



HARSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday, 4th March 2021 via zoom commencing at 7.36pm

Present:

Councillor Niall O'Byrne (Chair)
Councillor Dominic Bellamy
Councillor Martin Harris
Councillor Mike Luffman

Councillor Paul Holdom
Councillor David Stierer
Councillor Sandy Carrol

Members:11 Quorum 4

Diane Bayliss - Clerk
1 member of the public
District Councillor Ian Sollom

20-21/196 Apologies and Reasons for Absence

(LGA 1972 S 85(1))

Absent: Councillor David Mallyon; Councillor Dal Benning.
Councillor Tim Arnold; Councillor Fraz Mir.

20-21/197 Members' Declaration of Interest for Items on The Agenda + Requests for Dispensation

(Localism Act 2011 s 31 s 33)

None.

20-21/198 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.

The member of the public present introduced herself as Fiona Whelan who is planning to stand as a County Councillor in May.

20-21/199 To Approve Minutes of Meeting Held 4th February 2021

It was proposed by Councillor Bellamy, seconded by Councillor Stierer, and resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 4th February are approved. (The minutes will be signed by the Chairman as soon as practicable).

20-21/200 Matters Arising

Councillor Luffman commented that the cost of the electric photo cell had been higher than the amount reported in the minutes. The clerk explained that the reason for this was that a wire cage had been made to protect the cell from further damage.

20-21/201 Clerks Report

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

20-21/202 To Receive Minutes of Finance Committee

It was proposed by Councillor Holdom, seconded by Councillor Luffman, and resolved that the Council receive and note the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 7th January 2021.

20-21/203 To Receive Minutes of Planning Committee

It was proposed by Councillor Bellamy, seconded by Councillor Harris, and resolved that the Council receive and note the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 14th January 2021.

20-21/204 County and District Councillors Reports

- a. A report from the County Councillors had been received earlier in the month outlining the County Council budget proposals for the forthcoming year.
- b. The District Councillors report had been circulated to councillors before the meeting. There was one question from Councillor O'Byrne about whether development of the Oxford Cambridge Arc interacts with the next Local Plan. Councillor Sollom confirmed that discussions are taking place between leaders of South Cambs District Council, Cambridge City Council, the Greater Cambridge Planning Service and the MCHLG as there seems to be a mismatch on timing. The District Council need to develop their local plan before the OxCam Arc spatial strategy is finalised. Once completed this will be a significant planning document of national significance. It is important that the policy wording is right as it could overrule local policy and will have greater force and greater weight in law. Councillor Sollom reported that he had been in communication with the officers at SCDC about the wall at Park House. His information is that although the house is listed, the wall is not. However, quotations are being sought for the work before the owner is approached. If the work is not carried out by the owner, then a formal enforcement notice can be given. In principal the District Council could arrange for the work to be carried out and then claim the money back from the owner of the property. Councillor Sollom will keep the council informed as he receives information from the officers at SCDC. Councillor Harris stated that a member of the public had emailed some documents to the council following the last meeting that show that the wall is in fact also listed.

Councillor Sollom left the meeting at 8.01pm

20-21/205 Assets of Community Value

- a. The Queens Head Pub had been included in the List of Community Assets for up to five years on 27th January 2021.
- b. The Village Shop and Post Office had been included in the List of Community Assets for up to five years on 25th January 2021.

20-21/206 Harston Food Hub

- a.
 - Councillor Arnold was not in attendance at the meeting although he had sent a copy of the flyer which had been produced for the Food Hub (shown on the shared screen).
 - Councillor O'Byrne reported that one of the volunteers should be attending the Cambridgeshire Local Engagement Events due to be held on 2nd/3rd/4th March 2021. A report will be circulated to all councillors when it is received.
 - Councillor Holdom reported that the Finance Committee had resolved to hold a meeting with some of the volunteers in September to discuss the future of the Hub and whether or not it is to continue once the current crisis is passed.

20-21/207 Recreation Ground/Pavilion Matters

- a. Councillor Harris and the Clerk updated the councillors on various matters related to the recreation ground as follows:
- i. The garage installation has been completed. Additional keys will be cut and given to Councillors Harris and Benning.
 - ii. WREN had made a request that the Council provide up to date information on the play equipment purchased with a grant from them in 2015. Councillor O'Byrne and Councillor Harris will meet at the recreation ground to discuss and photograph the relevant pieces of equipment.
 - iii. The Clerk had received an email stating that the bench should have been delivered by 17th February, however, this had not been the case and the clerk would need to chase the matter again.

- iv. Councillor Harris confirmed that quotations for new trees had been sought from Barcham Trees and that this would be considered at the next Council meeting.

