

HARVINGTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING.

Minutes of Annual Parish meeting held on Friday 8th April 2016 at 7.10 pm, Harvington Village Hall.

Present: Chairman of the Parish Council, Mr. Steventon, County Cllr. Mr. Holt, Dist. Cllr. Mr. Homer, Mrs. N. Holland, Clerk to the Parish Council and 55 parishioners.

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

2. Apologies: Mr. D. Harrington (Public Paths Warden), Mr. & Mrs. Knight, Mr. A. Williams (Tree Warden).

3. Minutes: – the minutes from the previous minutes held on the 17th April 2015 were proposed, seconded and approved as an accurate record, duly signed.

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

5a. Chairman's Report:

When I sat down to think about what I should write in this years report, I soon realised that once again the last 12 months have proven to be eventful for Harvington. It would be true to say that the planning applications for Evesham Road and Crest Hill have continued to dominate much of village life and it seems will do so for the foreseeable future. However without doubt, the village community spirit has proven its resilience and determination in coming together to have our say and influence on these developments.

By now I would imagine many of us are familiar with the Neighbourhood Plan. This committee of dedicated and determined parishioners who want the residents living in Harvington to decide how future development takes place have been working hard over the past 12 months to progress the neighbourhood plan. The comments from Wychavon District Council have been very positive to the extent, that Harvington's' Neighbourhood Plan is held up as an example to other Parishes on how this project should be undertaken. I say all credit to those involved. Once adopted the Neighbourhood Plan becomes a legal document carrying the same weight in planning application decisions as the recently adopted South Worcestershire Development Plan. I thank Chairman Mr. Chris Haynes and all the members of the various Neighbourhood Plan committees for their continued commitment and dedication to this project. I also wish to thank all the residents in the village who have taken the time to respond to the surveys conducted by the Neighbourhood Plan committee. Without your opinions on how you want to see the village develop the Neighbourhood plan could not be completed. Mr. Chris Haynes will be giving a short presentation and update on the neighbourhood plan after this report.

I also wish to recognise the continued efforts of the 'Harvington say no' campaign, which is run with an indefatigable determination by Mr. Mike Barbour. His efforts have raised public awareness of the two large planning applications currently threatening to change the character of the village. He has also helped and encouraged members of the community to write to the planning office at Wychavon District Council and express their opinions on these developments. Following last year's elections and subsequent co-options, I welcome the following councillors onto the Parish Council, Mr. John Colebrook, Mr. Tim Swift, Mr. Richard Dorrell and Mr. John Chapman. In addition I am very pleased to welcome Mrs. Joyce White back onto the Parish Council.

On behalf of the Parish Council I would like to welcome Mr. Ricky Dore as the new Parish Warden. Ricky has an active role in the community and became Parish Warden at the beginning of February. I also wish to welcome Mr. Alan Williams as the new tree warden for Harvington.

Alan became the tree warden in January taking on the role from Dr. Hugh Nunn. May I take this opportunity to wish Ricky and Alan well in their new roles.

It is important to recognise the continued work carried out by the Harvington Trust with respect to the community orchard. Each year that passes sees the orchard mature just a little bit more, giving a tantalising glimpse of what a wonderful asset this will become for the village. I encourage everyone to make use of this facility including the exercise equipment that is installed there. My thanks and appreciation goes to Chairman Mr. Phil Bawn and all the members of the Harvington Trust committee for their time and hard work.

Thanks go to Mr. Terry Hunt for the work he carries out on behalf of the Parish Council in the role of Parish Lengths-man. Much of the work Terry does ensure the village is protected from flooding after heavy rainfall.

Now for a few areas where we as residents can make a positive change to the village. There are a few issues above any others that are regularly reported to the Parish Council, which I wish to address this evening because they affect the well-being of the community.

