

MINUTES of ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held 5th May 2010 at the Harrold Centre (Red Room) – 19:30

Present: J. Knight (Chairman), Cllrs. N. Grout, H. Field, T. Storer, C. Thacker, R. Tickle, D. Williams.

In attendance: Richard Barrett (arrived 20:00)

- 1. Apologies:** B. Cllr. Nick Charsley, Cllrs. P. Hickman, A. Stuart, J. Wingerath. P.C. Rob Smith
- 2. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman for 2010/11. Chairman** - Cllr R. Tickle proposed Cllr J. Knight as Chairman, Cllr N. Grout seconded this motion and all councillors present agreed. **Vice-Chairman – Cllr C.Thacker** proposed Cllr. N Grout and Cllr Field seconded this motion with all councillors present in agreement. Cllr H. Field announced that she unfortunately has to step down from the Parish Council as she is moving out of the village at the end of May. Thanks were given to her from the Chairman for her hard work and time with the Council over the past year. This means that there is a vacancy for a new co-opted Parish Councillor. Councillors areas of responsibility – all councillors are currently happy to stay with their area responsibilities at this time.
- 3. Disclosure of interest:** Cllr N. Grout declared that he had an interest in the land adjoining 68A High Street.
- 4. Approval of minutes from meeting held 7th April 2010:** the minutes were a true record of the meeting and signed off by the Chairman.
- 5. Matters arising:** all matters will be covered in these minutes.
- 6. Police report:** apologies received from P.C. Rob Smith. The Police Report sent to the Clerk was circulated to all councillors. This report will be in the June/July edition of 'The Bridge' and shows a reported 10 crimes in the last two months. These have included a number of drug related offences, thefts, public order type crimes and burglaries. A number of individuals are helping Police with their enquiries. There has been a small increase of anti-social nature in the last two months (Lower Green area – fires, littering, noise). Cllr Tickle will be attending a Police J.A.G. meeting on 13th May – he will take on board the concerns from the Parish Council. A new P.C.S.O. is due to start work in our SNT area very soon and Council agreed that this will help deter the rise in anti-social behaviour and burglaries. Cllr Tickle will report back from this meeting at the June Parish Council meeting. It is very important that all residents report any crimes, no matter how small, to the Police.
- 7. Finance report:** payments were agreed and cheques drawn. Chairman requested that the Clerk is supported with a Finance sub-Committee – this will be made up of Cllr C Thacker and Cllr D Williams. End of year accounts to be finalised and circulated to Council. Deposit account – proposal to split this account into several accounts to ensure best interest and security is maintained.
- 8. Borough Councillor's report:** Cllr Charsley was not present at this meeting. He had sent correspondence to the Clerk regarding the 'Allocations and Designations' plan to remind the Council that this is a Consultation and as such we as a Parish Council do have the opportunity to influence it. More information will be available at the Borough Workshops

for Councils on the 24th and 25th May and further documentation will soon be available to the public.

