



HARSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30pm, on Thursday, 4th November 2021 At the Parish Church

Present: Councillor Bellamy; Councillor Holdom; Councillor Arnold; Councillor Carroll; Councillor Pearce Gould; Councillor Luffman; Councillor Harris.

Members 11: Vacancies 2: Quorum 4

County Councillor King

District Councillor Sollom

1 Member of the Public

- 21-22/108 Approval of Apologies and Reasons for Absence**
(LGA 1972 s 85(1))
Councillor Stierer (Personal)
Councillor Benning (Personal)
Councillor Mir (Work)
It was proposed by Councillor Holdom, seconded by Councillor Luffman, and resolved that apologies are approved for Councillor Benning, Councillor Stierer and Councillor Mir.
The Council asked that their best wishes are passed onto Councillor Stierer.
- 21-22/109 Members' Declaration of Interest for Items on the Agenda**
(Localism Act 2011 s 31 s 33)
None.
- 21-22/110 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.
Charlotte Clarke introduced herself to the members and expressed her interest in joining the parish council.
- 21-22/111 Minutes of Previous Meeting**
It was proposed by Councillor Arnold, seconded by Councillor Holdom, and resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 7th October 2021 are approved and signed by the Chairman.
- 21-22/112 Matters Arising/Clerks Report (for information only)**
None.
- 21-22/113 Committee Meeting Minutes**
It was proposed by Councillor Holdom, seconded by Councillor Luffman, and resolved that the Council receive the minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on 2nd September 2021
It was proposed by Councillor Harris, seconded by Councillor Pearce Gould, and resolved that the Council receive the minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting 9th September 2021.

It was proposed by Councillor Harris, seconded by Councillor Pearce Gould, and resolved that the Council receive the minutes of the Extra-Ordinary Planning Committee Meeting held 23rd September 2021.

21-22/114 County and District Councillors Report

- a. Item C brought forward as the County and District Councillors had not arrived. Councillor Bellamy informed the council that the Local Plan Consultation had opened and that the Parish Council should be inviting comments from members of the public. To this end, information will be posted on the website, noticeboards and in the parish magazine. Any responses sent to the Parish Council will be considered before it meets in December.
- There is currently no development planned for Harston, which in turn means there is no money available for major projects like a bypass which is long overdue. Need relevant questions/Councillors to send questions to the clerk by next week. The County and District Councillors arrived at 7.46pm having come from the parish council meeting at Hauxton.
- b. *(Item a)* The County Councillor reported that Cambridgeshire has been granted 'Enhanced Response Area' status by the Government as of 1st November for 5 weeks. The granting of this status means that additional resources are available to support work to accelerate vaccination and testing programmes, to establish some bespoke measures in settings such as schools (face coverings, reduced visits etc.) and to encourage mask-wearing in public places. Although mask-wearing is encouraged, it is not required by law.
- The Council's Highways and Transport Committee is working towards making application and approval of 20mph zones more straightforward and streamlined. A key decision to remove some current barriers for approval of maximum speed reduction from 30mph to 20mph will be put to vote at the December Committee Meeting.
- County Council committees are currently considering the budget for 2022-23 which will be presented to full council for approval in February.
- c. *(Item b)* The District Councillor reported that the main item under consideration at the District Council is the Local Plan consultation although there is nothing in it specifically affecting Harston.
- Councillor Bellamy reported that the bid for funding a feasibility study into the re-opening of Harston Station had not been successful, he expressed his concern at the number of references in the report suggesting that the Council should contact EWR. There had been no reference to EWR in the application. Councillor Sollom had nothing further to report on the EWR proposals.

The County and District Councillors left the meeting at 8.10pm

21-22/115 Parish/Cabinet Liaison Meeting

Councillor Bellamy would be attending this meeting on behalf of the Council and asked Councillors if they had any items to take to the discussion.

Items for consideration: re-introduction of zoom meetings; allowances for councillors to make it easier for a more diverse range of persons to get involved.

