



The Beaudesert & Henley-in-Arden Joint Parish Council

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

The Minutes of the Council Meeting of the Beaudesert and Henley-in-Arden Joint Parish Council that took place on Monday 21st September 2015 at 7.15 pm in the Baptist Church Hall, High Street, Henley-in-Arden.

Attendance: Present: Cllrs. Broadbent, Hemus, Taylor-Green, Bridges, Leech, Garner, Melhuish, Cornford, Willmott, Crathorne.

In Attendance: Cllr. Perry and Cllr. Thirlwell and 20 members of the public.

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

The Chairman requested all mobile phones are switched to silent mode.

Apologies for absence: The following apologies were received and approved: Elizabeth Jackson

Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:

- 2.1 There were no declarations of interest from Councillors on items on the agenda.
- 2.2 There were no written requests for dispensations for DPI.
- 2.3 There were no requests for dispensation.

Public Participation Session:

3.1 Open forum to discuss Emergency Planning

Chris Milsom confirmed that all the volunteers who were members of the previous council had withdrawn from the emergency volunteer team. There was therefore a need to recruit a new team. Cllr Crathorne said that the parish emergency plan 2009 reviewed in 2011 was still in force. The council were waiting for the outcome of a combined county wide consultation before amending the parish plan in line with the new county plan. He also noted that new volunteers would need to be recruited. Sue Osborne observed that Henley First Responders should be consulted about their role in a town emergency. There were no other comments.

3.2 Open session

3.2.1 Carsina Goodman asked why the Notice Board in Whitley Road was locked. Cllr. Crathorne stated this was for safety reasons as the outer casing waved around in the wind and could be dangerous. Carsina Goodman replied that it used to be secured with tape. There was a notice on the board telling the community where the key was. Carsina Goodman replied the board was given to the community by Orbit Housing and should remain unlocked. Cllr. Crathorne responded that the noticeboard was clearly labelled as Beaudesert and Henley Parish Joint Parish Council and therefore they would be seen as responsible for the safety of the noticeboard.

3.2.2 Carsina Goodman complained that the pathway between Meadow Road and Alne Close traditionally called Birdcage Walk was seriously overgrown and needed attention. She pointed out that she was still receiving phone calls about such matters even though she was no longer on the council. Cllr. Crathorne said when the council have been notified of any issue relating to such matters they have responded promptly. They cannot act until they have been informed.

3.2.3 Carsina Goodman asked that the broken footpath marker post in Castle Close should be repaired. It was known to be the responsibility of Warwickshire County Council.

3.2.4 Carsina Goodman asked that attention be given to the footpath ST 27 behind the school and the footpath SD 222 A also behind the school; they were seriously overgrown. Cllr. Cornford pointed out that the paths were over private land and were the responsibility of the owner of the land and we should point that out.

3.2.5 Carsina Goodman asked why we weren't having a parish assembly this year. The chairman pointed out that there would be a meeting towards the end of the year that would be put into the hands of the new clerk when she took up her appointment.

3.2.6 Fred Dowling brought information to the meeting about parking. He reported that a black 4x4

and another car both parked or in the wrong place outside One Stop quite late in the evening had both been seem to be given tickets. He asked whether the traffic wardens could actually work later in the evening in Henley more frequently. The chairman said that this would be a matter of enquiry.

3.2.7 Mr Calcutt rose to thank the council for its support in opposition to the building of a nursery and houses on the site of the coal yard which the family had the leased for many years. He stated that the matter had brought great distress to his family including the fact that is it had made his wife ill. Rita Redfern stated that she fully supported the Calcutt family in their opposition to the plans which had now been resubmitted showing the road to Mayfield farm being owned by the freeholder of the coal yard. She stated that the Fire Brigade had objected because of the narrow access. She intimated that Network Rail have said that they should have been consulted prior to the planning application and that there were many things wrong with it. Roger Hubbocks pointed out that the road under the railway bridge, he believed, belonged to Network Rail since when the JPC installed a water pipe there in order to get water to the allotments, Network Rail insisted that the council paid a Wayleave Fee to them.

Cllr. Cornford attempted to intervene in the meeting. Roger Hubbocks complained that the Cllr. had a direct conflict of interest in this matter and should not be allowed to speak. The chairman allowed Cllr. Cornford to speak since the matter was not on the agenda and he could not have known that he should declare an interest and that he was only giving information. Cllr. Cornford went on to say, for the record, that the application which had been verified by Stratford District Council had now been unverified because the plan had not shown the access to the site owned by a third party. The owner of the freehold of the land proposed for development had acknowledged that she did not own the access way but she and her tenants had enjoyed many years of free access.

