

## **HARVINGTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING.**

### **Minutes of Annual Parish meeting held on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2015 at 7.10 pm, Harvington Village Hall.**

**Present:** Chairman of the Parish Council, Mr. Steventon, Mrs. N. Holland, Clerk to the Parish Council and well attended by parishioners.

**1. Welcome:** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2. Apologies:** Dist. Cllr. Mr. Homer, Mrs. Davis, Simon Ricketts, Mr. Tarling, Mrs. Hurst and Mr. Clements.

**3. Minutes:** – the minutes from the previous minutes held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2014 were proposed, seconded and approved as an accurate record, duly signed.

**4. Matters arising from the previous minutes:** – nil.

#### **5a. Chairman's Report:**

To say the last 12 months for Harvington has been eventful would certainly be considered by most of us an accurate statement. When I started to think about what this report should contain it wasn't long before I had a long list of events and an equally long list of people who are to be thanked and recognised for their hard and dedicated work for the village.

If I may, I would like to speak firstly about the two major housing developments, one of which is currently going through the planning process and the other where work has recently commenced. I don't wish to speak specifically about the detail of each but a more general comment that I believe the whole village, if not already, should be aware of.

Each of these developments has the very real certainty of changing the character and essence of what Harvington is and means to its current and future residents. It also risks leaving us all reminiscing over what the village was before the developers moved in to change our lives. Some of you may now be thinking, the Chairman lives on Bromley Close and those houses stick out like a sore thumb. However, the land was developed from what was once where the undertaker carried out his profession and there are now 3 houses there. Maybe this should be seen as an example of what the rest of the open land around the village could be transformed into. It is important to note at this point that the Parish Council isn't against small scale housing; the Council will consider sympathetic housing growth. After all it is how the village will continue to prosper and remain sustainable. But the message I wish to send out is "if we as the current residents of Harvington don't fight to shape the future of the village then the long queue of waiting developers will do it for us."

I would like to thank all those who have so far supported the HSN Campaign, Mr. Paul Waite who started the group and to Mr. Mike Barbour for taking the lead when Paul had to move in order to further his career. This group has made a significant difference, for example, their actions saved the bus shelter opposite the Golden Cross public house.

It is not just pressure groups that can help steer development within the village. The neighbourhood plan which is progressing as a result of the Parish Council, and the hard work of Mr. Chris Haynes, to whom I would like to extend a thank you. However for the neighbourhood plan to continue, Chris will need a team of people willing to give some of their time to ensure this project reaches fruition. So I call on everyone to get involved.

Now to lighten the tone I would like to report the successful official opening of the community orchard on the 12th of September by the BBC presenter Bob Hockenhull. Other special guests were the Chairman of Wychavon District Council, Cllr Mrs Lynn Duffy and Cllr Mrs Pam Davy from Worcestershire County Council to which I extend a thank you to both for their support. The

orchard as you may know was started as a project to help with flood alleviation along Leys Road. I feel however that although the Parish Council played its part, it was due to the considerable and continued efforts of the Harvington Trust chaired by Mr. Phil Bawn that the orchard has become and if you will excuse the pun, will continue to grow into a prized asset of Harvington. It is also worth noting that the Parish Council has recently installed some exercise equipment in the community orchard that is suitable for adults to use. So please feel free to take the opportunity to burn off some of those excess Easter calories.

A considerable proportion of the New Homes Bonus Scheme has now been allocated to the Cricket Club to make improvements to the club house and to the village hall to install a projector. There is still £2433 available to help qualifying projects, and I would encourage anyone with eligible schemes or ideas to approach the Parish Council.

The parish council continues to support the Automated External Defibrillator with regard to maintenance. For those unaware there is a defibrillator located in the courtyard of the Coach and Horses public house. I thank all the team who attended a course on how to use the defibrillator and for their continued support.

I say thank you to the local PACT group and Cllr Mr. Andy Clements who is our representative for supplying traffic speed data from the VAS. This is valuable information that has enabled the Parish Council to justify its concerns over speeding traffic in the village.

The proposed closure of the village post office was both a surprise and sad news. On behalf of the Parish Council, I extend a thank you to the post master Mr. Timothy Swift and his wife Glenys for the 5 years they have provided this valuable service to the residents of Harvington.

When something is working well it can easily slip from your attention because the work is carried out in an efficient and professional way. I refer in this instance to the publication and editing of the Harvington Village News and wish to thank Mrs. Sue Hurst for making this whole publication happen.

For a number of years the Harvington Community Group has run the 50 plus lunch club. Sadly the grant that was received from Opportunity Vale of Evesham via David Manning at Wychavon District Council has now finished. I sincerely hope that this activity will in some form continue because it offers the opportunity for those members of the community to meet and socialise. My thanks go to Jenny Grey, Di Salter, Millie Chadwick, Edith Cappell and Sandie Davis for there time and hard work running the Harvington Community Group.

