



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 8th June 2016 at 7.30pm at Parish Council Office

Present: R. Tickle (chair), Cllrs D Brough, D Mercer, S Holt, B Page, G Lloyd, A Jones, R Barrett,

R Brough (Clerk), A Foster (Bedford Borough Council)

Apologies – M Johnston

Public forum

Three Harrold residents attended the public forum portion of this Parish Council meeting. Mr Meadowcroft addressed the council by reading a letter he had written addressing his concerns with the current 20mph planned sign placement. He began by giving the council personal background information about his length of time in Harrold and past and present employment - both of which gave him experience and knowledge into the usage of the roads in Harrold and driving large vehicles through narrow village roads. Mr.Meadowcroft addressed the council with a concern that the councillors themselves had not provided any background information on their skills, motivations and role within the council. He felt this information could be added to the new Parish Council website. Mr.Meadowcroft went on to discuss the 20 mph consultation period which he feels the council has failed to “accurately report or discuss legitimate concerns raised around the imposition of the 20 mph zone start/finish on the western approach to the village”. He is not objecting to the 20 mph zone but to where it starts/finishes on the Western approach to the village. Mr.Meadowcroft feels the width of the “footpath is not sufficient enough to comply with Department of Transport regulations for the new installations.” This would in turn make the footpath dangerous for pedestrians, people with push chairs, mobility aids, wheelchairs and scooters. Mr. Meadowcroft is also concerned that having the sign placed on a bend will make it more dangerous for residents coming and going from their home as line of sight may be obscured. Mr.Meadowcroft explained that he did not make any objections to the scheme during the consultation period as he thought it would cover the whole of the High Street and only realised its intended start point when he saw workmen arrive to install a post. Mr.Meadowcroft feels that as he resides adjacent to the site he should have received some form of direct contact regarding the intended works to place the post near his property. He then highlighted the possible implications if the post was placed outside transport guidelines. Mr.Meadowcroft then moved on to address other concerns he and other residents had including the location of the bus shelter and the bench placed on the corner of Eagle Way. Collette Cooper echoed Mr.Meadowcrofts concerns.

Chairman Robert Tickle addressed Mr. Meadowcrofts concerns. He described the process of the consultation period and how the Parish Council relies on the expertise of the Highways Dept Officers to make decisions where signs are best placed. He assured the residents the 20 mph zone will be revisited in 6 months’ time with the possibility of moving the start/finish point further west up the High Street. This would give the PC and the BBC time to access whether the zone needed to be lengthened or not. In moving ahead the PC could avoid holding up the works of finishing the implementing the current 20 mph zone scheme. The PC feels it is necessary to get the scheme implemented as quickly as possible, in particular for the safety of children at the school. If the PC decides to change the start/finish point now it

months and will be inviting the police commissioner. Cllr Foster also reported the Health Care review was ongoing and that there was still a push for parish PC's.

7. Planning applications

Application no: 16/01391/FUL Full Planning Application

Proposal: Single storey rear extension and loft conversion with rear dormer extension and front porch

Location: Benomi 47 Orchard Lane, Harrold, MK43 7BP

No objections

Application no: 16/01473/FUL Full Planning Application

Proposal: Single storey rear extension

Location: 87A High Street, Harrold, MK43 7BJ

No objections

8. Bridge Barrier Improvement and Stone Village Sign Quotes

Update provided from Cllr A Jones. Two quotes were provided to council. The council will seek to obtain one further quote. Once the council decides whether they are able to fund the project the next step will be to discuss the location of the new village signs. Quotes for signs were presented by Cllr Lloyd. Council to look at the cost of having 'Harrold' etched in the stone. **Action Cllr Jones**

9. Neighbourhood Planning Committee

Committee have met with three separate development consultants. Committee feels they need a consultant who is hands-on. The committee felt that Trevor Roff would be able to provide the best service for our needs. Cllr Andrew Jones proposed the Parish Council employs Trevor Roff to consult through the development of Harrold's Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Reger seconds the motion. The council voted, all were in favour. **Action Clerk**

10. Risk Assessment Approval- Council to review Parish Councils annual Risk Assessment.

Council reviewed the risk assessment document thoroughly. The document was talked through and the risk levels were agreed to be true to council procedures.

11. Playing Fields Association

Bob Woodward attended the meeting to discuss possible PFA developments. Bob noted that currently there is a lack of communication between PC and the Playing Field Association. Ideally a member of the Parish Council should attend the PFA monthly meetings. Cllr Mercer agrees to attend future meetings and represent the PC to improve the communication. Mr. Woodward provided the council with a little background information. They are a registered charity comprising of a cricket, football and cubs. Their current rent is £ 3000 per year. It currently costs £3500 to maintain. Financial break down: The Bar brings £1000 a year, solar panels £1500 a year. Mr. Woodward agrees the village is in need of a larger facility. Both cricket and football have over 150 kids each registered. They currently need to use fields out of the village in Sharnbrook and Carlton. The association has tried to find land but have found no viable solutions. Currently the playing field needs replacement of ground reinforcement nets as they were put in 20 years ago. They have not yet received any quotes but it's likely going to cost between £5000-£8000. PFA will approach the PC for funding once they have received quotes. The Parish Council would like to speak with the football club about how the PC could possibly help improve the football facilities in Harrold. Mr. Woodward mentioned the hedge between the cemetery and playing field needed to be cut back. Clerk to ask R.Sinclair to do this. **Action Clerk**

12. Annual Audit Approval - Council approved the final finance submission for 2015/16 and requested the audit pack be submitted to internal and external auditors for approval.

13. Co-op reopening event in Harrold

The Co-op approached the Parish Council in March to ask if there was a community project in need of funding as they would like to make a contribution as part of their redevelopment project. At this time the Council was aware the local Pre-school was struggling to raise funds to have a canopy built to provide the children with much needed shade and cover from rain. The council was assured by the Coop there would be £1400 pounds given to the Pre-school. As the Pre-school wanted to proceed with their project the PC agreed to loan the £1400 pounds to the Pre-school until the funds came through from the Co-op. The Co-op has changed the way they contribute to the local community during store closures. The Parish Council will not look to recoup the £1400 as it was promised and already paid to the Pre-school.

14. Any other business for information only

- Cllr Mercer would like the land next to the out-buildings between Dove Lane and Roman Paddock footpath cleared. Council would like to instruct R Sinclair to do this work. **Action Clerk**
- Update from Cllr Barrett on changes to Harrold Lower School:

Harold Lower School has lodged an application with DfE to become an Academy and to become part of a Multi-Academy Trust. (MAT). The MAT that Harold Lower School intends to Join is Sharnbrook Academy Federation.

What is an Academy?

Academies are independent, state-funded schools, which receive their funding directly from central government, rather than through the local authority – Bedford Borough.

What is a Multi Academy Trust?

A multi-academy trust (MAT) is a group of schools governed through a single set of members and directors. There are two forms of multi-academy trust: the group may be an existing academy chain which a school elects to join or which sponsors a school .

A number of schools come together to set up a new multi-academy trust with remit, governance and so on decided collectively.

Who is Sharnbrook Academy Federation?

This currently comprises: Sharnbrook Upper School, Harrold Priory Middle School, Lincroft Middle School, Margaret Beaufort Middle School

The intention to become an academy will facilitate the change to a two-tier education system from 1st September 2017 and will enable a 'one School, one site' approach to education in Harrold.

Why Become an Academy now?

Harold Lower School will have a strong voice in the strategic direction of the primary school working alongside staff and governors from HPMS – A cross school 'Working Group' is currently meeting in order to develop: Decision-making – Primary School: Staffing, Values and Ethos, Curriculum, Use of School Site, Future Direction. This will include the transition to a two tier education system and the transition of pupils and staff.

What is the current status of this process?

An application to DfE has been made by Harold Lower School. There is a 4-6 week consultation process that is now under way. We would welcome feedback. It is our aim that Harold Lower School will achieve academy status and be implemented from 1st September 2016.

Changes for 2016:

There should be little visible change for 2016. The school will retain the same ethos and values, existing governors will remain in place and we will continue to work with a cluster of local schools.

You will notice:

The addition of SAF logos on correspondence, school policies and website

Governance of the school will now be accountable to the SAF board

Local governing body for the school will remain and will continue to include parents, staff and co-opted members to ensure a clear focus for the school. Accountability will now rest with the SAF board.

16. Correspondence – for information only

- Ian Tusting left a message regarding the hedges removed along Odell Rd as you head to Podington next to a very old red barn. No action will be taken as not in Harrod.
- Mrs. Clark phoned to discuss the state of the URC chapel grave yard. No action taken.
- A resident emailed concerned with the removal of shrubs which she believes was intended to be a green belt between the Harewelle Way developments and existing homes. **Action Clerk**
- A number of residents commented on Facebook regarding the bottle bank being full and bottles left in the parking lot.
- A number of residents commented on Facebook regarding the current state of the brook.
- Mrs. Pedersen emailed and would like the council to respond with a resolution for the following issues; bottle bank becoming full and not emptied, cars parking across from the school bus parking on the high street, lack of parking in the village (parking created at the institute) and dog excrement issue (feels dogs should be made to stay on leads which may help the issue)
- Grant Palmer emailed with a response to the council's request to look into increasing bus service to Olney, past the train station and to Bedford Hospital.
- A resident emailed regarding an overgrown hedge blocking the pavement at the Mansion Lane junction and would like council to contact the property owners. **Action Clerk**
- Mr. Froggatt emailed requesting council considers having a separate power source on the other side of the green near the lock up. **Action Clerk**
- Mr. Russell emailed wanting an update on the repair needed to the fence and maintenance of grounds at the rear of Roman Paddock. **Action Clerk**
- Post office sent a letter regarding changes to the post office service while Co-op is being refurbished.
- A resident contacted the council to request using The Green to celebrate a family member's birthday. **Action Clerk**
- Mr. Sellers emailed regarding the location of the 20mph signs next to his listed home. **Action Clerk**
- Mr. Dowsett emailed to inform the council a piece of the outdoor gym equipment had been damaged. **Action Clerk**
- Mr. Meadowcroft emailed concerns about the width of the pavement where the 20 mph sign is intended to be placed. He feels there will not be enough room for pushchairs, wheelchairs, mobility scooters to safely pass. He is in favour of the 20mph limit but feels it makes more sense to cover more of the High street and start closer to Eagle Way. Mr. Meadowcroft also emailed to inform the PC of incorrect and missing information on the new PC website. **Action Clerk**

17. Summary of actions

The Chairman summarised the actions required.

Meeting ended at 9:45pm

Date of next meeting
Wednesday 6th July 2016
7:30pm 72 High Street