

HARVINGTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING.

Minutes of Annual Parish meeting held on Wednesday May 24th 2017 at 8.00 pm, Harvington Village Hall.

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| <u>Present:</u> | Chairman of the Parish Council, Mr. Colebrook, County Cllr. Mr. Hopkins, Dist. Cllr. Mr. Homer, Mrs. N. Holland, Clerk to the Parish Council and 21 parishioners. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. |
| <u>Apologies:</u> | Harvey Bears Nursery & Pre-School, Christine Adkins and Andy Tooth (VHMC), Art Group, Mrs. Davies (Brownies), Mr. A. Williams (Tree Warden)), Mr. & Mrs. Knight, Mr. Langley and Mr. Baugh. |
| <u>Minutes:</u> | The minutes from the previous minutes held on the 8th April 2016 were proposed, seconded and approved as an accurate record, duly signed. There were no matters arising from the previous minutes. |
| <u>Chairman's Report:</u> | <p>Over the last 12 months the Parish Council has:- Spent over £3000 on grants to local groups: Harvington Youth Group, "Why don't we project", Village Hall and Harvey Bears Nursery and Pre School, contributed to HM The Queens 90 Birthday celebrations at the Coach and Horses Public House and did our best to save Post Office closure but welcome the mobile Post Office. Coach and Horses Public House became a Community Asset.</p> <p>Sometimes forgotten are the volunteers and contractors who deal with the routine maintenance. Our Greenspace Warden; Tree Warden; Parish Paths Warden; Lengthsman; Landscape Contractor, all work hard to make our village a clean, tidy and safe to live; their achievements amongst other matters (too much to mention all by name and duties) are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repairs to bus shelters • Weekly inspections of Jubilee Orchard and the Playing Field ground and equipment • Repairs to play equipment, fencing and signs; • Dealing with graffiti, litter and vandalism; • Rabbit hole and moles; • Grass cutting and ditch maintenance; • Roger Huggins and volunteers who deliver the village news to every letter box in the Village and to Sue Hurst who attends every meeting to put together the Village Newsletter. <p>On behalf of the village a big thank you to you all. The Council also has some new features for this year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New notice board at the village shop. • Planters at each entrance to the village; • New planters outside the village hall; • Vehicle Activation Signs for the Leys Rd, Alcester Rd, Evesham Rd, Village Street and Crest Hill. <p>Plans for the future include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate the possibility of a voluntary speed watch; • Monitoring of VAS data; • To see the re-planting of the Bromley Close Orchard; |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make Improvements to the boundary fencing on the recreation ground; • Maintain a balanced budget and ensure we hold enough in reserve to cover future commitments such as the replacement street lighting columns; • £18K to spend from the new homes bonus for village amenities and improvements; • Will continue with our ongoing review to reduce the spread of litter and dog mess. • More importantly we hope to complete the first draft of Neighbourhood Plan for public consultation. <p>Despite our objections to mass housing plans, the Council do support housing development; the building of six new homes and one managers cabin were scrutinised, commented without objection.</p> <p>Finally I am going to thank a number of people that have been involved with parish matters :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mike Barbour, the co-ordinator of the “Harvington Says No” action group set up to campaign against two planning applications to develop mass housing threatening our village life. • District Councillor Charlie Homer who never hesitated to support the campaign and help the village through the planning and appeal process. • Chris Haynes, who represented the Parish Council at the planning appeal and who’s research and excellent presentation of the facts against the Crest Hill development not only helped stopped that development but also persuaded Gladman to withdraw their applications and appeals. <p>A very big thank you to all the people in the village who posted leaflets, wrote letters of objections and supported the campaign.</p> <p>I wish to thank former County Councillor Clive Holt whose monthly attendance at our Parish meetings were informative and for the help and time he has given to this village over the many years of public service and look forward to working with County Councillor Mr. Anthony Hopkins.</p> <p>The Council said goodbye to four parish councillors, Joyce White who has served on the Parish Council for 17 years, a former Vice Chair and probably a serving member on every committee and associated group activity during that time. Andy Clements who has served the council for 5 years, Mark Steventon our former Chairman who joined the Council in 2013; and John Chapman. We wish them all the best for the future.</p> <p>The Council are now mid way through their 4 year term before Parish elections in 2019 and I welcome the new team appointments.</p> <p>The new Vice Chairman Cllr. Dr. Chris Davies is a member of the Finance and General Purposes Group (F&GP) and a member of Partners and Communities Together (PACT) working with Norton and Lenchwick Parish Council and the Police in tackling crime and antisocial behaviour. Cllr. Richard Dorrell is the Flood Warden, Cllr. Tim Swift serves on the Harvington Trust and the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, Cllr. John Langley who promotes the work of the Perkins Educational Trust Foundation and a member of (F&GP), Cllr. Beverly Allison serves on the F&GP and Village Hall Management Committee and Cllr. Maureen Hall is the Secretary of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, and attends the County Association of Local Government (CALC)</p> |
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| | <p>meetings.</p> <p>The council also welcome two new co-opted councillors Richard Baugh and John Redman who join us in June 2017</p> <p>My special thanks is to our Parish Clerk Nicky Holland who keeps the Parish Council on the straight and narrow through the mountain of legislation and ensuring that we act legally and are financially sound.</p> |
| <u>County Cllr.</u> | <p>Mr. Hopkins introduced himself as the newly elected County Cllr. for the Village. He has been a Parish Councillor for Inkberrow for the past 14 years. The County Council has to make savings of £100 million over the next 4 years.</p> |
| <u>Dist.Cllr.</u> | <p>Mr. Homer reported that the Crest Hill planning amendments include the replanting of the Orchard. Money is in place to connect a cycle path from Norton across the A46 to the Valley. It was asked if consideration had been taken to use the cattle bridge over the bypass which would create an access for cyclists onto the Greenway into the Valley.</p> |
| <u>Presentations:</u> | <p><u>Chris Haynes, Neighbourhood Plan:</u> presentation on progress of the Neighbourhood Plan to date, future work to be carried out and following the 'call for sites' land allocations for the Village. The draft plan at this stage has 31 policies, proposed four land allocations and proposed 'protected views'. Residents will have a chance to see proposals at the Summer Fair.</p> <p>Mr. Haynes would be asking the Council to consider the following allocations to be included in the draft plan at the next Parish Council meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of housing and a community building in the paddock and field opposite the Golden Cross Public House. • Reservation of land for the future expansion of the school. • Incorporation of waste ground to the rear of the Village Hall into the Village Hall enjoyment space. • The designation of the "dog-walking field" (next to the playing field) as a Local Green Space. <p><u>Harvington Youth Group:</u> The Group is of charitable status and has been running for 23 years offering recreational activities for children for middle school age up to 18 years. There are 3 Clubs, 8 Trustees and a part time Youth worker. It costs £11,500 to run the project annually.</p> <p><u>"Why Don't We Project"</u> - Dave Shortell runs the scheme which involves himself as a Youth worker offering activities to the community i.e. river safety, water activities, climbing wall facility. The mini bus can be used by the community for trips i.e. mature residents free of charge. Wished to thank the Parish Council for grant funding.</p> <p><u>Village Hall Committee:</u> Chris Haynes wished to thank the Parish Council for the grant for providing the new chairs and storage trolleys. The Hall continues to be actively used.</p> <p><u>Parish Paths Warden:</u> continues to run the paths twice a month to monitor their condition.</p> <p><u>"Harvington Says No"</u> - Mike Barbour gave the following report: It looks as though this is now an appropriate time to place "Harvington says No" into hibernation. From the lack of e-mails sent out in the last couple of months it is obvious that all is quiet now on the developer/planning front. When we set out in 2013 to attempt to stave off two large scale and</p> |

