

Harpole Parish Council Newsletter
Following the Meeting held on February 12th, 2017



Hello all

The format of this newsletter is a little different to previous editions, and hopefully be more readable than a 'light' copy of the draft minutes.

Copies of the minutes of all Parish Council meetings are found on our website, www.harpolevillage.org.uk (please note that the original site www.harpole.org.uk, is not currently in use).

On the Website, you will find the village calendar, details of organisations and activities in Harpole, and you can sign up to receive our mail news which is produced on a regular basis.

Detailed information on current Planning applications can be found on our website at: <http://harpolevillage.org.uk/the-work-of-harpoleparish/planning>

If you would like information about your group's activities, or your business, or indeed anything to do with Harpole, please email me at admin@harpolevillage.org.uk

Harpole Parish Council

Ordinary meeting 12th March

At the meeting on 12th March apologies were received from Councillors David Starmer and Maxine Jones, together with regrets from District Councillor Ann Addison who was unable to accept the invitation to this meeting, but would be at the next.

The Council received a presentation from Steve Barber who works with the County Council on the types and cost of vehicle activated speed signs, together with the pros and cons of each type. Speed is the third

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highest cause of accidents and reducing speed by even a small amount can have a significant effect on accident numbers. The Council referred this information to the next meeting of the Highways committee.

Public Discussion

John Gibbins requested details of the public liability insurance of the subcontractors carrying out work for the Council and Leslie Barras produced a very detailed presentation of the problems with, and damage resulting from, illegal parking by HGV's overnight at the South end of Northampton Road. This report will be referred to the Highways committee, and the Council will look at the designation of the area – which is a bus pull-in (unused) and not a layby. The damage includes broken paving, kerbstones and churning of the grass. Parishioners were urged to phone the police if they see HGV's parking at this location in the village.

Old School Hall

The OSH management committee had sent a letter outlining progress on the establishment of the process of the management of the Hall. The PC would request clarification of their role as Custodian Trustee.

Bus Shelter

A request was received for a bus shelter in Larkhall Lane. The wait for buses there can be very cold. The council agreed to consult with the Highways authority and Stagecoach about the feasibility of this and to talk to residents. There is no budget for this at the moment, but the Council will investigate the options.

NCALC working Party

Following the presentation by Northamptonshire County Association of Local Councils, the PC set up a working party to identify the changes needed in the Council to respond to the increase in population that will occur when the building developments in the North and East of the Parish take place.

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Sonja Roberts reported on the progress of the working party, outlining the remit and the parameters in which the group would work. The name was changed to “HIT” – Harpole In Transition - to reflect the objectives. Among other activities, the group has so far scoped out areas of work. These include what role designations and staffing requirements might be, what facilities and activities the PC may need to put in place to operate successfully, the most effective ways to engage with parish residents, with neighbouring parishes, SNC, planners, developers and other parties.

HIT has produced an initial view of the potential changes to the parish regarding housing and population. This is being refined, to include age profile and the phasing of changes, and will be updated accordingly.

Also, the group obtained input on job descriptions and undertook a visit to Moulton Parish to understand how they are set up and how they have had to change to handle the growth of their parish. Further updates will be published and meetings held throughout the year.

Garners way parking

The working party had met at the site and had come up with several suggestions. The cost of creating a traditional car park was prohibitive, but there were options around "Grassguard" type paving. Any of these options would need drop kerbing and would be expensive. The Council agreed to continue the search for a solution to ensuring emergency vehicles can pass through the area, and inform residents of the activities.

Larkhall Way road surface

Following the response from the District Council over the state of the road, the Council would investigate the conditions set out in the planning permission, and contact Barry Howard.

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Allotments

Following a full explanation of the roles and responsibilities, the allotment tenants had now elected a new committee, and there would be a meeting next month. Access at the top entrances would be limited for a short period to allow access to work at the rear of Carr's way properties adjoin the allotment. This was expected to be for a short time, and a notice would be posted on the gate.

Lighting

The EDF bill had increased yet again, and the Clerk would be looking at alternatives, but it is a complex area and not a straightforward process.

Future Meetings

The next Ordinary meeting will be on 9th April at **7 PM** at the Old School Hall

This will be followed by the Annual Parish Meeting at **8 PM**

The next Highways committee meeting will be at the Old School Hall on 26th March. Mor information about this and other meetings will be found on the website.