21-22/116 Harston Neighbourhood Plan

Councillor Bellamy reported that a zoom meeting will be held on Tuesday 9th November to set up the steering group and discuss plans to take the project

forward. A date for the Annual Parish Meeting will be set at the next Parish Council meeting, where more information about the Plan will be made available to the public.

21-22/117 Food Hub

Councillor Carroll had not had the opportunity to visit the Hub since the last meeting, but had been in contact with the volunteers, and reported that all was going well.

The Clerk reported that the volunteers are looking into setting up a charity for the Hub.

21-22/118 Recreation Ground/Pavilion Matters

- a. Councillor Harris reported that a plaque has been removed from one of the picnic tables and that the dog waste signs been remove. Councillor Bellamy reported that the textile bank had been knocked over, although it had been re-instated it was not considered entirely secure and the clerk was asked to contact Salvation Army Trading to rectify this as soon as possible. No other issues were raised.
The clerk reported that she had completed a survey sent out by SCDC on recreation facilities in the village.
- b. Councillor Harris suggested that the budget for next year should include a provisional sum for CCTV which would be used as a deterrent at the pavilion/recreation ground.
- c. There is still no update on when the play area repairs will be carried out.
- d. **It was proposed by Councillor Harris, seconded by Councillor Arnold, and resolved that the Parish Council consider the options for extending or replacing the pavilion.** Councillors' Arnold, Harris, and Luffman will form a working party to look into the options.

Action: Clerk to contact Online Playgrounds again for a date for repairs. If no date is forthcoming another supplier of replacement parts will be sought.

21-22/119 Highways Matters

- a. Councillor Harris reported that both of the SID's had been moved to the other side of London Road and Station Road in order to gather additional data. There is data available from the last few weeks which will be analysed, and circulated to members of the Council and the HRG.
- b. Councillor Holdom had proposed that three further cameras should be purchased in order to have data from the High Street and Church Street. It would also show that the Council are serious about addressing the concerns in the village about speeding. Councillor Harris pointed out that there would need to be sufficient volunteers to support the purchase of additional cameras. The proposal was deferred for discussion at a later date.
- c. The shopkeeper had highlighted the problem of parking outside the shop, with drivers staying much longer than the 20 minutes allowed. There is also an ongoing problem with rubbish being pushed into overflowing bins outside the shop.
It was proposed by Councillor Arnold, seconded by Councillor Harris, and resolved that the Council arrange additional signage for outside the shop

Action: Clerk to contact the relevant Highways Officer

Action: Clerk to order required signs

21-22/120 Burial Ground Matters

- a. A request had been made to the Parish Council from a parishioner about placing a bench at the burial ground.

It was proposed by Councillor Arnold, seconded by Councillor Holdom, and resolved that the Council approve the installation of a bench, which should be in keeping with the other benches in the burial ground and be maintenance free.

- b. **It was proposed by Councillor Pearce Gould, seconded by Councillor Holdom and resolved that the burial fees are increased by approximately 5%, and rounded up so that there is consistent price structure.**

21-22/121 Tree Matters

- a. Two quotations for new trees had been received, one from Barcham Trees, and one from Hosta La Vista.

- b. **It was proposed by Councillor Harris, seconded by Councillor Arnold, and resolved (5 in favour, 2 abstentions) that the quotation from About Thyme Gardening for £2,652 + Delivery (not to exceed £3,000 total) is accepted and that the funds are drawn from general reserves.** The trees will be planted at Queens Close and the Recreation Ground.

- c. Councillor Harris had attended the meeting on the Queens Canopy, this unique scheme involves inviting people to “Plant a Tree for the Jubilee,” with everyone encouraged to plant trees from October - when the tree planting season begins - through to the end of the Jubilee year in 2022. The Community may also hold events to mark the celebrations and a discussion to consider what events might take place in Harston will be held at a future meeting.

