

MINUTES OF HARDEN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 13th NOVEMBER 2008

AT 7.30PM IN HARDEN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Present

Councillors – Michael Andrews, Chairman, Alan Sykes, Vice Chairman, John Bagnall, Sue Whitehead, Colin Booth

3 members of the public

Clerk - Jessica Mathews

** Before the meeting started the Chairman asked those present to stand for a minute in remembrance of Jonathan Salter, who was to join the Parish Council at this meeting, and District Cllr Michael Ellis's son, both who tragically lost their lives in the last month.**

1. Apologies

District Councillor Margaret Eaton, Cllr Kirkham

2. Declarations of Interest

There were none.

3. Public Question Time

A representative (Martin) from the dog training centre talked to the Cllrs about the business he runs and asked advice about the retrospective planning application that he has recently submitted. The Chairman explained the PC's planning role and mentioned that a neighbour to the centre had contacted him to speak in favour of what has been done there. Martin said he and his business partner Rebecca are keen to talk to the local school children about how to approach dogs safely. The head teacher's details were passed onto him. The Chairman also mentioned that on the questionnaire that is being collected at present a key issue repeatedly included is the nuisance of dog fouling.

4. To confirm minutes of meetings held 9^h October 2008

Resolved. The minutes, of the meetings held on 9th October 2008, are a true and accurate record. Proposed by Cllr Andrews and seconded by Cllr Sykes. Cllr Andrews signed a copy of them.

5. Parish Council Charter

The Chairman proposed that Harden Parish Council sign the Charter in line with the 16 other parish council's across the district. The members of the PC were in favour of this. Signing the charter will strengthen the PC's position and can be used as leverage to help negotiations move along more easily with Council officers. Dave Melling will be contacted by the clerk to organise the next stage.

6. Parish Council Liaison meeting

Points to note from the recent meeting as follows;

- The 'airport money' for Harden (£20,000) has been spent on the preschool playground
- The minute from the last meeting on electronic planning was wrong and will be altered. It was agreed that a working party should be set up. Cllr Kirkham will represent Harden PC.
- A report on the 19th November will be presented to the Shipley Area Committee on the coming year's budget commitments.

7. Yorkshire Bloom

The village failed to retain its Silver award and instead was awarded a bronze. The judges' comment was that there was not enough community involvement. The Chairman expressed the PC's disappointment with this, particularly as there had been an effort made with planting in the village from both the PC and BDMC. He has written to Judith Hales who coordinates the Harden in Bloom volunteers to express his disappointment. Next year it is hoped that some hanging baskets can be arranged for local houses to purchase and maintain. The clerk will obtain a report from the In Bloom judges and write asking for advice on how to regain the Silver status. The Chairman, whilst keen to do well in such a competition, stated that his main concern was that the village looked good and that the local community was proud of it.

8. Probation Service

A very thorough cleansing service was provided in the park and those attending worked hard between 10am and 3.30pm. They are to return to paint inside the Memorial Hall; Cllr Bagnall will provide the paint.

** Cllr Sykes informed the council that the earlier mentioned Shipley Area report proposes that £2000 be spent on fencing, litter bins and landscaping works in Harden Park **

9. Wilsden Car scheme

Cllr Booth said that no real progress had been made but that legal issues around insurance were being looked at. He will keep the council updated.

10. Questionnaire

840 have been sent to residents, with 188 so far received in. The closing date is 17th November, a notice will be put up in the Post Office to try to encourage people to return their forms. Cllr Sykes is carrying out the statistical analysis and Cllr Andrews is noting the comments. Chris Murdoch has confirmed that Shipley Area Office can help the PC with the format of the plan once the data has been collected. Similar issues are being mentioned on the forms which will help the PC decide priorities for the coming years.

11. Ireland Bridge

Ireland Bridge is to be closed for 20 weeks next year. Please find current details as taken from a BDMC report passed on the 11th November 2008.

“The proposed strengthening scheme comprises; construction of a concrete saddle over the arches, stabilisation of spandrels and rebuilding of parapet walls. Estimated cost is £1.4m (works & salaries)

Strengthening works will require closure of the bridge to all vehicular traffic for approximately 20 weeks. Diversions will be signed via Keighley and via Cottingley, Wilsden and Harden. Pedestrian access across the bridge will be maintained at all times. Metro have requested the provision of a shuttle bus to serve Harden and Cullingworth at an additional cost of £80,000.

The works will require the erection of temporary structures in the river. To comply with Environment Agency advice regarding flooding, the works are expected to be completed between 1 July and 30 November. There will be no vehicular access across the bridge during the Bingley Show.

A scheme to strengthen retaining walls on The Twines, Harden Road at an estimated cost of £360,000 has been brought forward into the revised programme as detailed in Appendix 2. This scheme comprises the reconstruction of retaining and burr walls which have reached the end of their useful lives. The works will use the same road closure as Ireland Bridge thus avoiding future traffic delays. Access to riverside properties and businesses will be maintained at all times.

The strengthening of Ireland Bridge will reduce the journey time along Harden Road, restore this historic structure to its original useful function and meet public demands. Accelerating these works can be carried out without significant safety implications for the rest of the programme.”

The Parish Council welcomes the expenditure to solve the problem of the bridge and to also improve the wall on Harden Road. The clerk will seek further information and contingency plans from the local emergency services. The Cllrs are keen to ensure the village is kept up to date so as to be prepared for the disruption.

12. Remembrance Day

Thanks to those who attended, Cllrs Sykes, Bagnall, Kirkham, and Booth. It was a good service with a bugler and the weather stayed fine.

13. SCAPAG report back

Cllr Booth reported that the format of the meetings is changing to allow a 15 minutes public representation at the beginning and to also allow one representative from the Parish Council and one from the Neighbourhood Forum to attend. He also commented that the meeting is a useful networking event to meet Cllrs and reps from other Parishes and that if any of the other Harden members wanted to go they could.

14. Payments for approval

Cllr Bagnall reported on the following;

- £170 back for VAT
- £3190 received in funding for the Pariah plan
- £30 interest accrued on the deposit account.
- The clerk's salary has still not been requested from BDMC

The standing order for the procurement of works, goods and services was formally accepted, proposed by Cllr Bagnall, seconded by Cllr Sykes.

15. Shipley 'Smart and Clean Campaign'

All the nominated areas that were submitted by Harden Parish Council will be addressed by either Street Cleansing or Highways through this campaign. They are as follows;

- Cockcroft Fold – Cleaning will remove weeds and moss. Highways will repair setts in the verge.
- Keighley Road/ Ryecroft Road – Cleansing will litter pick the verges.
- Harden Park - Cleansing will organise replacement bin at the bus shelter, two litter bins outside the Memorial Hall and one in Harden Park. The bushes will be litter picked.

16. Correspondence

The following items were noted;

Receipt of Parish Plan funding; Code of conduct paper; Rural Action Yorkshire subscription; Adult mental health consultation; YLCA newsletter; LDF information; Mandatory Publication scheme.

Cllr Andrews closed this part of the meeting at 9pm. The Planning Committee, then met to consider the recent applications

16. Planning Applications

- a) 08/06512/FUL** Springbank, 2 Cockcroft Fold, Harden Road.
Conservatory and single storey extension to rear.

NO OBJECTIONS

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on 11th December at 7.30pm in Harden Primary School.