

HARSTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 28TH APRIL 2015 IN THE VILLAGE HALL, HARSTON COMMENCING AT 8.00PM

Present: Cllr O'Byrne
Cllr Grappe
Cllr Jackson
Cllr Wilson

Lesley Watts (Clerk)
Brenda Johnson (RFO)

District Councillor Janet Lockwood, County Councillor Tony Orgee, Alastair Oatey (HRG) and 4 members of the public were also present.

1.APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Blocke, Cllr Baxter. Absent: Cllr Benning

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST HARSTON PARISH MEETING 28 APRIL 2014

The minutes were reviewed and approved, with two amendments. Proposed: Cllr Wilson Seconded: Cllr Grappe They were signed and initialled by Cllr O'Byrne.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF HARSTON PARISH MEETING 28 APRIL 014

Any matters arising were to be discussed in the meeting as ongoing issues.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

This report is attached to the minutes.

Additional comments: The playground had, generally, been well received and was proving popular and well used. Some remedial work had been completed on 27/4/2015. The meeting was advised that the Parish Council was looking to set up an ongoing maintenance system. This would be on the Agenda at the next full Parish Council meeting on 14/5/15.

5. ACCOUNTS

The accounts were circulated to all present, the major expense this year being the playground.

Additional comments: The football club was no longer running but there were plans to set up a new Harston Football team.

6. REPORT FROM SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

This report is attached to the minutes.

7. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

This report is attached to the minutes.

Additional comments: The question was raised on time limitations on funding for the cycleway, especially if compulsory land purchase issues were involved. As CLP was a last resort this would, hopefully, not be an issue. A further question was raised regarding drainage covers on cycleways, and the possibility of kerb drainage systems instead. Cllr Orgee would make this point to Patrick Joyce. Finally, Cllr Orgee noted that the current cycleway was not 'fit for purpose'. Modern cycleway requirements are for a 2.5m minimum width.

8. REPORT FROM THE TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT WORKING PARTY

Cllr Wilson reported to the meeting. The Parish Council, for some time, had been trying to arrange a meeting with Mike Cooper on a number of issues. This was ongoing and the matters to be raised would be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting on 14 May 2015.

Additional comments: Were there any plans to re-surface the A10. The road was previously classified as a trunk road and so dealt with by national government, it was now a local issue. Cllr Orgee would investigate any re-surfacing plans.

9. REPORT FROM RECREATION, AMENITIES AND BURIAL GROUND WORKING PARTY

The focus this year had been on the installation and opening of the playground (see Chairman's report).

Burial ground – the burial ground records are up to date. Plans are in place to review the policy and ensure it is up to date with current rules and regulations. This includes access for blue badge holders. There is occasionally restricted access to ALL vehicles when the ground is very wet and the area near the entrance becomes muddy. This is a hazard to any vehicle entering and also churns up the ground making it hazardous for people on foot, and any wheelchair users. The PC have to be aware of the needs of all users. As far as possible, when the area is dry the bollard will be lowered. If there is any perceived risk then the bollard will be raised but anyone needing vehicle access can still request it and the request will be accommodated if possible.

Additional comments: hose attached to burial ground standpipe preventing use by burial ground users. This would be investigated.

10. REPORT FROM CONSERVATION WORKING PARTY

Conservation area – the weeds, which were possibly a health issue, had been removed. This would be monitored for re-occurrence. Gaps in/damage to fence – the fence should be maintained by the landowner not the PC.

11. REPORT FROM HARSTON RESIDENTS GROUP

This report is attached to the minutes.

Additional comments: Cllr O'Byrne noted that a grant received for the Neighbourhood plan had been spent on a consultant review of the aspirations. This had been reported in more detail at PC meetings. Harston was an exception as it is in the middle of Green Belt areas. Many of the points raised would counter Green Belt policy and were therefore not acceptable.

12. GENERAL DISCUSSION

The point was raised that there is a collection box at the Community Lounge, Meadow Way. Clerk given telephone number and would contact.

Cllr Lockwood had received an email re superfast broadband to Harston. The Clerk also had a copy and would forward to councillors and put on noticeboards.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.15pm