



# The Beaudesert & Henley-in-Arden

## Joint Parish Council

*Working for the Benefit of the Residents of Henley-in-Arden*

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### MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE BAPTIST CHURCH HALL, HIGH STREET, HENLEY IN ARDEN ON MONDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2015 AT 7.15PM

**Present:** Cllrs. Leech (Chairman), Broadbent, Hemus, Taylor-Green, Bridges, Elizabeth Jackson, Garner, Melhuish, Cornford, Willmott, Crathorne.

**In Attendance:** Cllr. Perry and Cllr. Thirlwell and 38 members of the public.

*Members of the public were informed they may record or video this meeting.*

*The Chairman requested all mobile phones were switched to silent mode.*

*The chairman requested that all public contributions were kept short and to the point, that all remarks should be addressed to the chairman and speakers should try not to score points off fellow councillors and never engage in personal attacks on others – however tempting.*

**1 Apologies for absence.** The following apologies were received and approved: Linda Jackson.

#### **2 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations**

2.1 The following declarations of interest from Councillors on items on the agenda were received.

Cllr Cornford may declare an interest in Item 9 **15/02580/FUL later in the meeting**. He indicated he would to address the council and then withdraw.

2.2 There were no written requests for dispensations for DPI's.

#### **3 Public Participation Session.**

Mrs Carsina Goodman asked that in future copies of the agenda should be printed out for members of the public. The chairman pointed out that the agenda had been put out on the noticeboards and was available on the website, but that the council would consider her request.

### **Open forum to discuss Parking and Traffic.**

Interest in this topic in the town is high, shown by the high attendance at this meeting. The following Items were raised and would be considered by the Parish Council's Traffic and Parking Working Party.

#### **ON PARKING:**

1. Mr Dennis Cox raised the issue of car parking by a local business's employees in Warwick Road overflowing into Prince Harry Road, blocking drives and creating problems for deliveries to residents in Prince Harry Road. There were also concerns raised about access for emergency vehicles, particularly as Prince Harry Road was the only entrance to the medical centre. He asked that

an investigation should be carried out as to whether it was possible to place some kind of reasonable parking restriction to prevent this from happening. He did state that they had approached the owner of the business privately. This had resulted in no improvement.

2. Mr Norman Kench raised the issue of the difficulties for residents living in Alne Close and Beadesert Lane, saying that restricted vision and turning capacity on the exit from Beadesert Lane to the High Street heading north led to some dangerous situations, caused by vehicles parking outside the shops. He said that he felt unless some restriction was enforced in that area an accident would be likely to happen.

3. Mrs Sally Harfield spoke to support the issue raised by Norman Kench, saying that this situation also affected the residents of The Croft as the restricted view from the exit of their road made their turn onto the High Street more dangerous than it should be.

4. Mr Robin Rumbles raised the issue of the parking on the narrow bend by the Station in Brook End Drive by users of the railway. This was often the result of the car park provided by British Rail being too small to manage the number of vehicles wishing to park to catch the train. Cllr. Cornford commented that he passed by on his way to work in the morning and there were often at least seven cars parked in this way.

5. Mrs Gill Hovey commented that she had observed that the medical centre car park was often used by railway users parking there all day, creating difficulties for those residents and visitors who wished to use it for shopping and visiting the medical centre.

6. Mr Fred Dowling raised issues relating to the crossing outside the Co-op and questioned the timing of the sequence of lights. He said that there were a number of occasions when cars were parked illegally relating to the crossing and on one occasion he was narrowly missed by a car reversing over the crossing during the flashing green for pedestrians. He asked whether the zigzag lines could be extended either side of the Crossing. There were a number of other illegalities mentioned at this site.

6. Dr Martin Smyth commented that there was an issue with the car park behind the shops commonly known as the Croft. He said that there should be some kind of restriction on the length of time that parking could take place there. It was noted that the car park was owned by private business and that change was unlikely to happen while that was the case. The general principle of restricting car parking time at the car park received support, but it was noted that that there would be significant costs involved in managing the car parking in this way.

