

Harlestone Parish Council

www.harlestonepc.org

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MINUTES OF MEETING OF HARLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL ON THURSDAY 9 NOVEMBER 2017 - HARLESTONE VILLAGE INSTITUTE

68. ATTENDANCE & APOLOGIES

In attendance

Councillor Sam Dobbs	Councillor Sue Flynn
Councillor Barry Halliday	Councillor Bob Hammond
Councillor Susie Holland	Councillor Neal Mitchell
Councillor Toni Perryman	Mr Paul Thomas (Executive Officer & Clerk)

Apologies

Cllr Sarah Stock – pre-planned unavailability – accepted by Council
Cllr Tudor Ashton-Davies – pre-planned unavailability – accepted by Council

69. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes of meetings of the parish council held on 5 October 2017 and 23 October 2017, having been distributed and published, were approved by council and later signed by the Chairman

70a. CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLORS

Following the resignations previously, of Simon Letts and Brian Facer, and notices of vacancy having been duly published by Daventry District Council, HPC has been informed by L Marlow of DDC that co-options of two councillors to HPC can now be made. Neil Mitchell and Susie Holland had contacted the Executive Officer to request consideration of co-option. It was resolved and approved that both individuals be co-opted and both were welcomed and will sign their particulars of appointment and undergo NCALC training for new councillors. Cllr Holland asked to explain for herself and Cllr Mitchell as to why they had felt it important to support HPC in this way. Her comments are shown at Appendix A

70b. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING ADDRESS

The Chairman had prepared a statement for councillors and those attending the meeting to reflect on the meeting of 23 October 2017 and to set the context for this and future meetings, and to address concerns and issues raised at the previous meeting or since. This statement is shown within these council papers at Appendix B

ACTIONS OUTSTANDING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

<i>Action source and description</i>	<i>Update</i>
<p><i>September 2017 – action 1</i> Mr Slinn to contact Charity Commission to close down HAFF charity (from September 2017)</p>	<p>Still pending</p>
<p><i>September 2017 – action 4</i> Cllr Halliday to contact the school re-funding. Head teacher spoken too and accepted a contribution was needed. Figure yet to be agreed. Cllr Halliday spoke with Executive Headteacher who accepted that a sum will be paid. Can be escalated to a higher authority if needed</p>	<p>Cllr Halliday progressing and pending update</p>
<p><i>September 2017 – action 7</i> <i>November 2017 – action 1</i> Cllr Flynn to contact Harlestone Quarry regarding costings for siding out of footpaths along A428</p>	<p>Council agrees a max cost of £1500. Cllr Flynn and the EO to meet and view the work to be done. Costing provided and received. (AA Landscapes £1,020 & LGG Ltd £910) Work commencing 27.28 November 2017) – fuller update at December 2017 meeting</p>
<p><i>September 2017 – action 10</i> <i>November 2017 – action 2</i> Installation of super-fast broadband had been ordered but still not installed by BT OpenReach. This has now reached complaint level. EO to progress</p>	<p>Executive Officer to close down original order and re-submit new order</p> <p>For update at December 2017 meeting</p>
<p><i>September 2017 – action 1</i> EO to find out the advised calculation/guidelines for amounts to be kept in council reserves. EO reports that the NCALC guidelines say a minimum of half of the precept should be in the reserve account.</p>	<p>NCALC confirms guidelines suggest retaining minimum of half the preset and a maximum of one year's preset (£27,000)</p> <p>For further consideration at December 2017 budget meeting</p>

