



HARSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday, 8th April 2021
via zoom commencing at 7.36pm

Present: Councillor O'Byrne; Councillor Bellamy; Councillor Holdom; Councillor Harris; Councillor Mir; Councillor Luffman; Councillor Stierer; Councillor Carroll.

Members: 11: Quorum 4

3 members of the public.

20-21/196 Approval of Apologies and Reasons for Absence

(LGA 1972 s 85(1))

Councillor Arnold: Personal. (Approved) Councillor Benning: Work. (Approved)
District Councillor Sollom.

Absent: Councillor Mallyon has been absent for 6 consecutive months which means he has been automatically disqualified as a councillor. The Clerk will notify the District Council of the vacancy.

20-21/197 Members' Declaration of Interest for Items on the Agenda

(Localism Act 2011 s 31 s 33)

None.

20-21/198 EWR 211a) (Chairman proposed this item be brought forward, all in favour)

Councillor Arnold gave an overview briefing on the East-West Rail proposals with specific emphasis on its infrastructure aspects relating to Harston and its environs. These included the flyover to be constructed immediately south of Harston to take the new railway over the River Cam, the A10 road and the existing Cambridge to Kings Cross railway. It also included the potential long term closure, and the consequences, of both the Station Road level crossing in Harston and the High Street-Hauxton Road level crossing in Hauxton.

The Chair summed up by drawing attention to the need for detailed planning of the Harston response to the East-West consultation document. This response will have to be delivered by 9th June 2021.

20-21/199 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 Chairman asked Mr Rupert Pearce Gould to comment on the EWR Proposals, Mr Pearce Gould thanked the chairman and updated the council on a number of key points if the proposal goes ahead as it stands.

- Harston will lose access to Newton via Station Road.
- Hauxton could lose access to Little Shelford.

- Harston Railway Station could not reopen under the current proposals (an alternative may be offered later).
- Potential traffic problems as a result of the road closures are anticipated.
- The Parish Council will coordinate responses with Hauxton and Newton parish councils. Councillor Bellamy and Rupert Pearce Gould are already in communication with these councils.

The District Councillor commented that EWR know that a legal challenge in the form of a judicial review is likely, and will have taken legal advice before taking the stance they have.

Councillor Bellamy is already engaged in the Cambridge Approaches Oversight Group and will co-ordinate the Parish Councils response to the proposals which must be submitted by 9th June 2021.

20-21/200 Minutes of Previous Meeting

It was proposed by Councillor Harris, seconded by Councillor Luffman, and resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 4th March 2021 are approved and signed by the Chairman

20-21/201 Matters Arising/Clerks Report (for information only)

None.

20-21/202 Clerks Report

The Clerk's report had been circulated prior to the meeting as was duly noted.

20-21/203 To Receive Minutes of Finance Committee

It was proposed by Councillor Luffman, seconded by Councillor Stierer and resolved that the Council receive the minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on 4th February 2021.

20-21/204 To Receive Minutes of Planning Committee

It was proposed by Councillor Holdom, seconded by Councillor Harris, and resolved that the Council receive the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 11th February 2021.

20-21/205 County and District Councillors Report

There was no report from the County Councillor as the Council is in purdah.

The District Councillors report had been circulated to councillors before the meeting. The key points from the report were as follows:

- COVID cases in Cambridgeshire remain below the national average at the time of writing.
- South Cambs and the City Council have a joint housing land supply of 6.1 years.
- The Minister for Regional and Local Growth, had made an assessment of affordable housing provision by the Combined Authority and concluded that it had not made enough progress, therefore, the Government will hold back £45m worth of funding.
- The leader of South Cambs District Council had written a letter to Jacob Rees-Mogg about the need for local councils to be able to continue to hold virtual meetings.

20-21/206 Planning Matters

20/05282/FUL 19 Queens Close Harston CB22 7QW Demolition of existing single storey extension structure and garage block and the provision of further residential space in the form of two self-contained dwellings to the side of 19 Queens Close along with off street parking provision, reconfiguration of the rear driveway, remodelling of the existing rear garden to form private amenity space to serve the three dwellings, dedicated cycle parking/ storage and refuse storage. Councillor Arnold reported that the changes to the proposal were minimal, the building still juts over the building line, the overlooking concerns remain and so do the traffic/parking issues.

It was proposed by Councillor Stierer, seconded by Councillor Arnold, and resolved that the council uphold their previous objections of insufficient parking, loss of light and over-shadowing, and layout and density with regard to this proposal.

20-21/207 Harston Food Hub

Councillor Arnold reported that there had been another very positive update on the Food Hub in the Parish Magazine. The key points are as follows:

- Over 40 bags per week are packed for people in need.
- Approximately 30 people attend each session, some of them collecting for others they know. 14 food parcels and 28 ready meals are delivered per week to mainly older residents of Harston.
- The Hub continues to maintain links with the Haslingfield Hub.
- Donations of surplus stock are being made to Jimmy's Night Shelter in Cambridge.

Councillor Mir asked if there was a link to the social services, which there is not. The District Councillor agreed to look into what steps might need to be taken to make the Food Hub into an official Food Bank. Councillor Holdom confirmed that the Council had agreed to undertake a review of the Hub in September with the agreement of the current volunteers.

