

HARVINGTON PARISH COUNCIL.

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held in Harvington Village Hall on Wednesday March 13th, 2024 at 7.45 pm.

Present:	Cllrs. Mr. Salter, Chair, Mrs. Allison, Mr. Baugh, Mr. Redman, Mr. Hurdman, Mrs. Ball Mr. Jones and Mr. Colebrook. In attendance: Mr. Barbour (Newsletter Editor, Mr. Muir, Harvington Neighbourhood Plan Group Representative, 3 parishioners and Clerk, Mrs. Holland.
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101.	Apologies and reason for non-attendance: Cllr. Ms. Smith (reason accepted by Council), District Cllr. Mr. Thomas and Evesham SNT Town South and Rural West Team.
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102.	Interests/Dispensations: Nil declared.
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103.	<p>County Cllr ;Dist. Cllr. and Police reports: District Cllr. Mr. Bradley submitted the following report:</p> <p>Council tax - Wychavon has increased its council tax for the first time in 6 years. We have increased the precept by £5 per year. It remains the 3rd lowest in the country and the lowest in Worcestershire.</p> <p>Application 23/02501 – I Have been in regular contact with the planning officer over this and whilst she is still determining her recommended decision, I am pushing for a refusal in line with the parish council’s objections. I have asked that in the event of a recommendation to approve that this goes to public planning committee.</p> <p>New promises from Wychavon:</p> <p>People: Vision: Providing opportunities for everyone, raising young people’s aspirations and helping people to live healthier lives.</p> <p>Our People promises are:</p> <p>Support the development of the existing health and wellbeing hubs and introduce tailored health and wellbeing support in at least ten villages by 31 March 2028. Train people in communities and workplaces to champion health and wellbeing and signpost to appropriate support by 31 March 2026. Raise awareness of the impacts of vaping among young people and work with Trading Standards to target underage vape sales by 31 March 2025. Deliver support, information and advice for families to give children the best start in life and education by 31 March 2026. Work with schools and early years providers to deliver programmes so more free school meal eligible children reach a good level of development by 31 March 2028. Identify households at risk of hardship and provide preventative advice and support by 31 March 2028. Identify the need for community-led rural transport projects and use this to target our Ticket to Ride fund by 31 March 2028. Develop five new community youth projects in rural areas by 31 March 2028. Extend our social mobility small grants scheme to increase activities and opportunities for more young people by 31 March 2027.</p> <p>Place: Vision: Helping everyone to access a good place to live, supporting businesses to thrive and creating vibrant and accessible places.</p> <p>Our Place promises are:</p> <p>Promote the benefits of and provide support to significantly increase the coverage of</p>
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neighbourhood plans to help shape the future development of local communities by 31 March 2028.

Use neighbourhood plans and the South Worcestershire Development Plan to increase the amount and quality of affordable housing to meet local needs and build 12 new homes for rent by 31 March 2028.

Identify empty homes and develop options for bringing them back into use by 31 March 2025.

Create at least 15 temporary housing places to reduce the number of homeless people in B&Bs by 31 March 2028.

Create a new housing facility in the north of the district to provide support to homeless young people so they can move on to independent homes by 31 March 2028.

Invest in the development of small business units in at least two locations across the district by 31 March 2028.

Bring together hospitality and tourism businesses from across Wychavon by 31 March 2025 to develop ways to increase visitor numbers and overnight stays.

Raise career aspirations for adults and young people including creating school-business partnerships to connect people with local employers and training opportunities by 31 March 2028.

Drive investment in the key sites identified in the town centre prospectuses including the Riverside Centre in Evesham, Droitwich Spa lido and reconnecting Pershore with the riverside by 31 March 2028.

Work with our Place Boards to help our town centres reach their potential as accessible destinations offering essential services, diverse shops and vibrant leisure experiences by 31 March 2028.

Environment: Vision: Boosting our natural environment, cutting carbon emissions and building resilience to climate change.

Our Environment promises are:

Run a four-year engagement and information campaign to support residents to enhance biodiversity, respond to climate change and minimise waste by 31 March 2028.

Restore and improve 28 hectares of priority habitats at Fish Hill, Broadway including semi-natural woodland and culturally significant landscapes by 31 March 2028.

