

**Harborough Magna Parish Council
Parish Council Meeting
11 December 2017
Early Birds Nursery School**

Present

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Cllr Ian Bentlett (IB)
Cllr Elizabeth Biggs Poyner (EBP)
Cllr Julia Antrobus (JA)
Cllr John Brady (JB)
Cllr Paul Skidmore (PS)

These minutes were approved
By the Parish Council
on 22 January 2018

Leona Bendall (Clerk), Parish Clerk

Parishioners: Barry Biggs, Gordon and Christine Brady, Alison Moore

| | | Action |
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| 1.11.12.17 | IB welcomed all to the meeting. | |
| 2.11.12.17 | Apologies for absence Cllr Tony Gillias | |
| 3.11.12.17 | Update from County and Borough Councillors • None received | |
| 4.11.12.17 | Suspension of standing orders to allow parishioners of Harborough Magna to address the meeting A parishioner asked when information on the police speed check service will be available and asked that it be noted that the chicanes are still an issue and at times dangerous. IB replied that we expect to get feedback from the police at the next meeting of the Fosse Forum in the new year and in reality there is no possibility of re-opening the chicane debate, although the PC continue to look at this. | |
| 5.11.12.17 | Standing orders were resumed | |
| 6.11.12.17 | Declaration of Interest None made. | |
| 7.11.12.17 | Approval of minutes The minutes from the meeting held on 6 November 2017 were approved. | |

Chairman's initials:

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| 8.11.12.16 | <p>Matters arising from the minutes</p> <p>a. The cars and caravan parking by Tuckey's Bridge are still there. Clerk to report again to Rugby Borough Council.</p> <p>b. Bus stop shelter - JB reported that he was hoping to replace the broken glass with a sheet of thick Perspex in the near future.</p> <p>c. IB to get key to enable the windows in the village phone box to be removed ahead of the box being sand blasted and rust proofed in the spring.</p> | <p>Clerk</p> <p>JB</p> <p>IB</p> |
| 9.11.12.17 | <p>New Village Issues</p> <p>a. A parishioner asked if in this current spell of bad weather we are likely to get Main Street gritted. IB replied that we are not considered a main thoroughfare and so the answer is no. In the past Warwickshire have supplied salt to be distributed by volunteers on particularly bad areas of the road or footway. But this no longer seems available.</p> <p>b. The PC has submitted its formal response in regard to the proposed constituency boundary change. The PC were very much against the proposal. We await further news.</p> | |
| 10.11.12.17 | <p>Parish Plan/OSCR Project</p> <p>a. The meeting noted with great pleasure the decision by the Big Lottery Fund to provide grant funding for a new community room and demolish the decrepit Old School Room. Work will start on the regulatory and development phase in January, funded wholly by the Big Lottery, and if it meets all governance requirements, then work could start on site by late Autumn 2018.</p> | EBP/IB |
| 11.11.12.17 | <p>RBC/WCC Fosse Community Forum and Walc update</p> <p>a. Nothing to report – date for next meeting awaited.</p> | |
| 12.11.12.17 | <p>Planning Applications & Appeals.</p> <p>a. The application before the meeting was to provide two x 3 bedroom, 3 storey homes, off the Rugby Road –</p> | |

