



# The Beaudesert & Henley-in-Arden Joint Parish Council

*Working for the Benefit of the Residents of Henley-in-Arden*

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IF ANYONE WOULD LIKE A HARD COPY OF THE AGENDA OR MINUTES FOLLOWING THE JPC MEETING AND DOESN'T HAVE ACCESS TO A COMPUTER, PLEASE CONTACT THE CLERK.

**The Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting of the Beaudesert and Henley-in-Arden Joint Parish Council that took place on Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at 7.00 pm in the Memorial Hall, Station Road, Henley-in-Arden.**

**Present: Cllrs. Roger Hubbocks (Chair), Chris Duffin (Vice-Chair), Elaine Field, Sally Harfield, Marijana Bainbridge, Jem Jones, Val Hubbocks, Angela Okey, Kate Easton and Tina Woods.**

In Attendance: 28 members of the public.

Photographing, reporting, recording, filming or transmitting the proceedings of a meeting may occur and therefore all persons participating in the meeting should be aware that such recording, reporting or filming may take place. Members of the public attending the meeting (but are not participating in the meeting) who do not wish to be filmed or photographed in the meeting must state this at the start of the meeting.

*The Chairman requests all mobile phones are switched to silent mode.*

## Public Participation Session

**The Chair opened the session saying that anyone attending in the public gallery may ask for the floor but that the matter of the HUB Grant application was still in abeyance and that information from the HUB had only reached the JPC on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> previously, and that the Grant Committee had not yet had time to consider the new proposals. He reiterated that at no point had the JPC said that no funding was available for the HUB. He invited the Parishioners to speak.**

Rachel Woodbridge, representing the HUB asked the Chair for the floor. She stated that the latest application was the same as their original bid and still contained a need for funding salaries of specialised staff who were part of core costs and were vital if practical guidance was to be given to the young on matters of sexual activity, use of condoms and other significant factors affecting their lives. She spoke further about a scheme under consideration by the HUB is summarised in the following notes since emailed to the JPC by Peter Crathorne –

*'The project referred to by Rachel is a Community Service, additional to everything else that is provided by the Hub at the moment. The application for a grant if it is successful will pay for extra hours worked by Rachel to firstly train then operate as a qualified energy use adviser. The Hub will then offer free advice to households who may be struggling to pay their energy bills or for those who believe they are paying excessive amounts for their electricity and gas. The project itself will not add anything to our core activities or costs but in expanding our service to the community the Hub will meet a need identified by research into Government and Local Authority statistics and discussion with the local population.*

*There are companies that undertake this, but the fees charged are significant as the training is expensive. The Hub would be giving this service free of charge, paid for by the grant. The amount has still to be finalised but is around £9,000 for a two-year project. This should pay for 120 consultations over the two years.'*  
**END OF STATEMENT.**

A Parishioner said that failure of funding would be detrimental to the HUB and was answered by the Chair who reiterated that NO DECISION had yet been reached.

Peter Crathorne, handed the Chair a bundle of petitions, copy emails and letters of support for their campaign to save the HUB. These were taken into safe keeping by the Clerk and will be filed in the JPC archive. Mr Crathorne then addressed the assembled. He kindly passed these notes for his presentation to the Clerk for inclusion in these minutes.

1. *'Mr Chairman and members of the parish council you have heard from a wide variety of residents, trustees and supporters of the Hub this evening, you will have received messages and letters that express support for the Hub and its activities.*

2. You have been presented with the petition with some 307 joint parish residents' signatures, 91 users and supporters have signed and 60 on line Change.org petitioners signatures, in total 458. (approximately 10% of the population of the joint parishes of 3155). Also, in the pack is a collection of letters, emails and messages asking for your review of the recommendations made to the council for the future funding of the Hub. I commend all of these to you for consideration.

Two things are clear

1. At least 10% of the residents have in some way or other asked for the council to reconsider, in my experience this is a good statistical result and counters effectively the assertion of the working party that the present funding arrangements of the Hub do not command the support of the residents that was presented to the council without any apparent evidence to show how this conclusion was reached.
2. The decision about the Hub is not about local politics, it's not about particular individuals on either side of the argument. It is concerned with the lives, welfare and happiness of a wide range of our fellow citizens. It is about ensuring that together as the joint parishes we ensure that the very best level of professional qualified and experienced support is given to the Mums and babies, to the young families, to the young people, to our senior citizens, to those excluded from the modern communications caused by a lack of IT skills, to the cause of eliminating loneliness, the vulnerable, in some cases the destitute. It is concerned with mental health of our neighbours and friends. That is why I stand this evening making one last plea for a review of the recommendations of the Working Party dealing with Grants.
3. Over the last month I believe that many people have made an excellent case for the continuation of funding at a level that sustains the services that are required. Much has been made of the council offering a chance for the Trust to reduce its level of funding by submitting another grant application. If the trust was to do this, it would be agreeing to a choice of which of our activities should close. The Trustees have therefore re submitted the same proposal.

