

Article submitted to The Bridge magazine in July 2021

Parish council meetings

The parish council is now back to holding physical meetings in the Harrold Centre. As ever, residents are welcome and encouraged to attend: whether you want to address the council at the beginning, or just sit and watch – it's up to you. A member of the public even once brought along a glass of wine...

New trees

The parish council has approved a plan for planting 11 new trees in various spots across the village. The planting will be staggered over the next couple of years. Please contact the Clerk if you wish to know the locations.

Update on Flooding

In late December, Harrold and other villages were badly hit by surface flash flooding, followed by flooding of the main river a couple of days later.

Learning from the floods: The borough council, as the Lead Local Flood Authority, are obliged to create a Flood Investigations report (with input from the Environment Agency) to clarify what happened during the Christmas surface flooding and river flooding, and what can be improved. We are also expecting it to contain support for improvements to the flood channel to the north of Harrold; which will then provide weight to carry this work forward. The report has still not been completed, although we understand it is imminent (as at early July).

Harrold Flood Group: The parish council is close to having an active Flood Group to assist during flood situations. A Flood Plan has been completed – this document states how the group will operate – and we await training from the Harrold Fire Service in September. We understand that the new Odell and Carlton Flood Groups will also be attending. In a flood scenario, the group will be the intermediary between the borough council's Resilience Team and residents and is likely to be involved in the following activities: monitoring river levels/surface flooding and communicating with the borough council over expected water levels, door knocking (set routes) if the flood threatens homes, assisting parishioners affected by flooding, assisting during the clear up and getting information to flood-affected residents, amongst other tasks.

Internet Flood Camera: The parish council is still supporting a request to the Environment Agency to install a public internet flood camera by the bridge; funding has also been set aside. This is just now awaiting approval from the EA Data Protection and Legal teams.

Neighbourhood Development Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group submitted the final version of the plan for independent examination following its completion. The Neighbourhood Plan is on the parish council's website in the Neighbourhood Plan section. The examiner has been asking some very involved and detailed questions and will also shortly be carrying out a site visit. Following this process, and if no issues are found with the plan, we will prepare for a referendum for the village to adopt the plan this year. The outcome of this lengthy and laborious process, is having control over the location, type and amount of development in Harrold, backed by the public through multiple consultations. Please note that there is no route to avoid all development in Harrold, as the numbers are assigned by the government and passed down to us by the borough council in their Local Plan.

Church clock

Borough Councillor Alison Foster is donating £1600 from her ward fund towards the repair of the church clock. This involves removing the clock's winding unit and taking it to a workshop to be overhauled. We hope the clock will be chiming again before the end of the summer.

Harrold Parish Council Facebook page

If you would like updates on Parish Council activity then please join the Harrold Parish Council Facebook page.

Address for correspondence (only):

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The next council meeting dates are: 11th August, 8th September and 13th October in the Harrold Centre at 7.30pm.