

Minutes of the Harringworth Parish Council Meeting held on 11th January 2024 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present:

Cllr A White (Chair); Cllr S McLean; Cllr L Boon; Cllr S Milton; Cllr F Walsh; Cllr M Wright;
Mrs J Dove (Clerk)

1520. Open Session for Parishioners.

No parishioners attended the meeting.

1521. Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllr K Dove.

1522. To receive disclosures of personal and prejudicial interests from Councillors on matters to be considered at the meeting.

None were received.

1523. To consider any dispensation requests and to grant such dispensations as the Chair may consider necessary.

No such dispensations were necessary.

1524. To resolve that the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on 22nd November 2023 be signed as an accurate record.

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

1525. Matters Arising:

- a. Shrubs on Jubilee Green:** No response has been received from NNC so nothing to report.
- b. Shotley Flooding:** The Clerk reported that the flooding at the top of Shotley had now abated and water flow was under control. However, water was still gushing out of the drain at the entrance to Shotley and this has been reported to Highways. They have attended the site and reported that the storm drain is broken and would be repaired within 28 days.

Draft
A D White
Chairman
Date

A general discussion ensued on the issue of flooding in the village. It was disappointing that villagers did not take the initiative and report blocked drains as soon as they were noticed and instead relied on “someone else”. It was decided that efforts should be made to pre-empt flooding scenarios by encouraging villagers to report blockages to Highways as soon as they occurred via Fix my Street. Contact would be made with the Village Correspondent to remind villagers of how easy it is to access Fix my Street to report issues.

The Clerk would chase up Rutland Council to remove reed debris from the culverts under the viaduct washed up from the more recent floods.

- c. **Councillors email addresses:** The Chair reported that dedicated email addresses for all Councillors were in the process of being set up and would be going live next week.
- d. **Rockingham Forest Vision Project:** Cllr Walsh updated the meeting on this project. It seems that much work has been carried out on the Bulwick Estate as part of their extensive Stewardship Scheme, and as a result it was felt there was little that could be contributed as a village, other than for individuals to volunteer for specific projects withing the RFVP as they arose.
- e. **Turtle Bridge:** the Clerk gave an update on the response of Highways to our concerns expressed as to the safety of the bridge, in particular where the parapet has collapsed completely. It was confirmed that the bridge was inspected “every 2 years”. It was agreed that the Clerk would request an earlier inspection this year, in particular given that Turtle Bridge has been specifically mentioned within the RFVP and may attract more visitors as a result.

1526. Routine Financial Matters

- a. The following payments were received: Private donation £25 towards upkeep of the churchyard
- b. These pre-approved payments were reviewed: PWLB Loan Repayment £299.96
Drax invoices £0.58 & £0.55
Leics Gardens £350 & £200
Clerk’s Pay £198.00
HMRC £132.00
Bank Charges £18.00 (quarterly)
- c. The following payments were approved: There were no other payments to approve
- d. The reconciliation sheet was approved by the Cllrs and signed by Cllr M Wright

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1527. New Electricity Contract

The Clerk confirmed that a new 36-month fixed price electricity contract had been agreed with Yu Energy for the unmetered supply for village street lighting and the defibrillator cupboard.

1528. Parish Council Document & Data Storage

Parish Council records are incomplete and do not comply with Data protection legislation.

We hold various paper records of past meetings and of some correspondence. However, there are gaps in the records. It appears that over the years not all Clerks have been diligent in record keeping and have not kept up to date with legislation. Currently the Clerk holds records and correspondence either on paper or electronically, sometimes both. The paper storage of documents over the years has been ad-hoc and some have been lost. Furthermore, there is no centralised repository of current and past documents.

Various options were considered to overcome these issues and it was unanimously decided to opt for Cloud storage of all Parish Council documents and data via a company called pCloud, whereby data protection legislation would be complied with and information would be securely held and be fully accessible to councillors in the future.

This option has a one-off cost of £199 for 500GB of storage.

1529. Budget for 2024/25 and Precept

It was decided that an uplift of 3% on the annual Precept to £6884 would be requested which would cover our increased costs for the coming financial year coming mainly from the new electricity contract, the setting up dedicated email addresses and the purchase of lifetime Cloud data storage.

Cllr Wright was thanked for his work on balancing the budget.

1530. Updated Data Policy & Procedures

The Chair presented his proposals for updating our data protection policy to conform to current GDPR regulations. The new policy was unanimously supported by the Councillors.

1531. Highway Matters

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The Clerk updated the Councillors on the new 20mph advisory speed limit signs which Highways have put up in strategic points in the village, together with Horse Safety signs showing the safe distance at which to pass mounted horse riders given the importance of horses in our village. These were welcomed.

The Clerk was asked to go back to Highways regarding the Give Way markings at the bottom of Laxton Hill which still have not been installed.

1532. Churchyard Path

It was agreed that one large bag of gravel would be purchased to improve the churchyard path and fill in the bare patches.

1533. Planning Matters

- a. **White Swan listed building application NE/23/01205/LBC:** it was widely welcomed that work was recommencing on the renovation of the White Swan and it was unanimously agreed to recommend approval of this application.
- b. **Rose Cottage extension NE/23/01285/FUL:** It was unanimously agreed to recommend approval of this application.

1534. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday March 14th 2024 at 7.30pm.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 8.58pm.