

Minutes of the Meeting of the Harlestone Parish Council that took place on Thursday 5th October 2017 at 7pm in the Village Institute

MINUTES 001

Admin matters

45 To receive and approve apologies for absence

Apologies received by:

Cllr Halliday: pre-planned unavailability

Cllr Perryman: pre-planned unavailability

Apologies accepted by the council

Councillors in attendance:

Cllr Dobbs

Cllr Stock

Cllr Hammond

Mr P.Thomas EO/Clerk

Cllr Davies (Video Link)

Cllr Flynn

46 To approve and sign as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on the 1st August 2017 and 7th September 2017

Minutes approved by the council

ACTIONS

Deferred

- No 1. Mr Slinn to contact the Charity Commission to close down the HAFF charity
- No 4. Cllr BH 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 John (Head teacher) who gave acceptance that a sum will be paid. Can be escalated to a higher authority if needed.
- No 7. Cllr Flynn to contact Quarry Costing now provided. Quote received, 2nd & 3rd quotes to be sourced. Council agrees a max cost of £1500. Cllr Flynn and the EO to meet and view the work to be done.
- No 10. BT open reach complaint to be registered re HVI install. Pending: EO to progress this complaint.
- No 1. Reserve Account: EO to find out the calculation/guidelines for the amount to be kept in reserve
- No 2. Confirm the NCALC guidelines for the use of video link meetings

The Clerk is asked to formally update the Council with the progress and if appropriate closure or action(s) carried forward from the June meeting.

Executive Officer/Clerk invites the Council to close all actions requested.

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

No declarations declared

48 Finance: To receive an update on Finances from the Executive Officer

- **Council agrees to increase the HPC petty cash from £100 to £200**
- **Payment schedule agreed by the council**
- **Executive officer points out that the reserve should be half of the preset which is £27,000, no problem to use the money as long as we plan to top it up (NCALC guidelines)**

Finances approved by the council

49 Parishioners are invited to address the council, Parishioners will be limited to 15 minutes combined and is strictly limited to 3 minutes per person(s)

The Chairman will invite comments; in line with **the Standing Orders agreed on the 15th July 2010 by the Council.** (15 MINUTES)

Standing Orders are relaxed by the Chairman, the MOP actively engage in discussion with the councillors regarding item 52 & 56

Discussion Items:

50 Althorp Estate update (Katie Evans) BAU

BAU

51 Final update from the Chairman in relation to Brian Facer

Brian Facer has officially resigned from the council, the Chairman asks the executive officer to advertise the position and to contact the Daventry District Council to confirm the vacancy

52 Bloor Planning Applications: DA/2017/0889 and DA/2017/0890

Council are asked to consider and vote on the above two separate but connected planning applications. Council will be supplied with a report from our professional retained Planning Consultant Mr Simon Dackombe. His recommendations outlined in his report should be considered by Council and a voting decision will be made to support or object to the two planning applications. For the avoidance of doubt EACH planning application will be considered independently and voting will reflect this position.

*Council are therefore asked to make two decisions in relation to this agenda item.

- **Cllr Dobbs: this is an application for a large scale development within the parish as part of the SUE and part of the West Northants core strategy**
- **We have had one meeting with Bloor Homes, S.Dackombe has waded through the huge amount of planning paperwork and produced a report. This report given to be the basis of our response to the DDC**

- Both are outline applications serving to establish the principles of the development including highways, access issues and the Masterplan for the whole site

Councilors Views

Strategy

- No of sport pitches has an impact to local residents, maybe up to 200 vehicles could cause extra traffic along Port Road
- Football pitches are a single use sport
- Would prefer a softer edge to the development, parks, more natural areas
- Pitches on the plans are all shown as football
- Who will manage the up keep and facilities?
- Our precept will go up

Highways Issues

- Make SD aware that Bloor Homes have looked at chicanes, quiet lanes and diversions into the development to slow traffic
- The 2 roundabouts planned for Sandy Lane and Roman Road will be backed up and will become a bottle neck, pushing more traffic back towards Port Road
- ANPR – will need a powered pole, possibly taking the power from the bridge lighting
- Could lead to more traffic build up on the A428
- Consider M1 closures
- Need the relief road built before the houses are built
- We do not want the word “negligible” used to explain the increase in traffic

Developer Contributions

- How is the social housing provider being sourced and where exactly are the social houses being placed
- Education – any impact on the Harlestone school
- GP surgery onsite
- POS to be taken on by the HPC
- We wish to discuss further specific infrastructure funded by S106
- CCTV
- Design and appearance to be more rural
- Need sympathetic design to make sure the outer buildings and the gateway to the site must lend themselves to be in keeping with the Harlestone village
- We need a semi-rural look to the development
- Don't like the separation of the lower intensity housing