<p><i>September 2017 – action 2</i> Clarity to be sought of NCALC re use of video-conferencing for councillors at parish council meetings (EO)</p>	<p>NCALC advises that video link can be used. Voting, however, can only take place in person, on show of hands (at this time)</p>
<p><i>October 2017 – action 1</i> <i>November 2017 – action 3</i> EO instructed to seek advice from our planning consultation, and draft costings and options for traffic surveys of A428, New Road and Port Road. These must be compliant for recognition by statutory authorities</p>	<p>Independent costings for 3 areas will be circa £1,000 and will take form of activated box on the side of the road with two rubber detectors lines. Will be on site for seven days, one week (7 x 24hrs). Can install with a 2 week notice, reports come back 2 weeks after that period, it will measure volume, vehicle size, weight, times and speed; it is recommended that we do this each year. The council authorises this to happen and further actioned to EO to commission within £1.5k funding envelope – for update at Dec 2017 meeting</p>
<p><i>October 2017 – action 2</i> Repairs to Cooch Bench – Councillor Flynn request to make considerations and proposals for this highlighted issue</p>	<p>Cllr Flynn advised HPC that Mr Cooch was a known cricket fan, and wondered whether the bench should/could be relocated to the cricket ground. Councilor Flynn to look into the current use and the merits of moving the bench. Pending (and discussed later in meeting)</p>

71. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Members were requested to make any declarations of personal or prejudicial interests, in line with the 2015 code of conduct, relating to items on this agenda.

In respect of item 78, Cllr Dobbs (Chairman) declared his full-time occupation as the local District Sergeant for Neighbourhood Policing to remind everyone, but does not consider this affect his decisions regarding items on this agenda.

No other declarations declared.

72. FINANCIAL UPDATE FROM THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER

The schedule of payments had been circulated and published on the agenda. These raised no queries nor questions from councillors. The finances were approved and items for payment authorised

73. PUBLIC TIME FOR COMMENTS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Whilst parish council meetings are open to the public, contributions are limited by standing orders to allow only invited/scheduled guests or councillors to contribute. However, there is a section in each meeting when the Chairman suspends standing orders to hear any members of the public who wish to address the parish council.

This time is limited to 15 minutes and three minutes per contribution unless requested otherwise by the Chair and/or councillors. This is in line with Standing Orders of 15/7/10. Councillors were addressed by members of the public as follows:

Cooch Memorial Bench: Mrs Daphne Bayliss reminded councillors that this bench, in Lake Lane, was installed in memory of Mr Cooch who was Chairman of the Cricket Club and asked that councillors consider moving it to the cricket club where it may be better preserved and used as it's current location makes it subject to damp and algae.

Judicial Review: Mr Tim Cross expressed concerns that a judicial review of DDC's decision on the Conservation Area (CA) would damage the relationship between HPC and DDC at a critical time, and could jeopardise the whole CA. He was concerned that pursuing this line would have DDC see HPC as trouble.

Judicial Review: Mr Ken Waller commented that if HPC is successful in seeking this review, then concerns would remain about losing the CA in entirety and the costs involved in the legal process. Councillors are asked to meet with DDC officers and review matters with good dialogue, with no financial loss and a better deal for all.

Comments made at meeting on 23 October 2017: Mr Ken Waller took the opportunity to apologise in public for comments he had made at the meeting and asked that they be retracted. *The Chairman welcomed the apology which was accepted by the Council with appreciation.*

Traffic estimates in Upper Harlestone: Mr Barry Craddock commented that he believed that the surveys to accompany a current application by Bloor Homes suggest that the developments will bring an extra 100 vehicle movements through Upper Harlestone per hour at peak times. He wonders how this will work when the road through Nobottle does not allow for two way traffic, does not have pavements and is not lit. He appealed to the council to ensure that past and independent traffic data is secured by HPC.

Judicial Review: Mr Dave Masters expressed his view that the process is a waste of time, and reminded councillors that their responsibility is to represent the village. He believed that the process should be stopped and that it is seen as an attack on all the good work carried out by Jenny Cross.

Chairman's response

The Chairman thanked members of the public for their attendance and contribution, and commented that items relating to the Judicial Review and the Cooch bench were to be discussed later in the meeting

He clarified that the concerns expressed relating to the Upper Harlestone traffic estimates were shared by HPC and had been fully discussed at a recent meeting with our County Councillor and senior engineers/officers at NCC Highways. These concerns were part of a full response to DCC following the Bloors application and submitted via our Planning Consultant. It is for these reasons that HPC has committed to, and actioned its own Traffic Surveys and continues a dialogue with Highways and Cllr Judy Shepherd.