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| | <p>adjacent to plots 1 and 2 The Bank.</p> <p>Mr and Mrs Brady whose home would be immediately behind the new houses addressed the meeting and further comments were added by a parishioner and the meeting, councillor and a parishioner in writing. These concerns are summarised below:</p> <p>The inaccuracy of the application which contradicts itself in several places – with variations between text and drawings - and denies the existence of hedges and trees on the site.</p> <p>The new buildings, which because of the elevation of the proposed houses, would mean that six windows at the rear overlook the Gordon’s house and gardens and would damage their privacy. The lack of detailed heights on the application’s plan mean it is impossible to provide correct elevation heights.</p> <p>The proposals are not in keeping with Rugby’s approved Core Strategy - with the principal issue being that the proposals are unsympathetic to the area, and do not follow the village design statement. Particularly differences in appearance including alignment of windows.</p> <p>The planning officer has suggested that he may not give due weight to the Housing Needs Survey as the applicant’s agent has criticised this. This is wrong as the Council is obliged under its own core strategy to make decision in line with this.</p> <p>While the proposals are described as ‘affordable homes’ – the design of 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms and a study makes a mockery of this claim.</p> <p>The agent’s comments suggest that (despite the Housing Needs Survey saying otherwise) there is a need for three bedroom homes in the village for sale.</p> <p>Parishioners and the PC felt this was incorrect as there already 2 empty 3 bedroom homes on Easenhall Road, 2 empty flats in Primrose Court and 2 other 3 bedroom homes for sale in the village.</p> <p>Claims over 8 parking spaces to be provided was</p> | |
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| | <p>dismissed as fiction.</p> <p>Concerns were raised over the access for a disabled resident, as the plans do not show the required access.</p> <p>Traffic hazards would be much greater as this is on a blind bend – and more vehicles would be joining the road at this point. The road has already seen a very marked increase in traffic and this would be further impacted by traffic during the construction phase.</p> <p>It was agreed the clerk would lodge a formal objection but individual residents are also advised to submit comments.</p> | |
| 13.11.12.17 | <p>Neighbourhood Watch</p> <p>a. There was an attempted break in, believed by the police to be part of a planned car theft, and villagers are being advised to be vigilant and not leave car keys in view or on hall tables etc.</p> | |
| 14.11.12.17 | <p>Financial matters</p> <p>a. The meeting noted the cash book, current position a projected year end position of £7,500 but that this sum includes earmarked balances for replacement of lamp posts and contribution towards the next election cycle.</p> <p>b. Cheques approved at the meeting were £8 for room hire, £496 for the clerk's third quarter salary, £124 for the tax in respect of this, £120 for WS Garden for November Lengthsman work and £50 to RBC for the playpark annual lease.</p> <p>c. RBC have now provided figures for the village's tax base – which shows a 1.5% fall on 17/18 and a further reduction in Council Tax support grant. This has fallen from £600 a few years ago to £51.79 this year – which is the final year of payment. The clerk presented a paper on the precept with two options: Option 1 to keep the precept at the same level, which would mean the council would have £226.48 less to spend on village issues. Option 2 was for a 5% increase, this would mean a £1.977 increase a year (compared to last year) on last year for band d households (proportionately higher or lower for other households) This would increase the precept available for the village by £344 on last year. Councillors discussed this and unanimously approved the increase because of the need to continue and if possible increase the lengthsman's duties in the village</p> | Clerk |
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| 15.11.12.17 | <p>Correspondence</p> <p>a. MP Mark Pawsey wrote to confirm he has asked WCC for information on their proposals to impose a permanent weight limit on Tuckey's Bridge.</p> | |
| 16.11.12.17 | <p>Other items</p> <p>a. Phone box – discussed under matters from previous meeting.</p> <p>b. Magna Park – next meeting in Feb 2018, IB to attend</p> <p>c. Lengthsman scheme – it was agreed to do another walk around with Wayne from WS Garden and agree a programme for next year – including more planning cuts for the play park. PS to arrange walk around and advise all of the date.</p> <p>d. Playpark monitoring and upgraded facilities for older children. We have heard from RBC's legal team that they will try and prioritise a decision on this.</p> | <p>IB</p> <p>PS</p> |
| 17.11.12.17 | <p>Items for next agenda</p> <p>a. Tuckeys Bridge – post consultation action</p> <p>b. Progress on phone box restoration</p> <p>c. Lengthsman scheme</p> <p>d. Magna Park redevelopment</p> <p>e. Playpark – maintaining current park and improvements to area outside current playpark</p> | |
| 18.11.12.17 | <p>Dates of next meetings</p> <p>- 22 January 2018 and 5 March 2018</p> | |
| | Meeting closed at 20.40 | |

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Ian Bentlett, Chairman

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Date

Chairman's initials: