

Minutes of the Harringworth Parish Council Meeting held on March 9th 2023 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present:

Cllr S McLean (Deputy Chair & acting Chair for this meeting); Cllr L Boon; Cllr K Dove; Cllr F Walsh; Cllr S Milton; J Patterson-Gordon (Clerk)

1434. Open Session for Parishioners.

No parishioners attended the meeting.

1435. Apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr A. White (Chair) and Cllr M Wright. The meeting was chaired by Cllr S McLean in Cllr White's absence.

1436. 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 as its most immediate neighbour.

1437. To consider any dispensation requests and to grant such dispensations as the Chairman may consider necessary.

The Chair granted dispensation to the parties concerned.

1438. To resolve that the Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 12th January 2023 be signed as an accurate record.

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

1439. Matters arising

- a) **Mulheron hedge:** Cllr Dove confirmed that the Mulheron hedge adjacent to the Seaton Road bridge had now been cut. The Clerk is awaiting the invoice from Bulwick Estate and Cllr Dove advised that it would be less than £300. It had previously been agreed that the Parish Council would settle the bill and claim back 50% of the cost from Mr Mulheron. Since the meeting that bill has now been received in the sum of £160.
- b) **Highways Issues:**
 - i) **Land encroachment at Laxton:** NNC trying to contact landowner. Cllr Dove will update NNC with up-to-date contact details.

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- ii) **Ditch by footpath between Harringworth & Shotley:** NNC have spoken once with landowner but to no avail so will try again.
 - iii) **Road markings at Deene Road:** now freshly painted and awaiting erection of Give Way sign.
 - iv) Highways are now consulting on pushing the 30mph sign back closer to Seaton so that you first pass a 30mph sign and then later the advisory 20mph sign. The campaign to make the advisory 20mph compulsory continues.
 - v) **Jubilee Green bollards:** NNC have informed us that we are not permitted to install our own bollards between the road and the pavement to prevent cars parking on the kerb beside Jubilee Green, and they do not have the funds to do it. Cllr White has enquired as to the possible cost if the Parish Council were to fund this themselves.
- c) **Future Projects:** There will be an opportunity to highlight these and ask for input from Parishioners at the Parish Open Meeting planned for Thursday April 20th 2023.
- d) **Book of Condolence for her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II:** The Church Warden will raise with the PCC the possibility of keeping this in the Church for posterity.

Cllr Walsh and his team of helpers were thanked for their sterling work clearing vegetation from the path running alongside the road under the viaduct on Seaton Road which allows walkers to keep off the road.

1440. Policing Matters: There were no policing issues to report. The Clerk had attempted again to get the local PCSO to attend the meeting, but no reply was received.

1441. Routine Financial Matters.

- a. **Review of payments received:** Burial Fee (Dorman) £65
- b. **The following pre-approved payments were noted:**
- i. Drax Energy (street lighting) £20.37
 - ii. Mr A. Belson (Tree Report) £516.00
- c. Increase in third party payroll management costs from £73.20 to £80.52 per annum was agreed.
- d. A request to refund a burial fee was discussed and agreed.
- e. The invoice for the cutting of the Mulheron hedge was about to be issued by Bulwick Estate.
- f. **Approval of Reconciliation Sheet:** The reconciliation sheet was approved by the Cllrs and previously signed by Cllr Wright (Finance).

1442. Tree Report 2023 & Future Work

The 2023 Tree Report has now been received and was considered to be an excellent report by all Councillors.

It was noted that not too much remedial work was required but that during the Churchyard clean up scheduled for April 1st, Councillors would do a walk-around with the report and check on the comments made by Mr Belson.

There is an oak tree in the vicinity of the stables which needs attention as it is required to be pruned to clear buildings by one metre. Cllr Dove advised that this work should be done in the next month and would assess with Cllr McLean whether this work could be done by a Parish Council working party rather than involving an external contractor. They would report back.

1443. Planning Applications: NE/23/01136 & 01135/FUL & NE/23/00142/TCA

These planning applications were discussed and there were no objections. The Clerk would report back to the Council and request that the standard working hours conditions be imposed upon the building works at Shotley House:

- Working hours be limited to Mon-Fri 07:30 – 17:00; Sat 08:00 – 13:00
- No machinery be operated before 08:00 on weekdays and 08:30 on Saturday.
- All reasonable effort be made to reduce dust with no dry cutting of stone/concrete/brick.
- Requirement to reinstate verges.
- No music be played outdoors.

1444. Wakerley Quarry Liaison Group. An Update

Cllr White left a report in his absence of the latest meeting he had attended. He reported the following:.

- The old rapid fire peckers are no longer in use and the new more powerful ones were noticeably quieter. The frequency of the peck is much lower and with its power it seems to push further into the rock reducing the noise.
- The previous crushers have been replaced by bigger and more powerful ones that seem quieter. Also the hoppers are a different design such that that when the digger bucket drops the stone it no longer lands directly onto the belt but on top of other stone. The old crushers will now only be used if one of the new ones breaks down.
- They are now much deeper in the quarry which again helps with the noise.
- The blasting has helped reduce the use of the peck considerably.

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All of the above seems to be backed up by the reduction in noise complaints over the last few months. He also spoke with other Chairs from nearby villages and they have agreed to tackle NNC more robustly and will be seeking a meeting with our Ward councillors to move this forward.

Cllr Boon & Cllr Milton commented that they had noticed significantly more noise coming from the quarry this week.

1445. Correspondence

An email has been received from a villager commenting on the poor condition of the Fanny Blades memorial on the road going out of Harringworth towards Gretton. The Clerk inspected the memorial this week and felt that its condition was not so bad and the notice was still legible and the vegetation around it was clear. The Council felt that this was not their responsibility and would recommend that the villager refer back to the Historical or Fieldwork Group who originally sited it. The comment was also made that because of the dangerous bend in the road, we would not want to encourage drivers to pull in to look at it.

The villager also mentioned the picnic benches and grass at the top of the hill towards Gretton and again the Clerk reported that the benches are now completely clear and it appears that the Council are cutting the grass. It was not thought to be cost effective for the Parish Council to ask their grass cutters to take their equipment up there to mow additional grass.

1446. Other Business

Cllr Walsh confirmed that a village litter pick was scheduled for Saturday March 25th 2023.

Cllr Dove advised that repairs to the fallen wall in the village would begin on March 14th.

Cllr Walsh advised that some old footpath markers are in the process of being renewed.

It was also confirmed that Spokes café would no longer be operating in the village.

1447. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Thursday 11th May 2023, at 7:30pm in the Village Hall.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:03pm.

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Chairman
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