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Chairman:
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MINUTES

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 10th July 2019 at 7.30pm at the Harrold Centre

Public forum (Names always withheld for Data Protection)

- Two parishioners attended representing Harrold Primary Academy PTA's request for part-funding of a new play area at the school (See item 11).
- A parishioner attended in relation to Correspondence item 1: verge parking and careless parking at Saxon House End (See Correspondence at the end of the Minutes).

1. **Present:** R Barrett, R Brough (Clerk), A Foster (Bedford Borough Council), J Peverell, D Mercer, J Calver, P Pedersen, H Mead, E Thompson.

Apologies: Cllrs R Tickle (Chair), S Reger, F Ross, A Bryce, B Muller.

2. **Disclosure of Interest** – members were invited to declare any personal or prejudicial interests they may have in any items on the Agenda. No interests declared.

3. Election of Vice Chair

To elect a new Vice Chair following the resignation of Cllr Brough. Council now has one councillor vacancy; council is able to coopt after 9th July if ten electors haven't come forward requesting an election.

Cllr Mercer was elected as Vice Chairman from a unanimous vote.

4. **Approval of Minutes** from the Annual Parish Council meeting held 12th June 2019. Resolved unanimously to approve the minutes and the Vice Chairman signed them.

5. **Matters arising:** Clerk's report on the Actions List.

- In progress: Arranging for a utility company to replace the Parish Council owned streetlights. EON have not provided a quote and another company was found and has finalised a quote.

- BBC Highways' proposal for parking restrictions on the High St and Green has been accepted – now on waiting list.
- Chased the Borough Council repeatedly about installing the lifebag to the Lower Green; – there are a number of these being added around Bedfordshire. Equipment is waiting at the Fire Service for BBC to collect and install. Now installed.
- Church Walk fence: this is falling down. Meeting with BBC on-site on 9th July to discuss ownership, which is not entirely clear.
- Extension to the 20mph limit – Clerk still to make contact with BBC Highways.
- Planning advice submitted for concrete bollards on green replacement – awaiting.
- Village entrance signs are due – Clerk is chasing.
- Lockup re-mortaring – delayed due to complaint to BBC Planning by parishioner. BBC Planner attended and found no concerns. Heritage England also visited and found no concerns – the contractor agreed to carry on with other work until the inspections were done.
- New trees project – Cllr Bryce emailed requesting he take over this project. Clerk has provided current proposal.

6. Finance Report:

The following payments were approved and income was noted. P&L and Balance Sheet analysis will no longer be provided due to the resignation of Cllr Brough.

Ref #	Invoice Date	Payment	Details	Method	Payments			Receipts Gross
					Gross	VAT	Net	
Trans059	11 June 2019	Grass: In Trim		S/O	552.00	92.00	460.00	
Trans060	11 June 2019	Bottle Bank: 50% share to HCC		DPC	376.09	0.00	376.09	
Trans063	17 June 2019	Payroll: Red Shoes		DPC	86.40	14.40	72.00	
Trans064	17 June 2019	HMRC PAYE Liability		DPC	47.20	0.00	47.20	
Trans065	17 June 2019	Project: Buttermarket and Lockup renovation		DPC	750.00	0.00	750.00	
Trans066	17 June 2019	Clerk Salary: R Brough		DPC	951.88	0.00	951.88	
Trans067	17 June 2019	Brook: Skip at Town Farm	Riches Skips	DPC	213.00	35.50	177.50	
Trans069	17 June 2019	Street Ranger		DPC	703.00	0.00	703.00	
Trans071	17 June 2019	Harrold Centre Room Hire		DPC	342.00	0.00	342.00	
Trans073	20 June 2019	Cemetary Income:		C/R				140.00
Trans075	02 July 2019	Brook: Skip at Town Farm	Riches Skips	DPC	213.00	35.50	177.50	
Trans076	Not yet paid	Other: Various	Sacks for Street Ranger assistant	DPC	14.05	0.00	14.05	
Trans077	Not yet paid	Other: Various	Sacks for Street Ranger	DPC	32.05	0.00	32.05	
Trans078	Not yet paid	Project: Neighbourhood plan	Hot water urn for drop-in sessions	DPC	50.99	0.00	50.99	
Trans079	03 July 2019	Brook: R Sinclair	June work	S/O	400.00	0.00	400.00	
Trans080	Not yet paid	Other: Various	Peter Bull - Catesby Estates planning objection letter	S/O	455.00	0.00	455.00	
					5,186.66	177.40	5,009.26	140.00

7. Progress update on sports pavilion refurbishment from Bob Woodward (HPFA)

£100k of council savings were held aside for renovations to the scout hut and sports pavilion. The scout hut work is now complete and approximately £70k remains for the pavilion. Bob Woodward (HPFA) to attend and update the council on the progress on creating the pavilion plans.

Bob Woodward attended and gave an update containing the following information: a complete pavilion rebuild would have cost c. £400k; this level of funding does not exist and therefore a smaller scope project was considered. However, there is an issue with the 20-year-old roof sagging (not dangerous) that will likely be very costly to fix – electrical works, a false ceiling. The roof alone is looking to be in the region of £100k and the proposal also includes repositioning of internal walls for improved space and wheelchair access. English Cricket Board will not have funding available for two years, the Football Association were not forthcoming due to the fact that a full-sized pitch was not available and Sport England didn't want to spend due to the size of the village.