Increase biodiversity and natural assets in our parks and green spaces and increase their resilience to climate change while retaining their value for users by 31 March 2028.

Continue to deliver actions in our Intelligently Green Plan to reduce our carbon footprint including significantly cutting emissions from our leisure centres by 31 March 2028.

Develop and start to deliver an adaptation plan to make our services more resilient to the impacts of climate change by 31 March 2028.

Support small businesses to access training, receive specialist support or grant funding to respond to climate change by 31 March 2028.

Support communities to develop local plans to increase resilience to the impacts of climate change and prepare for emergencies by 31 March 2028.

Pilot new bike hire schemes at Droitwich, Evesham and Pershore railway stations by 31 March 2026.

Lead the creation of a health corridor for cycling, walking and wildlife following the

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route of the canal and river from Droitwich to Churchfields by 31 March 2028.
Work with partners to develop a plan for reducing traffic congestion in Evesham and deliver a new cycling and walking route between the town centre and the surrounding areas by 31 March 2028.

Public Question Time: Nil.

104. Harvington Neighbourhood Plan Review: Presentation on the reason/justification for the review and changes proposed. Mr. Muir, Member of the Harvington Neighbourhood Plan Review Group reported the following: He is working on the review with the Group through the Regulation 14 consultation. 29 responses received so far through the QR code. Consultation response is also via by email to the Council and posting the forms in various boxes around the Village. Hopefully the Plan will be able to move forward without a referendum. Another review will be undertaken when the South Worcestershire Development Plan has been adopted.

105. Minutes: Proposed by Cllr. Mr. Colebrook, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Allison and **resolved** by all those present that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 14.02.24 be adopted. Duly signed by the Chair.

106. Clerk report:

- a) Report on lorries attending site along Leys Road that are coming off the land after emptying contents reported to the Enforcement Officer. He has advised that the Council also contact the Environment Agency and the Development Control Team at Worcestershire County Council.
- b) Village Diary: Newsletter Editor has offered to ask organisations for dates of all events planned in the Village to be sent to him so there he can advise there is no clash of dates.
- c) Report on changes to submitting Lenghtsman Invoices to Worcestershire CC: Clerk attended a one to one event at Evesham Library: From Monday 8th April 2024, the Clerk will be able to access the Parish Lengthsman dashboard online. Parish Clerks will be able to submit invoices which will then be approved or rejected by the Team with any comments. Clerks will be able to keep track of invoices submitted and monitor their grant balance.
- d) Request in regard to clearance of pavement bottom of the Evesham Road reported to Highways who have already raised a section, near to The Orchard, for siding out works. A notice will be raised for a further request for the long section round the bend when Officers return from leave.

107. Cllr's report:

a) Harvington Neighbourhood Plan Working Group: Cllr. Ms. Smith submitted the following report: The Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) has now undergone a review by the Group and two sections have had additions made i.e. Section IH2 Housing mix and T2 Provision for cycle ways. The introduction has also been amended to indicate the plan period and revisions. The consultation 14 version of the NDP has been put onto the Parish Council website for public viewing. The Group have put the following procedures in place for consultation 14 purposes.

- i) Consultation letter and survey form has been produced and delivered with the Village Newsletter.

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ii) Hard copies of the NDP have been placed in the BT Kiosk, Ellenden Farm Shop and St James Church.

iii) A clear link has been put on the first page of the Parish Council website that links directly to the revised NDP.

iv) Boxes have been placed in the Shop Leys Rd, Ellenden Farm Shop and St. James Church to collect the returned survey forms.

v) A QR code allows people to complete the survey online.

vi) A public presentation to be given at the March Parish Council meeting.

vii) Posts on the Village Facebook pages with QR code have been done.

The consultation 14 period started on 1st March 2024 and ends on the 16th April to fulfil the six weeks consultation period required.