7. Mr Les Goodman commented that he believed residents who live in The Croft also used the car park all day, also residents who lived on the High Street who regularly parked their cars overnight. He believed it was essential to provide some facility for long-term parking before you could begin to address the issue of short-term parking and that making people pay for parking may cause even more illegal parking on High Street.

8. Mr David Jackson commented that there needed to be a consistent approach throughout the day towards parking and that no solution could be found in a

piecemeal approach. The need for long-term parking facilities had to be addressed. He stated there was land that could be turned into a car park by the station, generating another 30 places but this was land owned by Network Rail and it would take a great deal of pressure to persuade them to spend the estimated amount of £40,000 to achieve greater long-term parking space adjacent to the station.

9. Mr Chris Milsom raised the prospect of barriers along the High Street outside the shops and stated that the previous Parish Council had tried to get this done and their requests had been rejected.

10. Mr Mike Faulkner suggested that increased installation of CCTV could be used to monitor the parking and discourage illegal parking. It was pointed out however that this use of TV cameras for enforcing parking was not at this stage legal.

11. County Councillor Mike Perry stated that there had been a recent review of the parking situation outside the shops carried out by the County Council and he had suggested the installation of planters along the edge of the pavement outside the shops but had been told that this would restrict the access for delivery vehicles and also create some hazards. He also said that there were moves to reduce street scene clutter not to increase it.

12. Mr David Aycock said that in his view the parking attendants are not doing their job properly and raised the issue of parking on the pavement and, by accessing the Lord's Waste by driving over the footpath. Both were illegal. He said that the parking attendants were failing to enforce this illegality.

13. Mrs Jan Crathorne suggested that a new system for the roadway between the parish church and Lloyds bank could be introduced with a traffic light controlled single carriageway with alternate north and south travel. This would allow parking bays to be installed along that route and could be used to give some pedestrian priority to that area.

14. Mr David Aycock asked how much the golf club car park was being used and whether people could be encouraged to use it. It was pointed out that this was in private hands and that it might be difficult, but it could be looked at.

15. Mr Dennis Cox and Mr P Harvey suggested that a survey should be undertaken to identify additional sites for parking in the town.

16. The chairman suggested that if in the future the fire station was to be closed the land would make a perfect site for a multi-storey car park.

#### **ON TRAFFIC:**

17. Dr Martin Smyth raised the issue of the traffic lights at Warwick Road and questioned whether the timing of these were correct as there were often great long queues of traffic. Cllr Perry pointed out that the operation of these traffic lights had been reviewed by all the experts after the recent serious accident and that they felt that the lights were managed in the best way possible. It was noted there were different lighting sequences as the day progressed.

18. Mr David Wolcott suggested the installation of flashing 30 miles an hour speed limit signs at the north end and that the possibility of speed cameras being installed on the High Street was also mentioned.

19. Cllr Mike Perry mentioned that there was a transport fund and that action would be taken on Blackford Hill to install flashing warning lights, new more noticeable entrance signs to the town were planned and that there was a scheme to implement a 20 mile an hour speed limit on the Arden Road housing estate.

20. Mr Fred Dowling suggested that a speed camera should be placed on the High Street.

21. The chairman thanked everyone for their contribution to a most informative discussion and undertook to ensure that the traffic and parking working party would be considering all matters that had been raised.

#### **Other matters raised in the public session**

1. Mr Les Goodman asked why it was that in response to a request from a resident, the council have said that there was no money in the budget for the maintenance of their property in particular looking after trees and over-sized shrubs. He stated that a previous council had spent £11,500 on tree works and £3000 on a tree survey, which he suggested the present council should look at. He also said that the previous council had earmarked money in the reserves for further eventualities relating to the trees and land maintenance. Cllr Crathorne on the invitation of the Chairman stated that the council was aware of the budget and reserves available for the maintenance of the parish councils' property and land relating to overgrown trees and shrubs. Every reported concern had been responded to personally by him and a plan was being formulated to deal with the most urgent items. There was an item on the agenda to deal with this.

