



HARSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday, 6th May 2021
via zoom commencing at 7.35pm

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

Members 11: Quorum 4

1 member of the public.

21-22/1 Election of Chairman

It was proposed by Councillor Mir seconded by Councillor Holdom and resolved that Councillor Bellamy is elected as Chairman of Harston Parish Council for the forthcoming year.

21-22/2 Chairman to Sign Declaration of Acceptance of Office

The Chairman Signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office in the Zoom Meeting. The clerk will sign the form as soon as practicable.

21-22/3 Note of Thanks to Departing Chairman

Councillor Bellamy thanked Councillor O'Byrne for his many years of service as a both councillor and chairman and acknowledged his dedication to the role, highlighting in particular the management of the volunteers through what has been an extra-ordinary year. We wish you all the best for your 'retirement' and will mark the retirement more formally when restrictions are lifted.

Councillor O'Byrne wished everyone luck with the future of the council.

21-22/4 Election of Vice Chairman

It was proposed by Councillor Bellamy, seconded by Councillor Carroll that Councillor Holdom is elected as Vice-Chairman of the Council for the forthcoming year.

21-22/5 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.

21-22/6 Members' Declaration of Interest for Items on the Agenda

(Localism Act 2011 s 31 s 33)

None.

21-22/7 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 asked whether she had understood correctly that Zoom meetings were no longer allowed. The Clerk confirmed that this is the case.

21-22/8 Opening Comments from the New Chairman

- Councillor Bellamy thanked the councillors for electing him as chairman and looked forward to working with councillors on the many challenges facing the village, including EWR, traffic and parking, planning and pollution.
- The role of chairman should not go on indefinitely and would ideally not be held for longer than two years by any one councillor.
- The introduction of committees towards the end of last year had helped to focus the decision making process, and chairman of these committees would be agreed at the first meeting of each committee.
- Councillor Bellamy would no longer be the sole liaison with the Harston Residents Group (to be agreed later at this meeting).

21-22/9 Update on Holding Council Meetings from June 2021

a. Proposal: To Consider Holding Face to Face Meetings from June 2021

The Clerk confirmed that the temporary regulations allowing remote meetings was not to be extended past midnight on 6th May 2021, meaning that future meetings of the parish council will need to be held face to face. The Clerk had been given delegated powers by the Finance Committee to make the necessary payments during any period where the council might not be able to meet.

It was proposed by Councillor Holdom, seconded by Councillor Luffman and resolved that the Council resume face to face meetings from June 2021.

b. Councillor Holdom informed the meeting that the Parochial Church Council had agreed that the Council might use the church for meetings. It is a large space, with Wi-Fi, a kitchen and toilets.

It was proposed by Councillor Luffman, seconded by Councillor Stierer, and resolved that the Council holds socially distanced meetings in the Parish Church for 6 months from June 2021 at a cost of £35 per meeting.

21-22/10 Harston Parish Council Committee Members

- It was proposed by Councillor Holdom, seconded by Councillor Carroll, and resolved that Councillor Bellamy, Councillor Holdom, Councillor Stierer, Councillor Luffman and Councillor Benning, are appointed to the Finance Committee for the municipal year 2021-22.**
- It was proposed by Councillor Harris, seconded by Councillor Holdom, and resolved that Councillor Bellamy, Councillor Harris, Councillor Holdom, Councillor Stierer and Councillor Arnold are appointed to the Planning Committee for the municipal year 2021-22.**

21-22/11 Minutes of Previous Meeting

It was proposed by Councillor Luffman, seconded by Councillor Holdom, and resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 8th April 2021 are approved and signed by the Chairman

21-22/12 Matters Arising/Clerks Report (for information only)

It was agreed that the proposal to appoint parish councillors to a working group to discuss potential projects from council reserves should be deferred until the June meeting.

21-22/13 Committee Meeting Minutes

- a. It was proposed by Councillor Luffman, seconded by Councillor Holdom and resolved that the Council receive the minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on 4th March 2021.
- b. It was proposed by Councillor Harris, seconded by Councillor Stierer, and resolved that the Council receive the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 11th March 2021.

21-22/14 Matters Arising from Committee Meeting Minutes

None

21-22/15 District Councillors Report

There was no report from the District Councillor. Apologies had been received from Councillor Sollom.

21-22/16 Annual Governance and Accountability Return

- a. It was proposed by Councillor Bellamy, seconded by Councillor Carroll, and resolved that the Council receive the internal audit report.
- b. It was proposed by Councillor Bellamy, seconded by Councillor Carroll, and resolved that the Council approve the Annual Governance Statement.
- c. It was proposed by Councillor Bellamy, seconded by Councillor Luffman, and resolved that the Council approve the Annual Accounting Statement.