The Group will review comments and make appropriate responses. They will collate all the documents needed and forward to Planning Officers at Wychavon District Council to start the Regulation 16 consultation and will continue to update the Parish Council with ongoing progress.

b) Update Working Group Play area refurbishment: Cllr. Mr. Hurdman reported that the Group have met so far with 2 play companies. Requested that this is an agenda item for the next meeting.

c) Two Shires Greenway: Cllr. Ms. Smith submitted the following report: Last month I reported that Worcestershire County Council were unable to adopt the land between the A46 and the Evesham Road at this time. One main argument was that it did not lead to a local town and could not be classed as an active travel route. Since then Joe Harvey, (Chair of the Two Shires Greenway), and myself, (TSG and Harvington Parish Council representative), met with Chris Day (Leader of Wychavon District Council) and Sue Juned (Leader of Stratford upon Avon District Council) on Wednesday 21st February at Stratford Council Chambers. We discussed a way of working across the two Districts and working with the two County Councils. Both were enthusiastic and keen to get the route built. The advantage of this is that the route with Harvington will connect to Evesham and be classed as an active travel route. This will attract more serious funding from Government.

Meeting with Norton and Lenchwick PC: 7th March 2024: Cllr. Ms. Smith submitted the following report: I attended the meeting to update them on events of the last 6 months. I reported the following:

Brief overview of the route i.e. connecting Evesham to Alcester with a second route connecting Broom to the Bidford Health Centre and then onwards to Stratford. There are other routes being developed beyond Alcester connecting to Studley and Redditch. So this will be part of a large cycle network linking to other national cycle routes.

The issue of Worcestershire County Council minor projects leader not having the power to authorise this work which has set us back. The TSG are to have a joint meeting with Cllrs Mike Rouse, Worcestershire County Councillor, responsible for transport and Justin Kerridge, Warwickshire County Councillor, to get cross county partnerships.

Meeting with National Highways and an onsite visit looking at the route between the A46 and the Evesham Road.

Land can be owned by a Parish Council outside their area if it benefited the people living in the parish. The Chair, Sue Drayton was happy for Harvington Parish Council to take the lead. This will need further discussion and approval by both Parish

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Councils if this is deemed the appropriate way forward.

Finally, a promotional documentary film is being made to publicise the route and a link will be sent when ready. It is my intention to attend the quarterly meetings to update Norton & Lenchwick Parish Council of progress.

d) Quarterly Meeting of the Wychavon Area CALC Meeting: Cllr. Ms. Smith & Cllr. Mr. Jones submitted the following report:

a) My parish website to be discontinued as most Parish Council's now have their own websites.

b) **The CALC website** is to be revamped with a 'ticket' system for enquiries. Clarification on how this works to be given.

c) Parish Councils can now contribute to the church. This would be subject to the normal grant procedures i.e. providing accounts etc.

d) **Report from Police Commissioner:** Recorded' crime overall has reduced by 14%. Violent crime, domestic abuse and anti-social behaviour remain top of the chart for Worcestershire. There has been a 2% increase in 'positive outcomes' (sanctioned detections + community resolutions). Crime now has an online aspect and specialised officers are being recruited to deal with this issue.

There are specific initiatives in Evesham namely Youth Provision to promote community cohesion.

e) **Presentation on Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP)** production and review by Richard Cobb (Chartered Town Planner). Harvington Parish Council has already produced a NDP so much of the presentation confirmed what we have already done and achieved. The main take home points were:

a) **Consultation** – to ensure the village is on board with the plan and we are acting on the wishes of the village and guided by them.

b) Consult with the local planning authority at all stages – Wychavon District Council (WDC), are extremely helpful and supportive in this matter. 'Locality' (<https://locality.org.uk/neighbourhood-planning>) is also a reliable source of advice and help.

c) **Policy base** – The NDP should align with other planning documents like NPPF, SWDP and any other Design Codes and Guidelines. We have planning experts on our Working Group and WDC Planning Team will ensure this is the case.

The SWDP is still in examination and potentially could take over a year before it is a made plan. In the meantime, the 'Tilted Balance' may come into effect where the SWDP has not fulfilled its strategic 5-year housing supply. This may allow speculative development to be allowed, however previous decisions can be taken into account. Planning rules still apply to all applications. The NDP when updated (and currently) has to be taken into consideration e.g. the Development Boundary. There was a power point which contains more detail which will be circulated when received.

e) **Asset Inspection.** Cllr. Mr. Colebrook reported all satisfactory. Noted that the bin requested last September for the top of Shakespeare Lane has still not been installed.

108.

