

# HARPSDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held at Harpsden Village Hall

on

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2013

Present: Mr Kester George (KG) Chairman  
Mrs Odette Moss (OM)  
Mr Malcolm Plews (MP)  
Mrs Karen Tross Youle (KTY)  
Mr Robin Dorkings (RD)  
Mr Rob Simister (RS) SODC Councillor

In attendance: Mrs Sarah Tipple (ST) Clerk  
Mr David Bartholomew (DB) Conservative County Council candidate  
for the Sonning Common division

**2342 Welcomes and apologies:** KG welcomed Councillors to the meeting, and introduced David Bartholomew, the Conservative County Council candidate for the Sonning Common division, who was attending as an observer. There were apologies from Dr Peter Skolar (PS)

**2343 Declarations of interests:** KG, OM, RD, PS, RS in respect of their houses in Harpsden and KTY in respect of her house and adjoining field in Harpsden.

**2344 Minutes of 21<sup>st</sup> January 2013:** The minutes were approved and signed as a correct record.

**2345 Matters arising:**

**2333** As Mr Lewis had still not cut back his hedge at the bottom of Gillotts Lane, OM would remind him. **Action: OM**

**2346 Progress on Joint Henley/Harpsden Neighbourhood Plan:** KG reminded Councillors that they needed to submit their CVs to Mike Kennedy, Henley Town Clerk, to enable them to be allocated to suitable Working Groups. Councillors were expected to sit on at least one Working Group and these were likely to include Traffic and Access, Site Allocation, Education, Medical Facilities and Protection of the Harpsden Valley. It was agreed that ideally two Councillors should sit on each Working Group, so one could easily delegate attending a meeting to the other. He also encouraged Councillors to consider other Harpsden residents who might be suitable candidates. He had already approached Montague Taylor of Wakeford Lodge, a local developer. As public consultation and communication were of paramount importance when drawing up a Neighbourhood Plan, there were plans to hold meetings in Harpsden and perhaps erect a banner across the road outside the village hall. It had been reiterated at the joint meeting of the Henley Town Council Neighbourhood Planning Governance Committee and Harpsden PC, held on 8<sup>th</sup> March, that 40% of all new homes built had to be affordable housing ie one in every three. KG reminded Councillors that there was a site in Henley called 'Forty Acres' which was located between the Henley College playing fields and Deanfield Road/Valley Road and which was owned by Henley Town Council. Although it was an area of AONB and had access problems, it was closer to the centre of Henley than the 3 sites in Harpsden, while HTC's ownership would make it a much more attractive site for affordable housing.

**2347 Plans for this year's Annual Parish Meeting** KG recommended that the subject of the APM to be held on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2013 should be the Neighbourhood Plan and it was agreed that he would invite Dieter Hinke to be the guest speaker. ST would check if the APM had

to start at 6.30pm as a later start might be more convenient for commuters and those with young families. **Action: KG and ST**

**2348 Oxfordshire County Councillor's Report**

- i. PS had reported via email to KG that speed activated warning signs, such as those installed along the Reading Road in Shiplake, could cost up to £7,000 each. It was agreed that this was beyond the budget of the Parish Council.
- ii. The redevelopment of Townlands had been delayed yet again because of concerns over guarantees of capital funding from the NHS/DOH and the new NHS owners of all NHS property. Not surprisingly, the developer was not prepared to go ahead until such guarantees had been received.

**2349 Highways and Footpaths:** It was agreed that the number of potholes in the parish was at an all-time high and KG urged Councillors and residents to keep reporting them. RS would circulate the correct phone number to use. **Action RS.**

**2350 South Oxfordshire District Councillor's Report**

RS presented a brief overview of the District Council's year: the Core Strategy had now been adopted which afforded the District some protection; council tax had been kept low by sharing costs and services with VOWH, which meant it had become the fifteenth best council tax district in the UK; grants for local services had increased, the community investment fund had increased to £1m and the District Council had made a grant to the CAB of £1.6m; SODC had ring-fenced £0.5m for broadband improvements; the boundary review would be finalised by the end of the month, and its aim was for one member to represent 3,000 of the electorate with the actual number of District Councillors being reduced from 48 to 36. When asked if the Core Strategy had specifically designated housing on the three Harpsden sites, RS explained that the sites had only been suggested together with a number of houses per site. The Core Strategy needed a tested land bank that was bigger than the required number of houses.

