

## MINUTES OF HARDEN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 10<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2008

### AT 7.30PM IN HARDEN PRIMARY SCHOOL

#### Present

Councillors - Alan Sykes – Chairman, Michael Andrews – Vice Chairman, John Bagnall, Colin Booth, Kay Kirkham

District Councillor - Michael Ellis

Clerk - Jessica Mathews

Harden in Bloom - Judith Hales

1 member of the public, 1 member of the press

#### 1. Apologies

District Councillors Margaret Eaton and Simon Cooke

#### 2. Declarations of Interest

None

#### 3. Public Question Time

Questions/ Comments as follows:

- a) The entrance to Goitstock Lane currently has a 'huge crater' in front of it that is dangerous. **This is the responsibility of Highways and they will be informed of the comments.**

#### 4. To confirm minutes of meeting held 21<sup>st</sup> February 2008

**Resolved.** The minutes, of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2008, are a true and accurate record. Proposed by Cllr Andrews and seconded by Cllr Bagnall.

The minutes were signed by Cllr Alan Sykes.

#### 5. Harden in Bloom

Cllr Andrews circulated a paper prior to the meeting detailing ideas and costings of additional planting in the two flower beds outside the shops in the village. His initial calculations came to £176 for various bedding plants.

The council was joined by Judith Hales who runs the annual Harden in Bloom campaign, organising planting etc so as to enter the Yorkshire in Bloom competition. Judith is also a regional judge so can provide the council with invaluable advice as to how best fund any horticultural improvements.

Judith talked of new planting around two flower beds and bulbs in the grass verges. She had worked in partnership with Bradford Council's parks and landscapes department previously and offered to approach them on behalf of the parish council to ask about purchasing discounted plants.

**Resolved.** The Parish Council will make available £300 to spend on materials (mainly plants) for Harden in Bloom.

Judith will also enquire about 'sponsorship signs' that can be displayed in the beds that highlight the proposed partnership between Harden Parish Council, Harden in Bloom and BDMC.

The tricky issue of hanging baskets will be discussed at the next meeting but it is likely a group will be facilitated to ask who would like a basket and then a discounted offer will be sought in return for maintenance.

It was noted that the next judging of the Yorkshire in Bloom competition will take place on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> July. The first judging has already taken place and the judges were impressed.

Further publicity will be sought by making part of the next newsletter a tear off notice that residents can display in their windows to show support for the in bloom campaign.

It was further noted that a tidy up of the Keighley Road verges is needed in the form of a thorough litter pick.

## **6. Parish Council Vacancies**

No petition has been entered for an election to fill the two vacancies so the council will look to co-opt two new councillors. A couple of possible people have been approached but they have declined as the timing is not convenient for them.

The vacancies will therefore be advertised in the press and additional notices will be posted in the village to hopefully generate interest and possible candidates.

## **7. Neighbourhood Forum report back**

It was reported that the recent forum was well attended by local residents.

## **8. Post Office Closure**

Representations have been sent and acknowledged. The views of the council and the local residents have therefore been passed on. Philip Davies MP has also written to Adam Crozier expressing his concerns for the possible closure.

## **9. Parish Council Logo**

6 designs have been short listed and amended from the entries and from these 3 will be picked by Cllr Sykes and Cllr Andrews. It is proposed that a presentation to the children who designed the top three will be held on May 15<sup>th</sup> at the Annual Meeting.

## **9. Payments for Approval**

Cllr Bagnall presented a report detailing payments and will do so at each meeting. Cllr Bagnall informed the council that the precept had been sent and should arrive in the council bank account within the next few days.

It was confirmed that the school charges £40 per meeting held in its premises.

The YLCA membership invoice, £359, has arrived, and Cllr Bagnall proposed that this be paid. This was seconded by Cllr Andrews.

The Clerk was asked to chase any outstanding payments owed to the school and the church for the costs of meeting held in either venue.

## **10. Internal Auditor**

The appointment of Alison McGonigle as the internal auditor for the Council was proposed by Cllr Andrews and seconded by Cllr Booth.

It was noted that the external auditors are Mazars, 3 Grovesnor Square, Southampton.

## **11. Parish plan update**

Chris Murdoch has identified some local groups to be consulted on the parish plan. It is suggested that a Cllr attends with her as a means of showing support for the plan and also to promote the council itself.

Cllr Sykes will attend the Luncheon club 8<sup>th</sup> May and the primary school on the 9<sup>th</sup> May.

Cllr Bagnall suggested he can be free to visit the teenage church group on 4<sup>th</sup> May.

Liz Balding (press) offered to send the clerk any information she has on groups in Harden.

## **12. Parish Council Meeting Dates**

It was proposed that council meetings will now be held every month on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month. This was seconded by Cllr Bagnall.

If necessary, planning meetings can be held in between these dates.

## **13. Correspondence**

### **616 Bus service**

- the driver knows to allow passengers to use their passes at 09.29

### **Memorial Hall**

- the road is due to be resurfaced during mid April
- the barriers issue has not yet been resolved. Cllr Ellis agreed to contact Malcolm Wright about this

### **Police Liaison**

- a meeting is yet to take place with the new sergeant (Diana Collins) as no one was available for the date suggested by her at late notice last month.
- there is concern over crime statistics that seem to contradict the message coming from the police.
- Issues of rogue traffic need to be addressed

### **14. Planning Committee**

The minutes from recent meetings will be available to confirm at the next meeting.

### **15. Planning Training dates**

Cllrs are available evenings after the 16<sup>th</sup> June, expect Mondays.

### **16. Public Access**

The new electronic system for viewing planning applications will be piloted by Keighley and Baildon Town and Parish Councils. It was commented that neither of these councils were typical councils and therefore were not a suitable pilot.

Other problems identified were the unreliability of the portal; and lack of access to a computer for some Cllrs. It was felt that Parishes should always be sent paper plans and that perhaps this method was the beginnings of a move to eliminate parish councils from the planning process.

Cllr Kirkham agreed to write a letter to the Planning Director, cc's to Philip Davies MP and the District Cllrs explaining Harden's objections.

### **18. Planning Applications**

Parish Council's response to the following planning applications as follows:

- A. 07/09600/FUL – The Bungalow Goit Stock Lane  
The property falls outside the boundary for Harden and is in Wilsden.  
The council therefore have no comment.**

### **19. Date of next meeting**

To be held at 7.30pm, 15<sup>th</sup> May 2008 in Harden Primary School.

The Chairman thanked everybody for their attendance and the meeting closed at 9.20pm.