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Chairman: Rev. Robert Tickle
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MINUTES

Minutes of the parish council meeting held 8th September 2021 at 7.30pm in the Harrold Centre

- 1. Present:** Cllrs R Tickle (Chairman), J Peverell, J Calver, G Turner, P Pedersen, J Robinson, A Littlemore, E Thompson, H Paston, S Reger, R Barrett, G Green.
D Brough (Clerk), Borough Councillor Alison Foster.
Apologies accepted: Cllr B Muller (Unwell).
Absent: None.
- 2. Public Open Forum:** Six members of the public were in attendance:
 - Two parishioners attended in support of agenda items 11 and 12, a hedge for the Lower Green and moving of the life-saving equipment away from the fence line.
 - Three parishioners attended to object to any loss of parking at Saxon House End (agenda item 13). One of these parishioners presented an option for the residents to put forward a large proportion of the cost towards a grasscrete parking space on the grass.
- 3. Disclosure of Interest** – None.
- 4. Requests to grant dispensations for disclosed interests** – None.
- 5. Approval of Minutes** from the parish council meeting held 11th August 2021.
Resolved to approve the minutes as an accurate record of the meeting.
- 6. Clerk's report:**
Actions from the previous meetings:
 - Two picnic benches have been added at Harewelle Way playgroundItems sat with Bedford BC Highways:
 - Resolving the flooding of the zebra crossing – additional gullies are planned to be installed. Fixes to the poor state of the pavement by the Fish bar. Works planned for 25th to 29th October 9am to 3.30pm (Road closure).Other:
 - Streetlights: Upgrade is in progress. Western Power are required to attend to switch over the electrical connection before some of the new lights can be switched on, and old lanterns removed.

7. Correspondence (requiring council attention):

- None.

8. Finance Report

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

| Invoice Date | Payment | Details | Gross | Income |
|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 14 July 2021 | Cemetary Income: | | | 67.00 |
| 19 July 2021 | Staff costs | Salaries & PAYE | 2,411.09 | |
| 02 September 2021 | Plants & Trees: | Cemetary grass/weeding - AD Gardens | 150.00 | |
| 02 September 2021 | Other: External Audit | Mazars | 480.00 | |
| | | | <u>3,041.09</u> | <u>67.00</u> |

Accounts

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Natwest Current Account | 49,304 |
| Natwest Bonus Saver | 11,665 |
| <u>TOTAL at Bank</u> | <u>60,968</u> |
| Funds allocated | 34,103 |
| General Reserve (estimated) | 28,866 |
| <u>TOTAL Funds</u> | <u>60,968</u> |

9. Planning applications and enforcement

New

APPLICATION NO: 21/02267/FUL Full Planning Application

PROPOSAL: Erection of conservatory to side/rear

LOCATION : Orchard Cottage 18 Orchard Lane Harrold Bedford Bedfordshire MK43 7BP

Resolved not to object, but to refer to the Conservation Officer.

Previous applications where HPC commented or objected

- *APPLICATION NO: 21/01610/S73A Retrospective planning permission Application*
PROPOSAL: Single storey side extension with abutment roof light (Development already carried out)
LOCATION : 21 Wood Road Harrold Bedford Bedfordshire MK43 7BS
HPC: Objected. Bedford BC: Refused.
- **Amended plans:** *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
HPC: Previously objected (Material choice/overshadowing).
HPC: Removed previous objection and requested a "condition" on materials. Bedford BC: Permission Granted

10. Crime statistics and information and intelligence exchange

Crime report for Aug 2021 shared with the council. No actions.

11. Special Motion

Special Motion presented by Cllrs Robinson, Pedersen and Muller to reverse the below decision from 11th August 2021 council meeting.

- *To agree a council response to a resident of the Lower Green in relation to: 1) a request for a double depth, hawthorn hedge, protected temporarily by a wire fence, down to the water's edge, 2) a request to move the life saving equipment away from the resident's fence (Full email request shared with councillors).*

Resolved not to allow any hedge to be planted at the Lower Green.

Resolved not to move the life-saving equipment.

This motion was not carried, and as such item 12a and item 12b could not take place.