Standing Orders were then reinstated to allow the Council to resume its meeting and discussion items

DISCUSSION ITEMS

74. ALTHORP LIAISON

There had been a regular meeting with senior staff at Althorp with no matters of exception or information to report – business as usual

75. PEER REVIEW OF PROCESS

As detailed in the Chairman's opening statement (see Appendix A), the Chairman reflected on the concern and position expressed by Cllr Stock and some members of the public regarding the process and thinking of the Executive Officer and Councillors in holding the meeting of 23 October 2017. There had been cogent consideration and advice which led to this decision and the Chairman asked councillors to consider whether having an independent oversight of the situation and decision on process would be helpful? Council agreed and requested the Chairman to liaise with a local Executive Officer to instigate this. **(ACTION 4/Nov for Chairman)**

76. RESPONSES TO EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF 23/10/17

The Chairman had requested for any comments or reflections, or formal contact with the council, to be reported to the November meeting. Councillor Halliday referred to a letter emailed from Northampton Golf Club (NGC) in which the author noted that the Club commented on the lack of *meaningful* dialogue regarding the conservation area. NGC supports HPC and its pursuance of the Judicial Review. Cllr Halliday commented that this is good support from a significant business in the parish. The Executive Officer confirms that no other emails of complaint or support were received.

77. JUDICIAL REVIEW PROCEEDINGS REGARDING DAVENTRY DISTRICT COUNCIL AND HARLESTONE CONSERVATION AREA

Councillors received an update from Cllr Halliday on the JR process and were asked by the Chairman to consider what success would look like, and to specifically detail what is sought as a commission for the Chairman should dialogue with DDC be opened up

Cllr Halliday reported that the Judicial Review is underway, and the legal expenses paid in the sum of £1,049. The High Court papers have arrived for service will be served on the Daventry District Council in a required time frame. As applicants, HPC can withdraw from the process without any penalties. Daventry District Council will have 21 days to respond. Cllr Halliday stressed that the communication channels are very much open and the chairman has confirmed this in correspondence to DDC. Our main intention is to have open dialogue with Daventry District Council. We have paid our fees and we will not be paying a penny more. If the High Court Judge allows permission to progress to the next stage then our advocate will seek a barrister on a “no win No fee” basis and the required insurance will be in place. Cllr Halliday emphasized that we are challenging the expansion and process of the current conservation area and not the previous conservation area in Lower Harlestone. We need to be certain that all members of the parish have meaningful consultation and the Harlestone Parish Council will endorse those views.

With this update, the Chairman asked Council if they would approve the stance suggested in his opening comments (Appendix A) and as per discussion led by Cllr Halliday. Councillors were in full and unanimous agreement.

ACTION: Chairman to continue to seek dialogue with DDC via our elected members, and EO to arrange for proper service of High Court Papers

78. CRIME & DISORDER

It is a statutory duty of the Council to consider s17 of the Crime & Disorder Act when deliberating crime, disorder and antisocial behaviour

Cllr Dobbs is also the Neighbourhood Policing Sergeant for our District of Daventry. He gave an oral update to HPC following recent strategic changes in the policing of the force and our District. This update included:

- A review of vulnerability (threat, harm and risk) has been conducted on an academic and practical basis, to identify where the greatest areas of risk in Northamptonshire exist geographically, and to allocate resources to those areas that most need it.
- In addition, a root and branch review of resource allocation has taken place, also responding to feedback from Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary

- The upshot (and irony) is that the safest places in the county (like our District) will receive fewer resources than those most at risk. Response policing for our village will now be deployed from Northampton (which creates nervousness, given the demands there).
- Neighbourhood Policing has been radically reduced, but argued on the basis that the smaller neighbourhood team for Daventry - an inspector, a sergeant, four constables and six PCSOs (plus sponsored posts) – will be left alone to carry out the principles of Neighbourhood Policing – problem solving, dealing with antisocial behaviour, engagement etc. In previous times, a larger team has often been diluted by constant calling away for other duties.
- This means that the local officers will inevitably be less visible and will work on being more accessible. It also means that partners, like parish councils, will need to consider what local priorities are within the Police & Crime Plan and be creative about how to work better with local policing.
- Our local officers are currently Sgt Dobbs, PC Hutchings, PCSO Sangster and PCSO Wright – covering the 40 or so villages on the north part of our rural District.

