

Hartest Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held in The Institute on Monday 21 November 2005 at 7.00pm

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

Apologies for absence Cllr Rachel Irvine (bad weather), County Cllr. Richard Kemp.

Attending: Mr David Morbey (Clerk to the Council), PC Den Mullett, 0 members of the public.

05/109 Declarations of interest Cllr Oaten – next door neighbour to Planning application B/05/1882

05/110 Minutes of the meeting held on 7 November 2005

The minutes were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

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

05/111 Matters arising from the minutes of the meetings held on 19 September and 7 November 2005

05/99c Stansted Airport consultation: The Clerk had been asked by the Chairman to compile a response and this had been done and submitted. A copy had been emailed to Councillors.

05/112 Public Forum no public present.

05/113 Police report PC Den Mullett reported 6 crimes within the Parish since July. Tracking devices for vehicles were useful to aid detection after theft. Cllr Loxton asked about speed camera use. Suggestions for camera sites would be welcomed **Action Councillors** although they would only be used if all the speed limit signs were in place.

Action Clerk It was noted that parking congestion outside the school was becoming a problem. The Chairman to contact Penny Easting to urge parents to park considerately and safely. **Action Chairman**

05/114 County Councillor's report C.Cllr Kemp had sent his report which was read out by The Chairman. The main point was a consultation on the future of policing. C.Cllr Kemp had stressed the importance of keeping policing local. Council thanked him for his report and wished him a happy Christmas.

05/115 District Councillor's report D Cllr Long said there was little new to report at this meeting.

05/116 Planning

a. Babergh decisions:

B/05/1431 Mile End Farm Barn, Somerton Road IP294NA Conversion of farm buildings into residential dwelling. Granted

B/05/1547 Northend Cottage, Brockley Road, IP294EQ Felling of 8 No. Hawthorn Trees. No tree preservation order required.

B/05/1293 Oakhill House, Somerton Road, IP294NA Erection of single-storey extension (Existing extension to be demolished). Granted.

B/05/1383 3 Brockley Road, IP294EG Erection of a side conservatory. Granted.

B/05/1552 Erica Cottage, The Green IP294DH Removal of 3 No. Pine trees. No tree preservation order required.

b. to consider planning applications:

B/04/2147 further amended. Part garden of Ballingdon Yard Cottage, Hartest Hill, IP294ET Erection of single-storey detached dwelling. Alterations to existing vehicular access (existing outbuildings to be demolished), as amended by agent's letter dated 23 June 2005 and drawing numbers 003, 004 rev 01 and 007 rev 01 all received by the Local Planning Authority on 24 June 2005 and subsequently amended by drawing no's 1604/003C-01 and 005/C-02 received on 13th October 2005. Plans circulated to Councillors, no site meeting requested, Clerk had replied with Cllr comments submitted on circulation paper – available to view on the web site.

B/05/1882 The Old Chapel, The Green, IP294DH. Removal of 1 No. Yew tree and 1 No. Conifer tree. The HPC Tree Officer had been undecided in the matter. After discussion it was agreed that Council would object to the removal of the Yew tree but would accept trimming of the tree in accordance with professional good practice.

There was no great concern over the Conifer tree and Council would accept the recommendation of the Babergh Tree Officer. Proposed Cllr Pask, Seconded Cllr Gough. **Carried Action Clerk**

c. to consider any other applications received:

B/05/1868 Dowsetts, Melford Road, IP294JN Erection of shed for storage of machinery (tractors).

No objections Proposed Cllr Loxton Seconded Cllr Schofield **Carried Action Clerk**

05/117 Working Groups (w/g) – consider action required. Cllr Loxton requested there be standing w/g to address topics between meetings. There was discussion on the authority of such groups and Council was reminded that any formal sub committee meetings would have to be minuted and held in public. It was decided that for the time being, w/g would be used to aid the information gathering process on an as and when required basis although the matter would be kept under review.

05/118 Emergency Planning – no report. **Action Cllr Irvine**

05/119 Environment

a. highway repairs report by The Clerk.

The Street - In spite of calls and emails, no work has taken place.

