

**Harborough Magna Parish Council
Minutes of Annual Parish Council Meeting
Followed by the Parish Council Meeting
23 May 2016
Early Birds Nursery School**

Page | 1 **Present**

Cllr Ian Bentlett (IB)
Cllr Elizabeth Biggs Poyner (EBP)
Cllr Julia Antrobus (JA)
Cllr John Brady
(JB)
Cllr Paul Skidmore (PS)

These minutes were approved by the Parish Council at its meeting on 27 June 2016
--

Leona Bendall (Clerk), Parish Clerk

Also in attendance were Cllr Morris Jones of Warwickshire County Council and Cllr T Gillias of Rugby Borough Council.

Parishioners in attendance: Lynn Peak, Barry Biggs, Gina and David Archer, David Ingram, Rachel Thorpe and Laura Rand, Fiona McMahan.

		Action
1: AM23.5.16	Clerk welcomed all to the meeting	
2: AM23.5.16	There were only two items of business for the meeting, the election of a chairman for the new parish council which was formed after normal parish council elections on 5 May 2016.	
3: AM23.5.16	Ian Bentlett expressed his willingness to stand again as chairman and he was unanimously elected to the post. The Chair asked if there were any nominations for vice chair - Cllr Brady, nominated Elizabeth Biggs Poyner and this was seconded by Cllr Antrobus..	
4. AM23.5.16	The meeting closed at 7.35 and was followed by the normal parish council meeting for May 2016.	
1:23.5.16	IB welcomed all to the meeting and before starting the formal business of the meeting he took a few minutes to thank Ruby Joyce for her wonderful commitment to the village. Ruby stood down from the Council in May, after 36 years of service. IB also welcomed Paul Skidmore to the Council as a new parish councillor.	
2:23.5.16	There were no apologies for absence	

Chairman's initials:

3: 23.5.16

Update from County and Borough Councillors

- a. **Cllr Morris Jones** gave an interesting update to the meeting with information on the structure and scope of the County Council. Covering such matters as the possibility of a combined authority with other West Midlands authorities to provide services to 6m people. WCC are currently not prepared to join this combined authority because of concerns that the rural character of Warwickshire may be lost within a largely urban greater authority. He also explained how he continued to lobby for Ministerial and MP support to ensure that the expansion of Magna Park includes protection for the rural adjoining villages because of the inherent significant traffic growth. He urged the parish council and individual residents to write themselves to the Minister to lobby for consideration of traffic on our small village roads and communities.

He also invited the Parish Council to apply for grant funding – from either his transport and safety fund or his general grant fund.

- b. **Cllr Gillias** spoke to the meeting about the situation after the election where the Borough Council was faced with no overall control. However, the Mayor (a conservative councillor) has a second casting vote and his conservative group will form the administration. He also gave an update on further management reductions to reduce costs, which will see the retirement of one of the two executive directors and one head of service.

He spoke about the success to Rugby of its participation in the World Cup events and was pleased to say that the world governing body of Rugby has agreed that the sport's Hall of Fame will be built in Rugby – this will boost the town centre and encourage more tourists to the area.

Work on agreeing the new Local Plan to provide 12,500 new homes by 2031 is progressing but he warned that if the larger sites are not approved, housing is likely to be allocated to smaller villages which might include Harborough Magna.

To conclude Cllr Gillias repeated the plea from Cllr Morris Jones that residents and the parish council take direct action to raise their fears over increased traffic to the Minister and our local MP.

	There were no particular questions to the councillors but IB agreed to return to this under item 4 – when members of the public could raise their concerns.	
4: 23.5.16	<p>Suspension of standing orders to allow parishioners of Harborough Magna to address the parish council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Mr Archer asked the councillors if there was a central contact that residents could write to, re Magna Park. Cllr Gillias explained that IDI Gazeley owned the whole site. ii. Mrs Archer presented a letter to the Council seeking financial support for a social event to be held in the Church. iii. Mrs Archer then presented a second letter seeking financial support to help a volunteer group undertake some remedial work in the graveyard. <p>IB advised that the parish council will consider this further and make a decision as soon as possible but in the meantime requested that Mrs Archer provided more information on level of funding and how this would be used.</p> <p>IB thanked the County and Borough Councillors for attending and their interesting contribution and they left the meeting.</p> <p>IB reminded the members of the public that according to our standing orders, officially, for any item to be considered for a decision at the meeting we require 5 working days written notice detailing the request.</p>	All
5: 23.5.16	Standing orders were resumed	
6: 23.5.16	<p>Declaration of Interest</p> <p>Councillor Antrobus declared an interest in respect of her membership of the HM2000 Group.</p>	
7.23.5.16	<p>Approval of minutes</p> <p>The minutes from the meeting held on 4 April 2016 were approved and signed.</p>	
8: 23.5.16	Matters arising	