It is in this context that Harlestone Parish Council has been working on the following initiatives:

78a NCALC POLICE LIAISON REPRESENTATIVE

Following a proposal from the Chief Executive of NCALC (Association of Local Councils) after discussion with Northamptonshire Police, each council in Daventry District has been asked to nominate a councillor to represent the 50+ parishes as a police liaison representative (PLR). The first meeting will be held on 30 November 2017. This will allow quick and meaningful engagement across the District at a critical time for rural policing. Cllr Halliday has been nominated as the HPC representative and this has been communicated to NCALC and Northamptonshire Police.

78b PCSO SPONSORSHIP UPDATE

Cllr John Shephard is coordinating this initiative on behalf of the parishes of Harlestone, Brampton, Boughton, Pitsford and Spratton, with the full financial support of this parish council. His dialogue with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, and our neighbouring parishes in the Spratton Ward, seeks to register an interest and financial plan, with agreed Heads of Terms, for a Ward Police Community Support Officer, fully paid for by the sponsoring parishes (and possibly the Althorp Estate) so that a PCSO can be recruited to cover these five parishes, which currently share 1.5 PCSO posts amongst around 40 parishes. HPC has already budgeted and precepted for a contribution, given developments in housing and increasing risks of crime and disorder as the parish expands.

78c LOCAL CRIME

HPC was concerned to hear about recent (now prolonged) increases in crime, specifically house burglary in Brampton and Boughton, and the crimes reported on Harlestone Manor. The introduction of a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme for Harlestone Manor was welcomed. A bid for a NHW scheme in Glebe Lane had failed, but it was agreed that we should actively seek to develop the concept of NHW to follow the lead shown by Harlestone Manor residents. Where implemented, signage should follow. In other parts of the District, these signs are paid for by the local council – something HPC may consider?

78d MAKING HARLESTONE LESS ATTRACTIVE TO CRIMINALS

The Chairman reminded Councillors that in previous budget setting, the council has allocated funds towards Community Safety, and approved part sponsorship of a PCSO. Given recent changes to policing, and an upwards trend in local crime (now including house burglary in the parish), the Chairman asked councillors to allow him and Cllr Halliday to explore options to collaborate with other parishes (specifically Brampton). These will include deployment of PCSOs and investment in Automatic Number Plate Recognition Systems. We will need a fast time response to quickly emerging issues. Councillor Perryman reminded councillors of the welcome increase in the number of Police Volunteers on Horseback (an approved police scheme, with two volunteers in Harlestone alone). This will aid visibility and reporting.

It was resolved unanimously that Cllrs Dobbs and Halliday to work with other parishes, and to bring forward a scheme for inclusion of Harlestone in an ANPR scheme if progressed, the principle of which was supported by the council.

ACTION: Cllr Halliday and Cllr Dobbs

79 BUDGET PRINCIPLES FOR 2018

The Council needs to set principles and parameters for the Clerk to prepare budget proposals for 2018 for our December 2017 meeting. The Chairman asked councillors to consider and assumption that there would be no increase in parish precept. This would require councillors to consider what they wish to be included in the 2018 budget round, within the funding envelope agreed in 2017.

ACTION The Chairman asked the Clerk/Executive Officer to prepare the precept considerations for the Parish Council and revisit the previous wish list.

ACTION: Councillors were asked to email the Executive Officer with any proposals for items to be included in the 2018 budget along with indicative costs.

ITEMS DEFERRED FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

80 ORBITAL ROAD UPDATE

Cllr Dobbs requested this item be added to the agenda. Orbital Road update following the consultation process and a number of options considered by DDC in light of the consultation period.

