



**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 13th January 2016 at 7.30pm at Parish Council Office**

**Present:** R. Tickle (chair), Cllrs D Brough, R Page, D Mercer, S Holt, M Johnston, R Barrett, G Lloyd, S Reger , R Brough (Clerk), A Foster (Bedford Borough Council)

**1. Apologies –** A Jones, R Harris

**Public forum**

No public attendees

**2. Disclosure of interests –** None

**3. Approval of minutes of the meeting of 9th December 2015**

Minutes were approved.

**4. Matters arising from the minutes of 9th December 2015**

- Church clock still being fixed it is likely going to be a cost near £700. Will discuss if the new work could have been prevented if issue had been noticed during last maintenance call out. Possibly a complete refurbishment of mechanism needed? **Action Clerk**
- Bridge flood closures – Flood signs remain open despite flood waters not on road. Involved agencies Environment, PCSO and Highways. A Sign ‘Flooding, continue at your own risk’. Contact Borough to see if we can be provided with our own signage to administer. Another possible solution could be a web camera. **Action Clerk**

**5. Finance report** The following payments were approved

430	05 January 2016	Electricity: Buttermarket EON	54.39	2.59	51.80
431	11 January 2016	Office: Broadband BT	72.00	12.00	60.00
432	11 January 2016	Electricity: Street EON	274.20	0.00	274.20
433	11 January 2016	Bin Collection: HC BBC	161.59	2.21	159.38
434	11 January 2016	Village Maintenance: R Sinclair	80.00	0.00	80.00
435	11 January 2016	Brook: R Sinclair	250.00	0.00	250.00
436	11 January 2016	Office: Phone BT	23.78	3.96	19.82
437	11 January 2016	Bottle Bank: Collection (Wildman Transport)	129.60	21.60	108.00
438	11 January 2016	Plants & Trees: Heritage Arboriculture	2,160.00	360.00	1,800.00
439	11 January 2016	Grass: In Trim	360.00	60.00	300.00
440	11 January 2016	Grass: In Trim	360.00	60.00	300.00
441	11 January 2016	Office: Rent	375.00	0.00	375.00
442	11 January 2016	Office: Rent- Replacement Chq for Dec	375.00	0.00	375.00
443	30 January 2016	Clerk Salary: R Brough	937.90		937.90
444	11 January 2016	Project: Skatepark (Rampmental)	1,020.00	170.00	850.00
			<hr/> <hr/> <b>6,633.46</b>		

## **6. Police Report**

Crime statistics were not provided to the council this month.

## **7. Borough Councillor's Report**

The councillor's report was sent to councillors prior to the meeting.

## **8. Planning Applications**

**Application No:** 15/02952/FUL

**Proposal:** External alterations, including new pitched roofs to dormers, garage, insertion of roof lights. Rendering and widening existing driveway.

**Location:** 137 Odell Road, Odell MK43 7AP

**No Objections - Action Clerk**

**Application No:** 15/02898/ADV

**Proposal:** Installation of non-illuminated wooden fascia sign, vinyl logo to wooden fascia and non-illuminated wall sign.

**Location:** Co-Op 66 High Street Harrold, MK43 7DA

**No Objections – Action Clerk**

**Application No:** 15/03061/FUL

**Proposal:** Removal of fascia and installation on new UPVC black fascia, soffit and guttering to box in eaves.

**Location:** 3 Dove Lane Harrold, MK43 7DF

**No Objections –** This is for the conservation officer to respond to regarding UPVC rather than wooden fascia - **Action Clerk**

## **9. Report from Neighbourhood Planning Committee-**

The grant application should be filed within the week. The committee had nothing else to report during this meeting.

## **10. Finance committee- 2016/17 budget approval**

Cllr Brough talked through the proposed 2016/17 budget and where the council's current year spending compares to the current year budget. The council discussed how the precept has not been raised since 2008 and that the village grew considerably when Roman Paddock was built. Bedford Borough Council is phasing-out the Council Tax Support Grant (formerly called the CTB Reduction grant) which amounts to £5k a year of lost income to the Parish Council. For these reasons the precept will be increased from £70,695 to £72,645, which amounts to approximately £1.50 a year per resident. Some of this increase also relates to a small increase in the number of Band D properties in the village, from which precepts are calculated.

Project discussions: 1) Improvements to football facilities. Contact school governors Graham Russell and Jane Charsley about using some of the ground at the school for a community football facility. The Harrold football club and Cricket club should be contacted about the council's intentions. 2) Paving/smartening village green pathways. Contact Highways about the tarmac put in front of the cottages on the Green. Surely this is not appropriate in a conservation area. **Action Clerk**

3) Neighbourhood Plan - Estimated cost would be £15k from reserves offset by an £8k BBC grant.

4) Buttermarket Renovation - Rotting at the bottom of posts. Lintel in Lockup rotting. Maintenance quotes needed. Contact Fred Kidd initially. **Action R Tickle**

Cllr M Johnston proposes to increase the precept increased from £70,695 to £72,645 for the reasons detailed above. Council vote is unanimous.

Cllr D Brough proposes we accept the presented budget. Council vote is unanimous.

## **11. Village Maintenance - Review of monthly village maintenance costs**

Council would like to check if there is a limit on the number of hours a contractor can do before they are considered an employee of the council. Council would like to deal with the issue of dog fouling in the village. Council will approach R Sinclair to see if he would be willing to help clean up when he is litter picking. **Action Clerk**

**12. Discuss storage or possible places to donate the unused youth group equipment which is being stored at the Harrold Institute**

Council decided to donate the unused equipment to the After School Club at the Lower school. Any equipment which they cannot use will be taken to Emmaus. **Action Clerk**

**Any other business** – for information only

- Has the street lighting between the green and lower school changed? **Action Clerk**
- Christmas bunting needs to be removed from the Buttermarket. **Action Clerk**
- Ask Richard Sinclair to continue maintenance along Church Walk brook. **Action Clerk**
- Church Clock repair- Discuss with Smiths if we should be investing in a full recondition. Are we likely to have constant issues with the current mechanism? **Action Clerk**
- Cllr Mercer met with bus company for increasing the routes to Olney and train station.
- Large bins at Country Park on display from road - could they be hidden? **Action Clerk**

**14. Correspondence** – for information only

List of correspondence received during the past month

- Rights of way reported the handrail at the bottom of the steps on footpath 5 has been installed.
- Norman Froggatt is concerned about the damage to the Harrold Centre grass during the installation of new playground equipment.
- Tina Thacker would like the overgrown trees on Wellocks footpath near the village green tidied. **Action Clerk**
- Fawns playground provided the quote for replacement of the Trapeze Swing Ropes which have been damaged in the Roman Paddock Playground. **Action Clerk**
- Graham Russell would like the Parish Council to have the fence at the rear of some of the properties in Roman Paddock repaired which were damaged in the high winds.
- Mandy Wilson- would like to know information regarding the cost, set up, maintenance of the SID's. Mandy would also like to know where we obtained the mirrors on the High Street near the Give Way. **Action Clerk**
- Harrold Centre Committee provided a quote for having the bench and planters out front of the Harrold Centre painted. **Action Clerk**
- John Waller sent a list of maintenance concerns around the village which he would like discussed at the meeting. **Action Clerk**
- I.P Sharp sent an email regarding SID's. He is unhappy with the placement of them. **Action Clerk**

**15. Summary of actions**

The Chairman will summarise the actions required

**Meeting ended at 9:46pm**

**Date of next meeting**  
**Wednesday 10th February 2016–**  
**7.30pm 72 High Street**