

Harborough Magna Parish Council

Virtual Meeting of the Parish Council 22 February 2021

ONLINE

Cllr Toby France (Chairman or TF)
Cllr John Brady (JB)
Cllr Harriet Hart (HH)

Cllr Adrian Warwick (WCC) – online until end of item 5

In attendance:

Clerk: Leona Bendall
Parishioners: Fiona McMahan
Cath and Bob Bolton

Note of explanation: Cllr France (chairman) changed the order of business to facilitate input from Cllr Adrian Warwick and parishioners – items, 4, 5 and 9 were taken together. The minutes however are in standard running to ease understanding of the meeting

1.22.2.21	Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Cllr Toby France welcomed all to the meeting- Cllr Toby France asked Cllr John Brady if he would become the vice chair of the Parish Council as he would bring a range of different experiences and his knowledge of the village and planning would aid the continuity and transfer of knowledge	
2.22.2.21	Apologies for absence <p>Cllr Clarke, Cllr Skidmore and Cllr Gillias (RBC) sent their apologies</p>	
3.22.2.21	Declarations of Interest <p>None made</p>	
4.22.2.21	Update from County Councillors <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Cllr Warwick spoke about the awful impact on the local villages from the overnight closure of the M6 J1/A426 roads to enable works in relation to the new MOTO service station at J1 of the M6. A huge number of HGV vehicles are not following the authorised diversions and instead are using small village roads as cut throughs. There was also a problem that a number of diversion signs were not in place. The impact this side of the Rugby area is affecting Newbold, Harborough Magna (including Montilo Lane) and Pailton - other areas are also seeing an influx of overnight traffic from HGVs. He explained that he had impressed on MOTO the need to get the signage for diversion out properly and to ensure that vehicles follow this rather than short cuts through village roads which cannot take the weight of this traffic. He also encouraged as many individual residents as possible (in addition to the relevant PCs) to write to the responsible	

	<p>contractors whose details are on the WCC Roadworks (https://one.network) website. TF thanked Adrian for this and explained the parish council will explore the potential for an Environmental Weight Restriction on the access points to the village; under these regulations deliveries to properties within the village and farm vehicles would not be impeded. TF had been advised by WALC to write to Mark Ryder (WCC Strategic Director for Communities) and Cllr Dave Shilton (WCC Parish Councils Champion) on this matter. Adrian offered his support in progressing this request and asked that we include Daniel Perkins (WCC) and Mark Pawsey MP in our correspondence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Post meeting note: Pailton PC has requested a zoom meeting so we can co-ordinate response. 	
5.22.2.21	<p>Suspension of standing orders to allow parishioners of Harborough Magna to address the meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fiona McMahon explained the enormous frustration she has experienced trying to get officers at WCC or Highways England to help support residents in relation to HGV traffic. Most of the officers she has had contact with have been far from helpful – so having details of the named officers will be helpful. <p>TF said he would prepare letters to the three companies whose HGVs have been identified as the most frequent vehicles seen in our village (an example letter is attached as appendix 1) and develop a short action plan to make our community aware of what action they can take to help stop this problem as there are other road closures planned for March.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cath Bolton raised the issue of litter on roads and particularly verges that has long been a problem but has in the past year risen dramatically. Like Fiona McMahon she has had continual difficulty in finding out who is responsible and getting any officers at Rugby to take action. Rugby are no longer cleaning litter from B roads and are rarely taking action to clear A roads (except where close to the Coventry City of Culture). There is no rota for road clearing and as far she can tell no plan whatsoever. Nor does there seem any support for villages to clear their own areas. She shared with the meeting a short report/action plan they had prepared (attached as appendix 2). TF replied that this was very helpful and the PC would support this. It was agreed to have further talks on this and see if the PC can facilitate an Environmental Action Group that would act as litter volunteers but beyond that take a longer view to limit litter. <p>Cath and Bob Bolton left the call at this point.</p>	<p>TF/Clerk All PC</p> <p>TF/Clerk</p> <p>TF/Clerk All PC</p>
6.22.2.21	Standing orders were resumed	
7.22.2.21	Approval of minutes and financial papers from last meeting	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The minutes and financial papers from 11 January 2021 were taken as read and approved and will be signed by TF after the meeting. 	
8.22.2.21	Matters arising from the minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There were no matters arising from the minutes 	
9.22.2.21	New Village Issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Another issue raised by a parishioner is the revolting practice by some dog walkers of leaving bags of dog refuse underneath bins and at footpath gates rather than putting the refuse in the appropriate bins. It was agreed to write a short facebook post on this and investigate signage to remind dog walkers that bagged refuse should be put in the bin - not difficult! 	Clerk/ All
10.22.2.21	Parish Plan – Village Hall <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No formal update but the clerk advised that the hall would be used for the May elections. 	
11.22.1.21	RBC/WCC Fosse Community Forum and Walc update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - TF advised that WALC have put in a new process for their monthly chairmen's forums and now every other monthly meeting will be held out of office hours so chairmen who work can attend. One of the first items of interest was advice that PCs should take a different approach to WCC and see if WCC's promised commitment to better action/support of PCs is actioned. Cllr Dave Shilton is now WCC's Parish Council Champion with a remit to improve cooperation and collaboration between Parish Councils and officers of the County Council. 	TF
12.22.2.21	Planning applications and appeals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The meeting discussed the retrospective request (Certificate of Lawfulness) to allow the owners of 4 The Green to use a shipping container in the corner of their field to store building/wood material. The container is tucked up to the hedge and has been in position for more than 10 years without any issues. TF confirmed he had no comment to make in relation to this application; HH and JB would inspect this as soon as possible to enable the Clerk to submit a response to Planning on this. 	JB/Clerk
13.22.2.21	Neighbourhood Watch	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - LB reported that Police Officer Sharon Baillie-Crabtree our long term Community Support Officer is being transferred to a new role. Police will let us know shortly who is going to replace her. Clerk confirmed she has sent Sharon our best wishes and sincere thanks for her help over the past years. - When the successor for Sharon is known an updated '<i>who's who</i>' poster to be displayed on noticeboards and shared on facebook via the PC website. 	Clerk
14.22.2.21	Financial and Governance issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The cashbook and bank reconciliation forecast to the end of February were reviewed and accepted. It was agreed that the Clerk could apply for a Debit card for the PC – its use would be tightly regulated to ensure protection for PC funds. This to include prior authorisation of any expenditure in writing. b. It was noted that a payment of £80.38 has been made to WCC for the street light maintenance programme since the last meeting. The clerk advised before the new lights were installed the cost of this was almost £400. The meeting agreed that to ensure all cheques are cleared before the year end the clerk can issues these on 15 March. She would notify councillors of the cheques to be paid. This would include her salary and HMRC payment. c. The previously circulated asset register will be presented to the next meeting for approval along with an updated Financial Regulation paper that would include the strict guideline of use of the Debit card. d. New season grass cutting – it was agreed to ask three contractors, including Lakeside to submit prices for grass cuts in the village. Clerk to circulate plan of areas to be cut – and where possible help might be sought to involve residents in the cuts – rather than incurring external costs. 	Clerk Clerk Clerk Clerk
15.22.2.21	Correspondence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A request for help in publicising the 2021 census was sought from the team responsible for the Warwickshire census. Information has been put in both notice boards and next week information will be posted on the village Facebook page and on the PC website. 	Clerk