2. Mr Norman Kench raised the issue of the debris left after some tree work on the river, his concern was that the logs in heavy rain could be washed into the river and cause blockages. Cllr Crathorne responded to say this had been raised also by the environment agency and it was on the report to the council and would be dealt with in due course.

3. Mrs Carsina Goodman asked what was happening about the fact that the front of Andrew Grant estate agents had been painted a very bright red colour. Cllr Michael Willmott on the invitation of the chairman said that he had visited the establishment, spoken to the gentleman at the business responsible for painting and arranged for them to get in touch with the conservation officer at Stratford District Council who were presently examining the situation and there would be a suitable resolution very shortly. Cllr Stephen Thirlwell stated that he had seen that this matter had been logged with Stratford District Council and he felt that we should hear soon what they had decided.

4. Mrs Elaine Field asked what happened in relation to the annual assemblies and when they were being held. The chairman responding, stating that following the appointment of a new parish clerk this matter would be attended to.

#### **4 Reports from County Councillor and District Councillors.**

1. Report of County Councillor Mike Perry.

1.1. The county were considering how best to respond to the move towards larger co-operative administrative groups. At the moment the preferred option was a link with Coventry. The matter was out for consultation to be ended by September 3<sup>rd</sup>.

- 1.2. £500,000 had been allocated for rural area flood protection work. The chairman asked about the problem of tractors travelling down the High Street shedding quantities of straw which was blocking the drains. Cllr Perry said this was a problem across the County.
  - 1.3. WCC had received an award for its recycling shops at their centres.
2. District Councillor Thirlwell
- 2.1. Superfast broadband had completed its testing and should be onstream in Henley soon.
  - 2.2. The revised Core strategy was out to consultation ending on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2015. There was nothing in this that affected Henley.
  - 2.3. There was to be a special council meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2015 to consider combined authorities. SDC would have to give notice by 4<sup>th</sup> September if it wished to consider combining with Birmingham.
  - 2.4. SDC had launched a shop front scheme to give grants to small businesses to improve their shop fronts. £500 per application was available. The chairman said this scheme had been circulated.
  - 2.5. Cllr Thirlwell said that he had noticed an error on the minutes published on the website, with the date of one of the meetings being incorrect.
- 5 Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July and Friday 31<sup>st</sup> July were approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr. Crathorne , seconded by Cllr. Bridges
- 6 There were no matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July and none from Friday 31<sup>st</sup> July.
- 7 Cllr. Garner presented the Financial Report and schedule of recent payments.  
Bank Balances: Current: £5,868                      Deposit. £53,108
- Cllr. Hemus proposed and Cllr Cornford seconded that the following payments were approved:  
John Vale £1,146.00 (normal monthly contract)  
John Hicks £184.08 (regular inspection of play equipment)  
T Mousley £252.00 (emergency tree work)  
Ricoh        £71.31 (final payment for photocopier, contracted to end Sept)
- Carried unanimously
- 8 **Review of the Committees and Working Parties.**
- a. **Financial and Asset Working Party: No report submitted**
  - b. **Communications and Events Working Party: No further reports.**
    1. **Discussing with the Library to hold planning applications.**
  - c. **Children's Facilities Working Party** (written report attached to the agenda)  
Cllr. Garner proposed and Cllr. Melhuish seconded  
It was resolved that the JPC approve this attached outline report and the suggestions for future action set out in it and that they approve consultations

with the external organisations mentioned above.

Carried unanimously.

