



Harrold Parish Council Clerk:
Robbin Brough
07388125821
clerk@harrold.org.uk

Chairman:
Rev. Robert Tickle
5 Bramley Court
Harrold, Beds, MK43 7BG
01234 721417
harroldian@yahoo.co.uk

MINUTES

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 11th December 2019 at 7.30pm at the Harrold Centre

Public forum (Names always withheld for Data Protection)

No members of the public attended.

1. **Present:** Cllrs R Tickle (Chair), D Mercer (Vice Chair), R Barrett, R Brough (Clerk), A Foster (Bedford Borough Council), J Calver, P Pedersen, H Mead, A Bryce, B Muller, E Thompson, F Ross.
2. **Apologies:** J Peverell (Holiday), S Reger (Work commitments).
3. **Disclosure of Interest** – *members were invited to declare any personal or prejudicial interests they may have in any items on the Agenda. None were declared.*
4. **Cooption of new councillors** – *The Parish Council requested a Governance Review from the Borough Council following the last meeting where there were two strong applicants for one vacant councillor position. However, the Borough Council confirmed this could not be carried out at the present time: "it can take more than a year to complete and should be avoided where there is an ongoing electoral review being carried out – there is a Boundary Review being carried out by the Borough Council". Motion is therefore to agree to the cooption of either Geoff Turner or Heather Paston. Should both candidates attend then a council vote will need to occur.* Council held a vote by ballot and the results were very close. **Resolved** to coopt Heather Paston to the council, and Heather signed the Acceptance of Office form. Geoff Turner was encouraged to apply again when a vacancy occurs as he is seen as a strong candidate for a councillor role.
5. **Approval of Minutes** from the Parish Council meeting held 13th November 2019. **Resolved** unanimously to approve the minutes and the Chairman signed them.
6. **Matters arising:** Clerk's report on the Actions List.
 - BBC Highways attended an on-site meeting and have taken away actions to resolve:
 1. The flooding of the zebra crossing – perhaps with additional drains being installed.
 2. The poor state of the pavement by the Fish bar (Works order has been raised)

3. Remove the third bollard on The Green, furthest from the High St, and repaint the other two.

- MKA Ecology are booked in to perform the brook site assessment this week.
- A meeting still needs to be arranged with Odell PC to discuss the entrance signs locations

7. Finance Report

The following payments were approved, and income and balances were noted.

Ref #	Invoice Date	Payment	Details	Payments Gross	Receipts Gross
Trans163	07 November 2019	Project income: Harrold Calendar	Cash Sales		540.00
Trans164	11 November 2019	Grass: In Trim		552.00	
Trans165	11 November 2019	Project: Neighbourhood plan	Neighbourhood Plan Consulting Fees- T Roff	250.00	
Trans166	15 November 2019	Clerk Salary: R Brough		442.52	
Trans167	15 November 2019	HMRC PAYE Liability		656.77	
Trans168	15 November 2019	Street Ranger	Street Ranger and Brook	842.04	
Trans171	18 November 2019	Other: Various	Xmas Laser projectors	371.00	
Trans172	18 November 2019	Other: Various	Xmas projector locking straps	120.01	
Trans173	18 November 2019	Other: Various	Xmas Buttermarket lights	149.99	
Trans174	18 November 2019	Office: Supplies	Fasthosts: Oct/Nov Monthly email mailbox fee	13.18	
Trans175	18 November 2019	Project outgoing: Harrold Calendar	XLPress Printing	275.00	
Trans176	18 November 2019	Project outgoing: Harrold Calendar	D Mercer BBC Archive costs	180.00	
Trans177	18 November 2019	Office: Supplies	Sacks for Street Ranger	20.10	
Trans178	18 November 2019	Plants & Trees: Memorial Wreath	RBL Wreath	50.00	
Trans179	18 November 2019	Harrold Centre Room Hire	July to October 2019	356.40	
Trans180	18 November 2019	Project income: Harrold Calendar	Cash Sales		330.00
Trans181	25 November 2019	Project income: Harrold Calendar	Cash Sales		180.00
Trans182	26 November 2019	Project income: Harrold Calendar	Cash Sales		504.00
Trans183	03 December 2019	Electricity: Buttermarket EON		51.82	
Trans184	05 December 2019	Clerk Salary: R Brough Pension		136.38	
Trans185	11 December 2019	Project outgoing: Harrold Calendar	XLPress Printing	275.00	
Trans186	11 December 2019	Other: Various	Xmas Laser projectors	191.00	
Trans187	11 December 2019	Other: Various	Xmas weatherproof boxes	56.62	
Trans188	11 December 2019	Other: Various	Xmas multi plugs	13.98	
Trans189	11 December 2019	Other: Various	Xmas normal straps	24.99	
Trans190	11 December 2019	Other: Various	Xmas timers/sockets	27.41	
Trans191	11 December 2019	Other: Various	Xmas tree: Tree and delivery	170.00	
Trans192	11 December 2019	Other: Various	Xmas tree: Baubles	25.98	
Trans193	11 December 2019	Other: Various	Xmas tree: Weatherproof box	34.28	
Trans194	11 December 2019	Other: Various	Xmas tree: Double plug	6.99	