Cllr Dobbs reported that he went to the Boughton meeting, as residents there are challenging the new Orbital Road process and principles. This would be ironic as the Road is set to benefit congestion of Harlestone Village. The route is still being progressed by the authorities and requires us to watch the process and deliberations in neighbouring parishes closely.

81 NORTHAMPTON LOCAL PLAN (PART 2) SITES CONSULTATION

The Council has been asked to consider and provide a council/planning consultants response in regard to the sites for development as well as areas which should be protected in conformity with the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy Local Plan Part 1

The Executive Officer reported that our Planning Consultant, Simon Dackombe, has put all of the issues and concerns together regarding the possibilities of areas to be considered for development following a meeting with the Chairman and Executive Officer.

82 LOXTON FIELDS UPDATE (DA/2016/0840)

Councillor Stock updated by email that the first CIL payment to HPC would be paid initially on commencement of the build and the second payment one year after building, this payment is collected by the DDC and passed on to the HPC. These figures fall short of what we were expecting.

The development is moving towards commencement, and the planning application has been received by DDC and commented on fully by HPC (including naming of the three roads/streets)

83 COMMUNICATIONS WITHIN HARLESTONE COMMUNITIES

Following helpful and welcome feedback from new councillors, and developing the concept already discussed by HPC to have an engagement event for the community without the constraints and standing orders of a parish council meeting, councillor support was sought for a Community Open Evening. This was fully welcomed.

ACTION : EO to progress with dates and venue

84 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Cllr Halliday updated council on the latest situation with our nominated NHP contractors, The Troy Partnership. Cllr Halliday confirmed that the Troy partnership has accepted that they will drive the project and look to secure as much funding as possible, looking to get their feet on the ground and meet up.

ACTION (6 - Nov) EO to look at dates for a village walk around and look at the key points of the village for consideration and inclusion

85 UPPER HARLESTONE VILLAGE GREEN BOUNDARY TREATMENT

A member of the public had written to the Council regarding the posts on the green in Upper Harlestone. These posts were originally installed at the time of Lady Diana's death in 1997 to stop parking. These posts have deteriorated and some are missing. Council was asked whether it wished for these posts to be replaced or removed (possibly originally funded by local residents). This was discussed by councillors with the following outcome:

ACTION (7-Nov) : EO to canvass the views of immediate local residents and get their opinions, and check on any constraints given the status of the local area

86 PATHFINDER II FLOOD RESILIENCE PROJECT

Council has received a request from Nancy Baines from the NCC Emergency Planning Team to give a 15 minute presentation to the council. The EO reported that floods have arisen in Port Road with potential for flooding in Upper Harlestone.

ACTION: Council resolved to receive the presentation at a meeting when the agenda is lighter with fewer competing demands.

87 HARLESTONE QUARRY LOCAL LIAISON GROUP

Cllr Flynn updated the council on the group meeting held on 23 October 2017, at which she represented HPC with Cllr Hammond. She reported that stone sales are slow, with a new extraction application imminent for mineral excavation. Cllr Flynn reported an increase in noise, mud on the roads and that a new sweeper has been authorised. A planting programme of trees is planned for Spring 2018. The next meeting will take place on Mon 4 June, onsite at 5.30pm

ACTION (8-Nov) Cllr Flynn to check the direction of the excavation

88. FAILURE OF EON LIGHT 4 (Telephone Kiosk, Lower Harlestone)

The EO reported that essential repairs are needed to this parish asset, with costings currently for a new pole bracket and lantern at £375 + VAT

ACTION (9-Nov) EO to revisit previous council discussions on installation of luminaires of a more decorative and in-keeping design. EO and Chairman to liaise.

