



## HARSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> February 2021 via zoom commencing at 7.36 pm

**Present:**

Councillor Niall O'Byrne (Chair)  
 Councillor Dominic Bellamy  
 Councillor Martin Harris  
 Councillor Dal Benning  
 Councillor Tim Arnold

Councillor Paul Holdom  
 Councillor David Stierer  
 Councillor Sandy Carrol  
 Councillor Mike Luffman  
 Councillor Fraz Mir

**Members:11 Quorum 4**

Diane Bayliss - Clerk  
 2 members of the public  
 District Councillor Sollom

**20-21/178 Apologies and Reasons for Absence**

*(LGA 1972 S 85(1))*

Absent: Councillor Mallyon.

**20-21/179 Members' Declaration of Interest for Items on The Agenda + Requests for Dispensation**

*(Localism Act 2011 s 31 s 33)*

None.

**20-21/180 Open Forum for Public Participation (15 Minutes)**

*At the close of this item, members of the public will no longer be permitted to address the Council unless invited to do so by the Chairman.*

None.

**20-21/181 To Approve Minutes of Meeting Held 7<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

**It was proposed by Councillor Bellamy, seconded by Councillor Holdom, and resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> January are approved. The minutes will be signed by the Chairman as soon as practicable.

**20-21/182 Matters Arising**

None.

**20-21/183 Clerks Report**

The clerk 's report which had been circulated to councillors prior to the meeting was noted.

**20-21/184 To Receive Minutes of Planning Committee**

**It was proposed by Councillor Bellamy, seconded by Councillor Stierer, and resolved** that the Council receive and note the minutes of the planning committee meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2020.

**20-21/185 To Receive Minutes of Finance Committee**

**It was proposed by Councillor Harris, seconded by Councillor Holdom, and resolved** that the Council receive and note the minutes of the finance committee meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020.

**20-21/186 County and District Councillors Reports**

- a. There was no report from the County Councillor other than the COVID updates that had been circulated to councillors during the month.
- b. The District Councillors report had been circulated to councillors before the meeting. Councillor Sollom reported that there had been one update to the report which had said that over 70's or vulnerable persons should contact their GP about vaccinations, it seems that not all GP's are ready therefore, people should check the website of their local surgery for information before contacting them.
- County Officers are not planning to take the application for the M11, J11 Park and Ride to committee until later this year.
  - Commencing on Monday 22 February, the Council will be marking Climate and Environment fortnight 2021 with a series of webinars to help people think about how to live more sustainably, reduce carbon emissions and in turn help tackle climate change

Councillor Mir arrived at 7.37pm

There were no questions or comments from Councillors.

**Councillor Sollom left the meeting at 7.39pm**

*Action: Clerk to send Minutes to District Councillor.*

**20-21/187 Parish Council Committees and Working Groups**

- a. Councillor Bellamy reported that a zoom meeting had been held with Councillors, Bellamy, Harris, Holdom and Luffman to discuss his role within the council.
- It was proposed by Councillor Holdom, seconded by Councillor Bellamy, and resolved** that Councillor Luffman be appointed to the Finance Committee and the Recreation Ground Working group.

**20-21/188 Harston Food Hub**

- a. There had been a significant update in the parish magazine about the progress of the Food Hub. 60 Christmas gift bags had been given out over the festive season and there had been several more people collecting groceries and household supplies between Christmas and mid-January. It was noted that people are coming to the hub from a much larger geographical area than was originally anticipated and that consideration was being given as to how to manage this. It was suggested that a clear radius might need to be set up although the volunteers are not keen to restrict users.

*Action: A meeting had been called for Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February to discuss finances and it was agreed that the scope of the meeting might be extended to include discussions about distribution.*

- b. The Clerk reported that the bank account had been set up and that various options for cash cards were being explored. A meeting had been arranged for Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February to discuss these arrangements with two of the Food Hub volunteers and two parish councillors.

**20-21/189 Recreation Ground/Pavilion Matters**

- a. Councillor Harris updated the councillors on various matters related to the recreation ground as follows:
- i. The Defibrillator had been installed on the face of the pavilion wall, it is however, currently not operational as there is a problem with the website. Councillor Bellamy will complete the registration as soon as possible. It is uncertain whether anyone from the football club has undertaken training although it is not strictly necessary as the system talks you through the process. Councillor Mir may be able to organise a training session for any interested parties.
  - ii. The Photo Electric Cell on the roof of the pavilion had been broken either by a football or a vandal and had been replaced at a cost of £114.

- iii. The plinth had been cleared for the garage, which should have been installed today, unfortunately the installation had been delayed until Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February. The primary purpose of the garage is to store the new mower.
- iv. All new bushes have been replaced on the big swings
- v. It is not practical to arrange a working party to plant additional trees at the present time, however, Councillor Harris had been in discussion with a company who will supply and plant the trees. Details to be agreed.
- vi. The memorial bench had not yet been delivered.

