

**Minutes of the Annual Harringworth Parish Council Meeting held  
At 7.30 pm on January 13<sup>th</sup> 2022 in the Village Hall.**

Present:

Cllr A White (Chairman); Cllr S McLean (Deputy Chairman); Cllr L Boon; Cllr K Dove; Cllr M Wright (Finance); Cllr F Walsh; Cllr S Milton; J Patterson-Gordon (Clerk)

**1321. Open Session for Parishioners.**

No parishioners attended and no questions were raised.

**1322. Apologies for absence.**

No absences.

**1323. To receive disclosures of personal and prejudicial interests from Cllrs on matters to be considered at the meeting.**

Cllr Boon declared an interest in the Quarry situation as its most immediate neighbour. All Cllrs declared an interest in the setting of the Precept as residents of the village.

**1324. To consider any dispensation requests and to grant such dispensations as the Chairman may consider necessary.**

The Chairman granted dispensation to the parties concerned.

**1325. To resolve that the Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on November 11<sup>th</sup> 2021 be signed as an accurate record.**

The minutes were accepted as accurate and signed by the Chairman.

**1326. Matters arising.**

- a. **Speed monitoring:** Sarah Barnwell from NNC emailed to inform us that a speed monitoring data box had been installed on the footpath sign on Gretton Road close to Viaduct Cottage which monitored traffic movements from Dec 4<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> 2021. Charts & graphs with detailed data will be supplied in due course. 4000 traffic movements in both directions were recorded and 85% of vehicles were travelling at the speed limit or lower. This means that no further action will be taken by Police or Highways. It was queried as to why they had chosen this location rather than Laxton Hill and Wakerley Road where specific complaints by Parishioners had been received. The Clerk will pursue this with Highways together with the issue of lack of Give Way signage at the bottom of Laxton Hill.

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- b. Low bridge signage:** Sarah Barnwell from NNC replied regarding our concern for the lack of low bridge signage coming into the village which was causing large lorries to reverse or turn round when reaching the low bridge on Gretton Road. She detailed all the signage that currently exists which is deemed to be sufficient and also commented that most large lorries would get low bridge warnings on their satnav systems. The Cllrs asked the Clerk to request that Highways clear the vegetation which partially obscures the low bridge sign adjacent to the old phone box.
- c. Mulheron hedge:** Cllr Dove confirmed that the Mulheron hedge adjacent to the Seaton Road bridge would be cut by the end of this month. An invoice for the work will be raised and as agreed the landowners will be asked for their 50% contribution.
- d. Ditch at Shotley:** Cllr McLean confirmed that some work had been done on this but not sufficient to prevent flooding and it was agreed that the Clerk would go back to the Council on this matter.
- e. Seaton Road damaged bollards:** The Clerk will chase Highways regarding the repair of the damaged verge bollards on Seaton Road.
- f. Seaton Road erosion:** Cllr White raised the issue of the erosion of hard-core material that had been placed on the edge of the road surface where vehicles pull over to let others pass. The Clerk will raise this with Highways.
- g. Playground:** Nothing further to report.
- h. Churchyard Path to Burial Ground:** Larkfield Gardening will begin work on the path on Monday January 24<sup>th</sup>.

**1327. Policing Matters:** The main issues being brought to village attention on the Police website were romance fraud, delivery scams and vehicle/trailer thefts. Cllr Dove agreed to pass on details of a WhatsApp group which got early warnings on thefts etc. to the Neighbourhood Watch contact in the village.

**1328. Routine Financial Matters.**

**a. Review of payments received:**

- i.** Donation from Mr & Mrs Randall for £25 towards upkeep of the graveyard. Mrs Randall is the granddaughter of Robert Kenny who is buried here.

**b. The following pre-approved payments were noted:**

- i.** Drax Energy Solutions £39.95/£19.61

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ii. Clerk's Salary	£196
iii. HMRC	£132
iv. Leicestershire Gardens	£350 & £175

- c. **The following payments were approved:** Nil
- d. **Review of Leicestershire Gardens contract:** Their new charges have been submitted and it was agreed that The Clerk will ask 2 other contractors to submit quotations.
- e. **Approval of Reconciliation Sheet:** The reconciliation sheet was approved by the Cllrs and signed by Cllr Wright (Finance)

### 1329. Burial Fees:

The current table of Burial Fees (attached) which was last updated in January 2018 was circulated to Cllrs at the last meeting to consider updating our charges. Data was collected from other Parish Councils in the area and advice was taken regarding charging for infants and children under 16. It was agreed that these charges would be removed and that the remaining charges would remain as they are.

### 1330. Jubilee Green & Ivy on Manor Wall:

Jubilee Green is shorthand for the area of grass beside the entrance to the stables that currently houses a bench, the old bus shelter and the Queen Victoria oak tree. It has been proposed that work will be carried out on this area in order to improve the look of the village and to plant a new tree to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June 2022. Cllr Walsh has agreed to form a working party to coordinate work in this area.