8. Crime statistics and information and intelligence exchange

Crime report covering 12th June to 25th June showed no recorded crime for Harrold.

9. Borough Councillor's report for Harrold Ward

Distributed to councillors and to be added to the "Communications" section of the council website. Of particular note was the recent information that BBC Planning did not make a planning decision on the Catesby Estates "90 dwellings" planning application (19/00842/MAO) within the required time period. This application has now been taken to appeal with the Planning Inspectorate (Government) on the grounds of "non-determination". It is unclear why the BBC Planners did not respond in time.

10. Grant request from Harrold Cricket Club

To approve a grant request from Harrold Cricket Club. "To train three new youth coaches at a cost of £250 each to improve the quality of the teaching of our young players. To improve the quality of our pitch with new maintenance equipment at a cost of £650, this will benefit both youth and adult players involved in matches (around 75 local people). To refresh equipment for junior cricket on a Friday evening at a cost of £500 to benefit members aged 5-11 (around 60 people at this time but could easily be up to 100 next year)"

(Note: £3326 remaining allowable spend for Section 137)

Resolved to approve this grant application – 5 votes "For" and 2 "Against". **(Action Clerk).**

11. Request for funding from Harrold Primary Academy PTA

To approve a funding request from Harrold Primary Academy PTA for a contribution to a piece of playground equipment. Grant form distributed to councillors prior to meeting.

(Note: This can be funded without using Section 137, under Local Government Act 1976 Misc Provisions Act, Sect. 19, 3a)

Information provided by PTA group: PTA are requesting a grant for playground equipment for the school. Currently the main playground and the smaller one for year 1 has no fixed play equipment other than a very old small climbing wall. The main building is having a complete overhaul and refurbishment funded by SAF and is due to open in Sept 2019. SAF also re-surfaced the Year 1 playground during the summer holidays 2018. As with everything, there is only so much money available, hence the request to the PTA to raise the funds for playground equipment. Children are naturally drawn to playing outside and there are numerous benefits of outdoor play: it allows them to explore their environment, develop muscle strength and coordination, and gain self-confidence. PTA want Harrold Primary Academy to be the desired school of choice locally and we really need these resources to improve outdoor fun and learning. This is a new project and approximately £2000 has been raised so far. In response to a councillor question about how many Harrold parishioners would benefit, it was confirmed that the play area would be in the school grounds and most likely kept locked, so it would benefit only the school children who resided in Harrold (exact number unknown).

Next steps: PTA group to form a plan for the play area and return with a request for a set amount. Request should include details of the number of Harrold children who would benefit from this area.

12. Planning Applications

Application number: 19/01359/TPO Tree Preservation Order Application

Proposal: T1-T3 Lime tree – Crown lift to 4m to remove basal suckers and low hanging branches.

T4-T5 Purple Plum – Crown lift to 2.4m to allow more light to the lawn.

Location: 123 Odell Road, Odell, MK43 7AP

Resolved not to object.

Application number: 19/01365/TPO Tree Preservation Order Application

Proposal: T1-T3 Lime – Crown lift to 4m and remove basal growth. T4-T5 Purple Plum – Crown lift to 2.4m

Location: 125 Odell Road, Odell, MK43 7AP

Resolved not to object.

13. Update from Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee

- **Progress & Next Steps**

The Neighbourhood Plan entered into its next phase with a second village consultation in June. This consultation gave villagers an opportunity to express their views on the viable development sites and, in particular, the allocation of dwellings to the viable sites. Two drop-in sessions were held at the Harrold Centre to assist with completing these documents, and to provide further information on the plan process. All questionnaires from the consultation have now been collected and the results are being analysed. The Committee is now working on formulating a Village Design Statement and preparing a draft of the actual neighbourhood plan in conjunction with external consultants.

14. To note Clerk's resignation and hiring process

Vacancy advert posted on village Facebook group, council's Facebook page, council's website, and sent to BATPC to distribute to all local Clerk contacts and to be placed on their website under vacancies for Bedfordshire. Closing date for applications was 8th July, with interviews to be held later in July (Cllrs Tickle, Mercer, Muller and Peverell to carry out and report back to council) and an extraordinary meeting is to be held in August for the full council to choose the Clerk.

Noted by council.

15. Any other business

Councillors noted there were a number of areas of footpath with leaf residue/debris along the edge that becomes slippery when wet. Clerk to ask Street Ranger to clear **(Action Clerk)**.

Councillors would like BBC Highways to repaint the yellow lines at the main bridge where the new wall has been built to deter parking on the verge **(Action Clerk)**.

16. Correspondence:

1. *Parishioner emailed regarding verge parking and careless parking causing an obstruction for an emergency vehicle in Saxon House End. Clerk requested and received photos of the issue. Parishioner was in attendance and confirmed the issue. He would like the fencing on the verge moved closer to the road to stop the verge parking. No commitment was made by the council at this time to carry this out. Council confirmed that they would investigate what restrictions were agreed in the "turning area" between the developer and BBC at the time of adoption **(Action Clerk)**.*

Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 11th September 2019