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Chairman: Rev. Robert Tickle
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MINUTES

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 9th December 2020 at 7.30pm via Zoom

1. **Public forum (Names always withheld for Data Protection)**
One member of the public was in attendance with an interest in receiving an update on the Neighbourhood Development Plan.
2. **Present:** Cllrs R Tickle (Chair), J Peverell, J Calver, E Thompson, B Muller, D Brough (Clerk), R Barrett (Arrived late due to technical issues), F Ross, G Turner, A Bryce, S Reger, H Paston, A Foster (Borough Cllr).
Apologies: None
Absent: P Pedersen
3. **Disclosure of Interest** – Cllr Turner declared a personal interest in the Annual Insurance approval, as an employee of one of the companies (Spoke but did not vote on the item).
4. **Requests to grant dispensations for disclosed interests** – None
5. **Approval of Minutes** from the Parish Council meeting held 11th November 2020.
Resolved to approve the minutes as an accurate record of the meeting.
6. **Cooption**
To consider coopting to fill the vacant councillor position. One applicant has come forward and provided their profile to the council.
Resolved unanimously to coopt Andrew Littlemore to the council (Proposed: Cllr Tickle, Seconded: Cllr Bryce).
7. **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.
 - 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. New traffic light system design being created. Install now expected in early January.
 - New bollard – corner of Orchard Lane/High St. Approved and works order raised.

Items sat with Street Ranger:

- Installing dog bag dispensers – on hold for social distancing reasons
- Fixing broken bollards on The Green – additional bollards need fixing

8. Correspondence (requiring council attention):

- *Parishioner emailed requesting permanent parking restrictions by 62 High St to aid the flow of vehicles in this area.* Email has been sent to councillors.
- *Parishioner emailed requesting assistance in applying a TPO to trees opposite the junction on Wood Road.* This has been added to the agenda upon request from Cllr Tickle.

9. 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.

Ref #	Invoice Date	Payment	Details	Gross	Income
Trans126	18 November 2020	Staff costs	Salaries & PAYE	2,261.15	
Trans127	18 November 2020	Other: Various	Geyserclean - Buttermarket roof clea	385.00	
Trans128	18 November 2020	Xmas projector income	Sale of Xmas light projectors		100.00
Trans129	23 November 2020	Other: Various	Morelock - replacement batteries	130.80	
Trans130	25 November 2020	Xmas projector income	Sale of Xmas light projectors		100.00
Trans131	09 December 2020	Project: HPFA Pavilion	Inv4: PWC Building Control Services	408.00	
Trans132	09 December 2020	Other: Various	Xmas Tree base: Postcrete	9.50	
Trans133	09 December 2020	Other: Various	Bletsoe PC: Issues & Options consul	38.46	
Trans134	09 December 2020	Project: Neighbourhood plan	BRCC: Consultation survey costs	1,313.28	
Trans135	09 December 2020	Other: Various	Fawns Playgrounds - new swings	6,212.83	
Trans136	09 December 2020	Other: Various	Fawns Playgrounds - repairs	4,146.51	
Trans137	09 December 2020	Other: Various	Christmas Lights - Amps	3,079.19	
				17,984.72	200.00

Accounts

Natwest Current Account	57,803	
Natwest Bonus Saver	75,259	
Bucks Building Society	0	CLOSED
TOTAL at Bank	133,063	
Funds allocated	107,845	
General Reserve (estimated)	25,218	
TOTAL Funds	133,063	

- *To discuss the budget for 2021/22 so that it can be approved in the January meeting.*

Draft budget (balanced) was discussed and will be shared over email. The current proposal is not to increase the total precept, however, the tax base (number of tax paying properties) from the borough council had not yet been received; this will determine the change in council tax levied on individual properties, even if the total precept stays the same. Precept to be set in the January meeting once the tax base has been received.

>> The schedule of items on the agenda was moved to accommodate Cllr Barrett's technical issues, Cllr Reger's work commitments and the parishioner present. These items occurred in the following order:

10. Tree Preservation Order for Wood Road trees

Proposed by Cllr Tickle in response to correspondence:

*To consider requesting Bedford BC to apply TPOs to three trees on Wood Road that could potentially be removed during development – this is near the entrance to a site in the Neighbourhood Development Plan. This would make it more difficult for the trees to be removed. This motion was **not carried**, but may be revisited once development plans have been received for the site.*

The Neighbourhood Development Plan is currently being adjusted to account for the loss of the site at Priory Farm/New Road, which was removed from the plan by the landowners. To risk the loss of a second site by requesting TPOs could see the plan derailed and the mid-January deadline missed. Losing the Neighbourhood Development Plan would mean losing the control to determine where, and how much, development would happen in Harrold.