First steps will be for Cllr Dove to contact a tree surgeon regarding the state of the old Victoria oak and then to get planning permission to remove it. Cllr Dove will also speak to Rupert Conant regarding our plans for this area of the village. Cllr Walsh has proposed that invasive plants be removed, that the stump of the old oak tree be remodelled and that the bench renovated. The site might also be suitable for the erection of a flagpole. All these improvements would enhance the area and create a lasting commemoration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. All these proposals will be subject to consultation with nearby residents and the whole of the village.

The Village Gardening Group has proposed that a planter be purchased which would be sited on Jubilee Green. A lengthy debate followed regarding the funding and purchase of the planter. It was proposed that the Parish Council contribute £150 towards the cost of the planter (£807 inc. VAT & delivery) and that the Parish Council place the order once the Gardening Group, Village Hall Trustees and the Appeals Committee have confirmed in writing that they will underwrite the remaining balance. Ideally the base plinth will be constructed before delivery avoiding any need

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for storage. Following a vote this proposal was accepted. The Gardening Group will then keep it planted and maintained.

Cllr Milton raised the issue of the ivy encroachment on the Manor Farm wall which she asked to be cut back before it gets any worse. Cllr Dove agreed that this could be dealt with to avoid further damage and would instruct an estate contract to do this once permission had been granted from Rupert Conant.

### **1331. HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Weekend – An Update**

Cllr White had a meeting with the Chair of the Village Hall Trustees (CVHT), The Chair of the Appeals Committee and the Church Warden. It was agreed between them that our village should mark this historic occasion. The CVHT agreed to lead on this project and form a committee to include Appeals, Church and Parish Council. Cllr Wright agreed to be the Parish Council representative on this committee.

Ideas so far are: a pop-up pub held in February as a fund-raiser.

To open "The Queen's Head" as a pop-up pub in the Village Hall with marquees on Thursday June 2<sup>nd</sup> (the first of 2 bank holidays) and on Sunday June 5<sup>th</sup> to close part of the Wakerley Road in the village to hold a street party.

It is hoped that by this bank holiday weekend, the "Jubilee Green" will be complete.

The Parish Council wish to purchase a flagpole for the village and intend to canvas opinion via an on-line survey to establish the best position for it.

### **1332. Financial Forward Plan & Setting of the Precept for 2022/23**

Cllr Wright had prepared a 3-year Forward Financial Plan detailing our regular outgoings and future discretionary spend items. This highlighted some key issues: firstly, that our current precept just covers our regular annual expenses; secondly, the predominance of our grass cutting costs as a proportion of our annual spend, which prompted a discussion on how we could mitigate this cost.

Identifying that our current annual precept of £6180 does not quite cover our regular outgoings of £6362, it was proposed that we should apply for a 5% increase in our annual Precept payment for 2022/23. This proposal was carried in a vote. In real terms, this would add £2.25 to the rates bill of the average Band D property in the village.

### **1333. Wakerley Quarry Liaison Group. An Update.**

On behalf of the Chair, Cllr McLean recently attended a meeting of this Group which was chaired by Helen Harrison of NNC.

The main points of the meeting were as follows:

- There will be a central email address for complaints/comments about quarry issues. It is expected that this new system for complaints will go live very soon.

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- The bunding at Barrowden should be increased in height which will reduce noise
- The blasting regime will continue but will be smaller and more frequent
- Current blasting times are Tuesday and Thursday between 12 & 3pm
- The loading of lorries from 6am is to be monitored
- A 6-month activity report on Quarry activity had been proposed
- There is to be a site meeting by the Liaison Group on February 8<sup>th</sup>
- The next meeting of the Quarry Liaison Group will be on March 9<sup>th</sup>

Cllr Boon raised the issue of no longer being permitted to attend this meeting and wished to raise the matter of pressure in her chest when the blasting was carried out. Cllr White advised that at the inaugural meeting of the reformed Wakerley Quarry Liaison Group, which is now chaired by North Northants Council, it was agreed that membership would be restricted to NNC, MGL and the Chairs of the local Parish Councils and Meetings. Regarding the effect of the blasting Cllr Boon was encouraged to write to NNC and MGL raising her concerns.

#### **1334. Planning**

There were no planning matters to discuss.

#### **1335. Correspondence**

No correspondence had been received.

#### **1336. Update on the White Swan**

The Clerk reported that she visited the owners of the White Swan on January 10<sup>th</sup> to ask for a progress report and was told that there were no dates in place for work to resume on the renovation of the building.

#### **1337. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Thursday March 11<sup>th</sup> 2022 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.20 pm.

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