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| | <p>inappropriate developments being foisted on the Village, many thought this would be a Herculean, if not impossible, task.</p> <p>So what did we achieve in the intervening period? The short answer can be gained by looking at many similar villages in the district and across the borders into neighbouring Counties where decimation seems to be the order of the day. We:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouraged residents to raise objections to Gladman Developments over several Planning applications and two abortive Planning appeals with successful results. • Saved the Bus Shelter with its artwork from destruction. • Fought off various large scale development plans for Crest Hill including successful representation at the Planning Appeal; the Inspector’s findings from this appeal provide a very good precedent against any future similar applications. • Lobbied the Parish Council to set up a Neighbourhood Plan which will set out the framework for the future growth and evolution of our Village. • We now have the protection of the SWDP and this was also a defining factor in the Inspector’s findings in 2016. • Equally important is the future protection that the Village will benefit from when the Neighbourhood Plan is completed and approved. Much hard work is going into this at the present time and thanks are due to all involved in that. <p>So, in conclusion, thanks are due to many people;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul Waite for instigating “Harvington Says No” • District Cllr. Charlie Homer for his unrelenting support and advice. • All those who “volunteered” to deliver fliers/letters/etc. • Everyone who provided materials and printing free of charge and funding the website. • The folks who carried out our traffic surveys. • Finally, all those many residents who came to the fore when needed, and wrote all the hundreds of objection letters. So, thank you all, and here’s to a great future for Harvington which will evolve in an organic and sustainable way, not at the hands of predatory developers but in line with the consensus of its residents. |
| <p><u>Matters raised by parishioners:</u></p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Number of trees felled in the Hughes Close area. Unsure who planted. Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group will be looking at all trees in the Village. 2. Request for a Rights of Way map for each household. The Parish Council would consider the idea. |
| <p><u>Reports rec’d from organisations unable to attend.</u></p> | <p><u>Report received from Brownies circulated:</u></p> <p>Harvington Brownies meet during term time on a Wednesday evening in the village hall. At the start of the Spring term the girls planted up the three troughs provided by the Parish Council with bulbs. The first job back this term was to change the troughs to pansies and dianthus.</p> <p>Harvington Brownies thanked Police Community Support Officer Rod Gurney by organising a party as part of the Brownies Hostess Badge. Over the last few years PC Gurney has helped many Brownies gain their Road Safety Badge and Communicators Badge and given them advice on keeping safe.</p> |

