

**Harvington Parish Council**  
**July 22 Meeting Notes.**

**FYI:**

**Highways /ROW:**

- 1. Steps up to the Anchor Lane bypass bridge: and a small section of path leading to the steps starting from where 524 joins the old bypass, were made but never adopted. It is believed this was an oversight when the new bypass was built. Reported to the Highway searches team. WCC has inspected the site and have raised a talking point to find the ownership of the steps.**
- 2. Overgrown Shrubbery issue at Stratford Road: Reported and assessment of bank area. Local Works Team have now been advised that the landslip needs to be cleared back from the footway.**

**CALC Membership.**

Clerk will issue username and password to each individual Councillor.

Once password etc is given out it will be up to each individual Cllr to access the site and update themselves in regard to training etc especially in regard to Parish Council policies. Training that you wish to do please notify the Clerk who will book the training on your behalf.

**Councillor Training Session:**

**Note 1: Agenda No: 5b**

**Councillors:**

Management, Meetings and Money. 18th July – 6.30pm via Zoom.

**Councillor Reports:**

**Note 2: Agenda No: 8.1**

**HEART OF ENGLAND FOREST EVENT**

Tuesday 28th July 2022 6pm-8pm

Attended by: Cllrs John Langley and Gillian Smith

The event was aimed at Parish and Town Councils with a view to sharing ideas and forming working relationships. The event was well attended and initially Beth Brook, the director shared the history and vision of the Heart of England Charitable Trust and what they had achieved so far. This was followed by a brief introduction to the team.

We then set off for a walk around the forest which consisted of a variety of habitats with heath land, newly planted and mature woodland and open rides and a superb view of Coughton Court. We were able to talk to members of the Heart of England team about events, education and volunteering. It was also good to meet and talk to other councillors from the area, who attended the event.

The Forest stretches from the present-day borders of Shakespeare's Forest of Arden, across the ancient Forest of Feckenham, and down to the edge of the Vale of Evesham – the north Cotswolds to south Birmingham, and covers a mosaic of habitats across 7,000 acres of land in Warwickshire and Worcestershire, including 4,450 acres of new woodland and 600 acres of mature and ancient woodland.

At just 23% of the way towards their 30,000-acre goal, the Heart of England Forest is already the largest new native broadleaf woodland in England. The Charity establishes and grows the Forest on land purchased to ensure it is safe and protected for hundreds of years to come.

Heart of England Forest volunteers has just been awarded The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. This is the highest award a local voluntary group can receive in the UK and is equivalent to an MBE.

The main objective of the event was to establish links with local PC's and John Langley and I suggested we could publicise some of their events in our village magazine. It was an

interesting evening and would recommend other councillors attend future events, which they hope to run through the different seasons.

Further information can be found on their website <https://heartofenglandforest.org/about-us>

John Langley

Gillian Smith

### **Note 3: Agenda No: 8.2**

#### **CYCLEWAY REPORT JULY 2022**

I can report that the Community Legacy Grant has now been submitted by Harvington Parish Council and a decision will be made at the end of July.

On Friday 24th June the AAGP met with County Councillor Laura Gretton and Rachel McLean MP for Redditch. We were able to put across the project to Rachel and especially the Harvington link which may well become her territory under the boundary changes next year. She has promised to promote the AAGP with Mike Rouse who is the MP responsible for Highways who she was meeting immediately after seeing us. Laura has agreed to follow this up and set up a meeting with Mike Rouse in the very near future as he will be a focus for driving things forward in the country. She was very supportive of the project and the Harvington link to Evesham.

I wish to put forward the idea that HPC set up a group similar to the one used when we were doing the NDP. This way the council would be in control of the finances without having to deal with the details involved in Council meetings. If the CLG is successful, the group would need to start meeting in August to oversee the project and report back to the council in September. This group would need two councillors to operate. This will need further discussion during the July PC meeting.

Gillian Smith

#### **VAS Update.**

##### **Note 4: Agenda No: 9.1b**

Swarco maintenance department collected the battery and took back to depot. Engineer reported: *Speed sign requires new battery. Tested with external battery from van and sign works correctly when connected.*

*Current battery in sign reads 5.07v on multimeter; this is too low for the solar controller to charge or for the sign to work.*

Batteries are not covered under warranty.

Urgent decision taken to order a new battery.

1 x SAP4571 12V-22AH battery Pack = £57

Delivery = £15

Total cost = £72 excluding VAT

#### **Options re Bridge, Orchard.**

##### **Note 5: Agenda No: 9.1c**

Cllr. Langley has been in contact with 3 specialist bridge building suppliers who are not prepared to quote without a site meeting (cost involved because of travel) but did give a ballpark cost as follows.

All costs based on the following. 8m span x 1.5m wide with handrail treated 10 year free maintenance- footbridge **supply only**, with extras.

Bearing in mind cost of time has shot up considerably in the last 12 months.

1. Garden [Bridge.co.uk](http://Bridge.co.uk) (Manchester based)

£5,000 to £6,000 PLUS DELIVERY + INSTALLATION.

Alternatively - kit form you assemble on site £5,000 to 6,000.

2. The wooden bridge company.  
£5,000 plus extras, painting, fitting, checking foundation suitability.
3. Footbridge.[co.uk](http://co.uk). awaiting feedback

### **Streetlights.**

#### **Note5: Agenda No: 10.a**

**Email received from resident:** I'm writing in response to the report in the July 2022 Harvington Village Parish Council newsletter on the agenda item about LED street lights. I see it was resolved to convert the remaining 17 street lights to LEDs which are more energy efficient. I wanted to let you know that I am currently in discussion with Worcestershire County Council about the street light outside 1 Finch Lane (street light number 2) which was recently converted to LED. The light is extremely bright and shines straight into one of the bedrooms of our house in Finch Lane. It seems to shine upwards too much and our neighbours are in agreement that it causes unnecessary light pollution, particularly as it is on all night, which must be damaging to wildlife as well as humans.

I first contacted Wychavon District Council, who explained that it was the County Council which is responsible for street lighting. For this reason I was surprised to see the Parish Council discussing the matter and making decisions. I would be grateful if you could explain the roles and responsibilities of the various bodies.

My request to the County Council is that they fit a shade to reduce light pollution from the street light, as they have said that they sometimes do. I would like to suggest that the Parish Council should also adopt this measure.

I will also be asking that the lights do not stay on all night, and again this is something for the Parish Council to consider.

**Clerk replied:** In Harvington there are 24 lights owned by Worcestershire County Council, WCC, and others that are owned by the Parish Council.

The 3 lights in Finch Lane are owned by WCC.

The Parish Council took over the responsibility of 39 other streetlights in the Parish for which WCC maintains them on behalf of the PC. That involves their contractor carrying out regular inspections for which the PC are invoiced for repairs/replacements and checks.

I will put your request on the July agenda for the PC to consider light pollution and with regards to turning off the lights at night.

Anything approved by the PC in that matter will then have to be discussed with WCC.