

Harpole Parish Council Newsletter

Following the Ordinary Meeting held on July 8th, 2018



AT THE ORDINARY MEETING 11TH JUNE

Present were Mr C Wilkinson (in the chair), Mr J Calderwood, Mr S Drinkwater, Mr B Gibbins, Mrs R Gibbins, Mr B Justice, Mr D Lowrence, Mr M Marketis, Mr P Marlow, Mrs. S. Roberts, Mr. D Starmer, Miss S Eason, 10 members of the Public, Cllr Adam Brown. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Addison and Cooper) SNC Cabinet meetings)

In the absence of the Clerk Mr D Lowrence took the Minutes

Public Discussion

A request was made by Sharon Matthews for financial support for incomplete projects. These included Outdoor lighting, Floor replacement, doors and windows. An approach had been made to the Free School Charities. David Starmer noted that the PC Budget was set in November, and that would be the best time to apply as there was no Budget this year. An application to the New Homes Bonus was also recommended. A member of the Public reported on events the previous weekend at the Garages between Larkhall lane and Garners Way. Drug Paraphernalia was found, and local residents were very upset, feeling intimidated and frightened. This means that it is difficult to name names. The Police have been involved and are putting measures in place to address the issue.

Mrs Jones requested that the Council explore option of requesting Shoosmiths look at the latest SNDC entries on the Norwood Farm planning application.

Cllr Adam Brown gave a report on the latest activities at the County Council. These included the Voluntary Redundancy process currently underway, and the consultation about unitary status currently underway – Parishioners were encouraged to read and comment on the current plans before the deadline of 22nd July. (The consultation document can be found at www.futurenorthants.co.uk). The Chair said that he had been to the first consultation for Parish Councils where the biggest area of concern was the fact that the proposal was for 2 rather than three councils. David Lowrence said that he was concerned that the 2 Council proposal was being imposed without real consultation, and that he hoped to go to the second meeting on 12th July.

Order of business

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The Council agreed to exclude the Public from the last Item on the Agenda as it involved HR issues. The Clerk had been signed off sick for a further two weeks.

GDPR AND THE COUNCIL'S RECORDS RETENTION POLICY

As the Clerk is away (he holds the Council's historical Data), David Lawrence reported that the PC is GDPR compliant in online services (The website and mailing authorities). As far as historical records are concerned, it may be that Parish Councils will have an easement in this regard. The matter was held over until the return of the Clerk and consultation with Danny Moody, the responsible Data Officer.

AN UPDATE ON EMAIL ADDRESSES USED BY PARISH COUNCILLORS.

Some Councillors were having difficulty in accessing emails via the PC system. David Lawrence would set up a forwarding system so that all councillors would receive email sent to their "Cllr.Firstname_Surname@Harpolevillage.org.uk" address.

DISCUSSION ON RESIGNATION OF VICE CHAIR

The Vice Chair of the Parish Council had resigned suddenly, and the Members of the Council wished to understand her reasons. From the Public area, Mrs Jones said that she had been verbally abused by a fellow Councillor and had written a letter which all Councillors had seen. She did not wish to get into a public "he said-she said" row. She felt that this had been going on for some time and was connected with some Councillors nor respecting the Council's regulations on Conflict of Interest. Sarah Eason pointed out that all Councillors were in post for the support of the village, and personal opinions should be put to one side. The debate became quite heated. It ended with Michael Marketis urging Brian Gibbins, as a friend of long standing, to consider his position. Mr Gibbins refused. The matter came to a head with a motion to be placed on the next Parish Council Ordinary meeting agenda inviting Mr Gibbins to consider his position. This was agreed by 9 votes to 2 with 1 abstention. The election of a vice Chair was placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

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ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Additional to the items raised at the start of the meeting, Rita Gibbins raised the subject of a Parishioner having taken the law into their own hands, resulting in the ‘bottling’ of a suspected miscreant. The Council expressed concern at this and was unable to condone such activities, the solution lying in the hands of the Police.

PURCHASE AND ERECTION OF SIGNS SHOWING SPEED OF TRAFFIC

The Council passed this matter to the Highways committee to obtain proposals and pricing.

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY COUNCIL REORGANISATION

The `Council would meet on 19th July to decide and enter its response to the online consultation.

CORRESPONDENCE

Various items of mail had been received, the latest was about the water leak in Road Hill. If this was not from the farm it would be reported to Anglian Water. The Council addressed Payment of Cheques in this item, and agreed all the payments, including one from John Gibbins which had not reached the Clerk on time.

The Council was apprised of a break in at the School (2nd time), and CCTV identification had been made of one of the suspects. It was hoped that the other could also be identified.

A quote for the annual cutting of the Churchyard hedge was received at the meeting. . A number of bins around the village were broken, spilling litter. SNDC would be informed.

The Chair would approach SNDC about cover for the Clerk

COMMITTEES

Highways and Footpaths –

A site meeting reported on the truck parked in Manor Close. After a number of options had been discussed it was decided that as it is on the public Highway the Council could take no further action

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Allotments – Rita Gibbins read a report on the meeting of 2nd July. It contained exhortations to plot holders to act responsibly within the regulations and conditions of the lease. David Starmer reported that unattended fires had been set on the allotments and expressed concern over the state of the field in this hot, dry weather. Mrs Jones had presented a report covering her time on the allotment committee, expressing concern about the management of the allotments, with allegations of bullying and poor behaviour. Rita Gibbins vehemently denied this and stated she was the victim. Sarah Eason said that the Council had not always followed through on complaints. **The Council resolved that an immediate, temporary ban on fires at the allotments be put in place until such time as the PC lifted it.** Following requests, Rita Gibbins committed to make the audited accounts available by 16th Jul (both the accounts and the meeting reports are available on the PC Website, in the documents archive)

ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA AND NEXT MEETINGS

Maintenance contracts, Election of Vice Chair, Council vacancy, Motion to change start time of meetings,

ORDINARY MEETING Monday 13th August 2018, 7.30pm in the Old School Hall.
HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE 30TH July 7pm.
FINANCE COMMITTEE AFTER HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE 30TH July
HARPOLE IN TRANSIT COMMITTEE 25TH July 7pm.
PC MEETING TO AGREE REORGANISATION RESPONSE 19th JULY 7PM

Anti-Social Behaviour

There has been an increase in anti-social incidents involving youths believed to be from the village and Neighbouring areas recently. These include dog mess, eggs, mayonnaise and flour being thrown at cars and houses in Garners' way and Park Lane and evidence of substance misuse in garage areas. This is unacceptable behaviour by any measure. If you are dog walking or passing by in a car can you keep an eye out for any unusual behaviour around the village and report it to the police, please? (you can do this online at <https://www.northants.police.uk/webform/report-crime> . This will help the Police bring this to an end.