



## HARSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> January 2021 via zoom commencing at 7.36 pm

**Present:**

Councillor Niall O'Byrne (Chair)  
Councillor Dominic Bellamy  
Councillor Martin Harris  
Councillor Fraz Mir

Councillor Paul Holdom  
Councillor David Stierer  
Councillor Sandy Carroll

**Members:11 Quorum 4**

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

**20-21/157 Apologies and Reasons for Absence**

*(LGA 1972 S 85(1))*

Councillor Dal Benning

Absent: Councillor Mallyon; Councillor Tim Arnold.

**20-21/158 Members' Declaration of Interest for Items on The Agenda + Requests for Dispensation**

*(Localism Act 2011 s 31 s 33)*

None.

**20-21/159 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.

**20-21/160 To Approve Minutes of Meeting Held 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020**

**It was proposed by Councillor Bellamy, seconded by Councillor Harris, and resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020 are approved. The minutes will be signed by the Chairman as soon as practicable.

**20-21/161 Matters Arising**

A letter of thanks had been received from MAGPAS for the donation of £50 made by the Council.

**20-21/162 Clerks Report**

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

**20-21/163 To Receive Minutes of Planning Committee**

The Council received and noted the minutes of the planning committee meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

**20-21/164 Parish Council Vacancy**

**It was proposed by Councillor Stierer, seconded by Councillor Holdom, and resolved** that Mr Luffman is co-opted to the parish council. The clerk will arrange to meet Mr Luffman in order that he might sign the necessary paperwork in order for him to take office.

**20-21/165 County and District Councillors Reports**

**a.** There was no report from the County Councillor.

**b.** The District Councillors report had been circulated to councillors before the meeting. Councillor Sollom mentioned that it had been written before the national lockdown had been

announced on Monday. No concerns or questions were raised by councillors. The report will be uploaded to the parish council website for information.

The clerk had asked Councillor Sollom to find out why there were so many planning applications outstanding for Harston. The answer is not straightforward as there are a variety of reasons including the recent switch to working from home and revisions to applications. Enquiries would be better made on individual applications.

**Councillor Sollom left the meeting at 7.53pm.**

**20-21/166**

**To Set Precept for 2021-22**

a. Councillor Bellamy reported that the finance committee had discussed the budget for the forthcoming year and submitted a recommendation that the precept be increased by a very small margin. The difference between the precept and the budget will be supported in principle by funds in the council's general reserve.

b. **It was proposed by Councillor Holdom, seconded by Councillor Harris, and resolved** that the precept for 2021-22 set at £62,480 supported by funds from the general reserve.

**Action:** Clerk to send precept request to SCDC

**20-21/167**

**Planning Matters**

a. **Councillor Mir joined the meeting at 8.10pm**

**Amendment to Application 20/02456/FUL**

Installation of 2 no. Jet Wash Machines and Air/Water & Vacuum Machines & Bay. 123 High Street Harston CB22 7QB.

Councillor Holdom reported on the application, noting that 19 comments had been made by concerned residents relating to the application with noise and safety being of particular concern.

In addition, it had become clear that the provision of a café on the site, with the existing constraints on parking, had caused more customers to leave their vehicles for longer adding to the congestion, with cars regularly blocking the cycleway, forcing children and adult cyclists into the road thus compromising their safety.

The revised proposals move car parking to the back of the site, which will make it even more difficult in busy periods causing further traffic congestion and road/cycleway obstruction. The council felt that the existing arrangements were inadequate and the new proposal will only make this situation worse.

The Council also noted that we are currently in lockdown with relatively light traffic and when normal traffic resumes congestion will inevitably be far worse.

**It was proposed by Councillor Holdom, seconded by Councillor Carroll, and resolved** that the council object to the proposal stating the following material considerations:

- Highways safety
- Access from the main road
- Inadequacy of parking
- Overdevelopment of the site (density)
- Loss of light/loss of privacy/overlooking/overshadowing
- Noise and disturbance resulting from use of the pressure washers
- Nature Conservation and or impact on protected trees or the landscape.

**Action:** Clerk to respond to the District Council

**20-21/168**

**Harston Food Hub (Councillor Arnold)**

a. Councillor Arnold was not in attendance at the meeting, therefore, Councillor Holdom reported that he had attended the food hub when it was visited by a team from Waitrose who were very supportive of the project. Councillor Bellamy reported that approximately 50 food parcels are now being handed out per week at the door rather than members of the