Action Clerk Blind Lane – this is a RUPP and therefore the responsibility of SCC. Clerk to chase. **Action Clerk**
Green View leakage of water – no action in spite of chasing SCC. **Action Clerk**

b. The Row - proposed changes to ramp and steps and other road safety measures. A reply has been received saying that at present there are no funds for the steps/ramp project. SCC highways safety department is also very short of funds for any work. It was agreed to set up a w/g of Cllrs Loxton, Pask and Oaten to explore what might be done to co-ordinate and take forward these two projects and also to consider the appropriate speed limit for The Row. **Action Cllrs Loxton, Oaten, Pask**

c. Locked gate between the Church and Parsons Walk. There was discussion about the effect attempting to re-open this historic way would have on the village and whether such action should be supported by Council. In particular, Cllr Gough felt that it would create an unpleasant atmosphere, although Cllr Schofield said that the act of locking the gate by the householder had been unfriendly and had already created bad feeling. Cllr Pask reminded Council that the way had been used by village people for many years and said that the householder resorting to a solicitor's letter in reply to her polite request for the gate to be unlocked was unhelpful. Cllr Loxton said the way could be strategically important in the complex of footpaths around the village. Cllr Loxton felt it was appropriate for Council to make a decision on whether to support the concept of reopening the way and proposed that "Council would like to see the gate unlocked" A vote was taken and the motion was **Carried**. The Chairman then suggested that before a formal request for witnesses be made, he make a personal approach to try to persuade the householder to reopen the locked gate. **Action Chairman**

d. neighbourhood watch. No report.

e. Wasps nests had been discovered in the bank of The Green and on the bank near the school. Since urgent action was required, The Clerk had instructed Command Pest Control (a Babergh approved contractor) to undertake the work of removing the nests which was done the same day.

f. notifications of any new environment problems: none.

05/120 The Green, Cemetery and Churchyard

a. The Green conservation. The w/g had prepared a report on possible requirements. Council accepted this and the w/g will arrange a meeting with Anita Seymour. **Action Cllrs Pask, Oaten and Schofield**

b. BT works re-instatement of damaged areas. In spite of more chasing this is still not satisfactorily completed. **Action Clerk**

c cemetery gate posts. This work has been completed. The old posts are available for viewing with Mark Dudley **Action Cllr Loxton**

d. cemetery management plan. Chris King is currently doing this work and expects that most can be completed within the two days allocated.

e. review of headstone stability. It was suggested that liaison with Lawshall Parish would be useful. The list of gravestones needing work would be given to Cllr Pask by the Clerk. **Action Clerk**

f. cemetery future. There was a question about using the old part of the cemetery. The Clerk to research and report. **Action Clerk**

05/121 Parish Plan

It was reported that the next draft would present the information in a new way and this was welcomed by Council. A meeting to view the draft would be held in early January.

05/122 Freedom of Information Act – to consider fees for the disclosure of information. It was agreed that fees should be nil and that this decision should be reviewed annually. Proposed Cllr Loxton, seconded Cllr Schofield **Carried**

05/123 Correspondence requiring comment or action

Community Achievement Award for Carolyn Stokes. The Chairman had contacted Boxted Parish for nomination support but no reply had been received.

Long Melford farmers market request to advertise on HPC notice board. Declined.

Waste management and mineral resources paper. Cllr Loxton found it very depressing that it had not been joined up with other strategies. There was a question as to whether Babergh DC involved groups such as the young and the old in their consultations?

05/124 Finance

a. balances after payments for approval and transfer of £1500 from Nat West Reserve to Nat West Current

Nat West Current: £ 340.21

Nat West Reserve: £6214.54

Halifax Guaranteed Reserve: £4257.54

b. receipts

Precept £3700.00

Cemetery fees £25.00

c. review of HPC inventory. This has still to be completed.

d. audit. Lubbock Fine has approved the accounts.

e. SALC sub for 2006 – a new subscription scale has been published by SALC

f. precept estimate for 2006/2007

The Clerk submitted a precept estimate for Council's consideration. It showed a minimum precept requirement of £7377.15 based on assumptions for spending and the carry forward of all reserved funds (including those unspent this year) for particular projects. Council considered and discussed the estimate and it was decided that provisionally the precept should be raised by 2.5% over last year's figure of £7400. Proposed Cllr Schofield, seconded Cllr Oaten **Approved**. The Clerk will inform Babergh DC. The final precept will be decided at the meeting in January. **Action Clerk**

g. payments to be approved as shown on attached Cash Flow:

D Morbey Clerk wages and expenses £336.00

D Morbey Clerk wages increase backdating to 1/4/2005 £23.94

D Gotts Grass cutting £181.50

The Institute hall hire £24.50

Lubbock Fine Accountants £141.00

Command Pest Control £41.13

Griffin Fencing £669.75

SCC Education school hire £11.00

Acceptance Proposed: Cllr Gough, Seconded Cllr Pask **Approved** **Action Clerk**

05/125 Matters for future consideration none

05/126 Date of next meeting – Monday 16 January 2006 at 7.00pm in The Institute
provisional: Weds 11 January for Parish Plan consideration

The meeting closed at 10:15pm.