

## **HARRINGWORTH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 9<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

Minutes of the meeting held on 9th July 2020 via virtual Zoom conference.  
Due to a technical issue with Zoom the Meeting commenced late at 7:40pm.

Present:

Cllr A White (Chairman); Cllr G Dolman; Cllr S McLean (Deputy Chairman); Cllr S Milton;  
Cllr K. Dove (Finance); Cllr F Walsh; H Maxfield (Clerk).

### **1178 Open session for Parishioners**

Nobody successfully joined the conference and so the meeting moved onto formal business.

### **1179 Apologies for absence: Councillor L Boon.**

### **1180 To receive disclosures of personal and prejudicial interests from Councillors on matters to be considered at the meeting.**

Cllr Dove explained that he was employed by Bulwick Estates which have some interests in the environmental impact of Wakerley Quarry.

### **1181 To consider any dispensation requests and to grant such dispensations as the Chairman may consider necessary.**

The Chairman granted a dispensation request for Cllr Dove to remain on-line for the discussion on Wakerley Quarry though he would not have any vote on the matter.

### **1182 Minutes of meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2020.**

The Councillors present approved the minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> May (with one correction) and arrangements were made for their signing as a true record by the Chairman.

### **1183 Matters arising.**

Several issues were discussed later in the meeting under individual agenda topics. However, there was some continuing discussion regarding the "write down value of assets". It was decided to invite our internal auditor to clarify this issue at a meeting with Chairman, Member Responsible for Finance and the Clerk

### **1184 Review of annual audited accounts 2019-20 and associated AGAR details.**

(a) The annual financial report (shown at Annex A) was discussed and accepted as a true record of the Council's financial position for the year ending 31st March 2020.

(b) The following financial provisions were approved by the Council.

Provision for Church Yard maintenance and improvement increased by £75 to £4618.

Provision for Election Costs to remain as £1500.

Provision for General Funds to increase to £6680.



Approved 10/09/2020

- (c) Councillors approved the governance statement on the AGAR Part 2 submission. Arrangements were made for their signing by the Chairman and the Clerk.
- (d) The Certificate of exemption from a limited assurance review under Section 9 of the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015 was approved by Councillors. Arrangements were made for their signing by the Chairman and the Responsible Finance Officer.
- (e) The Accounting statements for 2019/20 as presented by the Member Responsible for Finance were approved by the Council Members. Arrangements were made for their signing by the Chairman.
- (f) The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks for the Internal Auditor which was accepted with enthusiasm by the Council members.

#### **1185 Routine Financial matters**

##### **a) Review of Payments received**

i	Burial Fee	£315
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##### **b) Pre-approved contracts for noting**

i	Haven power	£20.34
ii	Haven power	£18.61

##### **c) Payments for approval**

i	Leicestershire Gardens invoice no 20/097	£250
ii	Purchase of Stationary materials	£40
iii	Clerks Salary	£216
iv	PAYE	£54

All payments were approved.

- d) The Member responsible for Finance gave a brief explanation of the Reconciliation review for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April to 6<sup>th</sup> July 2020 which was subsequently approved as an accurate representation of the financial position by Councillors.
- e) The Chairman stated that at a future meeting of the Council the financial implications of future improvements for the burial ground, such as path works and fencing and maintaining the Churchyard trees in a safe condition should be considered.

#### **1186 Policing Matters (web site reports).**

The Clerk commented that the Northamptonshire Police site was very difficult to get useful information from, an opinion which was shared by the Councillors present. The Clerk was asked to bring this matter to the attention of the PCSO and to invite him to the next Zoom meeting of the council.

#### **1187 Covid 19 volunteer support update.**

Councillor Dolman stated that the scheme had worked very well and all parishioners had been satisfied with the support given. There was a short discussion concerning the Uppingham Surgery's proposal that the Village's prescriptions would continue permanently





along similar lines. It was thought that there were both legal and practical issues which will have to be surmounted to enable this to continue on a permanent basis. It was decided that the Council will wait to see if the Uppingham Surgery make any such request. The Chairman reported that he written letters of appreciation to the three volunteer co-ordinators (Councillor G Doleman, Mrs N Wright, Mrs B Dolman).

### **1188 Highway matters.**

The Land Encroachment at Laxton was discussed and the Clerk revealed his investigations of the matter and his actions to date. A summary of this was:

- (a) Hedges are the responsibility of the District Council planning department and the verge that of the Highways Department of the County Council.
- (b) It has been illegal to remove a hedge since 1997 without planning permission. No such planning permission can be found for this hedge, though there is an application to reinstate the hedge in 2010.
- (c) The hedge appears to have disappeared sometime before 2008 (using Google earth mapping).
- (d) The Planning Enforcement office has been contacted about the matter and have been most helpful. Unfortunately, the Officer who originally dealt with this has left the authority and the paper records for the case seem to have been destroyed. However, the planning department believe there is someone who has good knowledge of the case and they will be contacted about it in due course.

The Chairman reported that he hopes to have a site visit at the Laxton verge with the Highways Department in the next week.

### **1189 Planning.**

- (a) Daglan Update – The Chairman reported that the Parish Council's submission to the appeal had been lodged and we await the actual hearing and response. No date has yet been set for the hearing.
- (b) Lime Grange Barns application received no objections.
- (c) Maple Cottage tree works also received no objections.
- (d) 6 Shotley -This is a non-material application and was initially spotted by Councillor Boon. The details have been circulated for councillors to view.

The Chairman pointed out that Non-Material Amendments are not normally distributed to the Parish Council, only to the appropriate District Councillor. The Chairman has raised his concerns about this matter with the Planning Department at District Council. This is particularly pertinent to the application for change of hours for Wakerley Quarry workings, as the District Council responded to the County Council without seeking comment from the Parish Council.

### **1190 Churchyard trees.**

The clerk reported that the last report for the trees was in 2009 and he had been sent a copy from the company that had conducted the survey. They have given a quote of



£650+VAT+Mileage for a new survey. It was then pointed out that any ensuing work on the trees would obviously be a further financial burden. The Clerk was instructed to seek additional quotes for a churchyard tree survey.

#### **1191 Dog Fouling.**

Councillor Dolman had been informed by a resident of an increase in dog fouling in the village. It was decided that the issue be raised in the Village newsletter. It was further agreed that the Clerk should ask the Highways Department to provide signs for display in the Village warning dog owners of the penalty for not picking dog excrement. Should the Highways Department be unable to help then Cllrs agreed that the Council would fund the purchase of warning signs.

#### **1192 Footpath Marking.**

With more walkers using the local footpaths concern was expressed by one Cllr regarding visitors wandering off the designated footpaths. It was agreed that Cllr Walsh would investigate the matter and, if necessary, make recommendations at our next meeting.

#### **1193 Correspondence.**

The chairman reported he had copied councillors the following correspondence, a letter regarding abusive behaviour and one concerning the Daglan appeal. He also stated he had written to our MP and district councillor regarding Wakerley Quarry and had an amount of low level correspondence regarding Wakerley Quarry with various councils and with Mick George themselves. He had also thanked Bill Waterman for his internal auditing work. The Chairman also reported that he has just received a letter from "First Responders" which he will follow up.

The meeting closed at 9:27 pm

**Date of Next Meeting – 10<sup>th</sup> September**



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