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Chairman:
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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 10th January 2018 at 7.30pm at Parish Council Office

Present: R Tickle (Chair), B Muller, B Page, G Lloyd, D Brough, L Duggan, L Hoad
R Brough (Clerk), S Reger, P Pedersen

Apologies: R Barrett, D Mercer, J Peverell, A Foster (Bedford Borough Council)

Public forum

Debbie Earl and Nina Knight from The Bridge magazine came to request that the council submit an article for every edition of the magazine, as they've had contact from readers with an interest in reading it. Cllr Brough stated that articles were only not submitted when the information was going to be repetitive or trivial. Debbie stated this was fine, and that readers would still be interested; in which case, Cllr Brough confirmed that he would write an article for every edition.

- 1. Disclosure of Interest** – members were invited to declare any personal or prejudicial interests they may have in any items on the Agenda. No disclosures of interest were made.

Cllr Page disclosed an interest regards to planning application 17/03578/FUL as his house overlooks the area put forward for changes.

- 2. Approval of Minutes** from the Parish Council meeting held 13th December 2017

Council approved the minutes unanimously.

- 3. Matters arising from meeting held 13th December 2016** – for information only
 - Clerk reported on the latest Action List

- 4. Finance Report:**

The following monthly payments were approved:

Ref #	Invoice Date	Payment	Details	Payments		
				Gross	VAT	Net
Trans159	14 December 2017	Plants & Trees: Tree Survey & Independent Advice	Survey of The Green trees by RGS Consultants	330.00	55.00	275.00
Trans160	14 December 2017	Other: Various	Christmas Tree - Stoke Goldington	85.00	10.00	75.00
Trans161	24 December 2017	Office: Phone & Broadband BT		82.80	13.80	69.00
Trans162	22 December 2017	Clerk Salary: R Brough Tax NI		78.89	0.00	78.89
Trans163	28 December 2017	Clerk Salary: R Brough Pension		52.59	0.00	52.59
Trans164	28 December 2017	Clerk Salary: R Brough		912.48	0.00	912.48
Trans165	01 January 2018	Office: Rent		375.00	0.00	375.00
Trans166	08 January 2018	Electricity: Buttermarket EON		55.32	2.63	52.69
Trans167	10 January 2018	Office: Phone & Broadband BT		21.20	3.53	17.67
Trans168	09 January 2018	Other: Buttermarket restoration (Prior year)	Artisan Bespoke	3,270.00	545.00	2,725.00
Trans169	09 January 2018	Project: Neighbourhood plan	Neighbourhood Plan Consulting Fees- T Roff	250.00	0.00	250.00
Trans170	09 January 2018	Project: Neighbourhood plan	Survey Monkey- David Mercer	29.00	0.00	29.00
Trans171	09 January 2018	Payroll: Cambridgeshire ACRE		90.00	15.00	75.00
Trans172	13 January 2018	Electricity: Street EON		348.43	16.59	331.84
Trans173	10 January 2018	Grant Out: The Bridge magazine		500.00	0.00	500.00
				6,150.71	606.55	5,544.16

**7. Police report: Crime statistics and information and intelligence exchange
(Provided to council prior to meeting via email)**

**8. Borough Councillor's report for Harrold Ward.
(Report emailed to council via email prior to meeting)**

9. Planning applications

Application no: 17/03578/FUL Full Planning Application
Proposal: Extension to existing industrial unit to form covered area
Location: Town Farm House 76 High Street Harrold MK43 7BH

No Objections

Application no: 17/03549/FUL Full Planning Application
Proposal: Single Storey rear extension
Location: 64 Harewelle Street, Harrold, Bedfordshire Mk43 7DY

No Objections

Application no: 17/03260/FUL Full Planning Application
Proposal: Erection of stables and tack room /store
Location: Greenview House 74 High Street, Harrold, Bedfordshire Mk43 7BH

No Objections

Application no: 17/03535/LBC Listed Building Consent Application
Proposal: Repoint area of washed out mortar along north elevation and repaint existing windows
Location: 67 High Street, Harrold, Bedfordshire Mk43 7BH

No Objections

10. Update from Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee.

The next steering committee meeting will be held on the 29th of January 2018

11. Council to review and agree proposed budget and set precept for 2018/2019.

Cllr Brough presented the council with the budget for 2018/19 and concluded that the precept should remain the same again at £72,645, despite a 1.7% increase in band D properties. This will therefore show on individual tax bill summaries as a 1.7% reduction. Last year we also kept the precept the same despite an increase in band D properties - this showed as a 1.5% reduction in individual tax bills. This is because the council are confident the precept covers our costs each year.

