

**MINUTES of meeting held 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2009 – in the Red Room, Harrold Centre – 7.30pm**

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

**In Attendance:** Mrs D. Stiles

- 1. Apologies:** Cllrs . Knight, P. Hickman, N. Charsley, A. Stuart, H. Bovis (resigned)  
P.C.S.O. Michael Blass
- 2. Disclosure of interests:** None.
- 3. Approval of minutes:** minutes of the parish council meeting held 1<sup>st</sup> July 2009 approved as a true record of the meeting. Minutes signed off by Cllr. Grout.
- 4. Matters arising from the meeting held 1<sup>st</sup> July:** Cllr Bovis very sadly has resigned from the parish council due to family circumstances. A letter of thanks to be sent thanking her for all the good work she has done acting as a representative for Common Land in the parish. New bench for village green – awaiting confirmation from Bedford Borough Council that no special planning application is needed for installing the bench. Playgrounds – Cllr Wingerath has the recent ROSPA report, to liaise with village handyman regarding repairs. No applications for Parish Councillor vacancy. Clerk is looking into deposit accounts rates.
- 5. Police report:** there was no special report from the police at this meeting. Sats report from NHW department for period 31/7/09 to 31/8/09 circulated to councillors showed an increase in crime for the parish. Parish councillors unhappy about response times from police, follow up on crimes and general lack of police presence in the village. Councillors agreed for a letter to be written to the Chief Constable complaining about lack of police support. Mrs Stiles, who was in attendance at this meeting, complained that on a number of occasions youths have been lighting fires on the lower green – police and fire brigade called out on each occasion. Mrs Stiles put in a formal request to the parish council for a Berberis hedge. **5 (i) resolved:** purchase 50 Berberis plants to plant in alongside Mrs Stiles wooden fence – all councillors present in agreement. Councillors discussed erecting parish council signs to advise that no camping, bonfires, anti-social behaviour are allowed on the village greens – clerk to contact Harrold Signs for a quotation. A sign will also be required to advise the dangerous water situation at the Mill Pond, Harrold – clerk to action and request a quotation. Clerk to contact Police to find out if a no alcohol zone is a possibility around the village green area. Speed watch – the device is now available from the police for trained volunteers – to date no one from Harrold has indicated that they will undertake any training. Speed watch is currently proving very successful in Carlton, where they have a number of trained volunteers for their village.
- 6. Finance report:** all payments presented on the finance sheet were agreed for payment. Still awaiting revised quotation from Zurich Insurance. Smith & Derby invoice – councillors agreed this will not be paid as the recent repairs to the village clock should have been covered on the 5 year agreement we currently hold with this

company. Clerk to report at next meeting on interest rates available for deposit account. Grass cutting contract needs to go out to tender for 2010 – clerk to liaise with Cllr Thacker to amend contract requirements. We will need 3 or 4 quotations from suitable contractors.

7. **Borough Councillor's report:** Cllr Charsley had sent his apologies. A short note had been sent to the clerk from Cllr Charsley – Mayor Elections likely mid-October, Boundary review has started and more information will be available at October meeting. Ward fund, more information at October meeting.
8. **Planning applications:** **09/01449/FUL** – Fire Station, Harrold – proposed modular building for use as a gymnasium – no objections. **09/00742/FUL** – 72 Harewelle Way – construction of conservatory with a dwarf wall to rear – no objections. **09/01693/TPO** – 1 Hall Close - fell one willow tree and pollard one Willow tree – no objections. **09/01734/LBC** – 67 High Street – demolition and rebuilding of 50sq. m of the outer wall of property. Replacement and repair of all windows within same elevation. Applications refused by the Bedford Borough Council – **09/00932/COU** – Friday Cottage, 9 The Green – change of use of outbuilding. Applications granted by B.B.C. – **09/01154/FUL** – 38 Brook Lane – single storey front extension and roof window to front elevation. **09/01338/ADV** – Harrold Post Office – non-illuminated fascia sign, non illuminated projected sign.
9. **Areas of responsibility reports:** **Cemetery and Church Yard** – problem gravestones have now been laid down. Horse Chestnut trees on the Playing Field have been done. There is a broken headstone in the Cemetery – no evidence as to who may have caused this. Lych Gate needs attention – request Richard Sinclair (village handyman) to do this – liaise with clerk and Cllr Thacker. **Brook** – some clearance work carried out last week. Still awaiting start date for work by tennis courts (bank) – clerk and Cllr Williams to chase up. **Common Land** – notice required regarding dangerous water at Mill Pond. Also need notices regarding issues at point (5) of these minutes – clerk to obtain a quotation from Harrold Signs. Bench for village green – still awaiting permission to install from Bedford Borough Council. Need to think about planting saplings on the main village green, as the current Lime Trees are becoming very old. **Footpaths** – Wellocks footpath needs hedges/overhanging vegetation cut back – Richard Sinclair. **Playgrounds** – Cllr Wingerath to contact Richard Sinclair to sort out repairs at the Harrold Centre playground and other issues highlighted in the recent ROSPA report. **Public relations** – newsletter to be compiled for distribution to all parishioners – clerk to bring draft to next meeting. Any issues for inclusion in next edition of 'The Bridge' to be given to the clerk before 7th September. **Highways/Lighting** – footpaths in High Street are being top dressed in the next month. **Youth Services:** New youth club is due to start on 18<sup>th</sup> September – 7.30pm until 10pm – flyers and posters to go out. LUBYA led (Tracy). Level 1 Bike Course held during August very successful – all 11 candidates passed. Approach Harrold Priory Middle School to set dates for Level 2/3. **Harrold Centre** – no report. St. Francis Xavier Church – Cllr knight to write to Aidan Lynch to express the Parish Council's interest in the premises. Site visit to be arranged by Cllr Tickle within the

next month for councillors to have a look at the premises. **Neighbourhood Watch** – Cllr. Stuart not present at meeting – clerk reported that Cllr Storer has kindly agreed to become the street co-ordinator for the Harewelle Estate. Cllr Field has agreed to cover her area of Roman Paddock. The next NHW meeting will be on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September (Harrold Centre) and the next Police J.A.G. meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September at Keysoe Village Hall. Cllrs Stuart, Tickle and the Clerk will be present at both meetings. A full report will be given by Cllr Stuart at the October meeting of the parish council.

- 10. Reports from Parish Council Representatives: Playing Field report** - as reported at point (9) – Horse Chestnut trees have been attended to. **Harrold on Line website** – the parish council's own website is up and running, there is a direct link from HOL. Further discussions needed with the committee at HOL – date of their next meeting is 2<sup>nd</sup> November.
- 11. Correspondence** – list of correspondence circulated to all councillors and matters discussed. See appendix (i) attached for information and actions taken.
- 12. Summary of actions:** Cllr Grout summarised actions – order new hedge plants for village green, notices for village green, grass cutting contract, Brook contractors for start date on bank work, repairs to playground equipment. Request site visit from Highways for various issues.
- 13. Next meeting** – Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2009

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