21-22/122 Transport Matters

- Councillor Bellamy had mentioned earlier that the Harston feasibility funding application for considering a new station at Harston had failed. A copy of the feedback report will be circulated to councillors after this meeting.
- Councillors noted that there are a large number of consultations open, and that the Council will need to consider what is relevant to Harston and respond accordingly.
- A presentation had been put together by Councillor Arnold in readiness for the meeting with the Mayor of the Combined Authority, due to be held on Friday 12th November.
- A response had been received from EWR further to a request made after the September meeting as follows:

‘Thank you for contacting East West Rail (EWR) on behalf of Harston Parish Council requesting a copy of the result of the surveys EWR undertook in your area during the month of August 2021. I also note the Council’s concern over the validity of the surveys which took place over the August bank holiday weekend.

Regarding why we chose to include the bank holiday weekend as part of our surveys, we normally try and undertake Public Rights of Way (PRoW) surveys for either a ‘typical’ weekday or a ‘typical’ weekend day (non-workday), or both. This depends on the likely function and use of the non-motorised route - e.g., walkers, cyclists, horse riders, etc.

Leisure surveys are generally undertaken on a weekend day or a bank holiday during the summer holiday period (July to September). This is due to leisure activity being typically higher on a non-workday during the summer months, as the weather is

better, people have more leisure time and the longer daylight hours potentially increase usage.

With regard to the survey data we collected during this period, we are still in the process of gathering and processing the information and aim to make it public in the future.

Once again, thank you for contacting EWR Co and please do get in touch if you have any other questions'.

21-22/123 Harston Residents Group

- a. Councillor Luffman had attended the latest HRG meeting and the minutes had been circulated.
 - The Group had requested information on the SID's data, and the Air Quality Monitoring Statistics. Councillor Arnold reported that Harston High Street is already in breach across all levels covered. The emails showing the results will be circulated to councillors and HRG members.
 - The HRG also requested that members of the public might be able to attend PC meetings via zoom. This is currently not possible as the Council does not have the necessary equipment. An amount of money has been put into next year's budget for this equipment.
- b. The Clerk will draw up a formal rota for the remainder of this council term. Councillors Bellamy, Carroll and Pearce Gould will be added to the list of those who had already agreed to attend.

Action: Clerk to draw up and circulate rota up to the parish elections in May 2022.

21-22/124 Planning Matters

- a. Councillor Harris reported that he had spoken to Matt Greavey the architect for the application at the Pemberton Arms. Feedback from the District Council, stated that the report from the Heritage Officer (which was not favourable to the proposal) had come in late in the day. Union Architecture had launched a formal appeal against the decision to refuse the application. It was suggested that it would be useful if the PC could send a letter reiterating their support for the proposal, making mention that the war memorial can be seen from other directions.
- b. **It was proposed by Councillor Harris, seconded by Councillor Arnold, and resolved (5 in favour, 2 abstentions) that the Council write to the District Council upholding their support for the proposal, noting that the War Memorial may be seen from a number of other angles.**
- c. This proposal was not considered as the previous one had been approved.

Action: Letter to be drafted in support of the application.

21-22/125 Remembrance Sunday

- a. No official response had been received from the Highways Department to the Events Application, however, notification of the event had been listed on the recent road closure list from SCDC. Councillor Holdom will be attending the Traffic Management Course on Saturday 13th November. Councillors' Harris, Pearce Gould, and Bellamy will be assisting with traffic management, and people movement on the day.

Action: Event to be held on Sunday 14th November

21-22/126 Parish Magazine

The parish magazine deadline is 10th November. The Clerk will compile this month's report, Councillor Carroll will review it and add any other matters of interest. Councillor Pearce Gould was keen that there is a better flow of news between the various groups in the village.

21-22/127 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.

- Precept Request

21-22/128 Date of Next Meetings

It was proposed by Councillor Arnold, seconded by Councillor Pearce Gould, and resolved that the Council move their meetings to the Village Hall from January 2021.

December 2nd 2021 (Parish Church)

Meeting closed at 22.08pm

Chairman:

Date: