



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 14th September 2016 at 7.30pm at Parish Council Office

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

Apologies – A Jones, D Mercer

Public forum

Nicola Vine attended the meeting on behalf of the Victorian Christmas Planning Committee. Nicola went through the plans for the events which will include both retail and food stalls. The lock up will be turned into a grotto. Carol singing and turning on of the lights will happen at this event. A dance troop will perform just before the lights are turned on. Any funds raised from this event will go the redevelopment of the Harrold Centre. The plan is to hold this event annually and the funds raised will be donated to a different local charity each year. The committee have looked into hiring an ice rink to be placed on the Lower Schools playground. The rink with skates etc included is £2000. Nicola is confident the committee can raise a substantial amount of the funding themselves, but would like assistance from the council. Cllr Brough proposed the council gives the committee £1000. All members of the council voted in favour. **Action Clerk**

- 1. Disclosure of Interest** – members are invited to declare any personal or prejudicial interests they may have in any items on the Agenda.
Cllr Reger disclosed a personal interest in the submitted planning application. Cllr Johnston disclosed an interest in the grant request for the Good Neighbour Group.
- 2. Approval of Minutes** from the Parish Council meeting held 6th July 2016
Minutes were approved.
- 3. Matters arising from meeting held 6th July 2016** – for information only
 - Clerk report on the months Action List

5. Finance Report:

Approval for requests for monthly payments

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

7. Borough Councillor's report for Harrold Ward.

8. Planning applications

Application no: 16/02560/LBC

Proposal: Re-pointing works to front elevation

Location: 80 High Street Harrold Bedford Bedfordshire MK43 7BH#

No objections

9. Harrold Neighbourhood Plan Update – Update from steering committee.

Cllr S Reger provided an update on the progress of the neighbourhood plan. The steering committee are working with Trevor Roff to develop the visual materials which will be used for the village launch in November. The Harrold Housing Needs Survey has been printed and the steering committee asked for Parish Council volunteers to help deliver to all the residences in Harrold.

10. Village CCTV- Discuss the matter of cctv around the village and the possibilities of making improvements. The council discussed the criminal incidents which occurred in the last few months. It was decided the council would tender three companies to provide quotes to replace the cctv cameras on the Harrold Centre, Paul Young Finance and the Lower Green. **Action Clerk**

11. Flood Relief – Update from Melanie Crump from BBC.

Melanie Crump from the BBC has confirmed she has received funding for two projects which will have a positive impact in Harrold. Firstly, she has received funding to change the current warning signage which often are put up too early, causing confusion as to whether or not the bridge is actually flooded. The new system will be automated. Melanie's second project is creating flood awareness committees in villages affected by flooding. She will work with the group to put together an action plan of steps which will be taken through a flood emergency. The funding will also provide the group with equipment such as high vis vests, walkie talkies etc. This matter will be placed back on the agenda in October to discuss further the development of a Flood Awareness group in Harrold. The councillors suggested that we link in with the Harrold Good Neighbour scheme to determine any vulnerable residents who may need assistance in the event of a flood, or other emergency situation, such as the recent water shortage in Olney caused by a burst water pipe. **Action Clerk**

12. Village Maintenance Issues –

- Discuss repairs needed to Saxon House End/Village Farm fence.

Council has been impressed with the recent work of FL Builders and will ask them to provide a quote to replace the 8 rotten fence posts between Saxon House End and the village farm. **Action Clerk**

- Discuss maintenance of Lower Green trees and shrubs.

The Lower Green shrubs and trees are in need of pruning and maintenance. Council will ask Heritage Arboriculture to provide a quote for the work which needs to be done now and to provide a quote for an annual maintenance plan. **Action Clerk**

13. Update on stonework quotes for village signs.

Cllr Jones absent from the meeting. This agenda item will be placed in the agenda for Octobers meeting.

Action Clerk

14. Request for funding from Harrold Playing Fields Association.

The playing fields trees need to be cut back. The Playing Association has received a quote of £1200 to do the work. Alison Foster has pledged £100 pounds through her ward funding. Councillor Brough proposed we fund the remaining balance of £1100 as part of Plants and Trees allocated budget. Council voted and all were in favour of this proposal. Action Clerk

15. Request for funding from Harrold Good Neighbours.

The council received a grant application from the Harrold Good Neighbours for the amount of £350 to cover their annual insurance premium. Councillor Page proposed we fund the application through section 137 allocated funds. Councillor Holt seconded the motion and all voted in favour. Action Clerk

16. Village Green Christmas Lights- Discuss quote for having lights strung along branches of trees on the Green. The Parish Council approached Heritage Arboriculture to see if they would be available to help string the lights on the trees around the village the Green and asked them to provide a quote for the work. They have come back and very generously offered to provide three of their staff for half a day to help put the lights on the trees without charge. Parish Clerk will work with Nikki to arrange the time, day and other volunteers. Action Clerk

17. Review and discuss quotes for War Memorial works.

Council unanimously agreed to go ahead with the works on the memorial in time for Armistice day, which this year will mark 100 years since the Battle of the Somme. Council has already installed a memorial bench overlooking the memorial. The paving slabs will be replaced with high quality stone to complement the marble of the memorial. The inner rail around the memorial is to be repainted and new turf laid. The outer railings, which are corroded, are to be removed. They will need much work done on them if they are to be replaced. The council would like to see the memorial back as it was in 1919 when it was erected, as the outer railings are not original.

18. Any other business –

- Mirror at end of Dove Lane cracked. Would council like to have this replaced?
Council will replace the mirror when the work has been completed on the High Street residence near the mirror.
- Harewelle Way Playground ownership transfer update.
Simon Fisher (BBC) has reported the BBC has approved the transfer and we are awaiting approval from the Mayor and then ownership transfer will need to go through the legal team.
- Co-op funding for pre-school update.
The Co-op has agreed to pay the original pledged amount of £1400 towards the new outdoor covering for the Harrold Pre-school. Funds should be returned to the Parish Council shortly.
- Wood Lane brook diverter due to be cleared by the end of September.
- Hedge in Saxon House End will be cut back further on September 29th.

19. Correspondence –

- Mrs P.Pedersen provided the council with a report from a meeting held at her home with Andrew Prigmore, director of Highways for BBC. PC agreed with Mrs Pedersen that there is an issue with cars parked adjacent to the bus loading zone during school drop off and pick up times. This is causing congestion on the High St and is a safety issue with many children crossing the road and on the pavements. PC is working with Highways who have agreed to put a single yellow line across from the bus loading bay with a no parking enforcement in play during school drop off and pick up times.
The issue of a possible pedestrian crossing placed on Odell road either by the country park entrance or further along at the far entrance to the park was discussed. The council will have the pedestrian traffic monitored when the Speedwatch team are in place and discuss this issue further at a later meeting.
- Mrs. N Knight emailed regarding the overgrown trees on the Lower Green and the cracked mirror at the end of Dove Lane. See Any Other Business section above.

20. Summary of actions

The Chairman will summarise the actions required

Date of next meeting

Wednesday 12th October 2016

7:30pm 72 High Street