

MINUTES of meeting held 4th February 2009 in the Red Room, Harrold Centre 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr. J Knight (Chair), Cllrs. N. Charsley (8pm), N. Grout, T. Storer, C. Thacker, R. Tickle, D. Williams, J. Wingerath, R. Watts.

In attendance: none.

- 1. Apologies for absence:** Cllrs. H. Bovis, B. Diskin, P. Hickman
PCSO Allan Taylor, PC Rob Smith.
- 2. Disclosure of Interest:** none.
- 3. Approval of minutes:** minutes of meeting held 7th January 2009 approved as a true record of the meeting.
- 4. Matters arising from January meeting:** CCTV – ongoing work, Clerk to liaise with Sygma Security Systems Ltd. Youth – follow up from Cllr. Storer at point (9) of these minutes. Police – update from J.A.G. meeting held in January – Cllr. Tickle is now the Chair of this group. Flooding outside HOCP and High Street pothole problems – ongoing work with Beds. County Council Highways section.
- 5. Police report:** police report circulated to all councillors present. Overall view is that crime in the village is much quieter at the moment. The suggestion of part funding a Speed Gun with Wymington Parish Council was discussed, but it was felt at the moment there is no need for extra monitoring of speeding above what is already provided by the local police. (5i) Resolved – not to part fund.
- 6. Finance report:** requests for payment were agreed. New office for clerk – this has now been finalised and agreed (to include all utilities, office furniture – but not telephone). Computer and associated requirements to be purchased. New contract to be drawn up for Clerk by Cllrs. Thacker and Grout, increasing hours of work to 60 per month.
- 7. Borough Councillor's report:** Working towards the Unitary takeover on 1st April 2009. B. Cllr. Charsley reported that there will be an extra one million pounds for Highways in the next financial year. Rural Grants – there will be £250K available in the next financial year (2009/10).
- 8. Planning applications:** **08/03404/FUL** – 39 Roman Paddock- conservatory to rear – no objections. **09/00127/FUL** 68 High Street – single storey and dormer extensions to premises. Change of use to A1 (shops), A2 (financial or professional services) or A3 (restaurants & cafes) or class B1 (a) offices. Use of 1st and 2nd floor for 2 class 3c residential units – objections:- car parking provision, more spaces needed, public transport system could not support

1. **Cont/** potential customers, Waiting restrictions would need to be imposed in Roman Paddock and adjacent areas. Dormer window extension too large and over-looking neighbours. The Parish Council do, however, support any improvement of this particular area and general state of the building.

9. Areas of responsibility reports.

Cemetery and Church Yard: the stump grinding company will carry out work within the next couple of weeks, depending on weather conditions. There has been a good response from the parishioners concerning whether or not to replant trees – the majority requesting that no replanting takes place at the present time. Memorial Wall – Cllr Thacker has sent letters and photographs to Jon Copland, who has replied. Clerk to contact John Creasey to arrange a site visit with Cllr. Thacker, so that plans can be drawn up for the extension of the Wall. Cllr Thacker proposed that the cemetery fees are increased by 10%, as from this meeting, as there has been no increase for several years. (9.i) Resolved to put up the fees by 10% - all councillors in agreement.

Brook: much clearer at the moment. An overhanging tree has been removed from footpath no. 4 (back of High Street/Dove Lane) by contractor.

Common Land: various issues regarding several areas around the village had had been raised by a concerned resident – council has noted these and action, if possible, will be taken with the appropriate authorities.

Footpaths: no problems at present.

Playgrounds: village handyman has repainted the seating areas in the Centre Playground – other areas will be done within the next few months. Harewelle Playground is still under Redrow. The fence and gate have been repaired at the Saxon Gate playground.

Public relations: unlawful or abusive communications to the parish council any individual will not be tolerated and will be forwarded on to the Police. The Clerk will move into the new office – Greystones Court, 22a High Street, Harrold, Beds MK43 7DQ during February.

Highways/lighting: the parish council are keeping up regular communications with Beds. County Council regarding the problem of potholes etc in the High Street and the flooding problem outside the entrance to HOCP. The pathway across the village green is needs resurfacing, request a site visit from Highways. Harrold Bridge traffic lights – problems with recent graffiti.

Youth Services: youth consultation has taken place – Cllr Storer gave a summary of the ‘R U Bothered’ paper. Very positive result from the youngsters who seem very keen to setup a ‘group’. Cllr Storer will now start a sub-committee of the parish council (TS, NG, RW and the Clerk) to take this proposal forward. Harrold Parish Council are interested in part subsidising a minibus to bring teenagers back from Bedford on a Saturday night (no Home Hoppa service available to Harrold or Carlton). This would be done in partnership with Carlton and Chellington Parish Council – Clerk will advise costs at next meeting.

Planning gain committee: no report. Tennis Club have signed a new 25 year lease with the Harrold Centre.

Neighbourhood Watch: Cllr Watts would like to step down from this

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responsibility giving an acceptable reason to the parish council. The Clerk will cover this role for the time being.

10. Reports from Parish Council Representatives.

Playing Field Association: electrical repairs have been carried out on the Scout Hut, the hut is insured and the Scout Group are looking into negotiating a new lease with the P.F.A. The A.G.M will be held on 24th February.

Harrold Centre: no report.

Harrold on line: group hope to become self-financing. Will be changing their server. Cllr Tickle will find out if the new ideas, suggested at the last meeting by J. Knight, have been implanted yet.

11. Correspondence: a list of all correspondence was circulated to all councillors. Clerk will implement any action which is necessary.

12. Summary of actions: the Chairman summarised actions:- Cemetery fees to increased by 10%, site inspection for Memorial wall, Youth sub-committee, NHW – new coordinator.

13. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 4th March – 7.30pm.

Apologies received from Cllrs T. Storer and J. Wingerath as they cannot attend this meeting.

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