

HARROLD PARISH COUNCIL – Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held 2nd November 2011 at the Harrold Institute (Centre) 7.30pm

132

Present: Cllr N. Charsley (Chairman), Cllrs R. Barrett (RB), P. Hickman (PH), M. Johnston (MJ),

L. Moore (LM), J. Osborne (JO), John Waller (JW), B. Cllr Alison Foster.

In attendance: one parishioner (Nick Bowers)

Cllr Charsley indicated that he was prepared to chair the meeting, in the absence of Cllrs Knight and Tickle. Council members present were unanimously in agreement that Cllr Charsley chair the meeting.

- 1. Apologies:** Cllrs. J. Knight, R. Tickle, W. Ross, L. Cordes. Bedfordshire Police.
- 2. Disclosure of interests:** Cllr Charsley indicated that he had a personal and prejudicial interest with item No. 8 planning application no: 11/02157/LBC – 4 Dove Lane, Harrold as this was his own property.
- 3. Approval of Minutes of meeting held 5th October:** these minutes were deemed a true record of the meeting held on this date and signed off by Cllr Charsley.
- 4. Matters arising from meeting held 5th October: New Road** repairs to highway still need to be carried out. Andrew Prigmore has written to owner requesting this work as the road is a private road and not under the responsibility of the Borough Council. Clerk will pass on relevant Land Registry map to Cllr Hickman to follow up if necessary. **Coleman Properties** – land to the left hand side of Roman Paddock – Council confirmed again that this land is intended for commercial use and not residential. Cllr Charsley will contact Paul Vann at Borough Council to find out if there are any further steps the Parish Council can take to improve this area of land.
- 5. Police report:** in the absence of the Police, the Clerk read out a short report given to her shortly before the meeting. There have been 2 incidents of criminal damage to commercial buildings in the High Street (smashed windows), 1 burglary to dwelling on the High Street (nothing taken), criminal damage to vehicle in Harrold Odell Country Park and one report of ASB– although this is fairly quiet over the past month, the Police urge residents to be vigilant.

At this point of the meeting a parishioner, Nick Bowers, asked to speak to Council, this was agreed by Council. On several recent occasions Mr Bowers has experienced problems gaining access to his property, no. 47 High Street. He has spoken to Andrew Prigmore at Highways who has agreed to paint in a hatched area from the footway in front of Harrold Garage to his front door. Council support this action by the Borough Council as the land belongs to Highways. Council has also

asked for the white line indicating the footway across the garage forecourt to be re-painted, so that pedestrians are fully aware that the footway exists. Police are aware of the situation.

6. **Finance report:** request for payment were made to the Council, see attachment (6.1) and agreed. Clerk has made arrangements with the external auditor for a time extension for the internal audit of the year end accounts to be completed within the next two weeks. Clerk now has a new mobile phone for all parish council business (07791488080). Clerk is still waiting for information on the bottle bank (Bromham for information). Clerk has obtained a couple of quotations for work on the village green Lime trees – Council would like the Borough tree team to carry out an inspection first, before any work commences. A request from the Harrold Network Group for help with funding towards equipment has been received. Council would like to see a list of the equipment before agreeing any finances – this will be presented at the next meeting. A quotation from Came & Company has been received for the next year's Parish Council Insurance. This was discussed and agreed. A new asset register is being prepared and there is no additional increase in premium.
7. **Borough Councillor's Report:** Alison Foster confirmed that a meeting has been organised for the 9th December so that the Bus services can talk to concerned parishioners. Stagecoach, Grant Palmer, Bedford Borough Council and Parish Council will attend this meeting which is open to all members of the public. Water hydrants around the village – who is responsible for these? Cllr Foster will investigate, as at least one hydrant near to the garage has been vandalised. Podington Wind Farm Appeal – 13th December for 4 days. Cllr Foster encouraged the Parish Council to endorse their previous objections. New restrictions around the village green will be implemented within the next couple of weeks. Cllr Foster has had meetings with the Head teachers at the schools and also with concerned local residents over the proposed bus bays in the High Street. All parties, including the Borough and Parish Councils, are looking to make this area as safe as possible for the children.
8. **Planning Applications: Cllr Charsley left the room at this point (interest).**
11/02157/LBC – 4 Dove Lane – replace two windows – Council had no objections. Cllr Charsley returned to the meeting. **Podington Wind Farm Appeal:** Council needs to endorse previous objections and send in letter to the Inspector. The appeal starts on the 13th December – Council to agree on any further objections by the next PC meeting on December 7th. Nun Wood wind farm – decision is due out on the 18th November. An application from Wellingborough Council 2 wind turbines at Tower Farm, Wooleston for another wind farm has been forward on to Harrold PC – Clerk to write and object to proposals. 9 Odell Road: Cllr Foster advised that the Planning Department intend to carry out a site visit.
9. **Areas of Responsibility Reports: Church yard & Cemetery** – Cllr Charsley reported that there has been a small amount of sustandence at the narrow end of the Cemetery – this area will be watched for any future problems. **Brook:** very low

water at the moment, but the brook has been de-silted. Cllr Waller found several small, dead fish – he will ring the Environment Agency.

Common Land: area around the War Memorial to be cleared of litter etc for the 13th November. Metal gate to memorial needs fixing. Thanks to everyone who helped out at the recent community litter pick and bulb planting event held on 29th October. Several community groups will help out with bulb planting if the Clerk can supply them with bulbs. **Footpaths:** FP2 (Back way) needs attention at the back of the 20 High Street – Cllr Osborne has spoken to the owner, but will do so again (over hanging tree/hedge). Persistent dog fouling on some footpaths and in Harrold Centre playground, Clerk to request a visit from the Dog Warden.

Playgrounds: Harrold Centre Playground – repairs still need doing. Cllr Barrett is looking into new playground equipment, will send quotation to Clerk. **PR:** one resident a little concerned about the b.p.c.a. questionnaire. **Highways/lighting:** Cllr Hickman will compile a street light/drain report for the next meeting. BT phone boxes (2 in village) not working and need attention, Clerk to report.

Youth Services/Youth Club: a questionnaire has gone out to teenagers (with a small incentive prize at the end), awaiting the results. Clerk has found a potential Youth Leader. **Neighbourhood Watch:** waiting for Police to come back with possible dates for a meeting of NW. There is a quarterly meeting of Bedford NW on 24th November
St. Peter's Church: Clock is currently not working- going back to Smiths.

- 10. Reports from Parish Council representatives:** **Harrold Playing Field Ass** - Quiz is on 18th November. No report. **Harrold Centre:** plans have been passed. Need to create a body of people to fundraise and create a business plan. Cllr Waller would like to attend the next meeting (date t.b.c.) Looking into the possibility of crafting a scale model of the new Harrold Centre. **Harrold on Line:** Next meeting 7th November. 2012 calendars on sale from 5th November @ £7 each.
- 11. Correspondence:** a list of correspondence was circulated to Council for information, see appendix (11.1)
- 12. Summary of actions:** the Chairman summarised actions from the above reported items.
- 13. Date of next meeting** – Wednesday 7th December 2011 - 7.30pm. If it is necessary a Finance meeting will be called before the 7th December for council only.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.30pm.