

Harborough Magna Parish Council

Meeting of the Parish Council 8 July 2019

Present

Cllr Ian Bentlett (IB) Chair
Cllr Paul Skidmore (PS) Vice Chair
Cllr Elizabeth Biggs Poyner (EBP)
Cllr John Brady (JB)

Parishioners: Barry Biggs, Mary Palmer

In attendance: Cllr T Gillias (RBC) and Cllr A Warwick (WCC)
Clerk: Leona Bendall

1.08.7.19	Welcome Cllr Skidmore welcomed all to the meeting and explained that Cllr Bentlett had suggested he chair this meeting as part of his personal development. ..	
2.08.7.19	Apologies for absence Cllr T France.	
3.08.7.19	Update from Borough and County Councillors <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cllr Warwick (AW) said how pleased he and Cllr Gillias were to assist with the OSCR team's drive to mitigate the cost and implication of the WCC's archaeologist's requirements for the site investigation for the proposed Hub. Cllr Biggs-Poyner expressed the team's sincere thanks for their very helpful support.• AW asked members of the Council to exert any influence they have with senior schools who seem reluctant to allow WCC's Drug & Alcohol team to give their excellent early intervention programme. IB questioned whether this could be undertaken at Hill Street – AW said of course and IB said he would put him in contact with the right team. JB suggested that all the portfolio holders should be asked to promote this service and have a seminar with headteachers and the portfolio holders and D & A Team. AW thought this was a good idea and would take this forward.• Cllr Gillias (TG) advised the meeting that Rugby BC had for the first time recruited a new economic development officer to revitalise the town centre. All welcomed this move, with EBP pointing out that even a charity shop has closed.• TG asked if the Parish had replied to the consultation on devolving some services to Parish Councils – Clerk	

	<p>explained that it was more of a fact finding exercise and she had replied..</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Both AW and TG agreed that it was essential to campaign to recruit new parish councillors and spoke of areas when PCs are being removed because of lack of interest. They agreed they would certainly help with a local Revel campaign. 	
4.08.7.19	<p>Suspension of standing orders to allow parishioners of Harborough Magna to address the meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mary Palmer told the meeting that her husband will now tidy up the planter by the Old Village Hall. 	
5.08.7.19	<p>Standing orders were resumed</p>	
6.08.7.19	<p>Declaration of Interest</p> <p>None made.</p>	
7.08.7.19	<p>Approval of minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The minutes from 13 May 2019 Annual and Parish meetings were approved. 	
8.08.7.19	<p>Matters arising from the minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> JB will let the clerk know when he has had an opportunity to put a closing mechanism on the gate – at which time the clerk will commission the annual safety inspection. It was agreed to hold a separate meeting to discuss the commissioning of a new website and a campaign for recruiting new councillors. This to be done before the next meeting to get some momentum on this. Clerk reported that the nursery school has agreed to let the PC use its premises for meetings once work starts on the new hub. 	<p>JB/ Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
9.08.7.19	<p>New Village Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bus Stop, Rugby Road - PS raised the issue of replacing the panel that had been broken. JB advised that it would be impossible to put a new panel in the existing frame... but that one could be installed as an add on to the rear of the bus stop. IB would look at this and report back. 	<p>IB</p>

10.08.7.19	<p>Parish Plan/OSCR Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EBP and IB reported that the OSCR project is at the moment facing some severe challenges – 1. From the demands of the WCC archaeologist (discussed earlier) and 2. That following the return of tenders a significant shortfall in funding has been identified but IB says there are possibilities to solve this and will report back. 	OSCR
11.08.7.19	<p>RBC/WCC Fosse Community Forum and Walc update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nothing new to report but TG asked the Council to think of the date for the next WALC annual meeting in November. 	
12.08.7.19	<p>Planning applications and appeals .</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The new storage barn for Lodge Farm was discussed and it was agreed to raise concerns with Planning on its disproportionate size and impact on the countryside, and question if this is likely to generate extra traffic. The new stable block application was discussed but as the height was not known no decision was made on this. This would be discussed further by email. 	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
13.08.7.19	<p>Neighbourhood Watch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IB spoke again about the tenuous position of this service if it is not used. 	
14.08.7.19	<p>Financial and Governance issues</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Clerk reported on the Internal Audit which highlighted a number of ways to improve financial reporting and accountability which will be adopted by the clerk. The Accounting and Governance return has been accepted by the PFK Littlejohn. Clerk presented the three new financial reporting forms that she will share with Councillors every month. This comprise the cashbook, the performance against budget and the bank reconciliation to the cashbook. The schedule of cheques approved at the meeting comprised: £8 for Room Hire, £220 for the Internal Audit which was higher than last year because of the extra work required with new responsibilities coming from the Self Certification process. £528 for the clerk's Q1 salary, and £132 for the Q1 Tax. The meeting discussed the auditors' view on the Petty Cash and it was agreed that the clerk should consider what works best for her and report back at the neBiogxt meeting with a 	

	<p>revision to the Council's Financial Regulations for Councillors to approve.</p> <p>e. The clerk explained that all aspects of the loan process with Salix had been completed and we should have the funds in the next two weeks. This would be placed in the Treasury Account until we received the final invoice from WCC. And critically that with effect from 10 May – the quarterly electricity bills from E-ON will fall from £508 plus VAT to £216 from VAT. Which is higher than the cost of servicing the loans.</p>	Clerk
15.08.7.19	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>The only correspondence was the questionnaire on devolving some services.</p>	
16.08.7.19	<p>Other ongoing village matters</p> <p>.</p> <p>a. <u>New Streetlamps</u> – discussed under finance</p> <p>b. <u>New Lengthsman</u> – The council discussed the two new quotes it had received and it was agreed that because of the risk from opportunities for confusion with Rugby's contractor Glendales the decision was taken to award the contract for additional cuts to Glendales</p> <p>c. <u>Playpark monitoring and upgraded facilities</u> – This is on hold.</p> <p>d. <u>Speeding in the village</u> – Nothing new to report</p>	Clerk
17.08.7.19	<p>Items for next agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New website • Campaign for new councillors 	All
18.08.7.19	<p>Dates of next meetings</p> <p>Provisional dates for next meetings – 9 September 2019 and 28 October 2019</p>	All
	Meeting closed at 20.55	

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Ian Bentlett
Chair

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Date