**d. Traffic and Parking Working Party** (written report attached to the agenda)

Proposed by Cllr. Cornford and seconded by Cllr Bridges:

It was resolved that the Traffic and Parking Working Party are authorised to meet with County Councillor Mike Perry to raise the issues identified in the report attached. The WP were asked to look at what funding needed to be provided to conduct a survey to be carried out of the users of the trains and where they parked in Henley. The WP should link with the Neighbourhood Planning group. Carried unanimously.

**e. Standing Orders Working Party** (written report attached to the agenda)

Proposed by Cllr. Crathorne seconded by Cllr Broadbent:

It was resolved that subject to a satisfactory review by the new parish clerk after she is appointed, plus an additional examination and report by an experienced parish clerk such as Mr Bill Robinson who conducted the induction training, the Standing Orders would be presented for formal approval at the October Meeting. Carried unanimously

**f. Emergency Planning Working Party**

It was reported that the situation relating to the emergency plan was under review by Warwickshire County Council in conjunction with neighbouring authorities. Meanwhile, the existing plan published in February 2010 remains in force.

- 9 To consider the Council's responses to the following substantial planning application(s) and to review the planning applications report. Mr McKenzie asked that his strong disapproval of the planning officers assertion over the linking of modern with heritage be noted. He was very concerned about this statement which has implications for the future of the houses in our town. The council agreed with these remarks.

Application No	Proposal	Address	Applicant
15/02221/FUL 15/02222/LBC	Single storey rear extension	107 High Street	Mr Adam Winter

Proposed by  
Cllr. Willmott  
seconded by  
Cllr. Elizabeth  
Jackson

It was resolved that our objection be withdrawn. Carried with one abstention

Cllr. Crathorne  
proposed and  
Cllr. Bridges  
seconded

It was resolved to request a meeting with Stratford District Council's Conservation Officer manager at next available parish council Carried unanimously

meeting that is convenient with the conservation officers' manager

15/02580/FUL	Redevelopment of Coal Yard to include the demolition of the existing structures and the erection of a Children's Nursery and 3 new dwellings	Calcutts Coal Yard, Bear Lane Henley-in-Arden B95 5JJ	Mrs Jane Howe
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Peter Cornford declared an interest gave some information relating to the link between this application and that considered previously by the council on the Cherry Orchard site and left the meeting.

There was a Challenge from Mr Les Goodman about Cllr Jackson; saying she had an interest by being a near neighbour this was rejected by Cllr Jackson.

The following comments were made by members of the public:

9.1. Concerned was generally expressed that the present leaseholder was being pushed off the site after 70 continuous years of working there.

9.2. Dr Martin Smyth agreed with 9.1. and stated that there were serious traffic issues at drop off and collection time. Cllr. Willmott added that the present site of the nursery in Cherry Orchard offered 13 parking places and the coal yard site was 100 square metres, smaller overall with the three houses included and parking was severely restricted.

9.3. Ms Amanda Dale said that the unanimous view of the Neighbourhood Plan Committee, which was that beyond the railway line would set a dangerous precedent for future development. The Neighbourhood Plan, now in preparation contained a very clear message about protecting the western boundary to the railway line.

9.4. Mr Geoff Caldicot the present owner of the business at the coal yard stated that he and his employees had not been consulted prior to this application. He heard about this first from a dog walker telling him she was sad he was going to leave. He confirmed there had been no contact from the landlord. The meeting expressed their sympathy for Mr Caldicott whose family had served the town for over 70 years.

9.5. Mr David Jackson suggested that the nursery should be rebuilt on the existing site and that from a planning perspective we should be preserving existing business.

9.6. Mr Stephen Carr suggested that the coal yard was a contaminated site and would need environmental cleaning. It was felt that planners would insist on this as they considered the application.

Cllr Willmott proposed and Cllr. Hemus seconded that the council expressed concern that the business and family interests of Mr Caldicott had been disregarded and that in the view of the council he had been treated poorly. This was carried unanimously.