89. PUBLIC FOOTPATH – GLEBE LANE

A member of the public had reported the disappearance of a footpath off Glebe Lane after the field has been sown

ACTION (10-Nov) EO to contact the landowner and ask for the reasons behind the lack of access

90 BRIDLEWAY ACCESS RESTRICTION

Cllr Perryman reported some new bridleway access restrictions in Upper Harlestone and to a Bridleway re-route in Harlestone Firs. She confirmed that four holes on the golf course are affected. The Bridal path route is being discussed for possible re-routing. The British Horse authority attended the meeting. At this stage it has been decided not to go ahead with the proposals, but the issue may raise itself again in the future, especially after new developments are built. There are also safety worries from being so near to the railway track when riding.

Cllr Perryman also reported (from a horse-rider's perspective) that the gate is not functioning near Yew Tree Cottage on the entrance to the field, also the field has been ploughed and seeded.

ACTION (11-Nov) EO to contact Ian Boyes (County Highways) to report

91 REQUEST FOR REVIEW OF SPEED LIMIT – HARLESTONE MANOR

Following a request from a member of the public, council was asked to consider whether grounds exist for the 40mph limit to be reduced to a 30mph on the A428 adjacent to Harlestone Manor and Loxton's Field. Councillors agreed that no petition is needed as there is a process for considering this (involving the police, highways and local authority – the Road JAG – joint action group). The EO was asked to contact County Highways (Ian Boyes) to ask if this is under consideration following a review of A428 speed limits from Dallington to Harlestone)

ACTION (12-Nov) | EO to contact Ian Boyes and liaise with person requesting

92 REQUEST FROM HARLESTONE MANOR RESIDENTS

A request has been received for the council to consider support for children's football initiatives on the new development. Councillors were interested to know more and how the new housing development could be supported. Cllr Perryman (lead for sporting activities and facilities) was asked to investigate

further and make recommendations to the council, which agrees to the principle of the request for support.

ACTION (13- Nov) – Councillor Perryman to report to December meeting

93 COMMUNICATIONS WITH OR BY COUNCIL

The Council lists and considers here, any correspondence or contact between the council, the clerk and the public on issues which are of interest. Since the last meeting, such correspondence has included:

- *BT official complaint ref: 7214-54818 – broadband at HVI*
- *Wyevale complaint ref: 56372 – re drainage and sewage*
- *Ian Boyes – Chestnut tree in Upper Harlestone - ownership*
- *New dog bin for new estate development (HM) Danny Vaughan*
- *Planning Applications DA/2017/0889 DA/2017/0890*
- *EO & Cllr Flynn met re overgrowth and pathways along the A428*
- *Travis Perkins: Herras fencing removal from Church Lane Car Park*
- *DDC Paul Knight from Environmental Health re the dog bins again*
- *EO confirmation to Steve Cadman (DDC planning) in support of planning application ref: DA/2017/0723*
- *Digital mapping of the village re POS*
- *Request for future Minutes to have a list of attendees*
- *Cllr Letts and Cllr Facer removed from the HPC website*
- *Heartwise CPR training arranged for 10th October*
- *Digital mapping of the village for the use of POS management*
- *Blacksmith's Yard is now clear of vegetation and rubbish*
- *JU email received regarding speeding vehicles and over-weight lorries crossing the bridge in front of Railway Cottages*
- *Notice of vacancy confirmed by L. Marlow DDC elections officer that we can now co-opt to vacant councillor positions*

NEXT MEETING

TUESDAY 5 DECEMBER – 7pm at Harlestone Village Institute

*The council may need to convene for planning items which require a response before the date of the next meeting. Deadline for items for the next meeting to the EO/Clerk please: **NO LATER than 24th November 2017.***

A full list of outstanding actions from this and previous meetings, to be discussed at our next meeting, is shown at Appendix C

Paul Thomas - Executive Officer

Dated 19 November 2017

APPENDIX A

Statement by Cllr Susie Holland and Cllr Neil Mitchell on being co-opted as Harlestone Parish Councillors