Finance & General Purposes Group: Notes circulated to members. The following were considered:

a) **Adding the BT Kiosk to the Insurance policy:** It was agreed to insure the Kiosk for £5,000.

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	<p>b) <u>Request for clearer signs on the Playing Field</u>: It was agreed that the entrance in the top left hand corner leading to what is known locally as the 'Dog Walking Field' be closed off with fencing and the sign be placed on the main entrance to the field. Clerk to ask contractor for a quote.</p> <p>c) <u>Proposed dates of Council Meetings for 2024-25</u> agreed as: APCM Wednesday 22nd May; June 12th, July 10th, September 11th, October 9th, November 13th, December 11th, January 15th 2025; February 12th and March 12th 2025.</p> <p>d) <u>Date agreed Annual Parish Meeting</u> to be held on 25th April 24 at 6pm in the Village Hall.</p> <p>e) <u>Following risk assessments reviewed and agreed</u>: Flood Alleviation Scheme; Mobile VAS sign Installation & Inspection; Risk Assessments Jubilee Orchard and Lengthsman Risk.</p>
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109.	<u>Financial Matters:</u>
109.1	<p>Resolved to approve the following:</p> <p>a) Schedule of payments and expenses.</p> <p>b) Summary of Accounts to 05.03.24.</p> <p>c) To vire from Contingency budget £102 to Assets JO £60 + Amenity Contract Playing Field £40 and £2 to maintenance of Playing Field; from Streetlights £700 + £300 from Defib budget to Salary.</p> <p>d) Transfer from Earmarked reserves the sum of £877.00 for replacement trees in the Orchard</p>
109.2	<p><u>Grant Application</u> towards the cost of closure of a road for the Fete discussed. It was proposed by Cllr. Mrs. Ball, seconded by Cllr. Mr. Colebrook and resolved by all to grant £100 for the cost of the closure.</p>
109.3	<p><u>Annual Zoom subscription</u>: No further subscription to be renewed.</p>

110.	<u>Council Matters:</u> <p>a) Harvington Neighbourhood Plan consultation document. The Council had no comment.</p> <p>b) Review of Harvington Parish Council Risk Assessment approved with no changes.</p>
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111.	<u>Planning Matters:</u> To consider a member of the Council speaking at the meeting on behalf of the Council in relation to W/23/02501/OUT - Land at (OS 0596 4892), Crest Hill, Harvington if deferred to Planning Committee for a decision. Cllr. Mr. Colebrook to attend.
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112.	<u>Confidential items:</u> Pursuant to section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 it is resolved that, because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and press leave during the consideration of the following items: <p>a) <u>Letter/response to Vincent-Gorbing</u>: Duly noted by all.</p> <p>b) <u>Salary Review</u>: A response to a report received from Worcestershire CALC was agreed.</p> <p>c) <u>Parish Lengthsman</u>: Annual review of salary and mileage costs discussed. It was agreed that more information was required on the mileage figures.</p>
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Meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

Signed by the Chairman:

Dated: April 10th 2024.

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Payments for authorisation - March 24

Ref:	Payee	Details	Net	VAT	TOTAL
	Clerk salary and expenses	March 24.	849.67	0.00	849.67
	HMRC	NI +Tax	228.93	0.00	228.93
	Limebridge Rural Services Ltd	Supply/Planting Fruit Trees/Plant 7 assorted trees.	877.00	137.00	1014.00
	Worcestershire CALC	Training Clerk - AGAR made easy	30.00	6.00	36.00
	Printright Ltd	Printing Newsletters + Flyers	361.69	15.49	377.18
	TOTAL		2347.29	158.49	2505.78
	Payments already paid on behalf of the Council				
P23-116	Orion Cleaning.	Bus Shelters.	50.00	0.00	50.00
P23-117	Worcestershire CALC	Salary Review.	50.00	10.00	60.00
P23-119	Giff Gaff	Monthly mobile sim	5.00	1.00	6.00
	TOTAL		105.00	11.00	116.00
	Receipts received.				
R23-16	Worcestershire County Council	Parish Lengthsman November 23	229.50	0.00	229.50
	Printright Invoices				
		Printing of HNP 2024 Books x 4	62.96	12.59	75.55
		Printing Harvington Newsletter + Flyer	298.73	2.90	301.63
			361.69	15.49	377.18