In summary:

Income: Income has reduced as the borough council have now removed the CTB reduction grant (A £1.5k top-up to the precept). **Expenditure:** Employment costs have reduced (£1k) due to the reduced need for clerk overtime due to streamlining of processes. Office costs have reduced (£0.8k) due to efficiencies. Miscellaneous costs have gone down by (£2k) as we match the prior year figures when estimating. However, Parks and Open Spaces costs have increased by £3k due to an increase in grass cutting expenditure. This relates to an increase from the grass cutter, and the additional area of Harewelle Way playground to cut, because we took on the lease for this land last year. Village Maintenance is increasing £0.3k as we have asked for more litterpicking and footpath maintenance (leaf sweeping) than in previous years. The majority of the project spend will continue to be financed by reserves.

Cllr Reger proposed that we accept this budget and keep the precept the same. Cllr Page seconded. All in favour.

12. Council to look at playground designs submitted for a possible replacement of climbing frame at the Saxon House End playground.

To be moved to February meeting as three separate quotes have not yet been found.

13. Council to review quote given to reduce the crown density of the 12 trees on the Upper green.

Quote unanimously approved to reduce the crown density on the trees by 20% in response to the request from the homeowners of the thatched cottages on the Green. The thick canopies are apparently increasing damp and rotting of the thatch. Council did not want to do a full crown due to the risk of long term damage to the trees and the consequent requirement for large amounts of maintenance following a full crown, where tree growth becomes faster and more sporadic.

14. Council to discuss the missing bollards on the Upper Green and whether they would like to have these replaced.

Council would like to get a quote to have the bollards and chains replaced which have been removed. Currently cars are being parked on the Green. The land is public land managed by the Parish Council.

15. Any other business –

- Council are waiting to hear back from Highways regarding the request to have a 'No access to school' sign placed at the entrance of Mowhills. [A Prigmore \(BBC Highways\) responded 'Ordinarily we would put up a no through road sign but we can make a bespoke black on yellow sign. It will be 8 weeks for the sign to be installed.'](#)
- Highways have repaired a number of potholes which the clerk report on the roads running by the school and war memorial.
- The removal of the double yellow lines on the roads through The Green and the implementation of a single yellow line across from the bus loading zone. [A Prigmore responded 'As the PC have also now approved single yellow line, we will combine all requests under one consultation. The consultation will commence two weeks from tomorrow. We will then look to implement in the Easter holidays.'](#)
- Footpath at the back of the church to the churchyard needs repair.
Council feels it is not unsightly and in keeping with the present churchyard. If possible, we would like to have community workers help clear the pavement as we feel that power-washing it will damage the surface. For the few times a year this path is used the council can't justify the costs of resurfacing it. However, we should consider whether the HPC are legally responsible if anything did happen on the path. **Action Clerk**

- Council to check when the annual maintenance date for the church clock is. **Action Clerk**
- The Council reviewed the colour drawing of the proposed new village entrance signs. Council asked that the design be adjusted a bit, but it was well received. A separate part to the sign is needed stating that Harrold is twinned with Ste. Pazanne – this is because the current Highways “Harrold” signs will be removed. **Action Cllr Lloyd**
- A letter of support for the Odell Harrold Country Park Rangers has been written to the Mayor and Mr Royden (BBC) expressing the council’s concerns at the proposed cutbacks to positions and salaries. **Action Clerk**

16. Correspondence –

- All correspondence to the council this month was from villagers looking for orange recycling sacks. These can be collected from the Harrold Butchers, Muntjac Pub and the Coop. The Borough council will be replenishing the councils stock of bags by mid-January.

17. Summary of actions

The Chairman summarised the actions required

Date of next meeting

Wednesday 14th February 2018