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Chairman:  
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### **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 13th December 2017 at 7.30pm at Parish Council Office**

**Present:** R Tickle (Chair), B Muller, J Peverell, B Page, R Barrett, G Lloyd,  
R Brough (Clerk), S Reger, A Foster (Bedford Borough Council)

**Apologies:** L Hoad, D Brough, D Mercer, L Duggan, P Pedersen,

### **Public forum**

Parishioner Ms S Mitchell attended the meeting to outline some concerns she has with a few of the projects the council have been discussing, and also suggestions for how the council could improve its form of communication with parishioners. Ms Mitchell suggested Harrold Parish council collaborates with the neighbouring villages/towns. Ms Mitchell felt distressed her past correspondence with the council outlining her concerns had not been formally acknowledged. She is concerned with the council's plan to remove the metal railings near the bridge; although she is happy the land around the bridge has begun to be cleared. She would like the green electricity box which blocks the view across the bridge to be moved. Ms Mitchell would like a noticeboard be placed in the village where the council could post the designs and plans the council are looking to move forward with so that villagers can see a visual perspective and comment to the council whether they would like the council to proceed. Ms Mitchell has offered to pay for this noticeboard. She feels the council is taking a subjective view that something is unattractive and that money is being spent on cosmetics rather than the basics like pavement sweeping.

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.
2. **Approval of Minutes** from the Parish Council meeting held 8th November 2017  
  
Council approved the minutes.
3. **Matters arising from meeting held 9th November 2016** – for information only
  - Clerk reported on the months Action List

### **4. Finance Report:**

## Approval for requests for monthly payments

Council approved the following payments:

Ref #	Invoice Date	Payment	Details	Payments			Receipts Gross
				Gross	VAT	Net	
Trans138	18 October 2017	VAT Refund received					37,389.61
Trans139	15 November 2017	Other: Various	Reimburse D.Brough for replacement Xmas Lights for Green	383.41	0.00	383.41	
Trans140	15 November 2017	Brook: R Sinclair		250.00	0.00	250.00	
Trans141	15 November 2017	Village Maintenance: R Sinclair		267.50	0.00	267.50	
Trans142	20 November 2017	Clerk Salary: R Brough Tax NI		78.89	0.00	78.89	
Trans143	30 November 2017	Clerk Salary: R Brough		935.86	0.00	935.86	
Trans144	30 November 2017	Clerk Salary: R Brough Pension	Catchup to October	19.48	0.00	19.48	
Trans145	01 December 2017	Office: Rent		375.00	0.00	375.00	
Trans146	11 December 2017	Project: Neighbourhood plan	Mato Design	1,200.00	0.00	1,200.00	
Trans147	11 December 2017	Plants & Trees: Heritage Arboriculture	Heritage Arboriculture - Harrold Centre Playground	420.00	70.00	350.00	
Trans148	11 December 2017	Plants & Trees: Heritage Arboriculture	Heritage Arboriculture - Harewelle Way Playground	1,476.00	246.00	1,230.00	
Trans149	11 December 2017	Plants & Trees: Heritage Arboriculture	Heritage Arboriculture - Upper Green	180.00	30.00	150.00	
Trans150	11 December 2017	Plants & Trees: Heritage Arboriculture	Heritage Arboriculture - Lower Green	108.00	18.00	90.00	
Trans151	11 December 2017	Other: Insurance	Came & Company	3,055.19	0.00	3,055.19	
Trans152	11 December 2017	Other: Various	Clan Marketing- Playground signs	160.00	0.00	160.00	
Trans153	11 December 2017	Grass: In Trim	November Payment	552.00	92.00	460.00	
Trans154	11 December 2017	Project: Neighbourhood plan	Neighbourhood Plan Consulting Fees- T Roff	250.00	0.00	250.00	
Trans155	11 December 2017	Office: Phone & Broadband BT		21.20	3.53	17.67	
Trans156	11 December 2017	Electricity: Buttermarket EON		47.10	2.24	44.86	
Trans157	11 December 2017	Village Maintenance: R Sinclair		186.00	0.00	186.00	
Trans158	11 December 2017	Brook: R Sinclair		250.00	0.00	250.00	
				<b>10,215.63</b>	<b>461.77</b>	<b>9,753.86</b>	<b>37,389.61</b>

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

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

Cllr Foster is helping to develop a website which will highlight the beauty of the North Beds countryside and villages. She has asked the council to forward her any photos they may have of the Bedfordshire area which she could use on the website. The website will display the newest areas of land which have been put forward for development as part of the Borough's 2035 local plan.

