

Hartest Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held in The Institute on Monday 17 January 2005 at 7.00pm

Present: Cllrs Mary Gough (Chairman),
Rachel Irvine, Jo Pask, John Schofield, Robin Oaten.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr James Long (Chairman) – attending funeral, Cllr Saxon Gotts – unwell, PC McKenna

Attending: Mr David Morbey (Clerk to the Council), Mr Richard Kemp – County Councillor.

05/1 Declarations of interest - Cllr Irvine – Planning application B04/2158

05/2 Minutes of the meeting held on 22 November 2004

The minutes were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

proposed: Cllr Irvine, seconded: Cllr Pask **Approved**

05/3 Matters arising from the minutes of the meetings held on 22 November 2005

04/73 The Clerk had written to Mr Burr

No members of the public attended the meeting or wished to be heard.

05/4 Police report

No representative was present

05/5 County Councillor's report – Cllr Richard Kemp

SCC has been adjudged by inspectors as being an "excellent council" although highway maintenance is rated a weak area. More effort will be placed in that direction over the next financial year.

Due to Government working on population figures collated from 1993 and not from the 2001 census, London and the metropolitan areas benefit by 70million pounds a year, money which should be coming to rural areas.

Mr Kemp reminded Council that Locality Grant applications must be processed by March 1st 2005.

05/6 District Councillor's report – Cllr James Long

Cllr Long was not present.

05/7 Planning

a. Babergh decisions:

B/04/1873 The Old Rectory, The Green, IP294DH. Weight reduction of limbs by selective pruning of 1 No. Mulberry tree. No tree preservation order required.

B/04/1909 The Warrens, Poorhouse Hill, IP29 4EB. Felling of 1 No. Poplar tree. No tree preservation order required.

B/04/1874 Churchgate, The Green, IP294DH, Felling of 1 No. Cypress tree. No tree preservation order required.

B/04/1923 Cornerways, Hartest Hill, IP29 4ES. Felling of 1 No. Tulip Tree. No tree preservation order required.

B/04/1813 Mill Hill Farm, Somerton Road, IP294NA, Listed building consent - Insertion of flue. Granted.

B/04/1559/LBC/MC Tandem House, Hartest Hill, IP29 4ET, Application for listed building consent – Removal of external render to expose timber frame. Refused. Notice issued under section 38 of Planning (listed buildings and conservation areas) act 1990 requiring steps to be taken to alleviate the effect of works.

b. to consider planning applications received:

B/04/2147 Part garden of Ballindon Yard Cottage, Hartest Hill, IP294ET. Erection of single-storey detached dwelling. Alterations to existing vehicular access (existing outbuildings to be demolished).

Councillors had made a site visit and did not oppose the application although there were some reservations about some aspects of the plans and the response to Babergh DC should include the following:

1. Concern about the large amount of excavation required and the effect deep digging may have on the stability of surrounding properties and on the water table and drainage.
2. Whether the excavations would require, or if it would be desirable to have, an archaeological survey carried out before or during works.
3. That dimensions should be no greater than those shown on the plans, particularly that the roof height should be no higher than the present building.
4. That chimneys should be painted black and to make them as unobtrusive as possible.
5. That the roof should be unobtrusive and the zinc finish chosen to look like a lead roof.

proposed: Cllr Schofield, seconded: Cllr Pask **Approved**

Cllr Irvine withdrew from discussion for this item.

B/04/2158 Valance Farm, Pilgrims Lane, IP294ED. Application for Certificate of Lawfulness for an Existing Use - Use of agricultural workers dwelling as domestic dwelling (breach of Condition 05 attached to P.P.B/373/88). Council had been asked for information about the use of the building and land in relation to agricultural use over the past 10 years. Council did not believe that, apart from some grazing for horses, any agricultural work had been carried out at the property during this time.

