



Harrold Parish Council Clerk:  
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Chairman: Rev. Robert Tickle  
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## MINUTES

### Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at 7.30pm via Zoom

1. **Public forum (Names always withheld for Data Protection)**  
No members of the public were in attendance.
2. **Present:** Cllrs R Tickle (Chair), J Peverell, J Calver, E Thompson (arrived for item 9), B Muller, D Brough (Clerk), R Barrett, F Ross, G Turner, A Bryce, P Pedersen, A Foster (Borough Cllr).  
**Apologies accepted:** Cllrs H Paston (Work), A Littlemore (Work).  
**Absent:** Cllr S Reger.
3. **Disclosure of Interest** – none declared.
4. **Requests to grant dispensations for disclosed interests** – None
5. **Approval of Minutes** from the Parish Council meeting held 10<sup>th</sup> February 2021.  
**Resolved** to approve the minutes as an accurate record of the meeting.
6. **Clerk's report:**  
Items sat with Bedford BC Highways:
  - Resolving the flooding of the zebra crossing – additional gulleys are planned to be installed. The poor state of the pavement by the Fish bar – works order has been raised and is expected to be carried out in the new financial year. No date yet received.
  - Change to parking signage where additional parking restrictions have been put in place around The Green – clerk has chased repeatedly.
  - New bollard – corner of Orchard Lane/High St. Highways have added to list of works.
  - 20mph speed limit extension towards New Road – Highways are not prioritising this.Items sat with Street Ranger:
  - Installing dog bag dispensers – Complete.
  - Fixing broken bollards on The Green – Complete.Other updates:
  - Western Power have no scheduled works to put overhead cables underground (Relates to Feb 21 meeting). Details shared with councillors.
  - Trailer for Street Ranger has been received and is now in use.**In response to the report, councillors asked for the following:** a) To request from BBC Highways the list of works that the 20mph extension is apparently on, b) Noted additional bollards on The

Green that had been struck and needed repair, c) To check with the Street Ranger that his vehicle is insured for business use in light of the fact he is now towing the parish council trailer (Now confirmed by providing insurance schedule).

## 7. Correspondence (requiring council attention):

- *Parishioner emailed requesting a new dog bin for the top of Mansion Lane; failing that parishioner would like a dog bag dispenser. Bedford BC are not adding new dog bins.*
- *Parishioner emailed regarding the posts that have rotted and fallen out at Saxon House End open space. See agenda item 12.*

## 8. Finance Report

- The following payments were approved. Income and balances were noted.

Invoice Date	Payment	Details	Gross	Income
11 February 2021	Grant: Harrold Centre		5,000.00	
15 February 2021	Other: Various	Luke Clarke - Dog bag holder install	225.00	
15 February 2021	Other: Various	Luke Clarke - Post repair on The Green	150.00	
15 February 2021	Bottle Bank: Income	Bedford BC		266.29
16 February 2021	Other: Various	Bedford BC - Manchester Bollards	338.58	
18 February 2021	Staff costs	Salaries HMRC	2,220.85	
19 February 2021	Cemetery Income:	A ABBOTT AND SON		110.00
10 March 2021	Office: Supplies	Laptop/MS Office/Mcafee	973.98	
10 March 2021	Project: Neighbourhood plan	Peter Bull: Consultation statement	1,820.00	
10 March 2021	Other: Various	Street Ranger trailer	680.00	
10 March 2021	Other: Various	Street Ranger trailer chain lock	55.98	
10 March 2021	Project: HPFA Pavilion	Inv6: Tim Freeman - Final payment	3,624.00	
10 March 2021	Other: Various	Street Ranger trailer breakaway cable	5.32	
			<b>15,093.71</b>	<b>376.29</b>

## 2020/21 - Balance Sheet - At March 2021

### Accounts

Natwest Current Account	17,981
Natwest Bonus Saver	15,259
<b>TOTAL at Bank</b>	<b>33,240</b>
Funds allocated	23,164
VAT Refund due	-20,879
General Reserve (estimated)	30,955
<b>TOTAL Funds</b>	<b>33,240</b>

## 9. Planning applications

### New

- *APPLICATION NO: 21/00442/FUL Full Planning Application*  
*PROPOSAL: Erection of residential apartment building comprising 2 two-bed dwellings and 1 one-bed dwelling; and associated car parking and landscaping*  
*LOCATION : Land To The Rear Of 72 High Street Harrold Bedfordshire*  
**Resolved to object** on the following grounds: The parish council strongly supports building on this ground that has remain unused for a long time, however the current design is unsympathetic to the surrounding buildings and the visual amenity of a conservation area:
  - Stone buildings surround the proposed development, which are at odds to the chosen materials
  - At three stories, the building will be overshadowing and to the detriment of residential amenity