11. Neighbourhood Development Plan

- *To receive a progress update on the Neighbourhood Development Plan, including a proposal from the Steering Group as to how to proceed with the plan in light of the loss of the Priory Farm/New Road site.*

The NP Steering Group are preparing to submit the final version of the Neighbourhood Development Plan for independent examination in January – this is the final deadline for submission. As a reminder, one of the three sites was withdrawn from the plan at this late stage (Land at Priory Farm/New Road). Following advice from Bedford BC and planning consultants, 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 15 dwellings at Odell Road and 7 dwellings at Orchard Lane, with 3 dwellings accounted for by an expected planning application on Roman Paddock. (Edit: Advice is that this planning application for 3 dwellings cannot now be used in the count, so the allocations are 17 at Odell Road and 8 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.

- *To decide whether to release the consultant from Regeneration Positive from January, or to move to a retainer fee of £125 a month based on the reduced amount of effort required (previously £250).*

Resolved to release Regeneration Positive from January and pay for work on an ad hoc basis, should it be required.

Action for Cllr Reger to confirm the remaining costs in the plan.

>> Cllr Reger left the meeting at this point.

12. Crime statistics and information and intelligence exchange

The crime report for 28th October to 30th November showed one "Theft from a motor vehicle" on Peach's Close. No actions recorded.

13. Christmas Carol Event

To consider granting permission for the Harrold Baptist Church to hold a public Christmas carol event using The Green. The organiser will be confirming which part of the government's guidance on Covid-19 they are applying to the event, and also providing a Risk Assessment.

Resolved to approve use of The Green for this event.

>> Cllr Barrett joined the meeting at this point.

14. Planning applications

New

- **APPLICATION NO:** 20/02754/FUL Full Planning Application
PROPOSAL: Two storey front and side extensions and single storey rear extension following the demolition of existing attached garage.
LOCATION : 142A High Street Harrold Bedford Bedfordshire MK43 7EA
Resolved not to object to this planning application.
- **APPLICATION NO:** 20/02591/LBC Listed Building Consent Application
PROPOSAL: New flat roof to existing rear extension
LOCATION : 85 High Street Harrold Bedford Bedfordshire MK43 7BJ
Resolved not to object to this planning application.
- Applicant has amended the below application – previously No Objection
Amended version:
APPLICATION No 20/02297/TPO **TYPE:** Tree Preservation Order Application
PROPOSAL: T1 Purple Plum - Remove to ground level. T2 Copper Beech - Crown Lift to 4m inside the garden only. T3 Weeping Willow - Crown lift to 4 metres, reduce in height by 2 metres and in width by 1.5 metres
LOCATION : 1 Hall Close Harrold Bedford Bedfordshire MK43 7DU
Original version:
APPLICATION NO: 20/02297/TPO **Tree Preservation Order Application**
PROPOSAL: T1 - Purple Plum - Remove to ground level. T2 - Copper Beech - Crown Lift to 4m inside the garden only. T3 - Weeping Willow -Remove to ground level.
LOCATION : 1 Hall Close Harrold Bedford Bedfordshire MK43 7DU
Resolved not to object to this planning application.
- **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.”
Resolved to submit the same objection that the parish council submitted for the previous appeal, which has been prepared by a professional planning consultant. **Action** for Clerk to clarify with our planning consultant if a response should be given to Catesby’s submission to the final Neighbourhood Development Plan public consultation.

Updates on previous applications (Where HPC objected)

- **APPLICATION NO:** 20/02397/TPO **Tree Preservation Order Application**
PROPOSAL: Reduce Beech Trees by 50%, fell 8 Beech trees to ground level, crown reduce lime tree by 30% and remove dead wood **LOCATION :** 4 Hall Close Harrold Bedford Bedfordshire MK43 7DU
Parish Council: Objected. Bedford BC Planning: Awaiting decision

15. Borough Councillor’s report for Harrold Ward

Report to be made available on the parish council website once received.

16. Annual Insurance

To approve the annual insurance policy. Three quotes have been provided by broker Came & Company.

Resolved to accept the quote of £2,559 per annum for a 3-year Long Term Agreement (LTA) with Ecclesiastical insurance.

17. Streetlights

To approve the final quote to upgrade the parish council owned streetlights to LED. Three quotes have been provided.

The council reviewed the lantern options for each streetlight location and requested another heritage option for 5 of the streetlights around the village, instead of a more modern lantern. The style of the borough council's heritage lantern was favoured. School Lane trustees are to be offered a choice of Zeta Group lanterns, with a request to provide a decision prior to the next meeting. Amended proposal to be brought back to the January meeting for final approval.

18. New trees

Proposed by Cllr Turner:

To consider a proposal for new trees in various public areas in Harrold, based on the original work carried out by councillors in 2018.

Cllr Turner submitted an amended proposal for the planting of new trees in Harrold. There were no objections to the locations in the proposal, however, budget constraints mean that the council will look at this again in May 2021 when the coming year's precept has arrived. Current draft proposal is available upon request.

19. 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.

Update from HPFA: "The work is progressing at a good pace. The roof is complete and the umbrella removed. Redecoration started and carpets etc to be removed next week. Solar panels are up and running and the rest of the scaffolding will come down on Friday. Work on the disabled access can then start but I guess won't be finished before Christmas."

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

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 13th January 2021 via Zoom