



HARSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday, 3rd December 2020 via zoom commencing at 7.35pm

Present:

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

Councillor Paul Holdom
Councillor David Stierer
Councillor Sandy Carroll

Members:11 Quorum 4

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

20-21/136 Apologies and Reasons for Absence

(LGA 1972 S 85(1))

Councillor Tim Arnold

Absent: Councillor Mallyon; Councillor Fraz Mir.

20-21/137 Members' Declaration of Interest for Items on The Agenda + Requests for Dispensation

(Localism Act 2011 s 31 s 33)

None.

20-21/138 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.

20-21/139 To Approve Minutes of Meeting Held 5th November 2020

It was proposed by Councillor Bellamy, seconded by Councillor Stierer, and resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 5th November 2020 are approved. The minutes will be signed by the Chairman as soon as practicable.

20-21/140 Matters Arising

None.

20-21/141 Clerks Report

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

20-21/142 Parish Council Vacancy

Trevor Goldberg had resigned following the last meeting. The vacancy had been advertised and the Council is awaiting notification from SCDC that an election has not been called by 10 parishioners in order that it might co-opt a replacement councillor. If 10 electors do call for an election this cannot take place until May 2021.

20-21/143 County and District Councillors Reports

a. There was no report from the County Councillor although there have been a number of emails circulated about COVID-19 from the County Council.

b. District Councillor Ian Sollom had sent a report which had been circulated to councillors, the report included:

- COVID Restrictions – Cambridgeshire is in Tier Two.
- COVID Guidance for the Christmas Period in England.

- Information about business grants due to the latest lockdown.
- The District Council has created a local business directory which includes details of COVID-secure measures that businesses have put in place.
- The J11 Travel Hub Park and Ride looks as though it will go before the County Council Planning Committee in January 2021.
- Information on the Greater Cambridge Local Plan.

Councillor Sollom left the meeting at 7.46pm.

20-21/144

Conclusion of Audit 2019-20

The clerk reported that the External Audit Report had been returned with no matters for attention. The relevant notice had been posted and the Annual Governance and Accountability Return is available for inspection by members of the public. It is also available on the website.

20-21/145

Assets of Community Value

- It was proposed by Councillor Bellamy, seconded by Councillor Stierer, and resolved** that the Queens Head Public House is re-nominated as an asset of community value.
- It was proposed by Councillor Bellamy, seconded by Councillor Stierer, and resolved** that the Village Shop and Post Office is re-nominated as an asset of community value.

20-21/146

Harston Food Hub (Councillor Arnold)

- Councillor Arnold was not in attendance at the meeting. An email had been received by the chairman noting the following points:
 - Extra support has come forward to help at the hub
 - Some non-perishable goods are being provided by FareShare which is organised via Cambridge Sustainable Food. This is helping a lot with keeping up stock levels.
 - Over 30 parcels of prepacked food from the community pantry are now being provided.
 - New faces are attending every session and a number of these are from other villages.
- Councillor O'Byrne and the clerk reported on the current financial situation with the food hub.

It was proposed by Councillor Carroll, seconded by Councillor Stierer and resolved that the Parish Council open a separate bank account which will be overseen by the parish clerk in her role as RFO. The bank signatories will be Councillor O'Byrne, Councillor Bellamy and Councillor Holdom.

It was proposed by Councillor Harris, seconded by Councillor Carroll, and resolved that the council delegate to the Clerk/RFO to work out the detail as to whether a petty cash float or a cash card would be the best course of action for the daily needs of the hub.

Action: Clerk to open bank account and seek advice on petty cash system.

20-21/147

Recreation Ground/Pavilion Matters

- A play area inspection report had been received by the clerk and circulated to the recreation ground working group and the chairman of the Council. A number of other issues including CCTV, the new garage and signage need to be addressed by the recreation ground working group and a new member is needed to replace Trevor Goldberg who is no longer a councillor. A zoom meeting will be arranged between the current members and the clerk to discuss how matters might be taken forward.
Action: Clerk to meet over zoom with Councillor Harris
- Councillor O'Byrne gave a brief overview of the situation at the recreation ground where the gates are currently left unlocked which may of concern in the long term. Councillor Harris offered an alternative point of view which was that it may not be necessary to lock the gates every night. The clerk had been approached by two members of the community about the

possibility of taking on this role although it is a very anti-social role and may be difficult to fulfil 365 days per year.

It was proposed by Councillor Harris, seconded by Councillor Carroll, and resolved that the council do employ one of the two candidates, to be paid at the national living wage and that they should carry out this task morning and evening for 5 days out of 7 to be reviewed in a year's time. The decision about who to employ was delegated to the Clerk, Councillor Harris and Councillor Holdom.

Action: Clerk to arrange a zoom meeting with Councillor Harris to discuss matters as outlined above.