MOP Views

- Lane onto Port Road could be a rat run, Church Lane school traffic already has trouble pulling out onto the A428
- Against the Port Road staying open, traffic controls need to be in place
- Port Road needs to be made one way
- Already seeing queueing traffic on the approach to Port Road, it is already difficult to turn right out of Weggs Farm Road onto Sandy Lane, building at Fleetlands Farm to be demolished outside of the red line, maintenance for the football pitches will put up the precept, ridge and furrow should be on the edge of the development

- **Make Port Road one way, include New Road on the survey**
- **Different sports fields rather than just football**
- **Please object to the application, due to the insufficient infrastructure, agree that we should have sports pitches on the edge of the development rather than houses, can help with the survey if needed**

Strategic planning

- **The primary school will be more central to help with a direct route for traffic**
- **Hub with amenities and community shops significant number of sports pitches, 10 proposed, this is not necessarily in keeping with a rural setting as they will be manicured and will lead to a hard edge of the development**
- **Large degree of shrubbery and bushes to mark the boundary of the site amenities and sports pitches will need extra parking and facilities I eat changing rooms**

Councilor's comments

- **Cllr Davies: number of sports pitches has a large impact on the amount of traffic coming to the site and possibly all at the same time more people may choose to use Port Road**
- **Cllr Stock: a lot of football pitches which is a one sport use will benefit one group of people, prefer a diverse use of the playing fields, need more natural walking areas for walkers and dogs no obvious parking, who will be managing the area and could affect the future of the existing playing fields**
- **Cllr Flynn: too many pitches must have multiple sports, the plan shows football pitches only**
- **Cllr Hammond: is there a requirement to have so many pitches, 10 seems a lot, POS will create more work**
- **Executive officer: the majority of the people using these pitches will hopefully be from the new development and so walking to the venue this is how the developers view this working**
- **Cllr Dobbs: Jenny Cross produced a written document for the chairman to discuss face to face with highways**
- **Very unlikely that the planners would go against highways, closing or restricting a road is a very large action to take, need to be able to show physical reasons, huge constitutional decision to take, cannot be done based on what might happen need to provide evidence of now and then after the development and the impact of the extra traffic**
- **Estimated amount of extra traffic is 100 vehicles per hour in rush hour, Bloor's have come up with some ideas around traffic calming ie quiet lanes and chicanes, the Port Road will become a main entry to the site and extra traffic will be expected**
- **Ken.W has come up with some ideas reference traffic congestion, possibility that the roundabouts on new Sandy Lane can have slip roads so that traffic doesn't have to wait for all other traffic from the estate and help with the flow, consider access and closure of roads near the site for construction vehicles and materials being delivered**
- **Action ONE: traffic survey, speak to Boughton need costs for lower Harlestone, Upper Harlestone Port Road and New Road Upper Harlestone Council agree to this action**

The chairman asks the council to consider the best way to put our comments across

The council vote unanimously to object on principal due to the lack of infrastructure and in light of our comments discussed this evening and in our official response to the Daventry District Council

53 NHP NHP. (Executive Officer) Council are asked to consider the list of requirements set out by our consultants and how this workload can be managed either by Cllr making a significant contribution or seeking support from our consultants in addition to their own expert contributions to help develop the NHP as a matter of urgency.

- **Council agree that there is a lack of capacity to implement the neighbourhood plan solely by themselves due to the amount of workload and that Troy partnership should take the lead to move this forward as soon as possible**

54 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.

Deferred

55 Northampton Local Plan (Part 2) Sites Consultation:
02 October to 13 November 2017
To consider 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

Deferred

56 Conservation area update by Cllr Dobbs incorporating an update on the meeting held last week with the Althorp Estate Director Mr Nigel Shields.
In addition Council are invited to explore the options including a Judicial Review Challenge on the decision made by DDC.

- **Cllr Dobbs: routine meeting with Nigel Shields of Althorp and the executive officer. Dallington scheme developers satisfied but waiting for a decision of archaeology to be in plan form before the end of the year**
- **Loxtons Fields: development trapped in negotiation since the 29th of July section 106 is in final stages of amendments, currently sitting with the Daventry District Council lawyers**
- **Church Lane car park contribution to follow from the sale of Whites Lane development**
- **Grave space funds were allocated to source the correct land to be considered, now sitting with the Parochial Church Council, Nigel Shields will discuss this with the council but they don't want us to be compulsory purchasing land from themselves as trustees will be responsible for capital gains tax on the agreed value, section 106 money could well be used**
- **PCSO collaboration with other local parishes to sponsor, scope for the estate to help sponsor and shown interest in supporting**
- **Confirmation that the Harlestone school is open to any child in the parish depending on whether there is space**

57 Northants CALC AGM – Saturday 7th October, Moulton Community Centre: EO to attend, confirm Cllrs looking to attend

- **Chairman and executive officer booked to attend this conference**

58 BDO Audit update: Cllr B.Halliday External Audit BDO initial findings. (Executive Officer)

Council are asked to note the internal audit has now been completed and HPC passed this audit other than a number of Barclays bank statements being unavailable.

