

## Article submitted to The Bridge magazine in March 2020

### **Change of email address**

Please note that the clerk email address has changed. It is now [harroldparishcouncil@outlook.com](mailto:harroldparishcouncil@outlook.com)

### **Happy-To-Chat bench**

The parish council has added a sign to the bench by the Coop to designate it as Harrold's Happy-To-Chat bench: "Sit here if you don't mind someone stopping to say hello". Some people may go days or even weeks without the simplest of human contact, so these types of benches seek to break down that social barrier and allow us all to say hello. It's a simple way to let people know you're open to a chat.



### **Highways issues**

The parish council has asked the borough council to resolve the following issues, and we are expecting works soon: The first is to resolve the flooding of the zebra crossing on the High St – potentially by installing additional drains – survey work has been carried out. The second is the poor state of the pavement outside the Fish bar – a works order has been raised for this and we're waiting to be prioritised.

### **Footpaths**

We have recently had a Right of Way (footpath) that was blocked by fallen trees and branches. Bedford Borough Council work with landowners to ensure that Rights of Way are kept clear of blockages, and you should contact them in the first instance, but please do reach out to me if you find that action is not being taken.

### **Grants**

The parish council is pleased to have awarded the following grants: £5k to the Harrold Primary Academy PTA group towards their project for playground equipment, and £500 to The Bridge magazine towards production costs.

### **Dog poo bag dispensers**

Three dog poo bag dispenser boxes have been purchased to encourage the owners (who need reminding) to pick up after their dogs. We are waiting for permission to install them next to the dog poo bins at the following locations: on the footpath between Dove Lane and Roman Paddock, on Church Walk, and at the top of Brook Lane (adjoining Wood Road).

### **Parish Council owned streetlights**

The parish council owns 15 streetlights in Harrold (Bedford BC own the rest): these are on Mowhills, on the path by the Lower Green, Hall Close and Carlton Road (by the country park). There are no longer replacement parts for the majority of these lights, due to their age; the only option to keep these lit is therefore to upgrade them to LED. We have already received one quote, and two more surveys are in progress. This is an issue affecting many parish councils – and an extremely expensive one. Once all three quotes have been received the parish council will be discussing what approach to take.

### **Orange recycling bags**

You can put these bags out with your recycling if your orange wheelie bin becomes full. These are available at Harrold Butchers and at the Coop. Please only take the amount you need; we assist the borough council in running this service and we only get restocked on an ad hoc basis.

### **Harrold Parish Council Facebook page**

If you would like updates on Parish Council activity then please join the Harrold Parish Council Facebook page. Link is below.

Address for correspondence (only):

Harrold Parish Council, Brookfield House, 79 Harewelle Way, Harrold, MK43 7DW.

07388 125821. [harroldparishcouncil@outlook.com](mailto:harroldparishcouncil@outlook.com)

[www.harroldparishcouncil.com](http://www.harroldparishcouncil.com)

[www.facebook.com/harroldpc](http://www.facebook.com/harroldpc)

The next meeting is 8th April. The Annual Parish meeting for electors (ie you), and the Annual Parish Council meetings will be held on 13<sup>th</sup> May. All are very welcome and encouraged to attend; there is a public open forum at 7.30pm at every meeting, not just the annual ones. Please email the clerk if you wish to address the council as we may wish to add the item to the main agenda so that we can take immediate action. Please note that the clerk role is part time, so you may not receive an immediate response to correspondence, although I do try to be flexible and spread my time through the week.