- APPLICATION NO: 21/00018/LBC Listed Building Consent Application*  
*PROPOSAL: Removal of modern WC and shower room, including the dividing wall to open the room back up to one full room. Removal of internal wall of the same room to allow for disabled WC facilities.*  
*LOCATION : The Oakley Arms 98 High Street Harrold Bedford Bedfordshire MK43 7BH*  
**Resolved** not to object.
- APPLICATION NO: 21/00569/FUL Full Planning Application*  
*PROPOSAL: Single storey side extension; two storey rear extension and two storey front extension (including demolition of existing attached garage to front)*  
*LOCATION : 142A High Street Harrold Bedford Bedfordshire MK43 7EA*  
**Resolved** not to object.
- APPLICATION NO: 21/00584/FUL Full Planning Application*  
*PROPOSAL: Single storey rear extension.*  
*LOCATION : 37 Harewelle Way Harrold Bedford Bedfordshire MK43 7DW*  
**Resolved** not to object.
- APPLICATION No 20/02397/TPO TYPE: Tree Preservation Order Application*  
*PROPOSAL: Group No. 1: Group consists of Common Beech trees with 33 individual stems. Remove 17 trees tagged with green paint to alleviate risk of causing damage to the foundations to 4 Hall Close and to encourage suitable growth of retained trees. Reduce lateral branches of retained trees extending towards 3 Hall close by 2 metres and lateral branches extending towards 4 Hall Close by 1.5 metres. Tree No. 1 Lime Tree: Reduce crown volume by 30 percent and remove deadwood*  
*LOCATION : 4 Hall Close Harrold Bedford Bedfordshire MK43 7DU*  
**Resolved to object** on the grounds that there is still no arboriculturist report or otherwise to evidence that the Beech trees are causing issues with nearby structures. The parish council requests an investigative report is carried out before felling the 8 Beech trees.
- APPLICATION NO: 21/00574/FUL Full Planning Application*  
*PROPOSAL: Replacement windows, re-roofing, and demolish and re-build side wall.*  
*LOCATION : 1 Brook Lane Harrold Bedford Bedfordshire MK43 7BW*  
**Resolved to object** on the following grounds: UPVC windows are not considered suitable for a conservation area. Council requests confirmation from Planning Officers that the current works, which have been started before planning approval, are permitted (Has since been confirmed as permitted due to structural/safety issues).

The following planning applications arrived shortly before the meeting and the parish council **resolved** to request an extension to allow them to be discussed at the next meeting:

*APPLICATION NO: 21/00628/FUL Full Planning Application*  
*PROPOSAL: Replacement windows and doors, re-roofing, demolish and re-build side wall, conversion of attached two storey side storage area into habitable space, and external alterations.*  
*LOCATION : 3 Brook Lane Harrold Bedford Bedfordshire MK43 7BW*

*APPLICATION NO: 21/00637/S73 Variation of Condition Application*  
*PROPOSAL: Single storey front, side and rear extensions to include under floor insulation, green roof, increased roof height, canopy, deck, and landscaping scheme. Including variation of approved plans condition 1 attached to 20/01186/FUL to allow for an increase in floor level by 20cm and roof height respectively.*  
*LOCATION : Riverbank Carlton Road Harrold Bedford Bedfordshire MK43 7DS*

**Resolved** to organise planning training for 7 councillors from Norfolk PTS at a total cost of £275.

## 10. Crime statistics and information and intelligence exchange

*The crime report for 27<sup>th</sup> January to 28<sup>th</sup> February showed one reported case of "Theft" on the High St, one "Public alarm/distress" on Roman Paddock, and one "Stalking" with no details.*

**Resolved** to put forward the current priorities to the Community Policing Team in response to a request for Priority Setting: 1. Speeding, 2. Vehicle Crime, 3. Drug use.

## 11. Annual Parish Council Risk Assessment as part of the Risk Management process

*To approve the Risk Assessment. The Risk Assessment is a systematic general examination of working conditions, workplace activities and environmental factors that will enable the Parish Council to identify potential inherent risks. The Parish Council, based on this recorded assessment, will take all practical and necessary steps to reduce or eliminate the risks, insofar as is practically possible.*

**Resolved** to approve the annual risk assessment.

## 12. Saxon House parking

*To discuss what action should be taken with the posts and rails that prevent parking on the grass at Saxon House End open space; many are rotten and one has broken away.*

Clerk requested that the councillors put forward their own proposal rather than the clerk providing a recommendation, due to a conflict of interest for the Clerk who lives close to the area. Councillors requested the clerk obtain costings for a) replacing all the railings/posts by the parking area, b) for bringing the rails closer to the road to stop the deterioration of the grass where cars are being parked – the alternative option discussed was to resurface the grass to enable cars to park there, but there was no support for this option as it was deemed to be cost prohibitive (**Action Clerk**).

