

MINUTES of meeting held 4th November 2009 – 7.30pm at the Harrold Centre (Red room)

Present: Cllr J Knight (Chairman), Cllrs N Grout, H Field, P Hickman, T Storer, A Stuart, C Thacker, R Tickle, D Williams, J Wingerath.

In attendance: Mrs Ward, Norman Frogett, Paul West and Frazer Hickling (Prizedawn Ltd)

- 1. Apologies:** B. Cllr Nick Charsley.
- 2. Disclosure of interests:** Cllrs N Grout and H Field – with reference to item (5).
- 3. Approval of minutes from the meeting held 7th October:** signed off and approved as a true record of the meeting.
- 4. Matters arising from the meeting held 7th October:** The Chairman gave a brief summary of the recent hearing of the Muntjac PH (various proposals to change hours of opening and use of premises) – Bedford Borough Council Licence Department to send a full report to the Parish Council in due course. Paul Vann had forwarded environmental data to the Clerk, this was sent to all Councillors. Community Litter pick (17.10.09) well supported, thank you to all Councillors and parishioners who participated.
- 5. Paul West (Prizedawn Ltd – Product Manager) and Frazer Hickling (Phillips Planning Services):** a discussion followed regarding proposed development on land adjacent to 68A High Street, Harrold (locally known as the ‘donkey paddock’). This land already has been granted outline planning permission (with certain restrictions) for 5 dwellings. The developer would prefer to build 3 houses on this site and intends to re-apply to Bedford Borough Council Planning Department. Prizedawn Ltd have sent over 300 letters to local residents, majority of replies have been positive to the suggestion of building 3, rather than 5 dwellings. There are still various issues, from the original granting of planning consent by B.B.C., to be fulfilled before any development can occur. Overall, the majority members of this Council would prefer to see 3, rather than 5 dwellings built, but still subject to the original outline planning permission. The Chairman thanked Mr West and Mr Hickling for attending the meeting.
- 6. Police report:** apologies from PCSO Michael Blass. The Police report which will be printed in the next edition of “The Bridge” (Dec/Jan issue) was read out by the Clerk – this was for the period 1st September – 31st October 2009. 11 crimes have been recorded in Harrold. Two people have been arrested and charged in connection with one burglary and a local resident has been arrested and dealt with for an offence of criminal damage. Several incidents of anti-social behaviour – around the Lower School and the old Bridgman house near to the Co-op. Speeding – a number of dedicated speed enforcement days planned for the coming months.
- 7. Finance report:** payments presented to the Parish Council agreed and cheques signed off. 2 additional payments were requested – one for FoHLS (youth disco 23.10.09) and expenses to Cllr Storer (youth). An amended report to be sent to all councillors. Grass cutting contract for 2010/12 – 3 quotations have been submitted to the Parish Council for consideration. One quotation was incorrect, the Clerk will contact the contractor and ask for the quotation to be re-submitted. Parish Council will make a decision at the December meeting, when all paperwork available. Proposed budget for 2010/11 – the Chairman explained that thoughts should now be given to the budget for 2010/11 – Clerk will email all councillors with a proposed budget plan between now and the December meeting. At the December meeting all aspects of the budget will be discussed.