Action: Chairman to sign paperwork as soon as practicable.

Action: Clerk to submit paperwork to External Auditor and make provision for electors' rights.

21-22/17 Internal Auditor

- a. It was proposed by Councillor Holdom, seconded by Councillor Luffman, and resolved that the Council appoint LGS Services as Internal Auditor for a further year.

Councillor Mir left the meeting at 8.30pm.

Action: Clerk to inform Internal Auditor of decision.

21-22/18 Recreation Ground/Pavilion Matters

- Recreation Councillor Harris reported that the annual tree pruning had been carried out by RH Landscapes. The deadwood had been removed from the trees, the hedges had been cut back and protection had been placed around the remaining small saplings.
- Quotations for additional adult equipment and a new slide are currently being sought.
- A quotation had been received from Online Playgrounds for the repairs required at the play area. The quotation will be considered by the Finance Committee at its next meeting.
- Councillor Holdom suggested that the council might consider installing broadband at the pavilion; Councillor Harris reminded the councillors that County Broadband had said they would provide one community facility with free Wi-Fi.

Action: Clerk to write to ask County Broadband what the process is for fibre broadband being put in at the pavilion.

21-22/19 Highways Matters

- a. Councillor Harris reported that arrangements had been made for a volunteer to attend training on May 17th in Bury St Edmunds. Once the training had been undertaken the online paperwork for Balfour Beatty and County Council will be completed. The SID's will then be properly deployed in London Road and at other locations in the village.
- b. A quotation had been received from a company who would come out and carry out a survey on the bus shelters. The quotation is to be considered at the next finance committee meeting, however, it was agreed that Councillor's Holdom, Stierer and Luffman would meet with the clerk to discuss the matter further before the finance meeting.

21-22/20 Transport Matters**a. EWR Update.**

- Councillor Bellamy had received copies of all the maps for the EWR proposal.
- Weekly meetings are currently being held to discuss the situation and prepare a response to the consultation.
- A presentation had been made at the last HRG meeting where there were approximately 45 people in attendance.
- It was hoped that a poll might have been held at the same time as the local elections, however, the Returning Officer had not allowed this.
- A questionnaire is to be printed and delivered to every household. There will also be an option to complete the survey online.
- A draft proposal will be brought to the June meeting for approval before submission on 9th June. A hard copy of the response will be sent by registered post.
- The Approaches Group are still pushing for a full public consultation on a Northern Route.

b. EWR Public Meeting 15th May 2021

- A Public meeting had been provisionally arranged for 2pm, Saturday 15th May at the recreation ground.
- The Clerk and the District Councillor were trying to establish if this is allowed under the COVID rules.
- Anthony Brown (MP), Ian Sollom (District Councillor) and Dom Bellamy (Parish Councillor) would be in attendance to answer questions.
- A PA system had been arranged and paid for by the Parish Council.

Councillor Mir returned to the meeting at 9.03pm.

- c. **It was proposed by Councillor Bellamy, seconded by Councillor Holdom, and resolved that a contribution of £2,000 be made to a contingency fund for the EWR consultation response from s137 funds taken from general reserves.** The Clerk was delegated authority to approve transactions related to the aims of the group to respond to the consultation.

21-22/21 Harston Residents Group

- a. Councillor Bellamy had been the HRG liaison for the last couple of years but suggested that this role might be shared amongst councillors. Meetings are usually held on 3rd Tuesday of the month. The Councillor in attendance would be expected to provide a brief report from the parish council, including an update on any current planning applications.

It was proposed by Councillor Bellamy, seconded by Councillor Harris, and resolved that a rota of councillors willing to attend HRG meetings on behalf of the Council be established.

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Councillors' Holdom, Luffman, Harris and Mir were appointed to attend the meetings. Councillor Holdom will attend the meeting on 18th May.

- b. The minutes of the latest HRG meeting had been circulated with the meeting papers. Councillor Bellamy reported that the meeting was largely focused on the EWR presentation and no other points for discussion were raised.
- c. It was proposed by Councillor Bellamy, seconded by Councillor Harris, and resolved that a donation of £50 is made to the HRG for clearing away the detritus **of a recent shrub clearance.**

Action: Clerk to arrange payment.

21-22/22 Community Matters

- a. The memorial bench had been delivered to the Parish Church and will be installed once a faculty (permission) has been received from the Diocese.

21-22/23 Agenda Items for Next 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.

Councillor Mir requested that the council consider installing another memorial bench by the war memorial.

21-22/24 Date of Next Meeting

June 3rd, 2021 (Parish Church)

Meeting closed at 9.27pm.