

**MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF HARDEN VILLAGE COUNCIL
HELD ONLINE ON 14th January 2021 AT 7.15PM**

Present: Cllr Gerwyn Bryan (Chair)
Cllr Kay Kirkham
Cllr Ann Taylor
Cllr Falak Ahmed
Cllr Jools Townsend
Cllr Robert Hawthorne
Ken Eastwood (Clerk)

1/01/21 Apologies for Absence

None received.

2/01/21 Disclosures of Interest

None.

3/01/21 Minutes of Meetings

- a) The minutes of the Village Council meeting held on 10th December, 2020 were proposed as a correct record by Cllr Townsend.
- b) The Outstanding Issues report was duly noted.

4/01/21 Public Representation

None.

5/01/21 Planning Matters

The following planning application was considered: -

20/05713/FUL - Construction of detached bungalow at Pepper Hill Farm, Ryecroft Road, Harden.

Resolved:

That the Village Council objects to the application.

This site is in the Green Belt and as such a case has to be made either for 'very special circumstances' or that the proposal is exempt by virtue of satisfying the exceptions listed in the National Planning Policy Framework.

The applicant has not demonstrated very special circumstances, the construction of a detached bungalow does not satisfy any of the exceptions in the NPPF and the proposal would be harmful to the Green Belt.

In addition, were the development to go ahead, the Village Council would have concerns about vehicular access and highway safety in this location.

(Planning applications can be viewed via Bradford Council's online system <http://www.planning4bradford.com/online-applications>).

Signed:

6/01/21 Newsletter

Cllr Townsend stated a new template was ready to use and the intention was to populate with content on the Climate Emergency, Neighbourhood Plan consultation, budget and precept and other topical issues.

Resolved:

The Clerk to provide some content on the budget and Christmas lights by the end of the week. That the Council will aim to issue newsletters in January, May and November each year.

7/01/21 Climate Emergency

Members reviewed the 2020-21 Climate Emergency Plan. Progress on the Neighbourhood Plan, discussions with Bradford Council on sustainable travel and the agreement of a shared position statement with other Bingley Rural Local Councils was noted. Cllr Townsend stated that posters have been printed and will be displayed shortly, along with a post published on the website. Cllr Townsend discussed providing details to local community groups. Members discussed other planned actions including tree planting and a 10-year framework for the village becoming carbon neutral.

Resolved:

The Clerk to contact Bradford Council with regard to their tree management and re-planting strategy. The Village Council to establish a Project Team to develop a 10-year framework for the village becoming carbon neutral, after completion of the Neighbourhood Plan.

8/01/21 Exchange of Information

Cllr Townsend stated she had been asked about speeding lorries passing through the village, in particular from the quarry. It was agreed the Clerk would write to the quarry operator reminding them of the planning condition relating to vehicles visiting and leaving the quarry and also to enquire if they might consider joining the Fleet Operator Recognition Scheme (a voluntary accreditation scheme for fleet operators which aims to raise the level of quality within fleet operations and to demonstrate which operators are achieving exemplary levels of best practice in safety, efficiency, and environmental protection).

The Clerk to also contact the local Police Sergeant with regard to the Speed Watch Campaign.

9/01/21 Correspondence

- a) Emails re. petition for residents parking scheme at Goit Stock. Noted that the petition was now with Bradford Council for consideration.
- b) Email from Bradford Council re. consultation on personal travel assistance budget. Cllr Hawthorne observed that the proposals would lead to significant annual reductions for disadvantaged households. It was agreed that Cllr

Hawthorne would draft a response setting out the Council's objection to the proposals, for the Clerk to submit following circulation to Members for comment.

- c) Email exchanges with Bradford Council re. overgrown footpaths. The Clerk expressed some frustration with the relationship with Bradford Council Highways and the sheer numbers of emails required to deal with simple issues. Members observed that customer service was clearly not all it could be. Cllr Kirkham commented on a recent article concerning an online portal established by North Yorkshire County Council to improve the Service provided to Local Councils. It was suggested this issue be raised with Bradford Council and that they be asked to comment on the NYCC approach and whether they had any plans to implement a similar solution in the future.

10/01/21 Financial Matters

Resolved:

- a) To authorise the following payments: -

Payee	Payment No.	Amount	Description
Ken Eastwood	2020-21-40	£18.90	Expenses
Kay Kirkham	2020-21-41	£3.90	Postage
Bradford MDC	2020-21-42	£1,198.87	Salary payment
Digital Nomads Ltd	2020-21-43	£33.60	Printing
Harden Children's Gala Society	2020-21-44	£500	Small grant – Christmas lights

- b) To note the following trial balances: -

Harden Village Council 1 st January 2021				
Item	Budget 2020/21	Expenditure to date	Budget Remaining	Forecast Shortfall (-) Surplus (+)
Staff Costs	9,000	10,326	-1,326	-4,795
Travel	300	28	272	200
Subscriptions	1,500	1,705	-205	-205
Insurance	500	438	62	62
Audits	400	380	20	20
Newsletter	850	95	755	515
Website	825	520	305	75
Parish Plan	1,000	0	1,000	1,000
Neighbourhood Planning	5,000	1,732	3,268	1,828
Training	400	15	385	385
Repairs	100	0	100	100
Stationery	250	11	239	175

Signed:

Harden Village Council				
1st January 2021				
Item	Budget 2020/21	Expenditure to date	Budget Remaining	Forecast Shortfall (-) Surplus (+)
PC equipment	250	0	250	250
Small grants	1,000	0	1,000	500
Horticulture	1,000	999	1	-150
Projects & Assets	17,075	166	16,910	11,910
S 137	200	25	175	175
Other	125	183	-58	-58
	39,775	16,623	23,152	11,987

c) To note the following bank reconciliation: -

Cashbook balances

Balance 1 st April 2020	14,696.64	
Add: income to date	59,518.70	
Less: expenditure to date	(17,010.83) (incl. VAT)	
Total:		£57,204.51

Bank account balances 1st January 2021

Community Account	30,821.64	
Business Account	26,382.87	
Total:		£57,204.51

11/01/21 Minor Items and Items for Next Agenda

Cllr Bryan stated he would refill the village centre grit bins shortly.

12/01/21 Next Meeting

To confirm the date of the next virtual Village Council meeting as 11th February 2021, at 7.15pm. The Chair closed the meeting at 8.36pm.