8. **Borough Councillor's report for Harrold Ward:** apologies had been received from Nick Charsley – in his absence the Chairman read out the B. Cllr's report. Following Dave Hodgson's recent election as Mayor of Bedford, Nick has been asked to serve on the Executive as Portfolio Holder for Rural Affairs and IT. One area that he has already looked into is the feasibility of the Borough taking on over maintenance and liability of a Lifebelt by the Millpond – more feedback from Nick at the December Parish Council meeting.
9. **Planning applications:** **09/02049/FUL** – 54 Brook Lane – conservatory to rear – no objections. **09/01971/CNS** – 8 Mansion Lane (demolition of dwelling and garage) and **09/01970** (erection of detached dwelling and garage following demolition of existing property) – objections on grounds of size, not in keeping with neighbouring properties and access route along Mansion Lane (very narrow side road). **09/02087/FUL** – 13 Hall Close – 2 storey rear extension and **09/02289/TPO** – fell 1 Spruce and 1 Eucalyptus tree – no objections to applications. **B.B.C. Allocations and Development Plan** – Cllr Grout has looked into this and produced information concerning the 7 possible sites (for future building projects) within the village. Decisions will be made by Bedford Borough Council in February 2010. **The Old School** – a feasibility study needs to be put in place regarding any further actions, to this end a valuation of the building needs to be carried out in the first instance before the next meeting. Cllr Tickle will liaise with key holder.
10. **Areas of Responsibility reports:** **Cemetery and Churchyard** - Richard has removed quantities of ivy and carried out leaf clearance. Parish Council agreed that there should be a clause in the agreement regarding burials/plaques on the Memorial Wall to ensure that everyone understands that wreathes must be either removed by the families after a couple of weeks or the Parish Council will remove them. Memorial Wall extension – site visit from contractor scheduled before December meeting. Part of the Beech hedge, the privet section, is dead, Cllr Thacker will inspect this and report back at next meeting. **Brook** – Cllr Williams has spoken to contractor about his contract. A new contract needs to be drawn up to go out to tender for all Brook work in 2010. **Common-land** – Cllr Field will meet up with Holly to discuss this area of responsibility. Harrold Centre Planters need replacing with winter plants. **Footpaths** – no reported problems. **Playgrounds** – Cllr Wingerath has had a site meeting with Richard Sinclair to discuss various work that needs attention in the Harrold Centre playground. A new swing unit is needed for this area – Cllr Wingerath to make enquiries. Cllr Wingerath said that he will get a power jet unit to clear the graffiti from the surface of the playground. **Public relations:** Clerk has put the Parish Council news and an article on the Youth Club into the next edition of "The Bridge" (Dec/Jan). **Highways/lighting** – a number of faulty street lights have been reported and repaired. **Youth services** – club on a Friday is very popular and well attended. Held a Halloween disco at the Cricket Pavilion on 23rd October (shared the cost of the disco with Harrold Lower School) – thanks to councillors and parents who supported this event. A volunteer has come forward to help with the running of the Club. Julia Ruppensburg currently works as a part time Street Ranger for B.B.C. and is CRB checked to work with children. It is hoped that Julia will start this week (6th November). Mark Walshe has approached Cllr Storer with an idea to start a Film Club, she will follow this up, the Parish Council agreed to help support this when more details are known. Cllr Storer to contact Borough Councillor Nick Charsley regarding any potential funding for youth club equipment. **Harrold Centre** – Very little progress on redevelopment of the Centre, therefore Cllr Grout suggested that we contact John Creasey to look into additional plans for the possible redevelopment of the existing building. Councillors in agreement, Cllr Grout will contact John Creasey. **Neighbourhood Watch** – a meeting was

held on 22nd October and PCSO Michael has agreed to contact each of the street co-ordinators to carry out a door to door 'walk about'. Smart Water leaflets still being delivered to parishioners.

- 11. Reports from Parish Council representatives: Harrold Playing Field Association** – Rural Fund Grant – an incorrect cheque has been returned to Bedford Borough Council – await re-issue. **Harrold on line website** – next meeting is 9th November. Parish councillor representatives and J Knight (Jr.) to attend. **Harrold Pit Run** – Cllr Wingerath advised that he will be the Parish Council representative for 2010. **Church Clock** – Cllr Hickman will organise a plaque to hi-light refurbishment carried out to the clock over the past few years by the parish council.
- 12. Correspondence:** a list of correspondence was circulated to all councillors and matters were discussed. Clerk will action as necessary.
- 13. Summary:** Next meeting – Grass cutting contract, updates from councillors on various actions hi-lighted in these minutes. PCSO Michael to contact street co-ordinators. Clerk to forward amended Finance report and proposed Budget 2010/11 to all councillors before December meeting, a new contract needs to be drawn up for Brook maintenance.
- 14. Date of next meeting:** Wednesday 2nd December 2009 – 19:30 hrs.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting finished at 22:00 hrs.