## 13. Flooding in Harrold - Update

- Flood alleviation channel improvements

The parish council has reallocated and committed funding towards a proposal to improve the flood channel that protects Harrold from surface flooding from the fields to the north. The proposal includes extending the coverage of the channel, speeding the flow of water down it, and increasing the rate at which it empties in the north east. We are currently working with landowners and the borough council to secure improvements. The borough council's Director of the Environment has assigned an engineer to: "scope out the works, determine the efficacy of the proposal, highlight any legal/consent issues/responsibilities, determine costs and potential funding sources and provide an initial suitable staged timeline to progress this forward".

Borough Councillor Alison Foster has also put forward a sizeable contribution from her ward fund, having walked the channel and seen the potential for improvement.

- Flood Group

The parish council is partway to having an active Flood Group to assist during flood situations. A Flood Plan has been refined by the group and has been submitted to the borough council for review and approval – this document states how the group will operate. Six parish councillors and six parishioners have joined the group. The group also needs training on the use of equipment and needs to run a practice version of events. In a flood scenario, the group will be the intermediary between the Resilience Team and residents and is likely to be involved in the following activities: monitoring river levels/surface flooding and communicating with the borough council Resilience Team over expected water levels, door knocking (set routes) if the flood threatens homes, assisting parishioners affected by flooding (evacuation to agreed locations, protecting houses with aqua sacks – modern sandbags), assisting during the clear up and getting information to flood-affected residents, amongst other tasks.

- Public Internet Flood Camera

The parish council is supporting a request to the Environment Agency to install a public internet flood camera by the bridge; funding has also been set aside. The EA have carried out a site visit and are assessing the viability and costs; they previously confirmed that they have budget available. Bedford BC Highways have provisionally approved the installation pending confirmation of equipment specifications and ongoing maintenance contracts. The location sits within Carlton parish, so the parish council have been consulted to request support. A camera in this location will: 1. Allow people to plan their journeys around the state of the road before leaving their homes. 2. Provide flood-severity information to the newly-formed Harrold Flood Group to inform their decisions in a flood situation.

## 14. Borough Councillor's report for Harrold Ward

Distributed to councillors and available on the parish council website.

Councillors requested assistance with a lack of action from Bedford BC Highways for the items listed in the Clerk's report: a lack of transparency in the lists we are apparently on for items such as the 20mph limit extension. Clerk to provide all Highways items to Cllr Foster (**Action Clerk**).

Councillors also expressed disappointment that the main bridge was not fully resurfaced during recent works – only patching was carried out.

#### **15. Neighbourhood Plan update**

- Following the submission of the Neighbourhood Development Plan to Bedford BC, the next stage of the process has commenced. In accordance with Regulation 16 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, the six-week consultation period will start on 1 March 2021 and end at 5pm on 13 April 2021. The submission plans and supporting documents are available on the Council's website at [www.bedford.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplanning](http://www.bedford.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplanning).
- After the consultation period has ended, the plan, supporting documents and responses will be sent off to the independent examiner. Bedford BC has appointed IPE (Independent Plans and Examinations) to carry out the Neighbourhood Plan examinations. IPE will provide a choice of examiners and the examiner appointed will be decided in conjunction with Harrold Parish Council prior to the end of the consultation.

The parish council were requested by Bedford BC to select an independent examiner from a list of profiles. **Resolved** to select Mary O'Rourke from the list.

#### **16. HPFA Pavilion**

*To receive a progress update on the pavilion refurbishment being undertaken by the HPFA (Harrold Playing Field Association) with financial support from the parish council.*

The financial contributions to the project from the parish council have now concluded at £67k. The HPFA have submitted the following letter to the council:

*"The HPFA would like to formally acknowledge provision of this grant and we thank you for this excellent support. Without this we may not have been able to get the project off the ground. Whilst the major restructuring work is complete, we are now putting the finishing touches in with new furnishings and equipment. Unfortunately, the COVID restrictions have hampered this but hopefully in the next month or so we will finish the work. It would be ideal if we could have an informal opening of the improved pavilion and this may still be possible. However, in the interim if the councillors wish to view what has gone on then this can be arranged through me."*

#### **17. Noting of items for future agendas – no decisions can be taken**

- Request from Cllr Barrett to add an item to the next agenda to replace any 35L dog bins with 50L bins, especially the one on Orchard Lane, which is regularly overflowing.

**Date of next meeting: Wednesday 14th April 2021 via Zoom**