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| | <p>The Playing Field is greatly appreciated as we have used it for end of term chip supper followed by water games and more recently for an Easter egg hunt.</p> <p><u>Report received from Lengthsman:</u></p> <p>The first 6 months since I became the full time Lengthsman seem to have flown by but it's great to hear that our work so far has not only been noticed but is also appreciated by the residents that we have spoken to whilst on our travels around the parish. Continuing tasks over the next year will be maintaining the drain tops and grips as the main priority. With hopefully the worst overgrown footways sided out (Anchor Lane and Stratford Road) and vegetation cut back, we can start on other footway siding in general in between other jobs including the usual dirty sign washing and cutting back vegetation etc. A general tidy around the bus stops is on the routine maintain list as well. I am also hoping to finish spraying the weeds in the footways and kerb edges this month. Looking forward to completing our first full year with Harvington and let's hope the summer is a little better than recent years.</p> <p><u>Report received from Tree Warden.</u></p> <p>A Hornbeam tree on the grass verge opposite The Golden Cross Pub has been damaged. This tree was planted in 2012 in memory of Brian Banting; he was an active member of Hugh Nunn's tree planting team. The top 8 feet was bent over and snapped, leaving about 2 feet still in the ground; I am assuming this was done on purpose which is rather sad. I have talked to Mrs. Banting and will try to bend up one of the side branches to become a new leader; the tree is young enough so it should work. I will also put some strong poles as support around the tree to try and deter further damage. On a more positive note, the old coppiced Ash tree that fell down on Evesham Road in February is starting to show signs of regrowth which is good news. However, if Ash dieback disease goes the way it is predicted to go over the next 10 to 15 years it may not survive or get back to its original height. The Cherry tree that fell down in the same storm on the grassy area in Orchard Place was fairly easy to clear away and recycle. The bole was rotten at the base and the stump came out after a bit of effort so I was able to leave the grassed area fairly smooth when finished. I do not intend to replant a tree here for a while because of the rot. However, I did find 4 more trees in this grassy area that were not in Hugh's original list and have not had some 3D attention in a long time. I intend to go back there in early summer to take out a few Dead, Damaged and Decaying branches that I noticed and also hopefully make it easier for the grass cutting crew to get under the trees.</p> |
| | <p>There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.15pm.</p> |