Following the successful internal audit report already shared with council previously the external audit completed by BDO have raised a 'qualified issue' in that one Barclays bank statement is not available and cannot be secured as the bank account has been closed. BDO therefore cannot verify the final year-end balance. Council moved bank accounts during this fiscal period to Unity Bank providing extra safeguards in protecting public funds far more than a conventional bank account. Council face no penalty or face any legal difficulties with the outcome of the BDO external audit but as the council cannot supply the missing bank statement.

The 'qualified issue' raised by BDO will not be sent to HPC and Council are asked to accept this outcome.

- **Internal audit completed, no further issues**
- **External audit, 1 unresolved issue, certain Barclays bank statements are no longer available due to the account being closed down and access is no longer available, mentioned in the audits final comments but certainly no repercussions are expected**

59 Speed Watch update: Cllr Perryman

- **Many vehicles were caught speeding along the A428**
- **50 letters were sent out to owners of speeding vehicles**

60 PCSO and Police Liaison Officer nomination: Cllr Dobbs seeks Council's views and considerations in relation to the collaborative PCSO initiative, Cllr Dobbs to update Council on discussions taken place outside the HPC and the Executive Officer has also been contacted by NCA to appoint a Police Liaison representative moving forward.

- **Principle is now established, point of contact needs to be agreed, major reductions of police officers across the District and police PCSOs across the district, request to use collaboration with other parishes, the money set out in our budget to spend and support a PCSO project possibly to join with Boughton.**

61 VAS update re Railway Cottages: Cllr Dobbs

- **Speed signs are being modified to change them from 30 miles per hour to 40 miles per hour**

62 Car park ground clearance: Cllr Dobbs seeks council's support on a clear plan and works to ensure all leave debris is removed over the next 2 months to ensure this does not damage the new car park surface. Cllr Dobbs will provide costings for such work and suitable time frame for ongoing works and projected completion date

- **Chairman publicly thanks Cllr Tudor Davies for his input and project management, a real asset to the village. Executive officer: residents, Raybell and the Estate are all happy that the work has been carried out correctly. EO and Tudor to have a final walk around to check before the invoice is paid, Chairman seeks support from the council to pay for three days of leaf blowing and border maintenance over the autumn to allow up to £450, Council agree**

63 Cooch Bench relocation or rejuvenation: Cllr Flynn

- **Action TWO: Cllr Flynn to action the relocation or rejuvenation of the Cooch bench**

64 Communications section since the last meeting **Deferred**

- BT official complaint ref: 7214-54818
- Wyevale complaint ref: 56372
- Ian Boyes – Chestnut tree in Upper Harlestone
- New dog bin requested for the new estate development (HM) Danny Vaughan
- Planning Applications DA/2017/0889 DA/2017/0890 extension
- EO & Cllr Flynn met to view overgrown vegetation and pathways along the A428
- Travis Perkins: Harris fencing removal
- DDC Paul Knight from Environmental Health contacted re the dog bins again
- EO sent an email to confirm to Steve Cadman (DDC planning) that we supported the planning application ref: DA/2017/0723
- Digital mapping of the village re POS
- Future Minutes to have a list of attendees
- Cllr Letts and Cllr Facer removed from the HPC website
- Heartwise CPR training 10th October
- Digital mapping of the village for the use of POS management

Judicial Review Discussion

FYI: 6 pages of minutes have been recorded for future reference

- **The Chairman sets out the history and dialogue that has led to this situation and that the possibility of a JR could be considered**
- **Clarification that if we consider a JR we will be challenging only the process**
- **Everyone in the village should have had a printed copy of the CA information**
- **The HPC have not had a voice**
- **THE DDC have not engaged into dialogue, even though many requests have been made**
- **Are we on good grounds to challenge**
- **Do we have the appetite to challenge**
- **The quieter voices in the village deserve a voice**
- **The councilors agree that they would like the chairman to pursue a JR**
- **Once again this is to challenge the process not the result**
- **The deadline of the 27th October is confirmed**

- **The MOP and Cllrs in the room are now fully aware that the Chairman will now look into the costs of a JR**

Next meeting date 9th November 2017 The council may need to convene for planning items which require a response before the date of the next meeting.

Dead- line for items for the next meeting to the EO/Clerk please:

NO LATER than 01st November 2017.

Mr Paul Thomas
Executive Officer/Clerk
Date: 30th September 2017