

Harborough Magna Parish Council

Virtual Meeting of the Parish Council 21 September 2020

ONLINE

Cllr Toby France (TF) Chair
Cllr Paul Skidmore (PS)
Cllr John Brady (JB)
Cllr Rob Clarke (RC)

Cllr Adrian Warwick – online until item 4 when he gave his update
Cllr Tony Gillias - joined at item 9 gave his update and left before 10

In attendance: Clerk: Leona Bendall

Parishioner: Harriet Hart

1.21.09.20	Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Cllr Toby France welcomed all to the meeting. To facilitate ease of understanding updates from Cllr Warwick and Cllr Gillias are both given under item 4.	
2.21.09.20	Apologies for absence Cllr E Biggs-Poyner	
3.21.09.20	Update from County Councillors <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Cllr Warwick confirmed that following the Clerk's request in May and a further email from Cllr Skidmore, that he was minded to fund the establishment of a concrete verge opposite the Village Hall – that would allow grass to go through it – for parking of users of the hall. Before work can start this will need Executive approval.- Cllr Warwick advised that the County Council along with all district and borough councils in Warwickshire will be consulting on a move to a model of a unitary authority – like Coventry. Cllr Warwick argued that there was the opportunity for huge saving (possibly up to £60m a year for this) that would allow extra resources to fund services and he supported a proposal that competent parish councils may be asked to take on more responsibility – so long as funding and training/mentoring is put in place.- Cllr Gillias joined the meeting after Cllr Warwick had left – he clearly was not in favour of the merger to a Unitary Authority and doubted the savings figures. There is a 55-page report on this from PWC – and the clerk will see if there is a summary that can be circulated before the formal consultation.	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cllr Gillias advised that a development of 2million square feet of warehouse space has been approved in South West Rugby – on land beyond Dunchurch. (NB – Harborough Magna were not consulted on this – although there are implications for us and Pailton in terms of extra traffic through the village as drivers will try to avoid the A426 to M5/A5/M1 Northbound.) He also expressed his concern that WCC Highways Team and Highways England are only thinking and acting in the short term on road improvements – so this piecemeal approach is wasting millions of pounds. 	
4.21.09.20	Suspension of standing orders to allow parishioners of Harborough Magna to address the meeting No matters were raised	
5.21.09.20	Standing orders were resumed	
6.21.09.20	Declaration of Interest None made.	
7.21.09.20	Approval of minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The minutes and financial papers from 20 July 2020 were approved and will be signed after the meeting. 	
8.21.09.20	Matters arising from the minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Item 3b –TF agree said that Young Farmers had spoken directly to the Village Hall and the matter was sorted. 	
9.21.09.20	New Village Issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dangerous overhanging branch of a very large tree on Pailton Road. The clerk had previously raised this with councillors and Councillor Clarke (on whose family land the tree is sited) had agreed to cut the dangerous branch as soon as they have time. 	
10.21.09.20	Parish Plan/OSCR Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cllr Skidmore confirmed that the Village Hall is now open, the online booking service is working, they have recruited a Bookings Secretary and users of the hall are pleased with its facilities. An open day is planned for Saturday 26 September – to be undertaken in line with Covid restrictions. 	
11.21.09.20	RBC/WCC Fosse Community Forum and Walc update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nothing to report 	

12.21.09.20	Planning applications and appeals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clerk gave a short update on the Magna Park consultation group she attended. The owner/developer of Magna Park reported on the fact that they are reluctant to keep funding road improvements as a consequence of planning approvals – when this money is spent on short term fixes and two years later (with more development) the roads are not fit for purpose. Instead they are creating a fund (with other developers) and trying to push WCC and Highways England to develop longer term solutions. - There are now two planning application for major service stations on either side of the A5 near to the junction with Mere Lane. Gazeley's application has been submitted to Harborough DC and includes all the relevant environmental and technical reports. A competing application from Magna Solutions has been submitted to Rugby without the technical reports as it was seeking approval in principle for its development. However as this application falls partly in Harborough DC's area and they now have to submit a new application with all technical and environmental report. 	
13.21.09.20	Neighbourhood Watch <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nothing new to report. 	
14.21.09.20	Financial and Governance issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Clerk explained that she had not circulated the Bank reconciliation as due to Covid there are huge delays on presenting cheques and receiving statements from the Bank. But there is not an issue with risk – as all liabilities are shown on the cash book, it is a reconciliation matter and the Clerk apologised for not being as precise as she wanted to be. b. Clerk advised that at present due to Covid restrictions we cannot switch our bank account but will do so when possible but Councillors will consider/approve any move before a move is completed. c. Cheques raised since the last meeting were noted (all had been approved in principle) and the cheques approved at this meeting were approved. In total this comprised: McAfee Virus Renewal £79.99, Alan Morals for Playpark safety inspection £179.40 plus the second £600 repayment of the interest free loan for street lights to Salix; Clerk's Q2 salary £560 ,HMRC Q2 £140, Webflow £150 annual web hosting fee. Lakeside, for grass cutting.(actual amount awaited) d. In line with the auditor's suggestions after the 2019/20 audit– work has begun on a Governance Framework and a schedule and priority order – agreed by Chair and vice will follow. It is 	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>

	<p>hoped that two policies can be reviewed/approved every two months throughout the year.</p> <p>e. Asset Values will be considered when the insurance is renewed. <u>Post meeting note</u> on the advice of the auditor and our play park inspector the insurance and asset value of the playpark equipment has been devalued at £20,000 – this is sufficient to replace existing equipment with more relevant equipment for children. This is reflected in our insurance renewal which is now £120 below budget. This post meeting note was agreed by the Chair and Vice Chair of the PC.</p>	
15.21.09.20	<p>Correspondence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - email invitation to participate in a consultation on Warwickshire Fire & Rescue which the clerk will circulate tomorrow. 	Clerk
16.21.09.20	<p>Other ongoing village matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All councillors agreed to meet and discuss role of chair to enable Cllr Biggs-Poyner to stand down after October meeting. 	All
17.21.09.20	<p>Items for next agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governance Framework - update • Playpark monitoring and upgrading 	All
18.21.09.20	<p>Date of next meetings</p> <p>26 October 2020 and 30 November 2020</p>	All
	Meeting closed at 21.14	

.....
Toby France
Acting Chair

.....
Date