The borough council have said they will be making one of the Country Park rangers redundant in Harrold Odell Park. This will mean there will not be a full-time ranger in the Country Park. The remaining ranger will need to share their working hours between a few parks. Without a full-time ranger in the park there will often be no one to oversee the Friends of the Park volunteers and carry out park maintenance. Parish Council will write a letter to the borough council outlining why they believe it is necessary to keep both the Park Rangers currently based at the Odell Country Park. **Action Clerk**

### 7. Planning applications

#### Application no: 17/03209/ Full Planning Application

**Proposal: Single Storey extension linking main dwelling to garage**

**Location: Long Ridge Church Walk, Harrold, Bedfordshire MK43 7DG**

**No Objections**

#### Application no: 17/03376/FUL Full Planning Application

**Proposal: Single Storey rear/side extension following demolition of existing conservatory**

**Location: Grovemount 51 High Street, Harrold, Bedfordshire Mk43**

**No Objections**

### 8. Update from Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee.

The Steering Committee has had their second night of meeting land agents representing land which has been put forward for development in Harrold. This time they met with the land agent representing the land which has been put forward on Odell Rd.

**9. Council to review sample drawings for village entrance signage.**

Council would like Cllr Lloyd to instruct The Village Sign Company to create a coloured mock-up of Sample A of the selection of black and white signs they have provided the council. **Action Cllr Lloyd**

**10. Council to review and sign off Audit Report for 2016/2017.**

Council reviewed the findings of the 2016/2017 audit. The audit was completed successfully with two minor pieces of advice which the council will adopt into next year's process. Council approved the findings and signed off the audit report for 2016/2017.

**11. Council to look at playground designs submitted for a possible refurbishment of Saxon House End playground.**

Council reviewed the submitted playground proposal. Members of the council felt with the recent refurbishments having been completed on the Harrold Centre and Harewelle way playgrounds they would not like to spend a large amount of money redoing another playground in Harrold. Council has asked for the current quote to be revised and only include a plan to replace the damaged piece of equipment: spending up to 10k. **Action Clerk**

**12. Council to review grant request from The Bridge Magazine.**

Council acknowledged the importance of the Bridge Magazine to the village. Cllr Tickle proposed the council grants The Bridge Magazine the requested amount of £500. Cllr Reger seconds the motion. The council voted unanimously to approve the Section 137 grant request. **Action Clerk**

**13. Council to vote on the renewal of Council Insurance Policy.**

Council was happy with the terms and conditions of the Insurance policy. The policy provided the council with the necessary liability insurance. Council would like to have the village assets formally valued and will look to have this completed before the next years insurance renewal date in December 2018. Council unanimously voted to renew the Council insurance policy with Came and Company. **Action Clerk**

**14. Council to review quote from FL Build to fix cemetery fence and overgrown pavement.**

The council discussed the condition of the footpath and were concerned if they were to have the footpath cleared of overgrown moss it would likely also destroy the brittle pavement hidden underneath. Council would like to look into a couple of other possible methods of having the pavement cleared without using a power washer. Council will enquire if this project could be put forward to the Community payback organisation and be part of community service. (Contact P. Hickman for advice). Another option discussed was to have the pavement removed and the area turfed. **Action Clerk**

**15. Any other business –**

- Council is waiting to hear back from Highways regarding council's request to have a 'No access to school' sign placed at the entrance of Mowhills

- Highways put a screen on the street light which a resident complained was too bright. They are unable to do the same for all the new LED lights in the village.
- The Bedford Borough conservation tree specialist visited the Village Green and gave advice regarding the 12 trees on The Green. The trees are healthy and likely have 20 – 30 years life left. She advised against having the trees crowned/pollarded, but said that if required then a 20% crown reduction would not be harmful. This would allow more air and light to travel through the branches and help lengthen the life of the thatched roofs on the near cottages.
- The Borough council has informed Harrold Parish Council they have closed part of footpath number 4 due to the erosion of the bank.

#### 16. Correspondence –

- A resident wrote in to the council asking for the shrubs on Harewelle Way to be cut back. [Council will ask R Sinclair to cut back these shrubs.](#) **Action Clerk**
- A resident wrote asking the council to write to the residents of 35 The Green regarding the overhanging shrubs which are growing into the footpath. [Council will write to the residents asking them to cut back the overhanging shrubs.](#) **Action Clerk**
- A resident wrote to the council asking the signs which use to be around the village regarding a penalty fine for littering be replaced as there has been an increase in the amount of litter around the village. [Council will investigate where the notices came from before and see if it is possible to have new ones placed around the village.](#) **Action Clerk**

#### 17. Summary of actions

The Chairman will summarise the actions required

**Date of next meeting**

**Wednesday 10th January 2017**