Action: Clerk to chase bench

Action: Councillor Harris to arrange tree purchase and planting

Action: Gather information and respond to WREN

20-21/208

Grass Cutting Contract

Councillor's Harris and Luffman had met with the clerk to discuss the grass cutting contract for the next three years and presented two options to the council for consideration:

Option 1 Proposal - To split the contract between DP Garden Works and RH Landscapes as follows:

DP Garden Works – Recreation Ground; Play Area, Meadow and Orchard £3,448.

RH Landscapes - Verges; War Memorial; Village Green, Footpath and Cemetery £5,511

Total: ££8,959

Option 2 Proposal

– To split the contract between DP Garden Works and Zion Landscapes as follows:

DP Garden Works – Recreation Ground; Play Area, Meadow and Orchard £3,448

Zion Landscapes - Verges; War Memorial; Village Green, Footpath and Cemetery £4,710

Total: £8,158

It was proposed by Councillor Harris, seconded by Councillor Luffman, and resolved that the Grass Cutting Contract Option 2 is approved subject to agreement by the contractors:

- The Recreation Ground, Play Area, Orchard and Meadow £3,448 DP Garden Works for 3 years.
- The Burial Ground, Verges, Village Green and War Memorial £4,710 Zion Landscapes subject to a review after one year. If work is carried out satisfactorily the contract would renew automatically with the price remaining the same for three years.

Action: Clerk to notify contractors of the council's decision.

20-21/209

Highways Matters

- a.
- Councillor Harris reported that there had been no response to the call for a volunteer to undertake the required course in order that the SID's might be installed. Councillor Harris confirmed that he would be willing to undertake the necessary course when he had received both of his COVID vaccinations.
 - The cameras need to be moved into the pavilion rather than remain in their current location.
 - Councillor O'Byrne suggested that it might be an option to ask Highways to carry out a data collection exercise at a non-refundable cost of £400. It was agreed that this should not happen until traffic returns to pre-COVID levels.
 - Councillor Holdom suggested the second camera could be sited on Station Road. Councillor O'Byrne suggested waiting until the Council hear the outcome of the LHI Bid for traffic calming on Station Road. The matter will be reconsidered at the next meeting.
- b. The clerk had obtained a quotation from South Cambs District Council to replace three bins at Queens Close. A request for two further bins had been made by members of the public and councillors.
- It was proposed by Councillor Luffman, seconded by Councillor Carroll, and resolved that 5 new bins are purchased at a price not to exceed £2,200 for all of them. It was agreed to place some signs up in the area also.**

- c. Councillor O’Byrne had sent a copy of the letter from HRG to the County Highways Department. In the reply, the County Officer confirmed that any reduction in speed limits has to be supported by data.

20-21/210 Transport Matters

a. East West Rail (EWR)

- Councillor Bellamy reported that a flyer had been produced with a view to preparing people to respond to the consultation. He would be looking for volunteers to post them to every house in the village.
- The EWR Approaches Group had recently sent an email to members alerting them that some parish councils had been contacted directly by the EWR Company asking about discussions over a potential judicial review. Harston had received no such letter as no discussions had taken place by this council. The EWR Approaches Group recommended to members that they respond on behalf of the councils to any such letters for information. As previously agreed Harston Parish Council await publication of the EWR consultation paper on the routes being researched and they will respond accordingly to the details as appropriate and as a Council seek direct dialogue with the EWR Company to reinforce our position if needed. It had been reported that the EWR Action Group has now been incorporated into a company HPC were not advised of this development directly.
- The Council continue to separately support the effort to request EWR include the northern route options within their forthcoming consultation.

Action: Distribution of leaflets by Councillor volunteers

20-21/211 Harston Residents Group (HRG)

- a. The minutes of the meeting held on 16th February had been circulated to councillors.
- b. The Park House wall had been discussed under the District Councillors report. Councillor Bellamy was grateful to the District Councillor for his support in trying to resolve this matter.
- c. Harston Bypass**

Councillor O’Byrne updated the Council on his correspondence with District Councillor Mason and the Combined Authority about the possibility of a bypass for Harston. The senior transport officer is out of the office until the middle of March. His PA has confirmed he will contact the parish council on his return. If there is to be a bypass it needs to be included in the Mayor’s long term transport plan. Councillor Holdom asked whether a bypass would be on the south or north of Harston, Councillor O’Byrne confirmed that discussions had not progressed to the stage where this might be considered.

Action: Councillor O’Byrne

20-21/212 Agenda Items for the Next Meeting

- Harston Bypass
- Purchase of trees/MH Proposal
- SID’s
- Update on the bins
- Update on LHI (If received)
- Update on Grass Cutting Contract
- Play area quotes/Update on report for WREN
- Bus Stops
- Annual Parish Meeting

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.

20-21/213 11 th March Planning Committee 8 th April Full Council and Finance Committee 15 th April Planning Committee 6 th May Annual Meeting of the Council
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Meeting Closed at 9.34pm

..... Chairman

..... Date