

HARPLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting held on Thursday 21st March 2024 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall

Present: Councillors A Case (Chairman) C Alexandra-Kaye, J Pocklington.
1 member of the public

013/24 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs N Steed (illness) & Borough Cllr A Beales (full Borough Council meeting)

014/24 Declarations of Interest

None.

015/24 To approve the draft minutes from the meeting held on 25th January 2024

It was PROPOSED (CAK) SECONDED (JP) and unanimously approved to agree the minutes as a true record and were signed by the Chairman.

016/24 Questions and Comments from the Public

A resident asked if the hedge adjoining the playing field and village hall could be cut and gave a brief report on the meeting with the Community Payback organiser. Both of these would be discussed further later in the meeting.

She also asked if any progress had been made on deciding where grants would be advertised. It was agreed on the Parish Council website and church magazine if appropriate.

017/24 To receive reports from County Councillor, District Councillor & Clerk

County Councillor Chenery had emailed a report which had been circulated.

018/24 Clerks report

The Clerk reported that another notice of possible use of the defibrillator had been received. Councillor Steed had undertaken a site check and both sets of pads were present and the defibrillator had not been used. It had been put back on the national website as being available for use.

Correspondence

The Clerk reported that she had received a telephone call from Freebridge who had informed the Council that they were working on plans for St Lawrence Close, Harpley Court and these would be available to view at the Parish Council meeting in May.

019/24 Planning

Applications None.

Borough Council approvals: 23/02208/LB – Internal and external alterations to listed building – The Round House, Mill Road, Harpley

020/24 Finance

The following accounts had been circulated and were read to those present at the meeting. It was unanimously agreed to approve the payments. PROPOSED (CAK) SECONDED (AC)

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT February March 24			
Payments			
01.02.24	Contracts and Salaries	Clerks salary, HMRC	£ 263.24
01.03.24	Contracts and Salaries	Clerks salary	£ 263.24
01.03.24	Administration	Office costs, postages, printing, stationery	£ 28.00
08.03.24	Wix website	Annual subscription	£ 93.60
01.04.2024	Harpley Village Hall	Hall hire	£ 85.00
21.03.2024	Norfolk PTS	Annual subscription	£ 67.98

020/24/2 The Clerk had circulated the bank statements & monthly reconciliations which were approved. Balances Current Account: £1754.49 Instant Access Account: 9683.70

021/24 Items For discussion

021/24/1 **West Norfolk Falls Project** – Councillor Alexandra-Kaye reported that the main organiser of the project had not been available for several months and the project had come to a halt. Also, the organisation that had agreed to take the calls Norfolk Carers, had closed due to lack of funding. Now that the main organiser was back and able to continue with the proposed project it was hoped this could now proceed.

021/24/2 **Community Payback Scheme** – The organiser had met with members of the village hall committee and carried out a Health and Safety check. He was happy with the facilities, and it was hoped that this work could now go ahead when approval was received.

021/24/3 **SAM locations** – the Clerk reported that County Highways had approved the locations and the work to install the posts had been scheduled.

021/24/4 **Website** – it was agreed that the preference for the style of the updated website would be in the style of the Ringland site. The Clerk would let the administrator know.

021/24/5 **Dog Bins** – The Clerk was hopeful she may have found a company who would quote to clean the bins. She was waiting for them to confirm this. They were the only company who had shown any interest in quoting.

021/24/6 **Map end of Brickyard Lane** – It was agreed it would be difficult to replace the map with a new version of the existing map and Cllr Case agreed to research options to get another map printed with footpath information added. The existing map would be removed, and the Perspex measured. It was agreed to look at an alternative to Perspex and maybe have the map made up as a sign. He would report back to the Council.

021/24/7 **Hedgecutting** – It was agreed that the hedges alongside the village hall and the hedge alongside the playing field (Brickyard Lane) required cutting. The ivy was pulling

down the hedge in Brickyard Lane. The dustcart would no longer access the Lane due to damage from the hedge. The Clerk would ask the grounds maintenance contractors to quote for this work. Cllr Case would supply information of additional contractors who would also be asked to quote.

021/24/8 Playing Field – Councillor Alexander-Kaye reported that the quality of the grasscutting in the play area was very poor and the cuttings were very deep meaning that small children get very wet when walking through it. It was agreed to request a site meeting with the grounds maintenance contractors to discuss this and the hedgecutting. The Clerk would contact them.

She also felt that the play area was very unwelcoming with all the signs that say Don't and were very forbidding. Whist she acknowledged that the legal notices were required there might be a better way to redesign the signs. She suggested perhaps a better sign which incorporated the legal requirements but was designed by younger children which would make it much friendlier could be considered. She would ask if the school would like to be involved in redesigning the sign as an art project. She would like to see a Pride in the Playground project set up. A more welcoming sign at the bottom of Brickyard Lane might encourage more people to use it. It was agreed this was a good idea. She would report back to the Council.

022/24 To consider applications for co-option to the Council

No applications had been received. It was agreed that notices encouraging people to apply should be put in various locations around the village and websites and newsletters. The Clerk would research posters being used by other parishes which might attract more attention.

023/24 Items for next agenda

Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Meeting
End of Year accounts for approval
St Lawrence Close, Harpley Court plans

024/24 Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 23rd May 2024 7.30pm

Signed.....Dated.....