20-21/148

Community Matters

a.

An email received had been sent to the council by a resident of Harston suggesting that the parish council is not being pro-active enough in promoting the potential full fibre broadband service being offered by County Broadband. Councillor Bellamy reported that he had attended a webinar on the matter where there had also been some criticism of the parish council for not being more proactive in sending out information to residents. It was felt that the infrastructure would be of benefit to Harston residents and the Council should make it known that the service is available. Councillor O'Byrne suggested that the rollout might be superseded by the rollout of 5G but this was not thought likely in the immediate future. There would also be a potential benefit for the village in the free provision of a connection in either the pavilion or the village hall.

It was proposed by Councillor Harris, seconded by Councillor Bellamy, and resolved that information about the County Broadband service, including a link, is posted on the parish website and on the Council Facebook page.

Action: Clerk to put appropriate wording on the website and Facebook.

20-21/149

Affordable Housing

Councillor O'Byrne reported on a meeting he had attended with Tumi Hawkins (Lead Cabinet Member for affordable housing and delivery) and Ian Sollom (District Councillor) to discuss the potential development of a small site in Station Road (opposite the school) of 22 affordable homes (Rural Exception Site). Currently there is a need for 21 affordable homes in Harston, and there may be an opportunity for keyworkers to be housed in the village.

It was proposed by Councillor Benning, seconded by Councillor Bellamy, and resolved that the Parish Council request the opportunity to make a presentation to the SCDC Planning Committee about the need for affordable homes in Harston and to select this site for affordable homes only.

Action: Councillor O'Byrne to notify Tumi Hawkins of the council's decision.

20-21/150

Highways Matters

a.

Councillor Harris reported that there had not been much progress on the installation of the speed cameras. A volunteer is still required to attend the necessary training course and a risk assessment needs to be written, Councillor Stierer is to assist with this.

It was proposed by Councillor Harris, seconded by Councillor Bellamy, and resolved that that the council purchase one place on the training course in order to gain the certificate required by the County Council to install and move the Speed Indicator Devices.

Action: Clerk/Councillor Stierer/Councillor Harris to compile a risk assessment and arrange attendance at course

20-21/151

Transport Matters

a.

Harston Railway.

	<p>Councillor Bellamy reported that the feasibility application is at an advanced stage and a final version is expected shortly. The application submission will be undertaken by Anthony Browne's office and a copy will be distributed to Council members.</p>
b.	<p>East West Rail.</p> <p>Councillor Bellamy reported that the optional routes currently the subject of investigation by EWR are expected to be sent out for public consultation early next year. Once the council understand the potential impact of these options on Harston it will articulate a response and work with HRG to ensure village residents are fully aware and encouraged to participate in the consultation.</p> <p>The EWR Approaches group are articulating a number of key questions about the scheme including in particular proper evaluation of the Northern Route option put forward by the Group and the CamBedRailRoad's proposal – which has come forward as a petition.</p>
20-21/152	<p>Harston Residents Group (HRG)</p> <p>a. The minutes of the meeting held on 17th November had been circulated. Action points for the parish council were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Park House Wall is still in need of repair. • There are ongoing concerns about the application at the BP Garage which does not appear to have been built according to the plans. • The Group wish to make for heritage matters to be taken into account when planning applications are considered. • The HRG would like to liaise with the parish council over transport matters in the village. • Over 1,000 bulbs had been planted in the village during the latest initiative. • Scrub has been cleared at the north end of the village and a request for some assistance with removing the waste. <p>It was proposed by Councillor Bellamy, seconded by Councillor Holdom, and resolved that a quote from D.P Garden Works should be sought for removal of the waste.</p> <p>Action: <i>Quotation to be sought for waste removal.</i></p>
20-21/153	<p>Tree Matters</p> <p>a. Councillor Harris reported that he had planted a few more trees at the recreation ground which had been rescued earlier in the year by a local resident, from those damaged by vandals. The new trees that the council had approved had not yet been purchased. Councillor Carroll had expressed concern that this might have been left too late for this year's planting season but Councillor Harris reassured her that this was not the case.</p> <p>Action: <i>Purchase of the trees to be arranged by Councillor Harris and the Clerk.</i></p>
20-21/154	<p>Social Media Matters</p> <p>a. This item was deferred until the January meeting as Councillor Arnold was not present to discuss his request to activate a parish council Twitter account.</p> <p>b. It was proposed by Councillor Bellamy, seconded by Councillor Carroll, and resolved that the parish council adopt the Social Media Policy as presented by the Clerk.</p>
20-21/155	<p>Agenda Items for the Next Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow up on matters from this meeting. <p><i>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.</i></p>
20-21/156	<p>7th January 2021 (via zoom) (Agenda to be published 18th December 2020)</p>

..... Chairman

..... Date