8. Review of draft budget for 2020/21

As presented by the Finance Committee and local accountant, David Brough. Final budget to be approved in the January council meeting once the Borough Council confirm the number of Band D properties.

Council expressed a preference (10 For and 1 Against) for an increase in the precept of 8.59%; 1.9% for inflation and the remaining increase to account for £5k annual funding to the Harrold Centre Committee to ensure the long-term viability of the Harrold Centre building. The precept will therefore increase from £74,708 to £81,128; a £9.19 increase per year per Band D property. Decision to be ratified at the January meeting.

9. Crime statistics and information and intelligence exchange

Crime report covering 30th October to 26th November showed one instance of "Assault without injury" on Peach's Close, one burglary on Odell Road and one on Church Walk, one harassment and one "Fear of provocation of violence" on Carlton Road.

No actions recorded.

10. Borough Councillor's report for Harrold Ward

Report has been uploaded to the Communications section of the council website and placed on the noticeboard in the centre of the village. Report also available from the Clerk on request.

11. Annual Insurance

To approve the annual insurance quote provided by brokers Came & Company.

Council reviewed the three provided policy schedules and **resolved** unanimously to accept the insurance cover provided by Ecclesiastical with an annual premium of £3036.70.

12. Harrold Centre car park resurfacing

To consider a request from the Harrold Centre Committee for £8,950 of the total £13,950 to resurface the car park with a solid surface instead of using a gravel surface again. Full request has been provided to the council.

- Chairman of the Harrold Centre Committee, Phil Briggs, was in attendance to explain the request: The car park is heavily used for community events, in addition to regular users of the bottle and clothing banks. The surface is now in a very poor condition – perhaps even unsafe.
- Councillors asked questions and gave advice to Phil, including considerations/concerns for drainage and the weight of heavy vehicles. Phil agreed to research this further and the councillors offered to provide assistance if requested.
- Borough Councillor Foster provided the name of a contact at the Borough Council who could advise, and also suggested Phil applied for a Rural Grant from the Borough Council which can match-fund up to 25%. Agenda item will be deferred until Borough advice has been taken.

13. HPFA sports pavilion refurbishment

£100k of council savings were held aside for renovations to the scout hut and sports pavilion. The scout hut work is now complete and £70k remains for the pavilion. The parish council has previously agreed to provide the first instalment of the £70k by financing the detailed building plans to the sum of £3k. However, the quote for the building plans actually comes to £3,487 and requires the council to agree to the additional £487.

Resolved unanimously to fund the amended amount of £3,487.

14. Planning Applications

APPLICATION NO: 19/02299/LBC Listed Building Consent Application

PROPOSAL: Various Internal and external alterations.

LOCATION : 73 High Street Harrold Bedford Bedfordshire MK43 7BJ

Resolved to request that the application stayed within the rules of the Conservation Area; of note was the applicant's request to use upvc window frames.

APPLICATION NO: 19/02443/TPO Tree Preservation Order Application

PROPOSAL: T1 - Horsechestnut - Remove any large dead branches and Crown Lift to 4 metres.

T2 - Silver Birch - Reduce back from the house by 1.5 -2 metres. T3 - Beech -

Reduce a long SW lateral by 15-20% and then Crown Thin by 10-15% to reduce weight and wind loading. Remove any dead/dangerous branches.

LOCATION : 7 Hall Close Harrold Bedford Bedfordshire MK43 7DU

Resolved not to object.

15. Any other business

Request to ask for the Give Way lines in the road at Mansion Lane to be repainted by Borough Highways (**Action Clerk**).

Noted that there is a perceived increase in dog fouling in the village. Clerk to investigate the use of posters around the village, to put a note in the next The Bridge article, and to consider putting dog waste bags on the dog waste bins (**Action Clerk**).

Cllr Mercer requested to stand down from the Planning Committee and be replaced by another councillor: Cllr Calver requested to take Cllr Mercer's place. Website to be updated (**Action Clerk**).

Councillors request the clerk to email Geoff Turner, the applicant for the councillor position, and thank him for applying (**Action Clerk**).

16. Correspondence:

- None requiring council attention

Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 8th January 2019

In the Harrold Centre