**Action:** Clerk to chase bench/Councillor Harris to arrange tree purchase and planting.

20-21/190

**Highways Matters**

- a.
  - The Clerk reported that there had been no response to the call for a volunteer to undertake the required course in order to install the SID's.
  - It was agreed that the council might write to a few of the London Road residents to see if they might be willing to attend a course on behalf of the council. It was suggested that the Council should also consider looking into whether they can pay a company/another council to put the signs up

initially. The other option might be to use existing posts within the village where at the least the cameras might be put to use.

- Councillor Harris had identified the lampposts where the cameras should be positioned.
- Councillor Harris and Councillor Stierer were working on a risk assessment.

**Action:** Clerk and Councillor Harris to investigate options for installation.

- b. The Council had received a copy of correspondence between the HRG and the County Council about reducing the speed limit on London Road, which meets the criteria, set out Nationally and by Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC), for the road to be covered by a 30mph speed limit in its entirety. If this is correct then the Parish Council should not have to incur any costs in getting the speed limit changed from 40mph to 30mph. It was agreed that the council should contact the County Councillor and ask him to investigate the matter further.

**Action:** Councillor O'Byrne Write to Roger Hickford

20-21/191

**Transport Matters**

**a. Harston Railway Station.**

Councillor Bellamy reported that the Harston Railway bid had been submitted although there is no timetable for when it will be considered.

**b. East West Rail (EWR)**

- Councillor Bellamy reported that the blog on the HRG website had been very useful as an explanation and a pointer to further information. A number of areas of concern had been raised including how much freight the line might take and pollution.
- The group are in the process of drafting a leaflet to deliver to everyone in Harston to make them aware of the issues, and the fact that a consultation is coming and that they need to respond. There is a lot of activity in all local villages and a discussion is underway about EWR setting up a local liaison forum. The District Councillor is helping to draft a letter to EWR about this.
- A letter had been received from Cambourne Parish Council asking for Harston PC's views. The clerk had responded with a letter quoting from the minutes of the November 2020 minutes in support of a northern route.

- It was agreed that just saying ‘no’ to EWR was not a particularly good strategy and that the council should campaign from the off to make sure that the line is the least destructive it can be.

**Action:** Councillor Bellamy to continue to liaise with the working group and Councillor Sollom.

20-21/192

**Harston Residents Group (HRG)**

- a. The minutes of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> January had been circulated to councillors. Councillor Bellamy again raised the matter of the Park House wall which is in serious need of repair. The Clerk had written to the owner of the property but so far had had no response.

**Action:** Clerk to contact SCDC and DC Sollom to find out what if any action can be taken to repair the wall.

- b. **Harston Bypass**

Councillor O’Byrne gave an overview of the bypass situation from the council’s perspective. A well-attended meeting had been held in the village hall in June 2018. The outcome of the meeting was that the Combined Authority would produce a brief for a transport survey in the area. The objective of the survey will be to inform the future feasibility study. The transport survey would then lead the commission of a feasibility study to address the conclusions of the survey.

A further meeting was held on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at Harston Pavilion with Luciano Tronca – Transport Programme Manager for the Combined Authority who had been working to see if see if traffic volumes alone would warrant a bypass and after much data modelling and meetings with various departments but this had not been the case. He was then to look into what other options there might be to find an infrastructure solution for Harston.

The HRG had subsequently contacted the Mayor asking for his support for a bypass for Harston, who stated that he was very supportive of the idea, which seems to contradict the previous findings.

It was agreed that the council should pursue the matter, taking the Mayor at his word and arranging a meeting in order to look into the situation again.

**Action:** Councillor O’Byrne to contact District Councillor Mason/bring back to next meeting.

20-21/193

**Social Media and other Communication Matters**

- a. Councillor Arnold had prepared a brief paper which had been circulated and provided the basis for discussion at the meeting. The main points raised were as follows:

1. Website

- Cost and services.
- Performance (Google Analytics).
- Improvements - restructuring/search function in order that information may be found more readily.
- Links to social media accounts.

2. Social media

- Facebook: accounts and admins (currently only the Clerk and Councillor Harris)
- What we post, when and why.
- Different platforms and their uses (the case for twitter)
- Potential issues arising from wider use.

3. Other communications

- HPC monthly newsletter (on website, with link in HRG mailer)
- Annual survey: ask residents how we are doing, what they want to see in the village etc.

Councillor Stierer asked if the council would consider putting another noticeboard outside the village hall.

It was agreed that a small working group should meet to discuss these matters in more detail and bring a proposal back to the next meeting for consideration.

**Action:** *Social Media – Working Group Clerk/Councillor Arnold/Councillor Harris*

**20-21/194 Agenda Items for the Next Meeting**

- Harston Bypass (Councillor O’Byrne)
- Communications Update (Social Media)
- Tree Update (Councillor Carroll and Harris)

*Any business and payments, to be considered at Parish Council meeting must be delivered to the Clerk for inclusion on the agenda at least 7 days prior to the meeting.*

- 20-21/195** 4<sup>th</sup> March 2021 (via zoom)  
8<sup>th</sup> April Full Council and Finance Committee  
15<sup>th</sup> April Planning Committee  
6<sup>th</sup> May Annual Meeting of the Council

Meeting Closed at 9.14pm

..... Chairman

..... Date