Cllr. Willmott proposed and Cllr Hemus seconded that the council should object to this plan on the following grounds:

1. The development was beyond the railway line which is natural western boundary of the town.
  2. The increase in traffic was well beyond the capacity of the development and the road approaching it.
  3. The design showed significant over-development of the site.
  4. The revised Core strategy though not approved showed the Henley had exceed its quota of houses already.
  5. The applicant should be encouraged to talk to the existing tenant about his future prospects.
- This was carried with one abstention

The chairman declared a brief suspension of business. After 5 minutes the meeting resumed.

### **Matters for Consideration**

- 15/016** The council considered moving the Town Boundary signs to new positions. ( See attached Report)  
The Council noted the progress being made and asked for a report to next meeting.
- 15/017** The council noted the report on response from SDC regarding Town Status. Further discussions to take place with SDC were approved.
- 15/030** The report outlining concerns over the maintenance of all the overgrown trees shrubs and borders, etc. was considered. ( report attached to the agenda)  
Proposed by Cllr. Crathorne seconded by Cllr Bridges:  
It was resolved that a tree planning application should be made in respect of the 15 trees identified as causing concern in the attached report.  
  
Cllr Crathorne was asked to report back on the costs of a plan the remedy the concerns that had been identified. Carried unanimously  
Proposed by Cllr. Cornford seconded by Cllr Willmott:  
It was resolved that Cllr. Crathorne in consultation with experts should draw up a plan to progressively remove all the willows on the Riverlands, such trees to replaced with species more suitable for the site. Carried Unanimously
- 15/039** The Warwickshire Community Lengthsman Scheme (written report attached to the minutes) was considered.  
It was resolved that the councillor with responsibility for the property and lands should investigate this scheme further with the Localities and Communities Officer and report to the next meeting.
- 15/040** The council considered the invitation from the High Bailiff to attend the Town Dinner on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2015.  
The invitation was noted and the following councillors will attend Cllrs. Broadbent, Willmott, Hemus, and Garner.
- 15/041** A budget for special community grants was considered.  
Cllr. Crathorne proposed and Cllr Elizabeth Jackson seconded:  
It was resolved to ask the Standing Orders committee to draw up a set of rules as a basis for a policy in establishing a process for special community grants to dispense throughout year when they were needed. Carried unanimously.

- 15/042** A report was received on potential options for parish office location. Cllr. Crathorne proposed and Cllr. Bridges seconded:  
It was resolved that the Finance and Assets Working Party be authorised to investigate and assess the office requirements in conjunction with the parish clerk when she or she is appointed and report back possible locations and costs to an appropriate meeting. Carried unanimously.
- 15/043** The Stratford District Council Shop Front Grant Scheme was noted.
- 15/046** The report on discussions on forming a West Midlands Combined Authority were noted.

**10 Reports from Councillors – exchange of information only.**

- 10.1. Cllr Melhuish raised the question of the plans for the Burial Grounds stressing that this situation needs to be monitored very carefully.
- 10.2. Cllr Broadbent echoed by Cllr Cornford recorded concerns about the weeds on the pavements of the High Street.
- 10.3. Cllr Hemus reported the dog litter bin had been removed from 1 High Street. Cllr Broadbent added that the owner has been spoken to and it would be replaced.
- 10.4. Cllr Crathorne agreed to prepare a card for former councillor Love who was seriously ill in hospital.

**11 Items for private session**

*Cllr. Garner proposed and Cllr Bridges seconded:*

It was resolved that Under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, in view of the (special)(confidential)\* nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest, as if members of the public were present during the consideration of such business, there would be disclosure to them of exempt information under paras 1 and 11 of Part 1 Schedule 12A of the above Act, that the public be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw. Carried unanimously.

**12 To confirm the date and time of the next meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for **Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2015 – commencing 7.15 pm** at the Baptist Church Hall.

Signed as a Correct Record .....

Date: 21<sup>st</sup> September 2015