B/04/2170 3 Green View, IP294DR, Re-pollarding of 1 No. Eucalyptus tree
Time expired for comment

05/8 Environment

a. bus shelter

Discussion on siting and type of shelter resulted in a decision to site a bus shelter at the lay-by outside the school. Permission and evaluation will be needed to ensure safety and statutory requirements are met. SCC will be approached to see if the funding can be obtained, otherwise a Locality Grant may be required next year. C.Cllr Kemp suggested contacting the Melford Clerk for assistance. **Action Clerk**

b. highway repairs - none

c. hedges, verges and footpaths

Parsons Walk – The Clerk had contacted SCC and levelling of the path will be investigated.

Meshing Parsons Walk bridge – SCC have no money this financial year to do the work. After discussion it was agreed to ask SCC to do the work as soon as funds were available. **Action Clerk**

Locked gate on the driveway of the Vicarage restricting the path from The Church to The Crown – The Clerk had checked the maps and consulted the Rights of Way Officer at SCC and established that this path is not a right of way. Advice from SCC is that if the path has been used for more than 20 years a right of way can be established by an application with documentary evidence. There was strong feeling from Cllr Pask that the path should be available for use as it was an historic path linking the old Manor House (now The Crown) and the Church. It was agreed that an approach should be made by Cllr Oaten to the householder to establish the reason for the gate being locked and to explain to them the historic nature of the path. Cllr Oaten will report to The Clerk who will circulate a report to Councillors. **Action Cllr Oaten and Clerk**

Footpath at rear of The Copse, The Row – The Clerk had contacted SCC to check the path requirements which are for there to be a clear 1.2 meters between the edge of the field and the householder's land. Clerk to measure and contact the water authority to check the requirements for access to the river. **Action Clerk**

Workhouse Hill - Cllr Pask said the footpath was becoming too narrow due to slippage of the bank. The Clerk to ask SCC to rectify. **ActionClerk**

d. neighbourhood watch

A leaflet has been distributed to households and replies are awaited. If sufficient interest is shown David Warburton will be able to set up the scheme. A small invoice for photocopying etc. costs is expected shortly.

05/9 Green, Cemetery and Churchyard

a. green conservation A Heritage Lottery Award form had been obtained by Cllr Pask, but she said she did not have time to pursue it at present. County Cllr Kemp said that the best person now to contact was Mr (Charles) Taylor at Babergh DC who had supervised a scheme at Glemsford, **Action Clerk**

b. village sign refurbishment

Cllr Pask reported that the base work was being done. It had been found that corrosion had started but restoration would stop further damage. Work on the top would begin soon.

c. repair/renewal of cemetery gate posts

Councillors had visited the site and decided that the present posts could be used and that the work required was to move the hinges and re-hang the gates. Moriarty Builders and Boxted Joinery are to be asked to quote.

It was moved that the cost of work for the village sign refurbishment and for the repair of the cemetery gates should be funded from the Locality Budget and that a grant should be requested from C.Councillor Kemp.

proposed: Cllr Irvine, seconded: Cllr Oaten **Approved** **Action Clerk**

d. HPC notice board refurbishment and re-siting

An estimate for refurbishing the notice board, including sanding and sealing, replacing the glass with safety glass, making waterproof seals around the doors, installing a new pin-board, and for re-siting the board and if necessary replacing the posts, has been received from Mr Mark Dudley of Griffin Fencing. The total for this work would

amount to £285.00 (£255.00 if posts are not required) plus VAT. Cllr Irvine suggested replacing the softboard with a new lino style pin-friendly material. It was agreed that the site for the notice board should be on the corner of the junction of Somerton Road and the B1066 opposite The Institute. It was agreed to proceed with this work and for it to be funded from the Locality Budget from a grant to be requested from C.Councillor Kemp.
proposed: Cllr Schofield, seconded: Cllr Irvine **Approved** **Action Clerk**

e. grass cutting contract for 2005

A letter from Mr David Gotts had been received accepting the Grass Cutting Contract for 2005/2006 at a slightly higher cost than 2004/05 for some parts of the contract.