The number one complaint is dog fouling. Before I continue, to those of us who own a dog or dogs and always clear up after our pet, I would like to say thank you for keeping the footpaths and other area around the village clear of dog waste. You are the responsible dog owners. Unfortunately there is a determined minority who habitually leave their dogs waste for others to tread in and walk into their homes. Not only is this very unpleasant for the unfortunate victim, but there is also a considerable risk to their health and the health of their family from the numerous diseases that are transmitted through dog faeces. The problem in dealing with this small group of people is that they know that there are very few dog wardens in Worcestershire to catch and fine them. To tackle this problem it is going to require a community effort. Currently the only realistic option is for those people who are happy to do so, to gather photographic evidence including times and places and forward this information to the dog warden whose contact details can be obtained from the Parish Clerk Mrs. Nicky Holland. I would also encourage anyone who feels they are able to, to politely challenge anyone they see not picking up after their dog.

Concerns have also been raised regarding speeding around the village. Unfortunately this is not an area that the Parish Council has powers to control other than to raise awareness through devices such as vehicle activated signs. We are currently purchasing two such signs to locate around the village on a permanent basis. Information gathered by these devices will be passed onto the Police. The Police are aware of the speeding offences that are being committed in the area and will exercise their duty to prosecute as they see fit.

Finally, third on the list from the information we receive from members of the community. It has been noticed that the amount of litter dropped on the ground around the village has increased in recent months. I appeal to all residents to take the time to either dispose of their rubbish in one of the bins provided or to take it home. I appreciate that those of us who are here this evening take a keen interest in the village so please help to pass this message on to those not here and help make Harvington a clean and pleasant place to live.

I would like to remind residents about the Automated External Defibrillator which is maintained by the Parish Council. It is located in the courtyard of the Coach and Horses public house. May I extend a thank you to all the residents who have recently attended a course on its use and for their continued support.

Over the last 12 months the Harvington Village News has once again been published in a professional and timely manner. This is due to the hard work of Mrs. Sue Hurst and I thank her for her continued support with this publication.

There have been a number of applications for funding from the new homes bonus scheme. The Parish council is happy to assist and advise anyone who wishes to apply for funding. Currently there is £5201 available for suitable local projects.

Finally the Parish Council is responsible for some of the functions of local government within the village. This frequently involves liaising with other authorities and organisations. Parish Councillors give some of their free time to be members of the Parish Council but would find it difficult to run the council efficiently without the help of a Clerk. It is therefore the role of the Parish Clerk that is essential in enabling the Parish Council to function effectively. I therefore wish to say a sincere thank you to Mrs. Nicky Holland for the huge amount of work she carries out on behalf of the Parish Council and for ensuring that we as councillors stay within the numerous rules and regulations set down by Government.

5b County Cllr. Mr. Holt:

Budget approved - New infrastructure improvement programme underway called 'Driving Home'. £12 million allocated to improve 'C', unclassified roads and footways. Spending has been reduced over the past 5 years. The Council has disposed of 33 leases and sold 99 freehold properties.

Education Secretary is to introduce new plans for school funding.

Cllr. Mr. Holt explained that the County Council elections are due in May 2017. After 31 years in the post he will be retiring and his successor will be Anthony Hopkins from Inkberrow.

5c Dist.Cllr. Mr. Homer:

Cllr. Mr. Homer introduced himself and reiterated the comments made in the Chairman's report on working together as a community.

Well aware that there are two major applications ongoing in the village. The neighbourhood Plan is proving to be extremely successful and is held up by the District Council as the best way to produce a Plan. The District Council is waiting to find out the Hearing date for the application for housing off the Evesham Road.

After completion of the required Parish Meeting formalities, the event was opened to promote the wide and varied opportunities offered by Harvington's clubs and organisations.

Cllr. Mr. Clements thanked each of the 19 organisations for attending and bringing along information leaflets and props to show what each organisation does. He went round each individual table and each in turn gave a short talk on what the group did, who was involved, where to find them, help required etc. Some who have received funding thanked the Parish Council for their help and gave the audience an insight as to what they had done with the funds received.

Organisations represented:

Art Group, Brownies, Guides, Chris Davies – Defibrillator, Cricket Club, 'Why Don't We Project', 'Harvey Bears Nursery and Pre-School', Harvington First School PTFA, Harvington Handbells, Harvington Singers, Harvington Trust, Harvington Youth Group, HATS, Neighbourhood Plan, Rainbows, School Governor (B. Tarling), Ukele + Songbirds, Village Hall Committee, Walkers, Yoga.

Meeting closed at 8.00pm followed by refreshments.