The trust has mounted a campaign that focuses on preserving as much of the Hub activities as it can, using the professional trained and qualified staff continues to update their skills that almost alone in Warwickshire continues to give valued service to the town. This precious and invaluable team will be maintained whatever is decided by this council. From 2012 – 2016 the Hub survived with only a relatively very small grant from the council, if this council elected last May to carry the concerns, desires and welfare of the joint parishes decides that this responsibility is better carried out without supporting the Hub. Then the citizens of Henley and Beaudesert will have to wait until 2023 to express their long-held views supporting the Hub.

Finally Mr Chairman, I suspect that the level of support for the Hub amongst the councillors is only three, one of whom has been excluded, I know that despite all our collective best efforts there are probably nine (now eight) of you who will not change their minds.

I therefore make one earnest and desperate plea. Give the Trust more time, a sudden loss of £25,000 in income on April 1<sup>st</sup> presents an unbelievable change to the Trust and if the Trust cannot meet this enormous challenge, Henley will lose this provision for ever. Please sit down with us and negotiate a step-down funding arrangement so at least those of us who believe the Hub is worth saving get a glimmer of a chance to do so.

I accept but cannot understand your determination to condemn the Hub to closure. I am asking for a slightly better chance for the Hub to find a way of surviving without the partnership that has meant so much to so many people.

If by some miracle this council changes its mind, then it will be credited with the wisdom and foresight abandoned by almost every other town and village in South Warwickshire.

You will be contributing an essential ingredient to the reputation of our joint parishes of being a great and caring place to live.'

END OF STATEMENT

A parishioner asked if the funding for the scheme that the HUB might offer for residents *struggling to pay their energy bills* would have an impact on their requested funds from the JPC, no definitive reply was given. [See notes earlier in minutes]

A Parishioner spoke of the of the importance to the community of the HUB in terms of offsetting the anxiety suffered by people who were living isolated lives and would benefit from the professional advice on offer. That it was vital for determining where help might be directed in mental health and dementia issues.

The Chair advised the residents present that he had allowed an extended amount of time in this public debate and that he needed to press on with the formal agenda.

*Pause for a few members to allow members of the public to leave the meeting if they wish to do so.*

**1 Apologies for absence and acceptance of apologies**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr David Broadbent.

**2 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations**

Cllr Chris Duffin declared an interest in The HUB, as she was a trustee; Cllr Marijana Bainbridge an interest in the Memorial Hall, as her husband was a trustee of HWMT, and she was on the Memorial Hall Committee.

**3 Reports from County Councillor and District Councillor.**

Neither County or District Councillors were present and no reports from them were to hand. Both have since offered their apologies.

**4 Minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2020 and the extraordinary meeting of the 5<sup>th</sup> of February 2020, to be approved and signed.**

**It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the JPC ordinary meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> January and the extraordinary meeting of the 5<sup>th</sup> of February, were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman. This motion was proposed by Cllr Chris Duffin, seconded by Cllr Kate Easton [27.01.2020] and proposed by Cllr Elaine Field, seconded by Val Hubbocks both motions carried unanimously by all those present at the meeting.**

**5 Matters arising from the minutes of previous meetings and not on the agenda.**

The Clerk reported that he had minuted Mr Peter Cornford as having 'interrupted' another speaker at the Extraordinary Meeting of the 5<sup>th</sup> last, this was retracted by the Clerk with due apology, who said that Mr Cornford had asked and been given permission to speak by the Chair.

**6 Report by the Parish Clerk – Ray Evans**

The Clerk reported that he had been in contact with Mr Nadhim Zahawi, MP for Stratford upon Avon, in connection with the hazardous parking on Station Road and that the MP had written to WCC adding weight to the need of urgent action. He further mentioned that the adoption of the railway buildings in Henley was still very much an option and that meetings were being arranged with the appropriate bodies to take this matter forward. He mentioned that the matter of 'noisy manhole covers' was very much in hand and that only two now needed attention which the subcontractors to Severn Trent would be completed withing the next couple of weeks.

**7 To discuss and if appropriate, agree to a further Sub-Committee named Communications Sub-Committee and appoint a Chair.**

The Chair asked that Cllr Tina Woods step forward as Chair and that she nominate certain other Cllrs to her Sub-Committee.

**It was RESOLVED that a new sub-committee named Communications be adopted and that Cllr Tina Woods would hold the Chair of that Sub-Committee. This motion was proposed by Cllr Roger Hubbocks, seconded by Cllr Chris Duffin the motion carried unanimously by all those present at the meeting.**

**8 To discuss and if appropriate, agree terms under various sub-committees.**

The Chair invited newly elected Chairs to advise their team members, these are as follows – Cllr Elaine Field Chair – **Finance Sub-Committee**, declared Cllrs Okey, Easton, Val & Roger Hubbocks would serve on her team.

Cllr Jem Jones – Chair - **Emergencies and Maintenance Sub-Committee**. Declared Cllrs Bainbridge, Val & Roger Hubbocks, would serve on his team.