<p><b>20-21/169</b></p> <p><b>a.</b></p>	<p>public going into the building. Councillor Harris complimented the team on a very good job done and suggested that at some stage there might be some community recognition for them.</p> <p><b>Recreation Ground/Pavilion Matters</b></p> <p>Councillor Harris and the Clerk had met over zoom, reviewed the ROSPA report and had taken action on a number of points.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shackles for the swings had been ordered and delivered and are in the process of being replaced.</li> <li>• The baby swings had been adjusted.</li> <li>• Quotations are to be sought for maintenance to the top of the slide and one or two other lesser safety points under review.</li> </ul>
<p><b>20-21/170</b></p> <p><b>a.</b></p> <p><b>b.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clean up after your dog signs had been purchased and installed.</li> <li>• The platform for the second garage is to be cleared before installation at the end of January.</li> <li>• The main football pitch had been roped off while it was very wet.</li> <li>• It is not possible to get anyone out to look at the CCTV at the moment.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action:</b> <i>Councillor Harris to replace shackles/Clerk to obtain quotations.</i></p> <p><b>Highways Matters</b></p> <p>The Parish Council had originally put in a Local Highways Bid for a reduction in the speed limit on Station Road, however this idea had not met the criteria for the County Council speed reduction policy. The County Council had provided the Parish Council with an alternative project feasibility study for providing flashing solar powered school signs and associated road markings on Station Road.</p> <p><b>It was proposed by Councillor Mir, seconded by Councillor Stierer, and resolved</b> that the Parish Council accept the proposals from the County Council, and make the required financial contribution of £1,000.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> <i>Councillor O’Byrne to attend the meeting (via zoom) to present the case on behalf of the Council.</i></p> <p>Councillor Harris had identified which lampposts on London Road would be most suitable for the SID’s when they are installed. This information will be passed to the County Council/Balfour Beatty by the Clerk. With regard to the NRSWA course, he suggested that in the absence of a member of the parish council being available to go, that a member of the HRG might be able to attend.</p> <p><b>It was proposed by Councillor Harris, seconded by Councillor Mir, and resolved</b> that that the council fund a member of the HRG or a Harston Resident to attend the course if that is possible.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> <i>Clerk to make the necessary arrangements for attendance of the course and provided information to the County Council.</i></p>
<p><b>20-21/171</b></p> <p><b>a.</b></p> <p><b>b.</b></p>	<p><b>Transport Matters</b></p> <p><b>Harston Railway Station.</b></p> <p>Councillor Bellamy reported that the feasibility study application had been completed and approved by Anthony Browne (MP) and was ready for submission. The group are now waiting for the official submission date from the Department of Transport originally expected in November but delayed until early this year because of COVID-19.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> <i>Councillor Bellamy to send the study to clerk for circulation</i></p> <p><b>East West Rail (EWR)</b></p> <p>Councillor Bellamy reported that there had been some concern on social media about the potential routes being considered by EWR and that there had been a need to provide some</p>

clarification on the situation. An EWR Harston Working Group had been set up, consisting of members from the Parish Council, Harston Residents Group and Residents to coordinate communications going forward, a blog had been posted on the HRG website with a link from the Parish Council site which provides a comprehensive explanation of the EWR project together with links for further information.

Signs have been put up in the village by residents or members of the approaches group. The council have put a note on the website informing people of how-to put-up signs lawfully. Councillor Bellamy requested that a small fund of £200 be made available to the working group in to assist with communication costs e.g. a leaflet for village distribution.

**It was proposed by Councillor Holdom, seconded by Councillor Harris, and resolved** that a provision not to exceed £200 for publicity material as necessary in order to take prompt action.

**20-21/172 A Harston Residents Group (HRG)**

- a. The minutes of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2020 had been circulated to councillors. The main issue which will be on the agenda for the next meeting will be the question of the Harston bypass. The group had written to the Mayor who had agreed to assist with making an application which would need to be submitted by the parish council. Councillor O'Byrne pointed out that discussions had previously taken place with a less than successful outcome. **Action:** *Chairman and Clerk to find the documentation/Item to be included on February agenda*

**20-21/173 Motion to Exclude the public and press**

That the public (including representatives of the press) be excluded during the consideration of the remaining item No 2020-21/174 because it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present during the item(s) there would be disclosure to them of exempt information of Category 1 & 2 Part 1 Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

- a. **It was proposed by Councillor Bellamy, seconded by Councillor Stierer, and resolved** that the meeting is closed to the public and press 9.08pm

**20-21/174 Clerk's Hours**

- a. The Clerk's workload had recently increased owing to the setting up of a committee structure, involving additional agendas, minutes; and travel time, and taking on responsibility for the management of funds and banking arrangements for the food hub. She would also be taking over the bulk of the administrative duties carried out by the current chairman. A provisional sum had been set aside in the budget calculations for the forthcoming year.

**It was proposed by Councillor Bellamy, seconded by Councillor Carroll, and resolved** that the Clerk's working hours are increased from 20 to 25 hours per week from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021.

- b. A suggestion had been put forward by Councillor Arnold, that the clerk should provide a weekly synopsis of emails for councillors. It was agreed that such a task would not be practical, however, the clerk will consider ways of how information might best be shared going forward as part of her additional duties.

*The meeting re-opened to the public and press at 9.23pm*

**20-21/175 Agenda Items for the Next Meeting**

- Councillor Bellamy: HRG Bypass Discussion
- Councillor Mir apologised in advance for the next two months if he is unable to attend because of his potential work load.

*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.*

**20-21/176** 4<sup>th</sup> February 2021 (via zoom)

Meeting Closed at 9.29pm

..... Chairman

..... Date