



Harrold Parish Council Clerk:  
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## MINUTES

### Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 13<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 7.30pm via Zoom

- 1. Public forum (Names always withheld for Data Protection)**  
One member of the public was in attendance in relation to the layby opposite the entrance to Hall Close.
- 2. Present:** Cllrs R Tickle (Chair), J Peverell, J Calver, E Thompson, B Muller, D Brough (Clerk), R Barrett (joined for item 9), F Ross, G Turner, A Bryce, S Reger, P Pedersen, A Littlemore, A Foster (Borough Cllr).  
**Apologies accepted:** H Paston (Family commitments)
- 3. Disclosure of Interest** – Cllr Thompson declared a pecuniary interest in item 16 (The Bridge grant request) as a member of The Bridge team. Cllr Thompson left the meeting for this item.
- 4. Requests to grant dispensations for disclosed interests** – None
- 5. Approval of Minutes** from the Parish Council meeting held 9<sup>th</sup> December 2020.  
**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 gullies are planned to be installed. The poor state of the pavement by the Fish bar – works order has been raised and the clerk has been continuing to chase.
  - Change to parking signage where additional parking restrictions have been put in place around The Green – clerk has chased.
  - Resolving bridge traffic lights issue/resurfacing bridge/relocating. New traffic light system design being created. Install now expected in early January – clerk has been provided the following information: "Temporary road closure is anticipated to be in operation 09:30 - 15:00 hours from 15<sup>th</sup> February 2021 to 19<sup>th</sup> February 2021"
  - New bollard – corner of Orchard Lane/High St. Approved by parish council.Items sat with Street Ranger:
  - Installing dog bag dispensers – on hold for social distancing reasons. Clerk to look at having the Church Walk dispenser installed.

- Fixing broken bollards on The Green – additional bollards need fixing

## 7. Correspondence (requiring council attention):

- *Multiple parishioners emailed with concern following the recent flash flooding and river flooding in Harrold. Clerk facilitated a meeting between the Bedford BC Senior Flood Risk Officer and parishioners. Item added to agenda to discuss further.*
- *Parishioner called in relation to the new bollard to be added to the corner of Orchard Lane; States that this will stop his business operating as the grain trucks won't be able to turn the junction. Clerk met the parishioner at the bollard location.*

## 8. Finance Report

- The following payments were approved. Income and balances were noted. Variance analysis was discussed; there were no material differences between actual spending and the budget.

Invoice Date	Payment	Details	Gross	Income
18 December 2020	Staff costs	Salaries & PAYE	2,492.29	
04 January 2021	Payroll: Red Shoes		90.00	
13 January 2021	Membership: BATPC Annual	BATPC Annual Fee	359.00	
13 January 2021	Project: HPFA Pavilion	Inv5: Tim Freeman	24,000.00	
13 January 2021	Other: External Audit	Mazars	720.00	
			<b>27,661.29</b>	<b>0.00</b>

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

#### Accounts

Natwest Current Account	24,343
Natwest Bonus Saver	75,259
<b>TOTAL at Bank</b>	<b>99,603</b>
Funds allocated	70,816
General Reserve (estimated)	28,786
<b>TOTAL Funds</b>	<b>99,603</b>

## 9. Precept for 2021/22

*To agree the budget and precept for 2021/22 following receipt of the tax base from Bedford BC Finance.*

**Resolved** to accept the budget as presented by the Finance Committee (available upon request). The precept will remain the same as last year at £81,128. However, due to a reduction in the tax base – essentially a reduction in the number of tax paying dwellings – this will show on individual council tax statements as a 3.4% increase. The coronavirus pandemic has resulted in an increase in unemployment levels, with further increases predicted. Therefore, the proposed tax base from the borough council for most parishes reflects a higher estimate for the effect of “Council Tax Support discounts” in the forthcoming year.

## 10. Planning applications

### New

- *APPLICATION NO: 20/03024/FUL Full Planning Application*  
*PROPOSAL: Extension of existing garage to form gym.*  
*LOCATION : Riverbank Carlton Road Harrold Bedford Bedfordshire MK43 7DS*  
**Resolved** not to object to the above planning application, but to align with any response from the Conservation Officer and Historic England, due to the proximity of the Grade 2 listed bridge.
- Council noted the following: The following appeal has been withdrawn by the appellant and no further action will be taken by the Planning Inspectorate.  
APPEAL BY: Catesby Promotions Limited - Ed Barrett  
PROPOSAL : Demolition of existing agricultural buildings and outline planning permission for residential development of up to 90 dwellings...  
PLANNING NO: 19/00842/MAO INSPECTORATE NO: APP/K0235/W/19/3234032  
LOCATION : Land Adjacent Harrold Lake Odell Road Harrold Bedfordshire  
"The appeal made to the Planning Inspectorate in relation to the failure of the Borough Council to determine the application is to be re-determined following a High Court challenge to the Inspector's decision on the appeal. This does not necessarily mean that the Inspector will reach a different overall decision. A Public Inquiry will be held as a virtual meeting commencing at 10:00am on 20.04.2021 over multiple days."

