

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

Present:

Cllr S McLean (Acting Chair); Cllr L Boon; Cllr K Dove; Cllr S Milton; Cllr F Walsh; Cllr M Wright; J Dove (Clerk)

1497. Open Session for Parishioners.

No parishioners attended the meeting.

1498. Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllr A. White.

1499. To receive disclosures of personal and prejudicial interests from Councillors on matters to be considered at the meeting.

None were received.

1500. To consider any dispensation requests and to grant such dispensations as the Chair may consider necessary.

No such dispensations were necessary.

1501. To resolve that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 14th September 2023 be signed as an accurate record.

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

1502. Matters Arising:

- a. **Shrubs on Jubilee Green:** The Gardening Group has been approached for advice on this matter and 2 shrubs were suggested – Elaeagnus and Aucuba. The latter was ruled out as it can be poisonous to livestock. Cllr White has written to NNC with a planting plan to restrict parking on the verge in front of Jubilee Green and awaits their response.
- b. **Councillors email addresses:** The discussion on setting up dedicated Councillors' email addresses continued with a new option being put forward by Cllr McLean on behalf of Cllr White. This would be available free of charge (apart from a one-off set up charge of £20) with a mailbox limit of 20MB per individual. This recommendation was agreed unanimously with the proviso that the limit may be extended for the Clerk and the Chair to the "Advanced" package at some time in the future.

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- c. **Rockingham Forest Vision Project:** Cllr Walsh agreed at the last meeting to investigate this further. However, a number of calls and emails went unanswered so no further information was available. Someone from the Project has agreed to call back Cllr Walsh but there will be nothing more to report until January.
- d. **Seaton Road verge erosion:** Following a request by the Clerk to Cllr Helen Harrison to escalate this situation, a date has now been received that repairs are scheduled for February 1st 2024 latest.

1503. Routine Financial Matters

- a. The following payments were received: G Grant Monument Fee £150
Dorman Memorial Fee £75
- b. These pre-approved payments were reviewed: Leics Gardens £400 & £300
Drax Energy £0.58 & £0.55
Clerk's Salary £198.00
HMRC £132.00
RBL Wreath & Street
Poppies £50
- c. The following payments were approved: 2021 Election costs £32.93
Cable Ties for Street Poppies £8.07
- d. The reconciliation sheet was approved by the Cllrs and signed by Cllr M Wright

1504. Draft of Budget for FY2024/25 & Precept Discussion

A draft budget was presented by Cllr Wright which indicated that our spending this year was in line with the precept but allowances had to be made for possible increased energy costs and provision for extending the burial ground, plus election costs looking ahead to 2025. An increase of 3% in the Precept for 2024/25 was discussed with a view to making a final decision at the January meeting.

1505. Highway Matters

There were no specific matters to discuss, but Cllr Dove raised the ongoing issue of the "gruts" down the edges of all the roads going out of Harringworth not being cleared on a routine basis, causing flooding after excessive rainfall, then freezing and breaking up of the tarmac. The Clerk was asked to go back to Highways on this.

Cllr McLean mentioned that some Villagers had raised the topic of the poor state of Turtle Bridge. After a little investigation, Cllr Wright informed us that it was a listed bridge which was

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registered with Historic England and the Clerk agreed to discuss the matter with them and also with Highways and report to the next meeting.

1506. Shotley Flooding

Cllr Boon raised the issue of the large amounts of water still gushing out of the drains in Shotley following the recent very heavy rains. Cllr Dove asked the Clerk to speak to Highways about this but also agreed to speak with residents in Shotley to see how this problem could be solved.

1507. Planning Matters

- a. **White Swan planning application withdrawn:** no further information has been received on this
- b. **Lindisfarne planning appeal rejected:** concerns were expressed over the significant works still being carried out at the dwelling

1508. Application for a memorial bench on the green in front of Church gate

This application was discussed at length but it was unanimously decided that it would not be appropriate to allow it given the number of previous suggestions for placement of items on that piece of ground that had been refused. It was agreed that the area should be remain clear of all permanent items.

1509. Application for approval of headstone design & inscription in Harringworth Burial Ground

This matter was discussed at length based on the Burial Ground Guidelines set out for Harringworth Graveyard. Some concern was expressed that the Spike Milligan quotation did not meet the criterion for “reverence” and that copyright issues should be considered. This would be reported back to the Funeral Directors concerned from where the query originated.

1510. Wakerley Quarry Update

The Wakerley Quarry Liaison Group meeting was held on 10th October. Neither Mark Chant nor Mandy Dennis of NNC attended. Thus, there was no report on the number of complaints received over the previous period, nor was there a report from Mark Chant on who would investigate the effect of quarry blasting on nearby houses. MGL reported that over the last quarter they had received a total of 5 complaints, 3 in one day and couple more received over the following days. The most recent Noise Monitoring Report, carried out on 4th October, barely registered any noise on that day and was well within the noise limits. MGL stated that activity had been reduced in the previous months due to reduced demand. However, demand had now picked up and they had returned to previous activity levels with blasting taking place most weeks.

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Cllr Boon raised the issue that the Mick George email address for registering complaints has a block on it so no emails reach it. No feedback is ever received on complaints being discussed at the Liaison meetings.

1511. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday January 11th 2024

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 9.15pm.

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