

# Harpole Parish Council Newsletter

Following the Ordinary Meeting held on October 8th, 2018



## AT THE ORDINARY MEETING 8th OCTOBER

All Parish Councillors were present at the meeting, with the exception of J Calderwood who tendered apologies. Brian Gibbins mentioned that 2 Councillors had not attended recent a recent Planning Committee meeting and had not sent apologies.

### Public Participation

There were no subjects for Public Discussion

### Parish Council Vacancy

The Clerk had taken advice about the vacancy and would follow the defined process.

### Planning

The Committee minutes for Sept 25<sup>th</sup> were distributed and agreed and signed. Applications for West of New Sandy Lane, Land bounded by New Sandy Lane to the East and Norwood Farm are still pending.

The Committee had no objection to 34 High Street, (*reduction of Yew Tree*) and *New side and rear extension* at 23 Manor Close.

2 Larkhall Way (*Single storey side and rear extensions*), Land at J16 M1 (*Variation of Condition 2 (plans) S/2016/0400/EIA (Hybrid Application: )*) and 7 Park Lane (*New vehicular access with 1.8m high access gates*) were all Pending.

26 High Street (*Extensions front, side & rear. Roof raised to create additional living accomm., dormers & rooflights to front & rear.*) and 29 Larkhall Lane (*Two storey rear extension*) were approved and 49 Upper High Street (*Determine whether prior approval required*) and 1 Garners Way (*A two-storey side extension with attached garage and porch.*) are new submissions

22 Upper High St Cedar, (*Trim/remove dead branches,*) and 6 Park Lane (*Demolish existing shed and proposed new garage*) had no objection (provided that the latter was not a historic shed).

### Purchase of IT Equipment

Given the unsatisfactory situation with regard to IT equipment for the Council and the Clerk, the Council approved a recommendation by D Lawrence that the Council Purchase a new Laptop and printer at a cost of £694.48 including VAT.

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## Consultation with the Clerk

The Chair and D Lawrence had held an initial consultation with the Clerk and would be holding another later in week.

## The case for appointing an assistant Clerk

S Eason asked that the appointment of an assistant Clerk be reconsidered, due to lack of support while the Clerk was ill. S Roberts replied that options for proposal to the Council were still under consideration.

## Election

Due to the proposed move to a unitary model for the Local and County Councils, there would be no elections to these bodies in 2019. The first election to the new body would be in 2020. The Council voted to request that our election also be held over until then due to turnout and cost considerations.

## Protocols

C Gibbins requested a meeting on protocols as he was unhappy that he had questions that were still unanswered.

## Transparency

R Gibbins complained that she had difficulty accessing the “ways of working” document and HiT Minutes. She asked who was running the Parish Council, HiT or the full Council. She felt that the HiT committee should be directed by the Council. She said that HiT committee is not transparent and needs to explain to the village what it does, \*\*\* and that it implied “capitulation” to the developers. S Roberts replied that since the Committee had ceased to be a Working Party and become a full committee with Terms of Reference agreed by the Council, all meetings were publicised, minuted, published on the website and in the library and in common with all Committees of the PC, open to the public. She requested that transparency should not be confused with publicity, and she would be willing to attend any of the bodies that R Gibbins had said were confused about the role of HiT and explain the role of the committee. S Eason asked if minutes were put on the notice board. S Roberts would address this and increase publicity about the next meeting.

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## **Transparency with regard to complaints.**

The chair told the Council that it would be acting illegally and beyond their powers if it discussed complaints to the monitoring officer at SNDC, R Gibbins complained that B Gibbins had been bullied and intimidated at the July meeting, when councillors seemed to be in possession of information. She felt that explanations requested by B Gibbins had not been forthcoming.

## **SNDC Local Plan**

An invitation to the PC Briefing on 30<sup>th</sup> October  
– The Chair and Vice Chair would both attend.

## **External Auditors Report**

The report was accepted and would be published as required

## **Terms of reference for committees**

The ToR for the Highways and Allotment committees were under review .

## **Managing Green Spaces as part of the West Northampton SUE**

S Roberts reported that HiT will liaise with Harborough PC.

## **Clerk reports**

The Clerk reported on increases to in NCALC fees and reported on their latest presentations, indicating from his attendance at the courses that the councils Freedom of Information Policy needed updating. The dignity at work policy was re-adopted, and the Council accepted the recommendation of the Finance Committee to accept the insurance quotation from Inspire.

## **Committee Reports**

S Eason felt that the HiT reports should be appearing earlier in the agenda to ensure that decisions were given the focus needed.

### **Allotments**

S Drinkwater felt that the committee needed secretarial help. The Clerk stated that this would be additional hours, as the committee had never been clerked before. There were three quotes for the maintenance work for consideration. D Lowrence proposed that, as the lowest, John Gibbins quotation be accepted; this was defeated – 4:5 the Chair using his casting vote. (1 abstention – 2 declared interest). A proposal that the quotes be sent back to the allotment committee was defeated. The second lowest quotation being non-

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compliant (no P.L. Insurance), the last quote (Louis Gibbins) was accepted 5 in favour, 2 against 2 extensions 2 interest declared. S Eason said it was very important that a contract with very clear specifications was agreed and carefully monitored.

## Churchyard and Charities

There were no reports from either.

## Finance

The committee had discussed Clerk's job Description, managing green spaces and opening an office. All grant applications need to be in place before 26<sup>th</sup> November (Precept meeting)

## Highways & Footpaths

Northampton CC Highways re-iterated that there was no money for the lay-by on Northampton road. With reference to traveller access via Relief road they have no influence on work required but would speak the Area Team about securing the barriers. Yellow lines on Garners way needed a from filled. The Highways committee was asked to address this. P Marlow mentioned a near miss with a child leaving the school bus on Sandy Lane. This was referred to the Highways Committee. D Lowrence asked what progress had been made on speed cameras. This was referred to the Highways committee for resolution.

## Lighting

A number of lights not working had been referred to the Clerk.

## Harpole in Transition (HiT)

The minutes of the last meeting had been Published and circulated.

## Scarecrow Weekend

The date of the AGM wold be published shortly

## Dates of next meetings:

Ordinary Meeting on Nov 12th, 2018 7.00.pm: Planning Oct 22nd 7.00pm.

Highways Committee Oct 29th 7.00. Harpole In Transition. Thurs 25th Oct.7.00pm.  
Allotments Committee. -Nov 5th 7.45pm. All at Old School Hall.

**\*\*\* Parishioners wishing to know more about what Harpole in Transition (HiT) is about, can read its terms of reference at**

**<https://harpolevillage.org.uk> visit the Documents Library - Policies and Procedures & Terms of Reference.**

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