RS and DB left the meeting at 8.45pm.

**2351 Planning Matters:**

i. **SODC Decisions:**

**P12/S2850/HH                      11 Manor Wood Gate, Lower Shiplake, RG9 3BY**

Two storey extension to the side and single storey to the rear of the property. First floor extension over existing single storey.

PLANNING PERMISSION GRANTED

**P12/S2846/FUL                      Land at Jubilee Park, Reading Road, Henley, RG9 4AF**

Creation of an un-metalled non-domestic access with appropriate vision splay to existing compost area used for recycling of horticultural arisings and associated parks services activities.

PLANNING PERMISSION GRANTED

**P12/S2910/HH                      The Doghouse, Bolney Road, Lower Shiplake, RG9 3NS**

Two storey rear extension.

PLANNING PERMISSION GRANTED

**P13/S0045/HH                      Redhatch, Harpsden Woods, RG9 4AF**

Extensions and alterations to existing house, construction of new garaging/studio.

PLANNING PERMISSION GRANTED

KG added that he was very grateful to the planning officer for reducing the height of the proposed tower at the property, which in his opinion had been too high.

- ii. **Outstanding Applications:** There were no outstanding applications.

**2352 Financial Matters**

i **Bank Balances and Reconciliations**

Community Account: £0.00

Business Saver Account: £4,543.53

ST had previously circulated by email the bank reconciliations for the two months to 21<sup>st</sup> February 2013 for the Community and Business Saver Accounts and both were now approved by Council and signed by the Chairman. They are attached to the minutes at Appendix 1 and 2.

**ii Approval of Payments**

ST tabled the following payments for approval:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Power</u>
OALC annual subscription	£133.07	
Clerk's salary	£660.00	
Clerk's PAYE	£165.00	
Clerk's expenses	£76.38	

The payments were authorised by a resolution of the Council and initialled by the Chairman and are attached at Appendix 3.

**iii. Budget vs Actual Expenditure:** This was circulated by ST and approved by Council and is attached to these minutes at Appendix 4.

**2353 AOB**

- i. Martin Goodier, a local resident who had designed the village hall website, had quoted between £200 and £500 to build a website for the Parish Council. Councillors agreed that a website was now a vital means of communicating with parishioners and unanimously approved a budget of up to £500. **Action: ST to organise meeting with KG, RD and Martin Goodier.**
- ii. KG reported that the cedar tree on Hunts Green, which had been growing into the overhead electricity cables, had been saved by a plan by SSE to bury the cables underground whilst avoiding the tree roots.
- iii. A certain female resident of Harpsden was suffering from extreme bouts of mental illness and was not only sending abusive emails to several parishioners, but had recently accused Henley's Inspector Mark Harling of accepting illicit payments. She had also lodged a formal complaint against Henley Police and several residents (including KG) were likely to be called as witnesses if the Police took her to Court, as now seemed likely.
- iv. Councillors were reminded that they were invited to the next meeting of the Neighbourhood Planning Governance Committee (NPGC) at 9am on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2013. It would be followed by a joint Henley Town Council NPGC and Harpsden Parish Council.
- v. KTY confirmed her decision to stand down as a Councillor in the near future as she felt she would be unable to contribute enough time to the Neighbourhood Plan Working Groups. KG reported that Nick Young of Juniper Cottage had expressed an interest in becoming a Councillor. David Chenery of Squirrels Leap was also suggested. The Chairman and Councillors expressed great regret at KTY's resignation.

**2354 Date of next meeting:**

**APM - Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm (please would Councillors note the change of time) in the main hall.**

**Dates for the remainder of the year:**

**AGM: Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2013**

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2013**

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2013**

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2013**

Approved:.....

**Kester George, Chairman**

Date: .....