

# Harvington Parish Council

## Finance and General Purposes Group Notes.

**Members:** - Cllrs. Dr. Davies, Mrs. Allison, Mr. Langley and Mr. Colebrook.

**Virtual Meeting:** June 21st 2022 at 5pm via Zoom.

1. **Apologies:** Nil.

### 2. **Review of Policies:**

- a) **Filming:** Reviewed with no changes.
- b) **Complaints:** Reviewed with changes noted in red.

3. **Co-Option Procedure:** Policy discussed and approved. Query rose as to whether Council could close meeting to discuss candidates prior to decision made. Clerk to inquire with CALC. Response received:

Decisions made by a local council about whether or not to co-opt when vacancies remain unfilled after an ordinary election and who to co-opt when any casual vacancy arises should be transparent.

In NALC's view it would be difficult for a local council to argue that there are special reasons which justify excluding the public during a council meeting when it is making decisions about a matter of public interest such as co-option.

Decisions about co-option which are made at council meetings when the public have been excluded will not eliminate the need for a council to explain, for example to unsuccessful candidates, the reasons for its decisions.

4. **Bridge replacement Orchard:** Following site visit by Cllrs held on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> June it was agreed to ask Limebridge to provide a quote to remove the trip hazards in the area where the bridge was sited; dig out the gravel and put down grass seed. Limebridge contacted for quote, met onsite on 14.06.22 to look at the issue.

### **Agenda item July:**

Council to consider the following options:

- a) **Do nothing:** Stop mowing the path through the area and allow it to blend into the area. Make the area safe i.e. fill in trip hazards.
- b) **Replace with Bridge** requiring approx 8 metre width span - approximate cost of £5,000 which is an expense that the F&GP Group felt cannot be justified.
- c) **Contractor** suggested that the present surface be slightly raised with the same type of stone surface to the levels either ends of the path with installation of drainage pipes. This will suit all types of path users. Cost undetermined at present, but is likely to be cheaper than a bridge.

**Cllr. Mr. Colebrook to report on the following:**

- a) **Part of a tree near the swings** has been eaten by a muntjac. Suggested that a guard is put around the tree to protect.
- b) **Pedestrian Notice board** - water seeping in.

### 5. **Correspondence received:**

*I would like to reiterate my plea from last year for the parish council to reconsider their mowing regime for the village.*

*As requested the verge in Church Street is left un-mown and now contains 29 different species of plant, thus attracting bees and butterflies.*

*Travelling round the country you may have noticed that many authorities are now leaving areas of unmown grass.*

*During the last 20 years we have lost many species of birds, butterflies insects and bees because of loss of habitat and chemicals used in farming.*

*We need to do something to help the planet....and it begins at home, here in Harvington. During my time in this village I have seen loss of hedgerows, wild spaces, ancient orchards and trees. We have now designated an area of the churchyard for wildlife. Consider carefully whether you are spending our money wisely in having every piece of grass mown regularly like a lawn! Do we really want an urban environment?*

*I will contact you every year until you see the light!!*

Clerk to respond with the following reply:

The Council is aware of wilding but do have concerns over rubbish and dog fouling being disposed off in areas that are overgrown. They will consider each location where the grass is mown for safety issues i.e. areas at junctions inside the Parish boundary.

**6. New Housing Enabler:** working within the Housing Service across Wychavon and Malvern Hills, will be attending the July meeting to give a short presentation: Part of my role is to promote the importance of affordable housing in rural communities and support communities to delivery Community Led Housing schemes.

I'd welcome the opportunity to have a chat about my role and rural affordable housing.

**Kate Stevenson-Pugh, Rural Housing Enabler.**

An email will be sent to all of her presentation the week before the meeting.

### **7. Vehicle Activated Sign:**

a) Update on reported damage to the VAS sign, Evesham Road: Contractor visited the site and took the battery back to the depot for further investigation as it was totally flat. Clerk has requested an update.

b) Email received from SWARCO:*The warranty on your SWARCO signs expires 13/07/2022.*

*After that date, all faults and spares are chargeable.*

*I have attached our Silver and Gold Maintenance Contract offers for period 14/07/2022 to 13/07/2023.*

As this has to be responded to prior to the Council July meeting an urgent decision was made by the Chairman, Vice-Chair and the Clerk to take out the Gold Maintenance Contract for a period of one year for both machines at a cost of £499.55.

**8. Agenda papers/notes for meeting:** Following a query as to reason why reports are not on the website with the Agenda it was agreed that this would be done in the future.

### **9. A.O.B.**

a) Post for Orchard: Clerk to ask Contractor to contact Cllr. Mr. Langley to collect the post and confirm position site at the Orchard.

b) Jubilee Tree plaque delivered.

c) Removal of dog waste bin opposite Golden Cross PH due to housing development works. Resident is requesting if a temporary dog waste bin could be placed in close proximity to the housing site. Members felt that there were both litter/dog bins close to the site that could be used as a temporary measure i.e. Leys Road, corner of The Rowans and Alcester Road, entrance to a footpath adjacent to the Barn close to the VAS sign.