The main reason to join the Council was to ensure we have a conservation area. I am only one of 18 people who responded to the Daventry District Council with regards to the CA. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Jenny Cross for all her hard work in helping to get the conservation area extended. I want to find out about the potential extra traffic on Port Road. To minimise the disruption from the new development in Harlestone village and to stop rat runs. We need to support the council, get behind them and help. They do have the protection of our village as their main objective. The councillors don't get paid for their time, effort and hard work. If we don't support the current councillors, then after the election next year we may have a new set of councillors who are not up to speed with all the local issues and will not have the contacts and the knowledge of the new development. Neil and I want to breakdown any boundaries between the members of the public and the council as this makes all decisions very much easier to make, we must work together. United is the only way forward

APPENDIX B

Statement by Cllr Sam Dobbs, Chairman

The extraordinary meeting of Harlestone Parish Council on 23 October 2017 will remain memorable for many of those who attended: memorable not necessarily for the right reasons. I am grateful to those who attended with an open mind and who stayed behind afterwards to discuss matters with councillors and me given that they would have found this difficult within the hostile atmosphere at the meeting.

I am also grateful to those who have offered wise and constructive counsel and advice since. What councillor and I didn't know was that many of the members of the public attending the meeting had been rallied to attend under the false or misguided pretext that Harlestone Parish Council was to discuss legal proceedings to challenge and remove the Conservation Area status imposed by Daventry District Council. In fact, the meeting was to discuss proceedings to challenge the *process* used, based on sound advice from solicitors acting for us.

Before the meeting started, I was challenged both as to the legality of the meeting and to alter the format of the meeting, which I had already decided to do, in order to procure maximum contribution from the public present. During the meeting, the council was accused of being grossly negligent, incompetent and dishonest.

At times, there was not proper control of the meeting and some attendees (council and public) felt intimidated and upset by the process. Since the meeting, I am grateful for the feedback from those who now understand better the council's thinking and reasoning for seeking the Judicial Review – a process which is now under way.

I apologise sincerely to those who felt upset and intimidated and offer my commitment that if such circumstances occur again, I would suspend the meeting and remove the council from the room.

I have heard since that those who wished to express a view at the meeting were not permitted, and I have stated that all those who asked to express a view did so, and their contribution was minuted. Since the meeting, I am also grateful to two parishioners who have offered themselves for cooption to the two vacancies on the parish council.

In the light of advice, chatter and accusations at the meeting and since, about the lawfulness of the meeting, and because Cllr Stock was approached and, in my view, compromised by questions from a member of the public about the lawfulness of our meeting, I have taken the following actions to protect the council and its reputation:

1. I have sought further advice from NCALC's Chief Executive and from a full-time, well-qualified parish clerk regarding the accusations made
2. I have asked the colleague Clerk whether she would be prepared to conduct a peer review of our process, to which she agreed, if council wishes for this.
3. In that peer review, the reviewing clerk would seek to know the status of our standing orders and our thought processes in holding our meeting. If the decision could have been made without holding a public meeting, that would be a major influence in her findings. Equally, it would be an influencing factor if the meeting had been held with few people in attendance.
4. Scrutiny of our standing orders confirm that there is a potential anomaly in the wording of the notice required for extraordinary meetings. The Harlestone Clerk has (understandably) taken the wording literally, which NCALC agree to be a little ambiguous and is seeking advice on this (standard) wording. However, the orders also allow the Chairman and Clerk to make decisions on spending on items less than £2,000 between meetings. My view remains that we could have made the decision on JR without a meeting, but it was far better for transparency and openness that the meeting was held in public, even if timescales would not allow the three days quoted.
5. On this basis, it appears to me that our process was permissible, transparent and lawful. Should this be challenged further, or should councillors wish, I am happy to refer to the colleague Clerk for the peer review mentioned.

In respect of accusations that the Council would seek to damage the village, I remind councillors of our Strategic Plan to protect the village, agreed in April 2014, and to which we continue to adhere.

In respect of accusations that the parish have not been informed of developments and processes, I refer councillors to village-wide updates circulated in April 2016, May 2016 and November 2016 as well as the updates on the council's websites. These are all detailed and jargon-free.

In respect of suspicions that Harlestone Parish Council wish to remove the conservation area status, I am recommending the following remit for agreement tonight, which is consistent with our previous decision and views, and which does not compromise our position in the legal proceedings we have now engaged.

