

Hartest Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held in The Institute on Monday 11 July May 2005 at 6.30pm

Present: Cllrs James Long (Chairman), Rachel Irvine, Mary Gough, Robin Oaten, Jo Pask, John Schofield, Cllr David Loxton.

Apologies for absence: none

Attending: Mr David Morbey (Clerk to the Council), 24 members of the public.

05/62 Declarations of interest none

05/63 Minutes of the meeting held on 23 May 2005

The minutes were confirmed and signed as a correct record. Proposed: Cllr Irvine, seconded: Cllr Oaten

Approved

05/64 Public Forum

The Chairman welcomed the 24 people who had attended. Every one spoke on the subject of The Green conservation and a summary of views expressed is attached as appendix to these minutes.

05/65 The Green conservation

The Chairman thanked the public for their views. Cllr Schofield said he was delighted but not surprised by the views expressed to retain the Green as it is, but there were problems to be addressed, namely the track across The Green and the erosion of the edges by vehicles. Cllr Pask said there was a need to protect the corners from erosion, and the south side should have some hard standing to protect the grass. She had had representations not to open the roadway outside Clarke's butchers shop and she felt that an emergency vehicle assessment should be carried out. Cllr Irvine said that The Green was a protected area because it was a registered village green. It was illegal to drive a vehicle on it. She said people did want to take vehicles to their properties and there was very little parking at present. She said the Council was trying to be sympathetic to overcome problems and help residents and there had to be a balance between upholding the law and finding solutions. There were problems to overcome and the Council had a duty both to protect and preserve The Green. Cllr Gough said the views expressed by the public had been very useful and she supported the idea which had been put forward for the post box and the telephone box to be moved off The Green. Cllr Oaten said that too much was made of the erosion problem – winter damage repaired itself in the summer and he would like to see the soft verges retained. He opposed the idea of a road around the edge of The Green and said it would make it dangerous. He accepted that some small sympathetic protection work might be needed but would prefer things left as they are. Cllr Loxton wondered if Babergh DC would be in breach of the law if their plan was adopted. He said the village and The Green should be a living place and not a Museum, with wide enjoyment of the facilities by the public. He opposed any creep towards urbanisation of The Green. It was agreed that further consideration should be given at future meetings.

As the minutes cannot include the comments from the public forum (because the meeting technically closes during this item), it was agreed to include an annexe to the minutes with a summary of the views expressed.

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

05/66 Planning

B/05/1017 Laurel House, Melford Road, IP29 4JN Erection of double garage (amended scheme to that approved under Planning Permission B/04/310). **no objections Action Clerk**

Date of next meeting

Monday 18 July 2005 at 7.00pm in The Institute (Neither The Chairman nor Cllr Oaten will be able to attend).

The meeting closed at 20:10

Hartest Parish Council

Appendix to the minutes of the meeting held in The Institute on Monday 11 July May 2005 at 6.30pm

Summary of views expressed during the public forum

24 members of the public spoke on the subject of The Green conservation

The view generally expressed was that The Green should be left as it is and that on no account should any urbanisation take place. The Green was a terrific and unique asset to the village which should be treasured and kept for future generations with nothing dramatic being done to alter it.

Although it was acknowledged that there was a problem with large vehicles eroding the edges of The Green, there was opposition to changing or urbanising the soft edges, to widening the roads and to extending the road past Clarke's butchers shop, because this would make it more dangerous for playing children. The edges of The Green damaged in winter months tended to restore naturally in summer. Any urbanisation, for example the present steps to the post box, created problems because vehicles hitting hard structures led to damage which was then itself dangerous. It was also suggested that it might be acceptable to have a bin collection point at one end of The Street so the refuse lorry would not have to use The Street.

Parking along The Street and roads being blocked was a minor inconvenience and this temporary problem for residents was usually solved by good neighbourliness. If emergency vehicles needed access, they could always drive across The Green. A view was expressed that some resident's off-street parking was not being used. Differing views were expressed about the two roads opposite Basham's butchers shop which were often blocked with vehicles. One supported merging the two roads, another wanted to block them up. There was a question as to whether the Council was turning a blind eye to illegal parking on The Green. There was some discussion about lack of parking and the use of The Institute car park and it was clarified that while some temporary parking at The Institute was acceptable, it was not allowed during functions or meetings or on a permanent basis. The legality of access to and parking on the south side of The Green should be clarified and some provision made for a firm surface for vehicles to make access easier in the winter. A view was expressed that the track-ways are there for access only and they should not be made into highways.

Some views were expressed for more use of The Green, with a less formal look and an area for wild flowers.

Mr Douglas Chivers gave some preliminary findings from the Parish Plan questionnaire which indicated good support for avoiding development on The Green, support for social use of The Green as an open space, and suggestions for games (football), wild flowers, seats, children's play area, a meeting place, and a bowling green. There was also support for re-instatement of a perimeter road and the closure of all other roads. Other comments included not allowing parking on the grass, access made to the south side, trees felled and managed, grass to be cut less frequently, wooden benches rather than metal ones, more trees and for the war memorial to be moved.