## 11. Crime statistics and information and intelligence exchange

*The crime report for 1<sup>st</sup> December to 29<sup>th</sup> December showed four "Assaults" on Peach's Close and one "Fear of provocation or violence" on the High St.*

*Community Priority: The North Rural Community Policing time have intimated that the current priority (focus) that targets "burglary" will be updated to another priority shortly, based on reduced burglary crime in comparison to 2019.*

Councillors requested to know if the assaults listed were linked, or were separate assaults **(Action Clerk)**.

## 12. Flooding in Harrold

*To discuss the recent flash flooding and river flooding in Harrold over the Christmas period and consider if any action is needed from the parish council.*

### Short term actions

- To **support flood-affected residents** by connecting them with Melanie Bright – Senior Flood Risk Officer and Flood Resilience Team at Bedford Borough Council. Melanie has been out for site visits and is giving flood advice/support and investigating areas that have flooded.
- Seven parish councillors volunteered to start a **Harrold Flood Group** to provide support and to coordinate activity with the borough council's Resilience Team and the Environment Agency during flooding. The group will create a Flood Plan to detail the activities and process that will be followed during a flood.
- The parish council will likely **support the Flood Group** by buying sand bags (aqua sacks), if required. The Harrold Fire Service have agreed to store these on site and also provide support to the Flood Group.
- The parish council have requested the borough council to check the operation of the diverter (in the brook) at the top of Wood Road – in particular for silt build up. This operates to divert water across the top of Harrold to protect the brook from flooding. We've also asked for the rest of the flood divert channels to be confirmed to be working correctly.

### Longer term actions

- **Learning from the floods:** The borough council, as the Lead Local Flood Authority, are obliged to create a Flood Investigations report (with input from the Environment Agency) to clarify **What Happened** during the Christmas surface flooding and river flooding. We expect it to contain information such as: What happened with the operation of the Newport Pagnell sluice

gate? Why was a flood warning given out for Boxing Day instead of Christmas day? Why was the flooding so severe compared to previous years?

- The Flood Investigations report should also contain **Recommendations** for future improvements to the handling of flooding. The report is expected to take a few months to produce as it's fairly detailed. We'll make it known once it's ready.
- **Internet flood Camera:** During 2020 the Environment Agency were reviewing a proposal to provide a public internet flood camera for the main bridge/causeway between Harrold and Carlton, which will help residents monitor the river levels themselves. The parish council will be pursuing this.

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

*Distributed to councillors prior to the meeting and made available on the parish council website.*

### 14. Streetlights

*To approve the final quote to upgrade the parish council owned streetlights to LED. Three quotes were provided and the council requested to tailor the quote from Zeta Group for approval.*

**Resolved** to approve the quote from Zeta Group up to a value of £17,400 to allow for brackets and light deflectors, should residents ask for them. Clerk to obtain planning permission (**Action Clerk**).

### 15. Neighbourhood Development Plan

- *To receive a progress update on the Neighbourhood Development Plan, including a proposal from the Steering Group to submit the final version of the plan (and supporting documents) for independent examination and onwards for a village referendum to formally adopt the plan (expected May 2021 at the earliest).*

**Update from Cllr Reger:** The Steering Group are ready to submit the final version of the Neighbourhood Development Plan for independent examination. One of the three sites was withdrawn from the plan at a late stage (Land at Priory Farm/New Road). Following advice from Bedford BC, the total number of dwellings in the plan has been reduced from 30 to 25, and the remainder reallocated to the remaining two sites in the proportions backed by the public consultations. That's 17 dwellings at Odell Road and 8 dwellings at Orchard Lane.

Following the independent examination, and if no issues are found with the plan, we will prepare for a referendum for the village to adopt the plan this year. The earliest this can happen is May 2021 due to the government's Covid restrictions. The outcome of this lengthy and laborious process, is having control over the location, type and amount of development in Harrold, backed by the public through multiple consultations.

**Resolved** to submit the final version of the plan for Regulation 16 consultation and independent examination (Proposed: Cllr Reger).

### 16. Grant request: The Bridge magazine

*To consider the grant request from The Bridge magazine for £500 to cover printing costs. Full application circulated to councillors.*

**Resolved** to approve the grant request for £500.

### 17. 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 parish council has now paid a total of £29k (Exc VAT) towards the project, with a remaining £40k to go.

Update from Bob Woodward (HPFA): "The roof work is now complete and the scoreboard has been installed into the gable end. The solar panels are back in operation. The main work left is the disabled access which should have been underway this week but may well be delayed due to lockdown and difficulty of supplies. There is the electrical and plumbing work to complete but much of the interior decoration has been completed. The roof insulation will follow the

completion of electrical and plumbing work. We are now in the process of choosing carpets and other flooring and upgrading the kitchen and bar. The bar needs a new floor after which we intent to install new serving and washing arrangements to improve matters. This week we are purchasing new exterior doors with better security locks. At the conclusion of the work there will need to be quite a bit of ground reinstatement to round off the project.”

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

Cllr Pedersen: To investigate whether a PSPO (Public Space Protection Order) could be implemented to ensure dogs are kept on leads in the village.

**Date of next meeting: Wednesday 10th February 2021 via Zoom**