A note of thanks was recorded for the work carried out by volunteers at the Hub.

20-21/208 Recreation Ground

- a. Councillor Harris and the Clerk updated the councillors on various matters related to the recreation ground as follows:

Additional Picnic Benches – In the light of the amount of use the recreation ground is currently getting, Councillor Harris suggested that the Council purchase two additional picnic benches for around the play area.

It was proposed by Councillor Harris, seconded by Councillor Arnold, and resolved that two additional picnic benches are purchased at a not to exceed price of £500.

Councillor Sollom left the meeting 8.42pm

Councillor Harris asked the council to consider installing two additional pieces of gym equipment at the recreation ground. It was agreed that information and prices would be sought and brought back to a future meeting for consideration.

The information requested by FFC was submitted with photographs and an email confirmation had been received stating that no further information was required.

Action: Clerk to arrange purchase of benches.

Action: Councillor Harris to look into costs of outdoor gym equipment.

1700

- b. A request had been received from Frankie Harris asking the Council if he might bring his fair to the recreation ground on 26th July subject to COVID restrictions.
It was proposed by Councillor Harris, seconded by Councillor Mir, and resolved that the council approve the request subject to Government guidelines.
Action: Clerk to Contact Mr Harris

20-21/209 Tree Matters

Councillor Harris reported that owing to the difficulties of the COVID situation, it had not been possible to arrange the purchase and planting of the trees. It was agreed that the project would be deferred until the autumn.

20-21/210 Grass Cutting Contract

The Clerk reported that the contract had been awarded as agreed at the last meeting. The first cut had been carried out today (8th April) and there were some concerns about how the verge had been left on the High Street near the entrance to the Drift.

Action: Clerk to contact contractor to arrange for the issue to be resolved.

20-21/211 Highways Matters

- a. Councillor Harris had put up a speed camera on London Road to test it and gather some initial data in stealth mode. A resident of London Road had agreed to attend the necessary course on behalf of the council. As soon as the course is completed, permission will be sought from Balfour Beatty to put the camera up further down London Road.
Action: Clerk to arrange course attendance for volunteer.
- b. Councillor O'Byrne suggested it might be appropriate to ask the Highways Department to carry out a survey at a non-refundable cost of £400. It was agreed to leave it until enough data could be gathered from the councils own cameras.
- c. A final decision on the LHI Bid for solar powered signs on Station Road had not yet been made. Harston is number 11 out of 18 bidders to be considered in the final round.
- d. The Clerk had submitted photos and an inventory of where the bus stops are located, and had requested a quotation from a national company who refurbish bus stops to come out and make an assessment of the work required on the bus stops. Once a specification has been agreed then three quotations will be sought for the work to be carried out.

20-21/212 Transport Matters

- a. EWR
Councillor Arnold had reported earlier in the meeting.
- b. Councillor O'Byrne had attended a meeting on 18th March to discuss the Foxton Travel Hub. Harston Parish Council is in favour of the proposals although both Foxton and Fowlmere Parish Councils are against them. A number of questions had been raised at the meeting and will be considered by the project manager, Tim Watkins. Concerns were raised by councillors about the viability of such a scheme at a station with no facilities. The point was also made that there should be some joined up thinking about the bypass, the railway and the travel hub.

20-21/213 HRG

- a. The minutes of the meeting held on 16th March had been circulated prior to the meeting. Councillor Arnold reported that the litter pick held on 21st March had been the most successful so far with over 70 people attending. Councillor Arnold requested that the

parish council consider purchasing some equipment for the volunteers, a proposal will be brought to a future meeting for consideration. It was agreed that the equipment could be stored at either the pavilion or the new garage at the recreation ground.

A note of thanks to the HRG for organising the litter pick was recorded at the meeting.

Action: Councillor Harris will draft a letter to Costa Coffee asking if they would be willing to contribute to the cost of purchasing litter pickers and gloves for the volunteers.

20-21/214 Community Matters

- a. It was agreed that the new commemorative bench could either be located in the churchyard (if the church is willing) or by the War Memorial. The Clerk will contact the church in the first instance.

Action: Clerk to write to the Reverend Susan.

- b. The Zero Carbon Communities Grant is now open for applications. It was agreed that the original application would be updated and resubmitted by 30th July.

Action: Clerk to resubmit application from last time.

It was suggested that the council might make an application for solar panels on the pavilion roof. Councillor Harris thought that this might be viable if the council could store the power.

- c. This item was deferred until the May meeting.
- d. Councillor Holdom reported that the Gypsy, Roma & Traveller Inclusion Workshop was informative, worthwhile and well attended. The workshop was led by the Cambridgeshire Constabulary and in summary the police were keen that there was positive engagement with the GRT Community when local situations arise.

Action: Councillor Harris to look at options for storing energy.

20-21/215 Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman
- To Approve Annual Governance and Accountability Statement

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

20-21/216 Date of Next Meeting

15th April Planning Committee (via zoom)

6th May Annual Parish Meeting

6th May Annual Meeting of the Council

Meeting closed at 9.58pm.

..... Chairman

..... Date