	<p>a. Donation of silver birch trees by Mr Palmer, it was agreed that we would request two, to be planted in Montilo Lane – about 20 metres from the junction – with one on each side of the road. The clerk will advise Mr Palmer of the PC’s requests.</p> <p>b. IB announced to the meeting that it is in the interest of the villages that residents respond to the Housing Needs Survey but that they need not provide financial information and should understand that this is not a Parish Council sponsored survey although it is understood the results will be available for use by the council.</p>	Clerk
9:23.5.16	<p>New Village Issues</p> <p>a. Concern was raised that the diversion to avoid the damaged Tuckey’s Bridge at Cath iron Lane is circular and in fact diverts drivers back to the bridge they are supposed to avoid. Clerk to report to WCC.</p> <p>b. A hole has appeared in the carriageway by a road drain within the chicane at Hawthorne Terrace. Clerk to report to WCC</p> <p>c. The main carriageway of the road to Pailton is cracking again where the badger sett had previously damaged the road. Clerk to report to WCC</p> <p>d. Rachel Thorpe asked if a traffic mirror could be installed on the main road, outside the Old Lion to facilitate crossing on this dangerous bend. She was advised that mirrors are no longer permitted on British roads but after some discussion it was agreed to raise this and other road safety concerns with WCC. Clerk to write to WCC to request a walk around with parish councils to show the problems.</p> <p>e. It was noted that the main drains through the village had been flushed which should help prevent localised minor flooding.</p> <p>f. It was noted that the Brinklow surgery had not been advised that there were plans for 100 new homes in Brinklow which would put pressure on local services.</p> <p>g. We need to purchase the new bench which has been funded by PMJ and details have been circulated by IB. It was agreed the clerk would arrange the purchase and delivery.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>

	<p>possible but only if individual details were not release. PS and parishioners then spoke about the need for a community Facebook page. It was agreed that all councillors would consider how to improve communications and discuss further at the next meeting. PS to liaise with Barry Biggs on the subject to progress</p>	
15: 23.5.16	<p>Financial matters</p> <p>a. Councillors noted the bank reconciliation, both for the year end and at the month year. The new format for financial information was approved as it was comprehensive but easy to understand.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full details will be attached to minutes but summary position is that the PC will carry forward net funds £9145.87 and a further £1033.45 that it holds in respect of the development of the Old School Room. <p>b. The councillors gave consideration to all of the governance issues raised in the Annual Financial Return, which were then approved.</p> <p>c. The councillors then considered the Risk Assessment statement and this was approved.</p> <p>d. The councillors considered the asset register and agreed that this should be increased to cover recent investment including the acquisition of the George VI Telephone Box – value of this to be reviewed.</p> <p>e. The councillors approved the commission of new safety inspection for the playpark. Clerk to arrange.</p> <p>f. The meeting authorised the clerk to proceed to internal audit.</p> <p>g. It was agreed that Cllr Brady would become the new third signatory for cheques and the Clerk to arrange the paperwork so that he can visit the bank and undertake the necessary compliance work.</p> <p>h. Cheques signed at the meeting £8.00 for room hire and £150.00 for HM2000 Group.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk/ JB</p>
16: 23.5.16	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>a. An email had been received from a resident wishing to discuss aspects of Primrose Court’s signage with the Council. IB agreed this should be put on the agenda for the next meeting and the resident invited to attend.</p>	

17.23.5.16	Other items a. It was agreed to consider further projects for funding – including grants for a Defibrillator in the phone box and a bus shelter by the church at the next meeting.	All
18: 23.5.16	Items for the agenda of next meeting a. Primrose Court signs b. Funding requests – including adoption of a formal policy on this for the Parish Council c. Further consideration of new village projects d. Updates on traffic position re Magna Park e. Communications with parishioners via social media – including a new communications policy.	All
19: 23.5.16	Agreed date of next meeting - Monday 27 June 2016.	
Meeting closed at 9pm.		

.....
Ian Bentlett, Chairman

.....
Date