Our District Councillor has appealed to the Leader of the Council to open up dialogue with officers at Daventry District Council to indicate what the parish council seeks. I am proposing the following:

- 1. The Conservation Areas in Upper Harlestone and Lower Harlestone remain in place during this dialogue**
- 2. Harlestone Parish Council remains committed to a conservation area in both villages and in no way seeks to remove the process**
- 3. Harlestone Parish Council requests DDC to re-open the consultation process to allow for the meaningful consultation that HPC has always sought, for a further 4-6 week period during which the wider principle of protecting Upper Harlestone is maintained.**
- 4. This period should also allow for meaningful response or review of concerns by those responding to the previous process and the concerns of the parish council which were not allowed (for example, Golf Club and Althorp Estate)**
- 5. During this period, every household in the parish to be contacted by posted letter so that all know and can be consulted so that there is genuine consultation on the extent and meaning of the conservation area.**

I hope that this will allow us to continue to act in the best interests of accountability, democracy, openness and common sense and to emphasize to those who do not believe that we are acting in the best interests of the village, whatever the motivation for the allegation. Councillors spend endless amounts of their own time, energy and motivation as unpaid volunteers acting for what they consider to be the good and future of this beautiful village.

APPENDIX C

Existing actions and new actions from November 2017

<i>Action source and description</i>	<i>Update</i>
<i>September 2017 – action 1</i> Closure of HAFF (EO/Gary Slinn)	
<i>September 2017 – action 4</i> Contribution to Church Lane Car Park redevelopment costs (BH)	
<i>September 2017 – action 7</i> <i>November 2017 – action 1</i> EO to update on commissioning of works to side out A428 pathways	
<i>September 2017 – action 10</i> <i>November 2017 – action 2</i> Installation of super-fast broadband at HVI – update by EO	
<i>September 2017 – action 1</i> Establishment of recommended reserve allocation to budget (EO)	
<i>October 2017 – action 1</i> <i>November 2017 – action 3</i> Commissioning traffic surveys by EO	
<i>October 2017 – action 2</i> Cooch bench consultation (SF)	
<i>Item 70a November 2017 – action</i> New councillors to sign acceptance papers and have NCALC training arranged (EO)	

<p><i>Item 75 November 2017 – action 4</i> Chairman to seek peer review of meeting of 23/10/17 (SD)</p>	
<p><i>Item 77 November 2017 – action</i> Chairman to seek dialogue with DDC re CA and JR (SD)</p>	
<p><i>Item 78 November 2017 – action</i> Update NCALC PLR meeting (BH) Update PCSO (SD) Update NHW (EO/SD) Update ANPR etc (BH)</p>	
<p><i>Item 78 November 2017 – action</i> Budget considerations – (EO and all councillors for Dec meeting)</p>	
<p><i>Item 83 November 2017 – action</i> EO to propose options for Open Evening (EO/SD)</p>	
<p><i>Item 84 November 2017 – action 6</i> Village walkaround and issues for NHP considerations (EO)</p>	
<p><i>Item 85 November 2017 – action 7</i> Upper Harlestone Village Green bollards update (EO)</p>	
<p><i>Item 86 November 2017 – action</i> Pathfinder II project – meeting (EO)</p>	
<p><i>Item 87 November 2017 – action</i> Direction of quarry in application for extension (SF)</p>	
<p><i>Item 88 November 2017 – action 9</i> Faulty pavement lamp (SD/EO)</p>	

<p><i>Item 89 November 2017 – action 10</i> Glebe Lane footpath (EO)</p>	
<p><i>Item 90 November 2017 – action 11</i> Enquiry with Highways re Yew Tree cottage gateway and accessibility to field (EO)</p>	
<p><i>Item 91 November 2017 – action 12</i> Enquiry with Highways by EO re speed limits</p>	
<p><i>Item 92 November 2017 – action 13</i> Update on football provision request re Harlestone Manor (TP)</p>	