

# HARPSDEN PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held at Harpsden Village Hall on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2015

Present:	Cllr Kester George (KG)	Chairman
	Cllr Malcolm Plews (MP)	
	Cllr Robin Dorkings (RD)	
	Cllr Tony Wright (TW)	
	Cllr Catherine Rubinstein (CR)	
	Cllr David Bartholomew (DB)	OCC Councillor
	Cllr Paul Harrison (PH)	SODC Councillor
In attendance:	Mrs Sarah Tipple (ST)	Clerk

**2579 Welcomes and Apologies:** There were no apologies.

**2580 Declarations of pecuniary interests and/or requests for dispensations from Members regarding any item on this agenda:** There were none.

**2581 Approval of Minutes of last Council Meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2015:** The minutes were approved and signed as a correct record.

**2582 Matters arising:**

**2570.ii:** ST asked DB how to obtain and erect a replacement 'Reduce Your Speed' sign at the football ground. He asked her to send a photo of the sign's location and would advise. **Action: ST**

**2583 Oxfordshire County Councillor's Report:** David Bartholomew's full report is attached to these minutes at Appendix 1. DB encouraged councillors to respond to a public consultation issued by OCC on options for saving money, which closed at midnight that night. In matters more specific to Harpsden, DB had been asked by KG to clarify the status of the lane leading from the valley road to King's Farm. The lane was now riddled with potholes and one resident on the lane had shown an interest in buying the lane in order to repair it, whilst continuing to allow other residents access over it. DB reported that it was a restricted byway for non-motorised traffic only, and OCC was only required to maintain it to that standard. The use of vehicles to access properties was classed as 'private use' and there was no mechanism by which public land of this type could be sold to private individuals. OCC could advise and assist if individuals wished to pay for the road to be improved but it could not make any financial contribution. In other matters, construction work at Lafarge Tarmac (now known simply as Tarmac) near the Flowing Spring pub, had been delayed until February/March 2016 and would continue in stages until April 2017. With regards to the Third Reading Bridge, the delayed traffic modelling study had now started and preliminary results were due in the spring.

**2584 South Oxfordshire District Councillor's Report:** Paul Harrison's full report is attached to these minutes at Appendix 2. Following Martin Akehurst's departure, Will Hall had

won the SODC by-election for the Sonning Common ward. PH drew councillors' attention to the availability of grants of over £1,000 for improvements to village halls with applicants being able to apply for up to 50% of the project cost. KG would pass this information on to the Trustees of the village hall. CCTV had helped the police with 141 arrests across the area. A new website was now live [www.oxfordshire.air-quality.info](http://www.oxfordshire.air-quality.info) which gave hourly updates about the levels of pollutants in the air. SODC was recruiting volunteers to launch GO Active Gold, a new three year project offering sporting activities for those over 60 in the district's rural areas.

**2585 Thames Farm** Claire Engbers had secured the overturn on legal grounds of the Planning Inspector's appeal decision through a Judicial Review at the High Court. Shortly afterwards, however, the Secretary of State had lodged an appeal against the Judge's ruling, arguing that the planning inspector did indeed have the right to make up his own mind about the highway issues. The matter had now gone to the Appeal Court and PH thought it would be heard in April or May of 2016. If the appeal decision was quashed, the inquiry would have to be heard again by another inspector. KG and Tudor Taylor had requested a meeting with the SODC officer concerned.

**2586 Neighbourhood Plan (NP)** The referendum was planned for a Saturday in February, date to be confirmed. SODC's independent examiner of the NP had suggested that 500 new homes should be recommended instead of the original 450, as the two parcels of land that had been allocated as reserve sites ie an additional 30 dwellings at Highlands Farm and 20 off the Fairmile, should be earmarked for development from the outset, in addition to the 50 homes on the Gillotts School playing fields. The only other changes made by the examiner were mostly legal technicalities so the revised plan had not had to go out to public consultation for a second time.

## **2587 Planning Matters**

### **2587.i SODC Decisions**

#### **P15/S3109/HH**

Harpsden Wood House, Harpsden, RG9 4AF

Variation of condition 2 of the approved planning application P15/S1513/HH to enable the approved plans to be replaced with an amended version

**Permission granted**

#### **P15/S2941/HH**

Hunts Green House, Harpsden Bottom, RG9 4HZ

Retention of existing hardstanding area, timber framed gazebo and timber children's climbing frame

**Permission granted**

#### **P15/S2266/FUL**

Harpsden Wood Cottage

Proposed replacement dwelling

**Permission granted**

### **2587.ii Outstanding Applications and Appeals:**

#### **P15/S3359/FUL**

Little Hill Cottage, Harpsden Bottom, Harpsden RG9 4HR

Demolition of existing house and erection of new 2 storey house and outbuilding

**No objection**

**P15/S3491/HH**

Yew Tree Cottage, Harpsden Bottom RG9 4HS  
Erection of oak framed garage

**No objection**

**P15/S3756/HH**

Bellehatch Farm, Harpsden RG9 4AP  
Repairs and rebuilding of unsafe piers and walls, demolition of twentieth century walls and piers, building new matching piers and walls with new gates

**No objection provided reclaimed bricks were used**

**Sheephouse Farm**

KG had received plans from the architects to Bremont Watches to redevelop a currently derelict farm building at Sheephouse Farm belonging to Urs Schwarzenbach. The company had outgrown its current site at Toad Hall and was planning to build a factory employing over 100 people at the proposed site. The plans were for a low level building which would be invisible from the road but visible to the residents of Sheephouse Farm. Access would be from the Reading Road at one or both of the existing Sheephouse Farm and polo field entrances. The architects had already dismissed using land at Highlands Farm and at the former Wyevale Garden Centre, which KG had suggested. Councillors agreed that the development was outside the NP and that the development was entirely suited to Wyevale which had been allocated through the NP as an employment site. The Council would strongly oppose the scheme at Sheephouse Farm as it would generate even more traffic along the Reading Road and could set a precedent for further development between Harpsden and Shiplake.

**2588 Financial Matters**

**2588.i Bank Balances and Reconciliations**

Community Account: £280.21

Business Saver Account: £6,430.79

ST had previously circulated by email the bank reconciliations for the month to 21<sup>st</sup> October 2015 for the Community and Business Saver Accounts and both were now approved by Councillors and signed by the Chairman. They are attached to the minutes at Appendix 3 and 4.

**2588.ii Approval of Payments**

ST tabled the following payments for approval:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Power</u>
M. Hooker flag raising	£50.00	War Memorials Act 1923 s. 1; Local Govt Act 1948 s. 133
Clerk's salary	£698.69	
Clerk's PAYE	£165.00	
Remembrance Sunday Wreath	£25.00	War Memorials Act 1923 s. 1; Local Govt Act 1948 s. 133

The payments were authorised by a resolution of the Council and signed by the Chairman and are attached at Appendix 5.

**2588.iii Budget vs Actual Expenditure:** This was circulated by ST and approved by Council and is attached to these minutes at Appendix 6.

**2588.iv Approval of Annual Return:** ST presented the Annual Return to the Council. MP proposed approving and accepting it and this was seconded by TW. A copy is attached at Appendix 7.

**2589 AOB** There was no other business.

**2590 Dates of next meetings:**

- Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2016 7.45pm
- Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2016 7.45pm
- April 2016 APM – date to be confirmed
- Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2016 7.45pm
- Monday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2016 7.45pm
- Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2016 7.45pm
- Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2016 7.45pm

**Approved:..... Date: 25<sup>th</sup> January 2016**  
**Kester George, Chairman**