

## HARVINGTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

### Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 25<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at 6.00 pm in Harvington Village Hall, Harvington.

**Present:** Cllr. Mr. Salter (Chair of the Parish Council), Mrs. N. Holland (Clerk), Mr. Mike Barbour (Community Support Group), Mr. Alan Williams (Tree Warden), Mr. Redman (Village Hall Committee) and 6 members of the public.

**1. Welcome:** Apologies received: Dist. Cllr. Mr. Thomas, Ms. Smith, Mr. Colebrook and Mr. Muir.

**2. Minutes of the meeting 27.04.23.** Proposed by Mr. Langley, seconded by Mrs. Allison and **resolved** that the minutes were of a correct record, duly signed by the Chairman.

**3. Report from the Chairman of the Parish Council:**

After last year's Annual Parish Meeting the Parish Council was dissolved awaiting re-election, we unfortunately said goodbye to the outgoing chair, Councillor Davies and Councillor Langley. 7 candidates stood for election, as this did not meet the full number of 9 councillors required for Harvington all were duly elected unopposed. The other two members were co-opted at the June meeting. This year your councillors have continued to attend many training sessions including new councillor training, planning and finance courses.

May I take this opportunity to thank all of the councillors for their time and efforts they have voluntarily given over the past 12 months, also the Council thanks and gratitude go to our Clerk, Nicky Holland, for keeping the wheels turning behind the scenes and keeping us all up to date on the many topics we consider.

We as a Parish Council try to act as quickly and responsibly as possible to reports and concerns raised by members of this Parish but however our hands are somewhat tied as we are dependent on County and District Councils, Highways, Rooftop Housing Association to find the time and funds to complete the requests.

The Parish Council work hard on your behalf to ensure that the Village is as safe and as welcoming it can be.

To mention a few: the emptying of litter and dog waste bins, amenity mowing, streetlighting, weekly inspections of the playing field, community orchard and defibrillator, employing the Village Lengthsman to conduct various tasks around the village including flood alleviation work. The Planters at the entrances to the village and the Christmas tree at the crossroads.

The renovation to the old BT kiosk has now been completed with the book exchange and information centre being well received and used by members of the Parish.

There are many ongoing items regularly appearing on the agendas including the neighbourhood plan, which the public consultation has now been completed, and is in the process of being finalised before sending to Wychavon District Council for approval.

The Two Shires Greenway, a cycle route connecting many villages including Harvington to Stratford and the Valley Country Park.

The bus shelter opposite the Golden Cross is still outstanding awaiting the county wide bus review.

We have a working group, including a member of the youth group, looking into replacing and improving the playing field. We are looking into the possibility of additional funding to help improve the facilities.

We have continued to support the organisations in the Village through our grant applications and have given monies to the following in the last 12 months totalling £2840.00: Harvington Festival, Harvington Cricket Club, The Brownies and the Church Fete.

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I would like to take this opportunity to thank District Councillor Bradley Thomas who attends our meetings and takes our concerns and issues to Wychavon on our behalf.  
Also, to Mike Barbour for doing an outstanding job at editing our Village Newsletter and the team of volunteers who deliver the newsletter.  
Finally, at our last meeting PC Martin Kennedy attended who gave a report on crime in the area the figures can be seen on the minutes for that meeting.  
He encourages all villagers to sign up to use Neighbourhood Matters.  
The police engagement van will be at the Village Hall on Saturday 04<sup>th</sup> May at 13:30.

**4. To receive the following reports from:**

**a) County and District Councillor:** Nil received.

**b) Village Hall Committee:** Mr. Redman reported that it has been an eventful year. Work has been carried out in the Village Hall: Flooring replaced during the summer with ventilation underneath. Mr. Haynes is monitoring the temperature in the Hall via installed computer. A machine now monitors the temperature and turns the pumps on/off according to the temperature of the room.