f. tree stump removal

The work is to be completed shortly by Dick Marjoram from D and M Tree Contractors.

g. BT works re-instatement of The Green

This work has not yet been done in spite of chasing. The Clerk to contact BT again. **Action Clerk**

h. Jonathan Clarke headstone design

The plans had not yet been circulated by the Chairman. **Action Chairman**

05/10 Parish Plan

progress report from HPC representatives

The questionnaire had been distributed. The Clerk read the report from Mr Chivers and Council noted the dates of meetings which had been arranged for consultation on the questionnaire results. The Countryside Agency had agreed that the deadline for completion of the plan could be delayed until 31 July 2005.

05/11 Correspondence

a. items circulated

Local Heritage Grants for Community Groups from the Heritage Lottery Fund information. Information noted.

Babergh 2004 Housing needs information. It was agreed to pass this information to the Parish Plan Group.

Care and Repair South Suffolk, request for donation. Council did not wish to make a donation.

b. other items received but not yet circulated

Emergency Planning Seminar for Suffolk Parishes, Wed 23 February Kesgrave £10.00 per delegate. No one wished to attend.

Hanchets Memorial Works, request for inscription, applicant Mrs S Colley, additional inscription to memorial of Philip Ernest George Frost. Fee payable £5.00. Inscription approved. **Action Clerk**

Home Start request for donation. Council did not wish to make a donation.

Suffolk Accident Rescue Service appeal for donations. Council decided to make a donation of £30.00
proposed: Cllr Irvine, seconded: Cllr Oaten **Approved** **Action Clerk** (Section 137 spending).

East of England Plan (Regional Assembly), Consultation Meetings, Bury St Edmunds, Wednesday 7 February 7.00pm. Information noted.

Michael Feather Tree Warden Cemetery Management Plan. Cllrs Pask and Schofield to look at the plan and investigate works required. **Action Cllrs. Pask and Schofield**

05/12 Finance

| | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|----------|
| a. balances at 17 January | Current Account | £127.89 |
| | Capital Reserve Account | £5231.01 |
| | Halifax Guaranteed Reserve | £4064.53 |

b. receipts since 19 September £20.73 Bank interest on Capital Reserve Account

c. precept 2005/2006

The Clerk presented a revised budget plan for 2005/06 which was considered by Council. It showed estimated spending at £6900 plus a contingency reserve of £1100. Taking account of estimated funds available at 31 March 2005 and excluding reserved funds items, this would require a precept of £6919.98. There was discussion on the

apparently large rise from last year. This was due to the precept having been reduced last year to £5000 due to an apparently large funds surplus. Some of this surplus had now been reinstated as reserved funds and this, together with a 2004/05 year spend of (estimated) £8650, meant that a larger than usual rise was necessary to cover next years (reduced) spending of £6900. The Clerk told Council there may be some scope for reducing some estimates by a small amount, but Council considered it prudent to keep to the figures on the Budget estimate. Council decided however, that supporting local organisations through donations was essential and it was agreed to increase the donations budget to £550 from £50. This would give a precept of £7419.98 including £1100 contingency reserve. It was agreed that the precept should be set at £7400
proposed: Cllr Schofield, seconded: Cllr Irvine **Approved** **Action Clerk**

d. payments to be approved

as shown on accompanying Cash Flow at 17 January 2005

proposed: Cllr Irvine, seconded: Cllr Oaten **Approved** **Action Clerk**

05/14 Matter for future consideration

Donation to Hartest Pre-School

Cemetery/Burial charges

Code of practice for headstone erection, review of headstone stability

Date and format of the Annual Parish Meeting

Freedom of Information Act – requirement to produce a publication scheme for disclosure of information

Emergency Planning for village emergencies

Review of Hartest parish Council web site

Date of next meeting

Monday 21 March 2005 at 7.00pm in The Institute

The meeting closed at 21.20