundary, planting of the orchard near the bowls club, Bee World, & Micro Plots. Work for the future included improved security & an upgrade on the water system. They have 24 paid up members with more on the horizon. Thank you to the PC for the maintenance grant.

#### Bowls Club Prepared by Fred Watson & read out by the Clerk.

2016 saw the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. There is ongoing work to improve the facilities to become one of the best in the country. Following a 'dip' in members, membership stands at just below 90. New members are always welcome. They run a varied programme of social events, as well as matches to suit all abilities.

#### Neighbourhood Watch Prepared by David Ballard & read out by the Clerk.

NW continues to function throughout the village. Information & emails are sent out periodically to keep all updated.

Main meeting followed the Parish Meeting.

#### **Public Discussion:**

Representatives from South View attended & asked for street lights to be put back in along the service road in front of the house. Cyclists pass this area frequently & as the street is unlit, it is very dangerous for anyone backing out of their drives to see pedestrians & road users. The Council felt annoyed with a suggestion from highways that it was Harpole PC that removed them; the PC agreed to support the venture & a request will be made to reinstate lighting in this area.

#### **Neighbourhood Plan:**

The inspector has agreed with a few minor adjustments the plan can now go to Referendum. Hat is to meet on Wednesday to discuss the adjustments & then it will go to SNC Policy Committee in June, who will decide a date for the Referendum.

#### **Clasp:**

The PC agreed for a grant to go towards supporting the 'Dig' at Barn Farm in 2018.

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#### **Red Lion Lay-By:**

Following reports of unknown ownership & further investigation a site meeting took place at the layby to discuss the problems within this area. The area owned by Highways will have a regular litter pick done, rubbish bins will also be erected.

#### **Planning:**

S/2017/0545/FUL – 16 Glassthorpe Lane - Replace conservatory with flat roof & lantern, build up brickwork. **This cannot be seen from the street - No objections raised.**

S/2017/0491/FUL – 9 Chester Avenue - Single Storey Side Extension. **Still has adequate room for parking – No objections raised.**

S/2017/0459/FUL – Grange Farm Upper High Street - Extend existing shed used for selling, picking fruit & new disabled WC. **Meeting supports this application – need to encourage local industry.**

S/2017/0461/FUL – Jubilee House, 55 Garners Way - Replacement of rear back door & window with French doors & replace all of the windows & door in garage.

**No objections raised.**

S/2017/0458/TCA – 56 Upper High Street – The felling & removal of one Norway spruce.

S/2017/0341/TCA – 6 Park Lane – The felling & removal of one Oak Tree. **Both sent for information only.**

S/2017/0443/FUL – Wilsons Farm, Glassthorpe Lane – Agricultural Building. **No objections. Will ask if there is any Section 106 money to improve the road, due to the increased heavy transport using this area.**

S/2017/0462/NA – Upton Lodge Farm, Weedon Road – Neighbouring Authority Consultation. Residential development of up to 1,400 no units, a mixed use local centre including appropriate retail, healthcare & community facilities, a new primary school, areas of public open space, play provision & structured landscaping, internal roads & all associated infrastructure & demolition of existing shed at Upton Lodge Farm (outline planning application with matters of layout, appearance, landscaping & scale being reserved for subsequent approval).

**The meeting felt that all of these planning applications are making plans for Primary Schools with no consideration for a much needed Secondary School. No-one is making any plans for a New Hospital – all of these new applications for housing, creating more stressful problems on the already struggling medical facilities. These need building first before the housing! The land in this area is very steep and sandy with subject to Land Slippage. The road to nowhere needs to be finished to take all of the extra traffic, feeding it in to the road network. Drainage needs improving under the A4500 and beyond – this area feeds down on to the flood plain.**

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## Planning Continued:

**It is very difficult to look at this application in isolation of all of the other applications. Does it comply with the Strategic Development Framework?**

## Date of next meetings:

The next highways meeting is on Monday April 24<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. The next PC Meeting which is the Annual General Meeting is on Monday May 8<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm.

If you have anything to discuss or just want to listen – you are invited & will be most welcome to ALL Parish Council meetings.  
Come along & have your say - let us know your views.

Full copies of all reports are available from the Clerk, in the minutes on the locked board on the outside of the OSH & will eventually be on the website.

Check out the website: [www.harpole.org.uk](http://www.harpole.org.uk)

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