

Harborough Magna Parish Council

Meeting of the Parish Council 2 December 2019

Present

Cllr Toby France (TF) – Acting Chair
Cllr Paul Skidmore (PS)
Cllr Elizabeth Biggs Poyner (EBP)
Cllr John Brady (JB)

Parishioners: David Archer, Barry Biggs, Fenella France, Lynne Peake

In attendance: Clerk: Leona Bendall

1.02.12.19	<p>Election of chair for the meeting As previously agreed the councillors will rotate chair of the meeting until the next Annual Meeting (May 2020) when a new chairman will be elected.</p> <p>TF to chair December meeting and welcomed all the meeting.</p>	
2.02.12.19	<p>Apologies for absence Cllr T Gillias (RBC) and Cllr A Warwick (WCC)</p>	
3.02.12.19	<p>Update from Borough and County Councillors a. None received</p>	
4.02.12.19	<p>Suspension of standing orders to allow parishioners of Harborough Magna to address the meeting a. Nothing raised.</p>	
5.02.12.19	<p>Standing orders were resumed</p>	
6.02.12.19	<p>Declaration of Interest a. None made.</p>	
7.02.12.19	<p>Approval of minutes a. The minutes from 21 October 2019 were approved.</p>	
8.02.12.19	<p>Matters arising from the minutes a. A closure mechanism has been installed on the playpark gate, and the Clerk should now book a safety inspection.</p>	<p>Clerk All</p>

	<p>b. Still to receive (or buy) a new specimen tree to go on the verge at Montilo Lane.</p> <p>c. Street lamp/light by Old Village Hall has been replaced.</p> <p>d. As the new driveway and dropped kerb on the side access to 15 Meadow Way (by the Bus stop on Rugby Road) has been installed it was agreed to take no further action on this, even though the kerb/drive is at least 1m too near the bench.</p> <p>e. With regard to the leaking restored phone box – and new home for the village defibrillator – the Clerk’s volunteer will seal the gaps with the roof but another volunteer will be necessary to seal all the windows. Suggestions sought for who might take this on.</p> <p>f. Glendales refused to deal with the overgrown hedgerow that is damaging the new ‘footway’ opposite the Old Village Hall and this will have to be addressed as part of the village litter pick/tidy in March 2020.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>Clerk</p>
9.02.12.19	<p>New Village Issues</p> <p>a. EBP asked the meeting to agree that it would be appropriate to minute the Parish’s thanks to Ian Bentlett, who resigned in October after 11 years of service to the Council – and to send him a formal letter of thanks.</p> <p>Agreed Resolution: <i>‘The Parish Council would like to acknowledge and thank Ian Bentlett for his 11 years of service to the Parish Council. Over this period his enthusiasm and achievements have helped make the village a nicer place to live’.</i></p>	
10.02.12.19	<p>Parish Plan/OSCR Project</p> <p>a. EBP advised that construction work is now proceeding on the OSCR project and that the QS is waiting for formal sign-off from WCC Archeologists that they are satisfied with the site ‘dig’. The project has now received formal charity status (accepted by Charity Commissioners and HMRC) – and a new board of Trustees has been appointed, chaired by David Jones of Back Lane. EBP will continue as an ‘adviser’ so her experience and expertise is not lost to the project.</p>	<p>EBP</p>
11.02.12.19	<p>RBC/WCC Fosse Community Forum and Walc update</p> <p>a. Next meeting will be on 21 January 2020</p>	

12.02.12.19	<p>Planning applications and appeals</p> <p>a. Nothing new to report.</p>	
13.02.12.19	<p>Neighbourhood Watch</p> <p>a. Councillor Skidmore agreed to take on the responsibilities for Neighbourhood Watch. Clerk to advise our Community Support Police Officer and PS to make personal contact.</p>	Clerk
14.02.12.19	<p>Financial and Governance issues .</p> <p>a. Clerk presented the three financial reporting forms : the cashbook, the performance against budget and the bank reconciliation to the cashbook –The papers were approved.</p> <p>b. The clerk then presented the possible budget for next year – and EBP raised concerns that the clerk had not taken her full salary for three years and this should be rectified and a full budget for this allocated for next year. If the salary does not keep pace with NALC pay rates then EBP reported that as before the Council may have difficulties when recruiting. It was agreed that the clerk should receive the 2019/20 pay scale for SCP 23 which would increase her pay by £160 to £2800 a year. This to be backdated to April 2019 and paid with the December salary for the previous three quarters of the year.</p> <p>c. The schedule of cheques approved at the meeting comprised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £50 for the annual playpark lease • £624 – for the clerk’s 3rd quarter salary and backpay • £156 – for HMRC – including clerk’s back pay <p>d. The meeting then considered clerk’s budget proposals for the coming year which identified that Council still has to pay for the new lights and our first interest free loan payment. The biggest financial pressure next year is expected to be a replacement service to cut verges, the playpark and keep other areas of the village environment tidy – the Lengthsman Service.</p> <p>e. Clerk also presented options for the precept demand for the coming year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Option 1 would be to do nothing but because the village’s tax base has increased by 4.35% this would increase income by £385.558 • Option 2 would be a 2.5% increase – costing an average band D household an increase of £1.265p a year and provide an extra £616.838 funding • Option 3 would be a 5% increase – costing parishioners (band D equivalent) £2.530p a year. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The councillors discussed this and agreed to consider the options once we have further information on what funds Rugby would be prepared to devolve to the parish. Decision to be taken at January meeting. 	
15.02.12.19	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>a. The meeting discussed an approach to support a parliamentary bill to enable local council to 'buy electricity locally'. This was considered interesting but not relevant for the HMPC.</p>	
16.02.12.19	<p>Other ongoing village matters</p> <p>a. <u>Recruitment of new councillors</u> - Two parishioner have expressed an interest (including David Archer who attended the meeting) and clerk to send him information.</p> <p>b. <u>Back Lane</u> – Cllr Adrian Warwick raised Parish’s concerns on speeding with WCC road safety team who will in due course implement a review. As this could be sometime away – it was agreed that the parish would buy and install 3 warning signs 'caution – pedestrians and dog walkers in the road ahead'. The cost of this to be no more than £200.</p> <p>c. <u>Lengthsman</u> – This was discussed under finance and clerk to keep members updated and prepare a tender to go to contractors in February 2020.</p> <p>d. <u>Defibrillator training</u> – This is still not arranged but David Archer made suggestions as to who, in addition to Guy Ringer, could provide kit to enable a training session in the Old Lion. Clerk to follow up. This to be open to everyone in the village, including staff of school and businesses. In the meantime clerk to source notices to highlight location of the Defibrillator.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
17.02.12.19	<p>Items for next agenda</p> <p>a. Budget/precept for 2020/21</p> <p>b. Risk Assessment and Asset Review</p> <p>c. Campaign for new councillors</p> <p>d. Defibrillator training</p>	All
18.02.12.19	<p>Dates of next meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20 January 2020 and 2 March 2020. 	All
	Meeting closed at 20.17.	

20 January 2019

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Acting Chair

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Date

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Chair's initial