

Harrold Parish Council – Minutes of meeting held 2nd March 2011- 7.30pm at the Harrold Centre (Red Room) 111

Present: Cllr R Tickle (in the Chair), Cllrs R Barrett, N Charsley (Borough Councillor), P.Hickman, T. Storer, D. Williams. One parishioner – Jenny Osborne.

- 1. Apologies:** Cllr J Knight
- 2. Disclosure of interests:** none
- 3. Minutes of the meeting held 2nd February 2011:** these were agreed and signed off by Cllr Robert Tickle, who is standing in as the Chairman for this meeting.
- 4. Matters arising from the meeting held 2nd February 2011:** any outstanding matters will be discussed at this meeting. **Co-option of new Parish Councillors:** the Clerk confirmed that there have been two candidates who have applied for co-option onto Harrold Parish Council. The first, Johnette Waller had already visited the Council at a previous meeting. (4.1) The Council unanimously agreed to co-opt Johnette onto the Council. The second, Jenny Osborne, was present at this meeting and introduced herself to the Council, explaining the reasons for wanting to join. Jenny was asked to leave the room for a brief period whilst the Councillors came to their decision, which was again unanimous in agreement to co-opt Jenny onto the Council. Jenny re-joined the meeting as a co-opted member.
- 5. Police report:** Apologies from Bedfordshire Police as they were unable to attend this meeting. The Clerk circulated the Harrold Crime Stats for the previous month of February – 2 thefts from motor vehicles, 1 theft from a dwelling, 2 thefts from shops and 1 miscellaneous theft. The Police Joint Action Group meeting is scheduled to take place on the 3rd March, there will be a full report from Cllr Tickle at the next meeting.
- 6. Finance report:** all the requests for payment were agreed and cheques signed by two authorised signatories. (6.1) It was resolved to grant a donation of £200.00 to the Harrold Twinning Association, to help the visit this June of our French Twinning partners. (6.2) It was resolved to grant a donation of £300.00 towards the Villager Minibus, to help towards the running costs of this much valued service in Harrold.
- 7. Borough Councillor's report for Harrold Ward:** the main point Borough Councillor wanted to raise was the forthcoming Elections on 5th May, this will also be a time for Parish Council Elections. Nick Charsley also wanted to suggest that it might be a good idea for the Village Green to be used by the local residents for picnics on the Royal Wedding Day, Friday 29th April. The Clerk will put a note in the April/May edition of 'The Bridge' magazine.
- 8. Planning applications:** 11/00193/FUL – Harrold Priory Middle School – installation of mobile classroom unit – Council had no objections to this application. 11/00256/FUL – 137 High Street, Harrold – single storey side extension and new access driveway – Council had no

objections to this application. 11/00226/Ext – Dungee Farm, Dungee Road, Odell (08/00487/FUL) Change of use of agricultural building to class B(1) Business formation of new vehicular access and roadway- renewal of planning permission 03/01435/S73 application for extension of time for implementation – Council had no objections. 11/00207/FUL – 65 High Street, Harrold – first floor extension including room in the roof – Council commented that the property was in the Village Conservation area and it was a large extension which might affect the ‘street scene’ outline.

9. **Areas of Responsibilities reports: Cemetery and Church yard** – the first grass cut will be carried out this month. There have been a small number of extra items being placed on some of the graves which increases the maintenance of these areas. Council agreed to do nothing for the time being, but a further assessment will be carried out later on in the year. **Brook** – extra work has been carried out to clear silt in the Brook at Wood Road. There still continues to be rubbish thrown into the Brook, which the village handyman regularly removes. **Common Land** – new paving slabs have been placed in front of the newest bench on the village green as constant wear had eroded the turf. Pit Run is on 30th April and the grass will be cut before the event, a request will be sent to the Pit Run management team not to carry out any extra cutting of the grass as this may damage the area. The daffodils are about to flower on all the areas around the village where bulbs have been planted. **Footpaths** – Wellocks footpath has been swept and Cllr Tickle will again approach the residents whose hedges overhang the path. Stiles still need to be repaired on the footpath which runs from the Fire station and also from the Brook Lane/Orchard Lane pathway – Cllr Tickle to follow these issues up. The two new rubbish bins (High Street and junction of Church Walk/High Street) have still not been installed by Bedford Borough Council (B.B.C.) – Clerk and Cllr Charsley to follow up. **Playgrounds** – a complaint from a resident of Saxon House End about some of the trees which had died off last year during the dry period (green area next to the children’s playground). Council agreed to look into providing new trees when it is a suitable time for replanting. The perimeter wooden fence around the Saxon House End green area has had to be repaired again. There have been complaints about the Harewelle Way Estate playground (unsuitable rubbish being placed in the rubbish bins) – but to date this playground is still the responsibility of the Developer and not the Parish Council. **Public relations** – a proposal has been put together for looking into the possibility of fibre optic cables to vastly improve the speed of Broadband in Harrold. Council agreed this would be very beneficial to the village and have agreed in principle to endorse this proposal. There will be a further update at the next meeting. **Highways/lighting** – Culvert repair work and traffic calming have been completed at Church Walk/High Street/Dove Lane. Council have requested the 30 mph speed limit to be increased on the Odell Road, up to just beyond Westwood Nurseries – this looks likely to be granted. Flooding outside the entrance to Harrold Odell Country Park – still a problem and B.B.C. Highways will be asked to inspect this area again to try to resolve the problem. **Youth Services and Youth Club** – one session only

for year 8 and above is being run on Friday evenings, 7pm – 9pm. Hugh Storer is currently leading the Club, assisted by the Clerk or Cllr Storer and a parent helper at each session. However, there have been occasions when no parent help is available and the session has been cancelled. More parent help is needed if this Club is to continue. Storage space at the Harrold Centre is still a problem and restricts the amount of new equipment which can be purchased and stored at the Centre. **Neighbourhood Watch** – a meeting will be organised later on in the year for all NW street co-ordinators. There is a quarterly meeting of Bedford NW at Kempston Police HQ on 21st April – all are welcome to attend. St. Peter’s Church village clock – nothing to report.

- 10. Reports from Parish Council Representatives: Playing Field Association** – Clerk attended the A.G.M. on the 22nd February and presented her report to the Council. A car boot sale will be held on 17th April to raise funds. **Harrold Centre** – the final plans have been drawn up and will be available for public consultation on the 5th March at the Harrold Centre. Plans will also be on the Parish Council notice board. **Harrold on line website** – the A.G. M was held on 15th February. More committee members are needed to help run the website. They will be having a stall at the Pit Run. **Pit Run 2011** – no updates from the committee.
- 11. Correspondence:** see appendix (i) for list of correspondence and action, if any.
- 12. Summary of Actions:** the Chairman summarised the main points from this meeting and requested that all Councillors try to recruit new Council members. Reminder that all nomination for the 5th May Elections for Parish Council have to be at the Town Hall by 12 noon on Monday 4th April.
- 13. Date of next meeting** – 6th April at the Harrold Centre. This meeting will be the Annual Parish meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10:30pm.