The Chairman thanked the public for their contribution to the meeting.

Reports from County Councillor and District Councillors.

4.1 Report from County Councillor Mike Perry.

4.1.1 Cllr. Perry reported that he had enquired into the matter of moving the Henley town road signs to a more appropriate place and said that he had received information that there was no objection to this procedure. He emphasised that the parish should be using an accredited contractor to carry this out to share with Mr Brown and Mr Cowley of the County Council, the detailed plans and the process.

4.1.2 Regarding weeds on the High Street, Cllr. Perry had enquired into this and confirmed that Stratford District Council are responsible for the paths although if there was a danger reported from slippery moss then Warwickshire County Council would intervene to resolve that issue.

4.1.3 Cllr. Perry reported that he had made enquiries with Network Rail and they had no plans to increase the number of parking spaces at Henley Station. He said that there may be funding available from the Transport Improvement Fund from Warwickshire County Council and he would make further enquiries into this. It was pointed out by Roger Hubbocks that on the original plan Network Rail were funded to completely tarmac the new parking area after the work done on the station had been finished. They had received this money in their grant to do this. It was suggested a letter from the parish council to Network Rail pointing this out would support any attempt to get this matter rectified. Roger Hubbocks pointed out that he had a meeting with Network Rail later in the month and would raise the matter at his meeting with the Shakespeare Promotion Group.

4.1.4 Cllr. Perry said that he had received a significant number of complaints about very heavy traffic overnight that was the result of diverted traffic from M40 and M42 arising from road works. This should have been finished on September 6th but had over run. The reason for this was that the A3400 was a trunk road.

4.1.5 Cllr. Perry reported that Warwickshire County Council had decided not to associate themselves with a new combined authority referred to as "the big seven councils conglomerate" but were looking to associate themselves with more rural authorities such as Gloucestershire.

4.1.6 Cllr. Perry said that Henley had been identified as a particular issue for parking and that traffic wardens had been sent in the evenings. He confirmed that Henley would be getting more visits. The chairman asked Cllr. Perry to pass on their thanks and congratulations to the traffic warden team that he felt was doing a really good job.

4.1.7 Cllr. Perry reported that the music festival was seen by all as very successful. There were record attendances at all the events. He gave his sincere thanks to all the venues and all volunteers who had worked very hard to ensure that the event was a success. It had also received good publicity in the local media. Planning had commenced for next year and it was hoped to have some sponsorship in place so that we could keep this very much appreciated annual event going.

The chairman asked that Cllr. Perry pass on his congratulations and thanks to the organising committee and conveyed his thanks to the establishments who hosted this very successful event.

4.2. Report of the District Councillor

4.2.1 Cllr. Thirlwell reported on the combined authority discussions that had taken place at a special meeting Stratford District Council where they had decided to register interest in the combined authority known as “the big seven councils conglomerate”. He stated that this would allow Stratford District Council to be an observer in all discussions and find out exactly how the combined authority might operate and what benefits might accrue to the district. He pointed out that all options were open and no final decision had been made. He also said that all possibilities would be considered when they were clarified. Cllr. Bridges noted that there was a possibility that Warwickshire County Council could go with one combined authority and the District Councils within Warwickshire going with another.

4.2.2 Cllr. Thirlwell confirmed that the Conservation Officer Dave Bartlett would come to a meeting of the parish council and he would liaise with the Chairman to arrange it to coincide with a parish council meeting. When Cllr. Thirlwell was asked about the painting of the estate agents red he stated that the Conservation Officer was still investigating this matter.

5. Minutes of previous meetings

Proposed Cllr. Willmott Seconded Cllr. Garner. Passed unanimously

It was resolved that the Minutes of the meeting held on 17th August 2015 be approved with following alteration to item 9.6. The word “poorly” to be replaced with the word “disgracefully” and the sentence “Assuming this was correctly reported” be added to the resolution and 8th August 2015 be approved and signed.

6. There were no matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 8th August and 17th August 2015

7. Financial Report by Responsible Finance Officer and schedule of recent payments

Proposed Cllr. Willmott Seconded: Cllr. Garner. Passed unanimously

It was resolved that the bank balances of Current Account £2881 and Deposit Account £89610 be noted and the following list of payments be approved:

Jon Vale: £1997.30
RC Windows: £50.00
WJ Robinson: £350.00

Also that payment of the contribution of £2311.20 towards SDC’s costs of 24 hr CCTV be delayed pending a clarification of the invoice. Cllrs. Crathorne and Linda Jackson were asked to attend the next Stratford District CCTV Partnership Forum.

