



Chairman – Mr F Smethers

Clerk – Mrs S Willis

www.harpole-pc.gov.uk

E-mail: clerk@harpole-pc.gov.uk

Minutes of the Planning, Highways and Infrastructure Committee meeting held on 25th September 2023, in the Old School Hall at 7.00pm.

Present – Cllrs J Gibbins (Chair), K Gardner, F Smethers, C Wilkinson, N Bess

Also present – S Willis (Clerk) and 1 Member of the public

Meeting Start: 7pm

145/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

No apologies were received.

146/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.

Cllr Gibbins declared an interest in item 154/23 as someone who may be interested in applying for the position.

Cllr Wilkinson declared an interest in item 157/23 as a member of the PCC

147/23 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No comments from the public

148/23 MINUTES

Councillors **APPROVED** the minutes of Planning, Highways & Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on 31st July 2023

149/23 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

No planning applications to discuss.

150/23 STREETLIGHTING

Post for light on High Street near Larkhall Lane has been installed. Clerk awaiting date from National Grid for date for power installation.

Light 85 still on all day, clerk to chase.

There was a light on The Bull which was removed as part of the development. Developer had suggested that this would be put back or new post added depending on new residents. It is thought that this is now occupied. Clerk to contact developer.

It was thought that some of the lights along Larkhall Lane by the allotments are being obscured by trees. Cllr Wilkinson to investigate and advise.

There are currently no plans for extra lighting but this will be under review and more could be added if it is felt it is needed.

151/23 HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

Cllr Madle has been charging batteries and replacing them as needed. He is happy to continue doing this.

It was noted that the Bridleway is now temporarily closed due to construction works. Council to monitor to ensure it does reopen.

Still an issue with HGVs in village as signage is not clear until turning in. Highways had said they would look at this. Clerk to chase.

We asked for better signage for footpath K9 over the A4500, Highways looking at doing this and getting a licence for extra signage.

Dual carriageway into town is now open. It was noted that the works on A4500 has cost the residents of the village due to extra time taken to get into Northampton.

Alleyways have been cleared.

Email had been received advising of speeding cars and minor collision (other vehicle did not stop) on Road Hill. Discussion about whether the council want to push for resurfacing of the road. More need to be known about potential roundabout at the top of Road Hill and if there will be any traffic calming as part of this.

152/23 ALLOTMENTS

- a) Councillors **AGREED** to purchasing the Rialtas extension for allotments to give better administration of the site
- b) Only 1 quote had been received for new pedestrian gate. Clerk to approach more companies for a quote.
- c) Resident has asked to replace hedge with fence at the rear of their garden which bordered the allotments. There had been a precedent set with a neighbouring property. It was **AGREED** that the work could take place but the council would like to meet on site to discuss details.
- d) New plot holder at the allotment had asked if he could move a shed on a vacant plot that had been left by a previous plot holder. Previous plot holder had been asked to remove the shed when leaving the site. It was **AGREED** that the shed could be moved and that the plot holder may wish to consider a donation to the allotment association.

Clerk asked for confirmation about process for plot holders who wished to take a plot on part way through the year. Fee to be full fee or half fee depending on time of year.

Plot holder had been chasing clearing of vacant plot next to them. Council need to consider a policy on how to manage vacant plots.

153/23 STREET FURNITURE

- a) Resident had contacted council to say thank you about cleaning up the benches on flagpole Green, but when considering new benches could the council consider higher benches or benches with arms for those that struggle to get up from a bench. This was noted.
- b) Village sign on Northampton Road is in need of some care. Cllr Gibbins to take a look to see if this can be repaired or needs replacing.
- c) There are 2 boards with village maps in the village which are looking old and out of date. It was agreed to look into updating and ideas to be brought to next meeting.

154/23 VILLAGE MAINTENANCE PERSON

Draft of potential specification was tabled. There was a query about adding works needed at the allotments and it was agreed that there needs to be an allotment management policy first. It was **AGREED** to recommend specification to Strategy, Finance and Policy Committee with some minor amendments.

155/23 COMMUNITY EVENTS

- a) It is the 80th Anniversary of D Day in 2024. There is a national event in June with parishes encouraged to mark the occasion. Communications asking for ideas was put on the website and on Facebook but no response. To be added to next newsletter

156/23 TREES

- a) Despite chasing other suppliers only 1 tree surgeon had responded with a quote for works. After discussion it was **AGREED** to ask contractor to do this work. It was also **AGREED** that the survey of the sycamore with fungus on flagpole green takes place. Once works are completed another survey will be commissioned.
- b) Communication received from a group that wishes to help Parish Councils plant more trees. At this time there is nowhere that the council could plant trees, but this may change as open space is passed on from the developments.

157/23 PARISH CLOCK

In the past the council had approved refurbishment of the church clock but the project had been paused. The church have asked about this. Clerk to ask for requote and to find out what is needed from the Diocese of Peterborough in terms of permission.

158/23 DEFIBRILLATOR

It was raised at the village meeting that there may be a need for another defibrillator to cover Sandy Lane / South View. It was queried if there is a defibrillator at the Football Club, but if there is it was thought that this would be locked away unless there is training or a match. It was thought that Manning House may be a good location. We may also need to consider more as the housing developments are built.

159/23 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

Lighting from the Tennis Courts is very bright and can be distracting on the road. Is there anything that can be done?

Meeting closed 9.10pm

DATE OF NEXT MEETING.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday 30th October 2023 at 7pm

Signed

Date