Cllr Angela Okey – Chair – **Town Welfare Sub-Committee**, declared the following –

**Children's Facilities** - Cllrs Field, Easton, Roger & Val Hubbocks.

**Capital Projects & Investments** – Cllrs Woods, Fields, Jones, Easton, Duffin, R Hubbocks and Broadbent. (As this section involves large scale projects, individual councillors will be chosen to represent different projects as and when they come to light)

**Recreation & Health** Cllrs Woods, R & V Hubbocks and Easton

**Allotments Cllrs** R & V Hubbocks

Cllr Tina Woods – Chair – **Communications Sub-Committee**, declared Cllrs Field, Harfield, Easton, Angela Okey and Roger Hubbocks, would serve on her team. These appointments will be posted on the JPC website.

9. **Planning Sub-Committee**  
**To note the Council's responses to planning applications & note the minutes of the JPC Planning Sub-Committee.**  
No plans were in hand with the exception of an application for tree management which will be placed on the agenda for the next Planning Meeting. Date to be advised.
10. **VE Day Events – discuss and planning.**  
The Chair invited Cllr Easton to speak on the matter. She reported that she had been in discussions with the Henley Royal British Legion and that she had expressed interest to them for the JPC to participate in this event, which will be staged on the 8<sup>th</sup> of May. All agreed that she should move forward on behalf of the JPC and update at the next meeting. Cllr Duffin mentioned that she was involved in a similar event at Wootton Wawen and would be happy to coordinate with Cllr Easton if that would help. Other Cllrs added to the discussion.
11. **Finance Sub-Committee**
  - **To note the Schedule of recent payments and Bank Balances** (*Previously circulated*)
12. **Frequency of Parish Meetings – Discuss**  
General discussion and commentary by several members of the JPC, consensus was that now with four sub-committees there was really no advantage in increasing frequency of ordinary meetings and that JPC should continue with monthly meetings only.  
**It was RESOLVED that there would be NO CHANGE to the frequency of meetings. This motion was proposed by Cllr Duffin, seconded by Cllr Easton the motion carried unanimously by all those present at the meeting.**
13. **To discuss possible provisions in an update of Code of Conduct & Standing Orders.**  
General discussion and commentary by several members of the JPC, consensus that in view of the advance of social media and email traffic it would be prudent to review such policies and protocols. The Clerk will arrange and convene a meeting for this purpose.  
**It was RESOLVED that the review should be convened. This motion was proposed by Cllr Easton, seconded by Cllr Woods, the motion carried unanimously by all those present at the meeting.**
14. **Dog Poop Stations – discuss and if appropriate action.**  
General discussion and commentary by several members of the JPC, consensus was that this should go forward, Cllr Okey would maintain the supply of bags, the stations positioned near to waste bins by the Emergencies & Maintenance SC. Costs to be advised and ratified.  
**It was RESOLVED that the Emergencies & Maintenance SC would arrange for the mounting of said stations. This motion was proposed by Cllr Okey, seconded by Cllr Easton, the motion carried unanimously by all those present at the meeting.**
15. **Happy to Chat Bench – discuss and if appropriate action.**  
General discussion and commentary by several members of the JPC, consensus that this should go forward and that possible siting in the Riverlands was agreed.  
**It was RESOLVED that the Emergencies & Maintenance SC would arrange for the mounting of the bench. This motion was proposed by Cllr Okey, seconded by Cllr Easton, the motion carried unanimously by all those present at the meeting.**
16. **Update on Station Road Parking**  
The Chair reminded all that this had been covered by the Clerk under Item 6 of the agenda. He went on to add that perhaps a warning signs that marking was imminent, might be employed to study where present vehicle parking might then move to. Further discussion will take place following a response from WCC.
17. **Audio Recording at meetings.**  
Clerk summarised the need for updating the recording of minutes which although would always by law be required to be in writing and signed off by the Clerk, would benefit from being an audio file which may be played back where a specific statement at the meeting can be validated. Cllr Duffin warned that wide ranging pickup needed to be in place, the Clerk mentioned that the recording devices came with multiple microphones. It was mentioned that JPC may require the display screen to be reinstated at meetings.
18. **Update on park pond**

Cllr V Hubbocks reported that the rope which should be attached to the lifebuoy at the park pond had been removed. Cllr Jones said he would look into this and also give consideration to Cllr Hubbock's view that similar lifesaving kit might be site near the river as these days the river may be a very dangerous place due to recent higher levels etc. This additional kit will be on the agenda at the next meeting.

**19. Update on Housing Needs Survey**

Cllr Field spoke of the findings of the survey which was completed some weeks ago. The survey was based on over 200 residents and among the viewpoints, residents highlighted the lack of facilities, including a *proper* post office, swimming pool, and their concerns for the number of closed businesses on the High Street. Social housing stood at 107 dwellings with long waiting lists. Residents can obtain a copy of this report by contacting the Clerk.

**20. Reports from Councillors**

Cllr Jones suggested the Clerk should send a letter to the PayBack Team thanking them for their ongoing maintenance work around town, Clerk said he would do so. Other Councillors updated meeting on events.

**21. Items for private session**

There were no items for private session.

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm.

**Date of next meeting Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00pm, at the Memorial Hall, Station Road**

Signed .....

Dated .....

DRAFT