8. Review of the Committees and Working Parties

8.1 Financial and Asset Working Party

Proposed Cllr. Crathorne, Seconded Cllr. Garner. Passed unanimously

It was resolved that the Financial and Asset Working Party were instructed to prepare the process for preparing the budget for 2016–17, including preparing a simplified system for providing financial support to the community through Section 137 Grants and other powers set out in the 1972 Local Government Act.

8.2. Communications and Events Working Party

There was no written report from this Working Party. The matter of the newsletter and parish assemblies would be attended to when the new clerk was in post. There was discussion relating to The Market Charter with views expressed as to whether it was relevant to the present situation.

Proposed: Cllr Melluish Seconded Cllr. Bridges. Passed unanimously

It was resolved that the matter of the market be deferred until there was clarification of the plan by the Black Swan to hold a regular market on their premises.

8.3. Children’s Facilities Working Party

There were no reports from this Working party; it is scheduled to meet on October 1st 2015.

8.4. Traffic and Parking Working Party Written Report attached.

Proposed Peter Crathorne Secoded Peter Cornford. 7 in favour 2 against

It was resolved that the Traffic and Parking Working Party are authorised to organise the surveys set out in the report to a maximum cost of £1370 and:-

To carry out the investigations without any commitments as set out in Parts 2.3 - 2.8. of the attached report.

To embark on the development of a comprehensive overall strategy to resolve as many of the issues arising from parking in the town. The first stage would be establish with as much accuracy as possible the nature of the problem and the number of cars involved from train users', office and shop workers', shoppers', residents' and visitors' parking needs. The exercise to be followed by a root and branch change commencing with seeking space for substantial long term parking, to be followed by rationalisation of shorter term car parks and on street parking.

8.5. Standing Orders Working Party

There were no reports from this Working party

Emergency Planning Working Party

There were no reports from this Working party.

9. To consider the Council's responses to the following substantial planning application(s) and to review the planning applications report.

| Application No | Proposal | Address | Applicant |
|----------------|--|---|--------------------|
| 15/03102 | Proposal for the erection of a new dwelling at the rear of Sunnyside and Ferndale. | Sunnyside & New Ferndale Road Henley-In-Arden B95 5HY | Mr Craig Fullerton |

9.1. Cllr. Willmott read letter from resident Mr. Greenall, copy attached, which it was felt summarised the objections.

Cllr. Cornford recorded that in his view the house was too big. Size of house should be reduced and the building line moved.

Proposed: Cllr. Willmott Secoded: Cllr Cornford. Passed unanimously.

It was resolved that the council objected strongly to the present form of the construction in the same terms as the letter attached.

9.2. The Cemetery Application:

Cllr. Melhuish declared an interest in the cemetery application as a neighbour and then enquired whether the parish council would do anything to question the change of heart by the transport authority removing their objection.

Cllr Willmott stated it was always possible to submit further objections if they were needed.

Proposed: Cllr Willmott Secoded: Cllr. Garner passed unanimously

It was resolved that the meeting be adjourned to allow public participation on this planning matter.

Mr Fell made the following points:

Obviously key points are greenbelt, sustainability and need and the only way this application can be granted is by demonstrating 'special circumstances'. He noted the claim that within a 30 minute catchment there are a potential 1.4 million people. This would, however, encompass Coventry, Warwick, Solihull and South Birmingham. It was known local need was adequately covered for at least 20 years so any need outside Henley/Stratford should be met by the other respective local authorities. This application was demonstrably unsustainable as all transport would be by car from other population centres at the extreme end of the 30 minute travel time. Further, if consent was granted what was to stop funerals being accepted from even further afield and why would other local authorities bother addressing their shortfall if Stratford, in granting permission, was solving their problems for them? Mr Fell asked whether the Parish Council had given any consideration to liaising with other Councils facing similar problems, such as Catherine-de-Barnes. He said that there must be a great pool of knowledge out there by now and there may be opposing professional

reports on environmental issues, etc. that could be utilised, or costs shared. He respectfully suggested the Council also asked for further highways and environmental reports on the basis that those provided by the applicant were fatally flawed and manifestly wrong; the former deliberately omitted the highway extending to Bird in Hand where there have been many accidents, including fatalities; the latter deliberately omitted ALL the ponds and water courses on his land immediately adjoining the application site and which receive the outfall from the application site. These feed into the River Alne and would inevitably be contaminated.