I also wish to thank Dr. Hugh Nunn for his continued work on maintaining the trees within the village. Without his efforts the village scene would not be as pleasant as it is today.

The Parish Council has the privilege to make decisions that affect how the whole community lives in Harvington. All the actions and decisions the Council make would not amount to much if there wasn't someone to action them and carry out all the behind the scenes work. Without doubt there has been a huge work load for the Parish Council Clerk this year and it is right and fair that the high work load Mrs. Nicky Holland has maintained over the last 12 months be recognised publicly. So on behalf of the Parish Council I thank you Nicky for another year of steering us all through the minefield of rules and regulations that we are required to adhere to.

I turn finally to sincerely thank all the members of the outgoing Parish Council, not just those of us who currently serve as councillors but those members who have given their time and support over the last 4 years to the council for as long as they were able to do so.

We are all aware that the polling stations will soon be open and everyone eligible to vote will have their say as to who will form the next government. You would also vote on who forms the next Parish Council but only if more people had stepped forward to be councillors than there are places on the council. Sadly the time has now passed to apply to be a councillor and I believe there are six candidates who have been elected as councillors. But wouldn't it have been a good

thing if there had been more candidates than places on the council? We would have then voted for the Parish councillors as well. So, three vacancies exist and notices will shortly be posted inviting applications for co-option. I ask those residents in Harvington who want to see a better village, to step forward and apply to be co-opted and fill the vacant seats on the Parish Council.

**5b PC Dave Shortell:**

PC Dave Shortell gave a brief update on his new venture within the 15 parishes he is responsible for. He and the Community Support Officers will be rotating around the villages on a very regular basis, at first dealing with speed enforcement issues. It is hoped that after a few visits the enforcement problem may be of a less concern for which they will then use their time to patrol the villages on foot instead of a car passing through the village. If you do see him or any other officers in the village please stop and talk to them even if you do not have any concerns. Patrols will take place from 8 am through to 2 am. These times can be altered according to any concerns.

Website in place [www.westmercia.police.uk/](http://www.westmercia.police.uk/)

Go to the tab 'get involved'.

This will give you information on various projects e.g. link to Neighbourhood Watch, Rural Watch, and Green Watch. Refer anything suspicious by ringing 101.

In future as well as receiving a crime number for any incident you have been involved in this will now be followed up by regular updates from your local Police Officer or Community Support Officer.

**5c County Cllr. Mr. Holt:**

County Cllr. Mr. Holt gave a brief resume of activities over the year from the County Council perspective, in particular the new Norton-Parkway station which will link the Bristol line to the Paddington service. Planning applications are due to be submitted and it is planned to open in 2017. There are also refurbishment programmes taking place at Bromsgrove, Kidderminster and Pershore stations.

He does have access to a County Divisional Fund to support activities in the area he covers. If any organisation is interested in obtaining some funding please contact him.

**5d Dr, Nunn, Tree Warden:**

Dr. Hugh Nunn – gave an interesting insight into his work as Tree Warden in the village and what the role involves which he started in 1992. The main part of the work is advisory, planting trees and maintaining them. The main reason why the post came about was due to the loss of the plum orchards and the large amount of trees lost through Dutch Elm disease in the 1970's. He also presented a slide show through the new projector system installed in the Village Hall. Over the past 23 years Dr. Nunn has planted the lovely avenue of trees as you approach the village on the main Evesham/Alcester Road, the Oriental Plane trees adjacent to the Golden Cross bus shelter, Leys Road and many more. He wished to thank all the volunteers that assist him in his role.

**6. Presentation Neighbourhood Plan, Mr. Chris Haynes:**

Chris Haynes gave a slide presentation on the progress of developing a Neighbourhood Plan by first giving reasons why this was being done i.e. part of a legal framework, protects the village and character, defines specific sites for specific purposes etc.

44 volunteers have stepped forward and Working Groups have been formed covering Housing, Social & Community, Environment & Leisure, Business, Agriculture, Horticulture, Tourism,

Highways & Transport and Local facilities, supported by the main Steering Group. Information on the Neighbourhood Plan can be found on <http://harvingtonplan.uk/>  
There will be a meeting in the Village Hall from 10:00 to 12:00 on Saturday, 9th May, which is open to all residents of the village.

**7. Open forum:**

a) In regard to the new railway station at Norton/Parkway will there be public transport links to the station?

Cllr. Mr. Holt to confirm.

**Meeting closed at 8.00pm followed by refreshments.**

**Reports from the following organisations were available further copies can be obtained from the Clerk:**

Harvington Village Hall; Harvington Youth Group;

**Signed by the Chairman: .....dated: ? 2016.**