**c) Parish Paths Warden: Written report received :** The current footpath issues of note are:

a) Footpath 507(b) through the Lioncourt development reopened.

b) 500(c) at Harvington Hill Farm which has historically had a reasonable diversion has had the diversion ploughed over and County Council Officers are investigating.

c) A tree fell over 526(c) at Harvington Lock Caravan Park, again the County Council were informed and action was anticipated,

d) The bridge over 528(c), near Harvington Meadow Bungalow, was washed off the route in the winter floods. County Council were informed and were contacting the landowner.

I have tried to keep on top of strimming 522(b) along the side of the churchyard over the summer months but it grows very quickly in this warm wet weather.

**d) Tree Warden:** Mr. Williams reported the following: Most of my activities since May last year have involved TLC pruning of epicormic growth and the lifting of the crowns of young trees as they grow in order to give a clear bole of 2.5 to 3m. This has mainly involved most of the Limes and Poplars, plus some of the Oaks and Hornbeams along Evesham Road, Alcester Road, Village Street, part of Leys Road as well as the top and bottom of Crest Hill/ Old Bypass.

A number of the Oak trees along Evesham Road and some along Alcester Road are now mature enough not to require much more crown lifting and their epicormic growth is slowing. However, there are still some younger oaks along Alcester Road needing attention.

Two Hungarian Oaks were planted on Alcester Road in 2009. One tree has grown well but the other quite slowly. Unfortunately, this latter tree was damaged and cut off at grass level in March 2023 possibly by a mower or hedge trimming machine. In June, I noticed the short stump of this tree was throwing up new shoots and so made a guard to protect and encourage one of these shoots to grow straight and true. Hopefully, this tree might be allowed to have another go! Because of the hot summer, I had to water this tree and the newly planted oak along Evesham Road, opposite Ellenden, on at least a weekly basis.

In early June, the previous Tree Warden and his elder daughter came to Harvington to photograph the trees in the Village. Following this day of photography, they have produced a small book with short anecdotes about the village trees with some before and after photos.

In April 2024, Mr Andy Pedrick and I looked at all the fruit trees in the Jubilee Orchard and carried out some pruning activities mainly to the plum and pear trees to give them a more open shape and remove any dead and diseased branches. It was a very useful retraining

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	<p>experience for me. Since there was a lot of blossom and potential fruit on the apple and cherry trees we will be returning to shape these in late Autumn.</p> <p>I will report on the health of the Sycamore tree opposite the Village Hall and that of the Lime tree at Grange Lane later in the year when they are in leaf.</p>
<b>5.</b>	<p><b><u>To receive the following presentations:</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Community Support Group (formerly the Pastoral Group):</u></b> Mr. Barbour reported the following on behalf of the Group: The Group was originally initiated by Sheila Harris and is overseen by the Rector and currently coordinated by Wendy and Conrad Monks. The purpose of the Group is to provide low-key practical and emotional support to residents of the Village, or to provide advice about how to access help for more complex needs. During 2023 they have had 64 individual requests for help, getting on for twice as many as the previous year. Clearly the service is better known in the Village, which is gratifying, but it does mean that our volunteers are busier, and we could do with more help. Most of the people who contact us are elderly, and some very frail. The kind of help required is often transport and assistance to attend appointments, shopping, sitting with someone whilst a carer goes out, helping with computer problems, pets, gardening, DIY etc. The work they do is much appreciated by Villagers but extra help is needed. The 'Welcome to Harvington Booklet' is due to be circulated with the Newsletter. Thanks go to Mike Barbour for his help with the booklet and to the Parish Council for funding the production of the updated booklet.</p> <p>It is a service appreciated by all parishioners and the Chairman wished to thank Wendy and Konrad Monks for all the work they and the volunteers do, which is appreciated by all the villagers. Anyone that would like to help please contact Wendy or Konrad.</p>
<b>6.</b>	<p><b><u>Matters raised by Parishioners: Parking outside the School:</u></b> Still causing an issue at opening/closing times as parents drop off and pick up. Drivers parking on the grass opposite the Village Hall and outside the School. Council to discuss the issue again at the May meeting.</p>
<p><b>Meeting closed at 6.35pm.</b></p>	

**Signed by the Chairman of the Parish Council, Mr. Salter.**

**Dated: 24<sup>th</sup> April 2025.**