His calculations showed that if all the burial plots were sold on this site this would generate £7m per acre. This was clearly a get rich quick scheme similar to that in Kent where large family plots were being sold before the grounds had been prepared after planning permission was granted for £20,000 each.

He said that with regard to the sale of burial plots even if the Local Authority imposed some arbitrary number on funerals per year, this could be appealed or ignored, and wouldn't prevent the immediate sale of plots. Given the enormous financial gains it could now be understood why there were so many persistent planning applications around the country for these cemeteries when a small acreage can produce tens of thousands of plots at approximately £6,500 a time.

Cllr. Bridges suggested that local and national media should be contacted to alert them to what seemed like a get rich quick scheme at the expense of people's sad circumstances developing without any kind of proper control.

The chairman reconvened the meeting.

Cllr. Cornford suggested that the council should submit a further objection to the Cemetery project in the strongest possible terms as there was no proven need for the next 20 years. It was confirmed that if the planning officers were minded to agree to the plan for the Cemetery it would still go for decision to the Planning Committee, giving opportunity for further objection.

Cllr. Willmott indicated that he would be out of the country for two months commencing 2nd October 2015.

Proposed: Cllr. Willmott seconded: Cllr Bridges. Carried unanimously

It was resolved that Cllr. Hemus will be the Reporting Councillor for the Planning Working party.

Matters arising from previous meetings and new matters for consideration

- | | |
|--------|--|
| 15/016 | To consider moving the Town Boundary signs to new positions. Awaiting the attention of the Parish Clerk when she takes up her post. |
| 15/017 | To report on response from SDC regarding Town Status. Deferred until the parish clerk arrives. It was confirmed that there was a question in the Neighbourhood Plan survey. |
| 15/030 | To consider a maintenance programme for all the overgrown trees shrubs and borders, etc. Proposed Cllr. Crathorne Seconded Cllr. Garner it carried with one Cllr. against. It was resolved that the report be received and attached to the minutes and funds be made available up to a maximum of £500 for expert advice in preparation of the planning application for the management of trees requiring attention. |
| 15/041 | To consider the community grants programme. Deferred to next meeting |
| 15/042 | To report on potential options for parish office location. A brief report was given by the Chairman outlining the best option open was The Heritage Centre with the Clerk having agreed to work from home. |
| 15/046 | To consider a market stall for local fundraising groups. This item was deferred pending the outcome of plans to hold a market at the Black Swan |
| 15/047 | To report on the appointment of a new Parish Clerk and RFO. Proposed: Cllr. Willmott, seconded Cllr Garner. Carried unanimously. It was resolved that the appointment of Gill Bailey as the Parish Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer for the council be confirmed with the date of commencement 1 st October 2015. The Acting Reporting Finance |

Officer was asked to liaise with the Personnel Committee to complete the contractual arrangements and Delegated Powers as set out in the attached document should be conferred on the new clerk and the Standing Orders presently under review should be amended accordingly.

- 15/048 To consider rental agreement with the Heritage Centre.
Proposed Cllr. Crathorne, seconded Cllr. Willmott. Carried unanimously.
It was resolved that the offer of the use of the Heritage Centre for Mondays should be accepted with thanks and the rental agreement with the Heritage Centre as set out in the document attached to these minutes be approved.
- 15/049 To consider the report on insurance by Cllr. P Crathorne. Mention Proposed Cllr Melhuish Seconder None Resolution falls.
It is resolved that parish council's insurance should be renewed by obtaining a number of quotations to discover whether a reduction in the cost of the premium could be found.
Proposed Cllr. Crathorne Seconded Cllr. Cornford 7 in favour 1 against
It was resolved that the parish council's insurance should be renewed with Came and Co at a cost of £1,910.96
- 15/050 To consider the closure of Warwickshire College.
Warwickshire College intend to close in July 2016. There will be an exhibition of possible plans on the 28th September 2015 at the College.
All residents to be encouraged to attend.

Reports from Councillors – exchange of information only. None.

Items for private session Proposed Cllr. Willmott Seconded Cllr. Garner Passed unanimously
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.*

There needs to be a resolution at the meeting for items to be discussed in private session.

To confirm the date and time of the next meeting

Cllr. Crathorne asked that the council should investigate a venue with access to WiFi so that members of the public could use their laptops and tablets to follow more effectively the agenda, minute and reports. The Clerk would be asked to look into this after her appointment.

Next meeting is scheduled for Monday 19th October 2015 – commencing 7.15 pm.

Signed as a correct record.

Date 19th October 2015