9. **Planning applications: 10/00707/FUL** 44 High Street, Harrold – one and two storey rear/side extensions with new pedestrian access. Parishioner Richard Barrett was invited by the Chairman to speak about his concerns about this application. The Parish Council discussed this application and decided to object on the following issues:- very large build (in height) which would obscure light on No.46 High Street, house in Conservation area, key points on the report for No. 44 incorrect, i.e. No 44 is not detached, No. 46 is Georgian not Victorian build, Council felt that concrete was inappropriate for this build, concerns over vehicular access as the High Street is very narrow at this point. **10/00723/REM** land adjoining 68A High Street – comments have already been sent in to Borough Planning Office opposing the application (as before Minutes of meeting held 3rd February 2010. A Planning Committee meeting is to be held on Monday 10th May at Borough Hall, it is uncertain if any member of the Parish Council can attend this meeting. **Refusal of planning permission:- 10/00191/FUL** 164 High Street (erection of 3 dwellings and 1 detached garage) and **10/00052/FUL & 10/00053/LBC** 48 High Street (re-thatch main roof and replace tiles with thatch).
10. **Areas of Responsibility Reports: Cemetery and Church Yard:** grass cutting by new Contractor is not good, Clerk to send in complaint. Ask the village handyman to rake up the loose grass and area at rear of Memorial Wall needs attention. Need a start date from Mr Wallinger for the Memorial Wall Extension, clerk to follow this up. New Beech whips are in and growing well. **Brook:** blockage outside No. 68A High Street, urgent attention required. Confirmed that contractor is to cut grass /strim area top of Wood Road by Brook. **Common land:** contact new Contractor regarding grass cutting/general maintenance including replacement of some Burberis plants on the lower green. Council accepted new quotation from Clan Signs for replacement signs to lower green, Richard Barrett will provide special type of glue to aid fixing. New signs will be painted with Smart Water. Two Whitebeam trees have been very badly chopped about, Council is aware who did this. Bedford Borough Council Tree Specialist to inspect and advise Parish Council. Entrance to Harrold Playing Fields, dead flowering Cherry(?) advise Highways for removal and replacement. **Footpaths:** Cllr Tickle will talk to people near to footpath by Fire Station regarding stile. Highways will repair hole in pedestrian bridge in Brook Lane tomorrow. **Playgrounds:** Cllr Wingerath not present. Swing unit still awaiting repair (Harrold Centre playground) and ROSPA inspection due in May. **Public Relations:** article has gone into the June/July copy of 'The Bridge'. 22nd May is Community clean up day – 10am -12 noon meeting on the village green. DSD will be in attendance and supply all materials. May 22nd and 23rd – Bulky Waste collection days – notices up regarding times /locations. **Youth Services:** numbers slightly down in past few weeks but still very popular. New Youth Leader doing very well and children like her. We had to pull out, at the last minute, our plans to have a Disco with Harrold Lower School (30th April) as the teenage numbers would have been too low. Cllr Storer asked Council if the disco fee we owed the Lower School still be paid, due to our cancellation, this was agreed,

otherwise they would have been out of pocket. A letter informing parents that children who attend the Friday evening sessions are now spending most of their time outside in the Playground will be sent out this week. More parents need to sign up to help on an 'ad hoc' basis. First Aid training needed for volunteer helpers – Clerk to look into this. Skate park – still in regular use, Cllr Storer to find out if any new pieces of equipment are needed in this area. **Highways/Lighting:** Cllr Hickman not present at meeting but Clerk advised that she has a meeting with Area Technician Alex Cattanach on 6th May to walk around the village. Report at June meeting. **Harrold Centre:** Cllr Grout and the architect, John Creasey, to meet within the next few weeks to finish plans for proposal to re-vamp existing Harrold Centre. Centre car park – needs resurfacing, Centre Committee have asked Parish Council to pay 50% of costs, this was agreed. Cllr Grout thinks the total cost will be in the region of £1,000., we will need to see quotation figure before payment. **Neighbourhood Watch:** Cllr Stuart not present, but Clerk reported that 100 units of Smart Water have been delivered to the Parish Council – need to encourage parishioners to purchase Smart Water for their home security. Parish Council agreed a one off donation, of £250., to the Neighbourhood Watch Charity. Note that we have not done this before, but we have received all NW road signs/start up bags free of charge in the past. Cllr Tickle will ask at the next J.A.G. meeting if other parishes would also make contributions to NW.

11. **Reports from Parish Council Representatives: Harrold Playing Field:** Large Poplar tree to be felled on 10th May a by Bartletts Tree Surgeon @£1,400 + VAT. Parish Council have agreed that the invoice will be sent to us and we shall pay 50% of the cost. **Harrold on line:** no report. **Pit Run 2010:** Cllr Wingerath not present, so a full report could not be given. The Clerk has received a number of complaints about the road closure, rubbish left in the Harrold Centre Car park area after the event and the main rubbish bins on the village green/Co-op area being left full of rubbish on the evening after the Pit Run. Next year the rubbish situation will need to be looked into to improve. Parking of cars a problem on the Carlton Road. Maybe the Playing Field could be open for car parking next year. Also need to find out if the road closure is intended again for next year and who will pay for it? A chain went missing from the village green, this will need replacing. Several eye hooks also were badly bent and damaged.
12. **Correspondence list:** circulated to Councillors before the meeting. For action, see appendix (1).
13. **Summary of actions:** Follow up on Pit Run 2010, form Finance sub-committee, start date for Memorial Wall extension, Borough Council action on Whitebeam trees – village green, order new signs for village green, Brook blockage, follow up on Centre plans (John Creasey), follow up on Highways report (Alex Cattanach).
14. **Date of next meeting** – Wednesday 2nd June 2010 Harrold Centre (Red room) 19:30.

There being no further business, the meeting finished at 21:30