16.22.2.21	Other ongoing village matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To be brought forward to the next meeting. It was agreed to give some urgent thought to working up a scheme to replace the playpark equipment and a community timetable for consultation and ideas for new equipment would be decided at the next meeting. - Governance framework – work is continuing on policies most of which will be presented for review at the March or April meeting and then formal approval at the May Annual Meeting. The clerk confirmed that all documents were backed up each month 	PS/All Clerk
17.22.2.21	Items for next agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Playpark monitoring and upgrading - Review of financial regulations and draft revised asset register - Possible presentation from National Grid on new high pressure pipeline and how this will affect our village. 	All
18.22.2.21	Date of next meetings 29 March 2021 and 26 April 2021	All
	Meeting closed at 21.22pm	

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Toby France
Chairman

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Date

Appendix 1 – example letter. HGVs

Dear

A426 / M6 J1 Diversion Route

I write on behalf of Harborough Magna Parish Council in relation to the recent overnight closures of the A426 at M6 J1 in Rugby. Unfortunately a significant volume of Hermes drivers have not been following the signed diversion route approved by Highways England and Warwickshire County Council, but have instead been taking a wholly inappropriate cross-country shortcut via the B4112 through Harborough Magna village.

This has resulted in a steady stream of HGVs coming through the village through the night, shaking residents' houses every time a lorry passes and causing significant damage to verges as large vehicles try to pass. The B4112 is not suitable to accommodate this size of vehicle in this volume, which is why it does not form part of the authorised diversion route. We have serious concerns for the safety of our Parishioners and the effect this has on the many older, period properties fronting this road – a number of which have sustained severe damage having been struck by HGVs in the past.

I am sure you can appreciate the disruption this has caused, and while we understand that the recent highway works are related to the construction of the Moto Service Area at M6 J1 we are extremely concerned that this inappropriate route will become embedded within your drivers, causing them to divert through our village to reach your sites at 1 Overview Way (Rugby Gateway) and 113 Brownsover Road (Swift Park) whenever there are delays on the A5 or M6.

We therefore ask what practical steps you may be able to take to ensure your vehicles follow the appropriate diversion route in future, and what support you may need from us in helping to ensure that this happens.

We look forward to discussing this matter with you further.

Yours,

cc: Cllr Adrian Warwick
Mr Mark Pawsey MP
Mr Nick Denton, Traffic Commissioner for the West Midlands enquiries@otc.gov.uk

Appendix 2 – Litter

Proposal Re. Litter to Harborough Magna Parish Council 22nd Feb 2021

Short Term Proposals

1. Write a letter to Dan Green, Deputy Executive Director for Rugby Borough Council and to Steve Hollis who is in charge of road cleaning. Copy this letter to local councillors and to Mark Pawsey. The letter should simply say that we are endeavouring to keep the village and its immediate environment free of litter but we are let down every time we leave the village to go to town. Ask for the road between Harborough Magna and Newbold to be cleared on a regular basis. One road, one simple request.
2. Annual Litter Pick. Steve Hollis informed me that no decision had yet been taken on whether or not the council would be supporting a litter pick this year and , I notice, that Pailton have already cancelled theirs. Mr Hollis stressed the problems they would have with delivering and picking up the bags and the litter pickers. However, when we have collected too much litter to carry, we have left it bagged on the side of the road and informed the fly tipping team who have picked it up. If there is no official litter pick, can the parish council ask for volunteers to pick litter in their own time on a given weekend ? (We may have some spare litter grabbers and bags?) The areas we have traditionally cleared have been :
 - a) HM village to the motorway bridge on Montilo Lane.
 - b) HM village to the motorway bridge on Pailton Road.
 - c) HM village to the turn to Autumn Farm on Easenhall Road.
 - d) HM village to Tuckey's Bridge.
 - e) HM village to and including the play area at the bottom of Meadow Way.

Long Term Proposal

Ask for volunteers to form an environmental group led by the parish council. This group could keep a general eye on the village environment , ask for help when litter needs clearing, identify areas

such as lay-bys where litter is likely to be dumped, raise awareness of other issues that affect the environment, suggest

DRAFT