

Harborough Magna Parish Council

Meeting of the Parish Council 9 March 2020

Present

Cllr John Brady (JB) - Acting Chair for the meeting
Cllr Toby France (TF) –
Cllr Paul Skidmore (PS)- Vice Chair
Cllr Elizabeth Biggs-Poyner (EBP)

Parishioners: Barry Biggs, Rob Clarke, Sarah Brady,

District and County Councillors: Cllr A Gillias (AG) and Cllr A Warwick (AW)

Guest speaker: Owen Saward of Climate ER

In attendance: Clerk: Leona Bendall

1.09.03.20	Welcome and election of chair for the meeting As previously agreed the councillors are rotating chair of the meeting until the next Annual Meeting (May 2020) when a new chairman will be elected. JB chaired this meeting and welcomed all to the meeting and introduced Owen Saward who had come to give the Parish Council an initial briefing on proposals for a 22 megawatt solar farm at Harborough Fields – adjacent to the Harborough Magna and Churchover Parish Boundaries. The position of the adjoining grid connection is critical to the sighting of the solar arrays. If it goes ahead it will cover circa 80 acres but there will be a wide border around the fields, which can still be under grazed by sheep, so while land will be taken out of agricultural usage there is a net biodiversity gain. Licenses for the Solar Farm last 25 years. Cllr Warwick asked Owen to confirm that the 'hosting' parishes will benefit financially – which he did, advising that an initial payment of £20-25,000 may be payable with a smaller annual Owen explained that he could only provide a general introduction to the project and advised that a detailed community briefing will be held on 24 March at Churchover Village Hall between 3pm and 8.30 – this will be widely promoted.	
2.09.03.20	Apologies for absence None received	
3.09.03.20	Update from Borough and County Councillors a. Cllr Gillias – gave briefing on projects in the Borough including <ul style="list-style-type: none">• There will be temporary post office each weekday between 12.30 and 2.30 in Pailton village hall.	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RBC are consulting on air quality, traffic levels etc and welcomed a response from the parish council • Free weekend parking in Rugby will continue • The owners of the Rugby Hall of Fame will be moved to another venue as visitor numbers have fallen significantly. • RBC have £200k fund to attract small businesses to the town centre <p>Cllr Gillias concluded by asking the PC to support his initiatives to get more attention to clearing litter in the Borough. It was agreed Clerk to write to RBC</p> <p>b. Cllr Warwick – gave a briefing on County issues including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget and five year plan agreed – increase of 3.99% in precept of which 2% is specifically for Adult Social Care the costs of which are expected to rise very significantly over the next five years. • £4m will be spent on measures to address the climate emergencies – part of which is an initiative on packaging and buying local whenever possible. • Warwick District Council is holding a referendum seeking consent from residents to increase its budget above national levels. This will be interesting to see if residents are prepared to pay more for the services they need. • Extra funding for clearing public drains <p>Cllr Skidmore asked Cllr Warwick if he could help investigate the possibility of creating better parking spaces outside the graveyard. AW asked the clerk to write requesting this.</p>	Clerk
4.09.03.20	<p>Suspension of standing orders to allow parishioners of Harborough Magna to address the meeting.</p> <p>Nothing raised</p>	
5.09.03.20	<p>Standing orders were resumed</p>	
6.09.03.20	<p>Declaration of Interest</p> <p>a. None made.</p>	
7.09.03.20	<p>Approval of minutes</p> <p>a. The minutes from 20 January 2020 were approved.</p>	
8.09.03.20	<p>Matters arising from the minutes</p> <p>a. Cllr PS has put a replacement closure on the playpark gate. Clerk will now arrange safety inspection</p> <p>b. Dog fouling – this was discussed and agreed that the additional public debate has been helpful and that the position should be monitored for three months, before any further action is considered.</p>	Clerk

9.09.03.20	<p>New Village Issues</p> <p>a. The issue of cars parking and extra traffic in Main Street was discussed and it agreed the problem was probably time limited because of ongoing construction project but would be monitored.</p> <p>b. The issues of buses speeding through Main Street was raised and this to be monitored and details of time/route taken so that it can be raised with County as the buses are contracted to them.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>All</p>
10.09.03.20	<p>OSCR Project</p> <p>a. Cllr EBP advised that construction work is now proceeding roof trusses going on this week, but further funding is required for equipment etc and she is preparing bids for support.</p> <p>b. Cllr TF asked if the OSCR project would like some china from Young Farmer – he will get all the details and pass this on to EBP</p>	<p>EBP</p> <p>TF</p>
11.09.03.20	<p>RBC/WCC Fosse Community Forum and Walc update</p> <p>a. Cllr EBP attended this meeting which was useful in getting contacts for grants and getting further publicity for the OSCR project.</p>	
12.09.03.20	<p>Planning applications and appeals - two applications were discussed</p> <p>a. New garage at Croft Field – the PC had no issues with this.</p> <p>b. Alterations to buildings at Old Manor House Farm – the only issue raised was access to the restored buildings and the Clerk was asked to find out if it will continue to be via Rugby Road.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
13.09.03.20	<p>Neighbourhood Watch</p> <p>a. Cllr PS had nothing to report but he will be keeping in touch with the CSPOs</p>	<p>PS</p>
14.09.03.20	<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 –These were reviewed and approved.</p> <p>b. Clerk raised the question of Internal Auditors and asked permission to move the audit to a WALC authorised auditor. This was agreed.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>

	<p>c. Four cheques were approved at the meeting: £560 for Clerk's Q4 salary; £140 for Q4 tax to HMRC's; £109.75 for the CPR and AED first aid training and £78.74 to WCC for street lamp maintenance.</p> <p>d. Clerk presented the updated Risk Management which was discussed and Councillors approved spending circa of £300 on a survey of the fabric of street lamp posts. Clerk asked all to consider this further and the Risk Management will be brought back for approval in May as part of the audit process.</p> <p>e. Clerk presented the asset register and it was agreed to revisit this after the playpark's safety inspection.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
15.09.03.20	<p>Correspondence and email</p> <p>None received</p>	
16.09.03.20	<p>Other ongoing village matters</p> <p>a. <u>Recruitment of new councillors</u> - Councillors will continue to see if anyone else is interested and Cllr France will attend a WALC training session on attracting younger people to Parish Councils. Clerk to book a place for TF.</p> <p>b. <u>Groundsman Service</u> - after some discussion on prices and quality it was agreed to award the contract for this year's work to Lakeside. Clerk to sort details.</p> <p>c. <u>Grant funding for further playpark facilities</u> - Cllr P Skidmore said he would draw up a simple scheme for additional equipment at the playpark- once approved by the PC this would be used as a basis to attract grant funding</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>PS</p>
17.09.03.20	<p>Items for next agenda</p> <p>a. Further playpark facilities</p> <p>b. Update on Grounds Maintenance</p> <p>c. Recruitment of new councillors ahead of May 2020 elections</p>	All
18.09.03.20	<p>Dates of next meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20 April and Annual Meeting on 18 May. 	All
	Meeting closed at 21.08.	

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Acting Chair

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Date