12. Lower Green maintenance

Proposal from Cllr Robinson, should the Special Motion be carried:

- **To give approval now for the planting of a wild hedge** utilising a range of native species including Hazel, Crab Apple, Dog rose, Dogwood and Hawthorn (as included in the Woodland Trust Starter Pack kit). Plants to be planted in staggered rows around 50cm (20inches) apart with 40cm (16inches) between the lines to provide a thicker hedge with a better chance of survival, in line with the Woodland Trust recommendation for planting. Plants to be protected with spirals and canes or tubes and stakes to protect from wildlife and planted this planting season (October 2021 – February 2022) to ensure the best chance of survival of the plants, accepting the kind offer of the resident to pay for such planting to be undertaken by end Feb2022.

This item could not be resolved due to item 11 not being carried.

- **To give approval now to move the life-saving equipment** forwards of its currently location approximately 2m (or other distance to be agreed, nothing confirmation already has been sought from the Fire Brigade) to allow for the hedge to establish behind it, but remain in clear sight of the river. Cllr Robinson and the Clerk have offered to break out the existing concrete and relocate at just the cost of the materials required to re-set the posts in the ground

This item could not be resolved due to item 11 not being carried.

- *Following on and separate to the hedge proposal, to set up a new Working Group for the Lower Green* to assess the current condition of the area, with a view to working up proposals for the ongoing and future maintenance and/or improvements at the Lower Green.

Resolved to create a Working Group as outlined above, with the following members: Cllrs Pedersen, Tickle, Green, Robinson, Barrett, Turner, Littlemore.

13. Saxon House End parking

- **To receive responses from the consultation** of residents of Saxon House End for fixing the broken railings, and any potential changes to parking in this area (Previously discussed March/June/July 2021).

Responses were noted.

Proposal from Cllrs Turner and Pedersen:

- **Remove the existing low wooden fencing** starting outside the flats and going round to the straight section by the houses/where the current hedge starts

Resolved to approve.

- **Install a new bay of grasscrete for one car** to a line that means the Openreach inspection chamber remains unaffected (Residents putting forward £1200 of the £1700 cost).

Resolved to approve subject to receipt of the £1200 contribution. If the contribution is not received then item to be brought back to the council.

- **Plant shrubbery/hedging up to the inspection cover** – choice of plant to be chosen by Working Group (Quote c.£1600)

Resolved to approve up to £1600 using volunteers from the council for the labour (Cllrs Turner, Barrett, Robinson).

- **Investigate feasibility of planting between the inspection cover and existing hedge** – this can then either be planted or have posts installed.

Resolved to support this approach.

Future agenda item: Proposal for a future agenda from Cllr Turner, to replace the hedging along Saxon House End green space. Cllr Turner to prepare a proposal.

14. Lower Green Oak Tree removal

To consider three quotes for the felling of a terminally-diseased oak tree on the Lower Green. June 2021 professional assessment suggests a 5-year lifespan.

Resolved to approve the quote of £1800 + VAT from Heritage Arboriculture.

15. Speeding in Harrold

Monthly item to discuss speeding in Harrold, and to note the data from the Speed Indication Devices.

Cllr Muller was not present to discuss the speed data.

16. New Speed Sign (VAS)

Proposal from Cllr Calver (Rolled from June/July/August 2021 meetings):

- *To consider the purchase of an additional VAS from Morelock signs at £2,795 (solar). Separate column will be required if solar panel is chosen.*

Item to be rolled to the next meeting.

17. Borough Councillor's report for Harrold Ward

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

18. Neighbourhood Development Plan update

- *To note progress on the plan, which has now been approved for the referendum by the Independent Examiner following a 3-month assessment.*

Progress noted.

- *Next steps: Bedford BC to review the examiner's report and confirm if the plan can progress to referendum – decision within 4 weeks. Referendum date can then be set – minimum notice period of 28 days.*

Action: Steering Group will need to meet to prepare a communication plan for the referendum.

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

Cllr Calver requested an item to discuss the implementation of CCTV in Harrold.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 13th October 2021 (Harrold Centre)