

Harpole Parish Council Newsletter  
Following the Meeting held on December 11<sup>th</sup> 2017



### **Present:**

Miss S Eason (in the chair), Mr S Drinkwater, Mr B Gibbins, Mrs R Gibbins, Mrs M Jones' Mr B Justice, Mr M Marketis, Mr P Marlow, Mrs S. Roberts, Mr D Lawrence, Mr C Wilkinson, one member of the Public and the Clerk, G Ravine

### **Apologies for Absence:**

Mr J Calderwood (Dental Work), Mr D Starmer (Family). These apologies were accepted by the Council.

Cllr A. Addison & Cllr A Brown. NCC who have a standing invitation did not attend.

### **Parish Finances:**

The Council approved payments to suppliers, with the amount of £2018 being the largest, for street lighting electricity supply.

### **Planning:**

Calling in the Norwood Farm application. Colin Wilkinson reported that the Calling In letter had been sent. A Planning Committee meeting was set for Jan 18th.

The Council will be meeting with the developers of J16 shortly.

*Detailed information on current Planning applications can be found on our website at:*

*<http://harpolevillage.org.uk/the-work-of-harpoleparish/planning>*

### **Precept 2018/19**

The council discussed the figures agreed at the precept meeting and discussed at the December Council meeting. Two Councillors expressed concern that they had been approached by unnamed parishioners concerned at the level of increase in the precept. It was pointed out that there had been no increase for the previous four years, and that the

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2017/18 expenditure would be approximately £49,000, (against a precept of £39,000 requiring further encroachment on the reserves) and that Lighting, The Clerk's salary and costs in general, had all risen. The Council agreed that the budget for 2018/19 would be £72,410.00. This would be met by of Precept, forecast Income and use of reserves of approximately £17,500.

### **Hearing Loop**

A quotation for a Hearing Loop from Fabtronic, who have previously done work in the hall, was below the threshold and accepted by the Council.

### **Traffic Speed Management**

Colin Wilkinson had attended a meeting at police HQ and reported that normally installation of equipment should be based on the data provided by measurement. He agreed to seek further clarification.

### **Protocol Issues**

Brian Gibbins felt that Councillors were not sufficiently diligent in Councillor obligations when they regularly miss meetings. He also felt that time was wasted by Councillors not speaking through the Chair. These issues had been brought to him by unnamed Parishioners. He expressed concern that the process of quotations was not always rigidly followed. Michael Marketis felt that family issues should take precedence, and Maxine Jones felt that those Councillors who are heavily involved outside Council Meetings should be allowed some leeway. The Clerk would distribute the latest "Good Councillor Guide" and reminded Councillors that NCALC courses are available.

### **District Councillors**

The Council was disappointed at the lack of District Councillor attendance at meetings.

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With the new planning applications reaching critical phases, it was felt important that they are aware of our activities around new developments. Sonja Roberts felt that Ann Addison had been very helpful, but the Clerk agreed to get in touch and ask for comment on the calling in of the Norwood Farm application.

### **Dog waste signs**

David Lowrence showed some pavement marking stencils. The Council agreed that Maxine Jones should purchase the stencils, Simon Drinkwater abstained.

### **Garners Way parking**

There are multiple problems with parking in the Garners way area. Many vehicles parking on the verge, many vehicles associated with Mount Pleasant. The volume of parked cars causes problems for emergency vehicles. A working party was formed, to consider short and long-term solutions, consisting of Brian Gibbins, Maxine Jones, Sonja Roberts, Rita Gibbins and Colin Wilkinson, and to deliver a report to the Parish Council.

## **REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES and ADVISORY GROUPS**

**Allotments:** Rita Gibbins reported that rent night was imminent and gave a water meter reading.

**Churchyard:** No report.

**Finance:** VAT refund due.

**Highways/ Footpaths:** Colin Wilkinson reported that an enforcement officer from SNC had been appointed to look at the Larkhall Lane road issue. Brian Gibbins reported a rubbish build up in the area of Garners Way garages. The Clerk reported that Grand Union Homes were aware and were trying to arrange its removal. They would be contacting the PCSO about anti-social behaviour contributing to this rubbish.

**Lighting:** Aylesbury Mains were liaising with WPD regarding the replacement of Light 51.

**Charities:** No report

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### **Correspondence:**

Arising from items of correspondence received, it was noted that the Council has a new auditor appointed, the NCC Budget Consultation indicated the loss of the mobile library service. Colin Wilkinson was concerned this and felt Council should support alternatives. He would supply wording for a comment in response. The SNC Parking Consultation, at which Colin Wilkinson expressed concern as to the parking provision for new build housing, would be considered at the next planning meeting.

### **Items for next agenda.**

The possibility of making the Live and Let Live a community Pub.  
Internet banking. External Audit.

### **DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS.**

Highways January 29th, 2018

Ordinary Meeting February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018