

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held 8th September 2010 in the Red Room at Harrold Centre 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr J Knight (Chairman), Borough Cllr. N Charsley, Cllr. R. Barrett, P. Hickman, T. Storer, R. Tickle, N. Bransgrove-Knight (Clerk).

1. **Apologies:** Cllr J. Wingerath, D. Williams, Bedfordshire Police, Paul Vann.
2. **Disclosure of interest:** None.
3. **Approval of Minutes from Parish Council meeting held 7th July 2010:** minutes were correct and signed off by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting.
4. **Matters arising from meeting held 7th July 2010:** all financial papers relating to end of year accounts were agreed at the Finance meeting held on 11th August 2010 and sent of to the External Auditor, BDO.
5. **Police report:** apologies from PC Rob Smith, but a police report was sent to the Clerk and circulated at the meeting to all Councillors. Police had suggested that we might like to consider having a youth shelter in the village - Clerk to contact Harrold-Odell Country Park to find out if there is any feasibility in having a youth shelter in the park area.
6. **Finance report:** Reports received from BDO, the External Auditors, and circulated to all Councillors who are aware and in agreement with all suggestions made. Cllr Williams will go through the reports after this meeting. Council have asked the Finance sub-committee to have a report/recommendation for the next parish council meeting. All payments put forward for payment were authorised and signed off by two signatories. As the Royal Bank of Scotland have still not confirmed that the new Mandate is in place, the Clerk will not post off the cheques until the Business Manager from RBS has been in contact. Clerk to attend new Clerks Course, starting in October. **DW/RT/Clerk**
7. **Borough Councillor's report:** Nick Charsley and the Clerk attended the **Neighbourhood Watch Roadshow**. Very good turnout and positive feedback. **Mayor Dave Hodgson** visited Harrold on 2nd September, meeting local parishioners on the village green. **Paul Vann** sent his apologies and asked Nick to read out his proposal (already circulated to Councillors via email) regarding renewable energy sources, principally for the Village Centre. The Chairman stated that as the Parish Council does not own the Harrold Centre an therefore could not make any decisions - Cllr Storer will take the proposal to the next Village Centre meeting. **TS**
8. **Planning applications:** **10/01839/FUL** - 49 High Street, Harrold - single storey side extension - Council had no objections to this application. **10/02092/COU** - 68 High Street, Harrold - change of use from (B1) office to (C3) residential. Demolition of existing single storey side extension. Single storey side/rear extension. Detached car port. Creation of 3 no. Public parking spaces - Council objected to this application on the grounds that this area is designated for business use. Council would prefer small, local business units. It was resolved that Cllr Knight and Borough Councillor Charsley arrange a meeting with Ronald Mackay at Bedford Borough Council (Planning) to discuss further. All other planning applications received by the Council within the July/August period

Planning applications cont/

have been dealt with by Council (see appendix (1) for full list.

- 9. Areas of Responsibility Reports. Cemetery and Churchyard:** the Memorial Wall is now completed. Area behind the wall has been cleared by Richard (village handyman) and awaits further seeding/planting with Wildflower seeds etc. **Clerk** to contact Clophill nursery to obtain a quotation. **Brook:** Cllr Williams sent her apologies and had emailed a report to the Clerk - the usual rubbish has been removed by Richard on a number of occasions. It was noted that Richard continues to carry out a very high standard of work maintaining the Brook. **Common land:** grass cutting by the contractor continues to be a problem, the July cuts were both too short and in August no cutting was undertaken on the Council's recommendation. The Clerk had a site visit with the Contractor and it was agreed that general maintenance work would be carried out to all areas during this month. Village green - continual problems with sections of chain link fencing being removed and wooden posts being vandalised. The timer at the Butter Market lighting has been reset and new padlocks fitted on the box. **Footpaths:** 'Wellocks' footpath is currently being re-fenced by the Developer to Long Ridge, but the footpath surface still needs to be repaired - Bedfordshire Highways are aware of the situation and will follow up on the Clerk's report. **Playgrounds:** Saxon House End playground - gate needs repairing (this is in hand). The area used for football is very badly damaged after the summer months - review this at the next meeting. Equipment will need wood preservative treatment in the coming months - review at next meeting. The 2010 ROSPA report was being scrutinised by Cllr Wingerath - in his absence he had emailed the Clerk to say that there were no immediate concerns to either the Saxon house End or Harrold Centre playground. To follow up at next meeting. One parishioner had emailed the Council to say that he would like to see more equipment in the playgrounds - Council agreed that the village is currently well served with two playgrounds containing good equipment. In addition, there is a very good Skate Park area within the Country Park which the Council installed within the last few years. **Public Relations:** Clerk submitted article for the Nov/Dec edition of 'The Bridge'. "Bulky Waste" collection are on the 9th/10th October. The Community Litter Pick is on the 30th October. All notices will be placed on the Notice Board and around the village. **Highways and Lighting:** Cllr Hickman will carry out a full survey of the village and report at the next meeting. Clerk stated that she has been regularly reporting faulty lights, potholes and general Highways issues to Bedford Borough Council. **Youth Services and Youth Club:** Cllr Storer said that until more parents signed up for the weekly rota the Youth Club will not be held. It is her aim to hold two sessions on Fridays this term - 6.30pm to 8pm for years 5, 6 and 7 and 8pm to 9.30pm for year 8 and above. It was agreed to employ the Youth Leader from 6pm until 10pm (half an hour at the beginning/end of each full session). All paperwork to be returned to the Clerk who will then make contact with parents, requesting help with the weekly rota. **Harrold Centre:** no report, Cllr Storer will give feedback at next meeting. **Neighbourhood Watch:** Clerk reported that the group

continues to expand. Smart Water is available to parishioners at a discounted price (£10 per unit). Richard Dowsett (Ranger at the Country Park) will provide Community Payback workers for casual work around the village - Council very keen to follow this offer up - Clerk to liaise with him over dates/locations. **St. Peter's Church Clock:** a quotation has been received from Smiths of Derby for the refurbishment of the clock faces. Council resolved to accept "Option 2" (£7,218.00 plus VAT) - Cllr Hickman to contact Smiths and arrange start date. There will be an additional cost for more scaffolding, Cllr Hickman will obtain this. Clerk will liaise with the Church Warden. There has been one complaint from a parishioner that the clock chimes are too frequent (currently every quarter hour). The Council agreed that this is the regular chime pattern for the clock and will not be changed.

- 10. Reports from Parish Council Representatives: Harrold Playing Field Association:** no meeting in August. A parish council representative has still to be appointed to attend monthly meetings. Clerk will attend the September meeting. **Harrold-on-Line Website:** no recent meetings. A 2011 calendar will be printed in the near future. Further update at next meeting. **Pit Run 2010:** no follow up yet.
- 11. Correspondence:** a list was circulated to Council before the meeting (see appendix (2)) for actions to be taken.
- 12. Summary of Actions:** Finance sub-committee to prepare future guidelines and recommendations on Bank efficiency . Clerk to contact Country Park - possible Youth Shelter. Cllr Storer to take Renewal Energy proposal to the Village Centre. Quotation for Wildflower seeds/plants. Follow up on ROSPA report. Cllr Hickman - Highways survey/report. Youth Club start date. Community Payback volunteers - Clerk/Richard Dowsett. Cllr Hickman to obtain quotation for extra scaffolding. Councillors to be asked to take up extra areas of responsibility. New Councillors are needed on Council, to fill recent vacancies.
- 13. Date of next meeting:** Wednesday 6th October - 7.30pm at the Harrold Centre.

There being no further business, the meeting finished at 10pm.