

## Hartest Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held in The Institute on Monday 16 January 2006 at 7.00pm

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

Apologies for absence: none

Attending: Mr David Morbey (Clerk to the Council), County Councillor Richard Kemp, PC's Sally Smith and Sarah Jarrold, 2 members of the public.

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**06/7 Declarations of interest** none

### **06/8 Minutes of the meeting held on 5 January 2006**

The minutes were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

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

### **06/9 Matters arising from the minutes of the meetings held on 21 November 2005 and 5 January 2006**

Cllr Irvine asked the reason for liaison with Lawshall PC? The Chairman said because Lawshall was also looking at unstable headstones in their cemetery.

### **06/10 Public Forum**

2 members of the public spoke regarding planning application 2166 and 2167, one against, one supporting.

### **06/11 Police report**

Council welcomed PC Sarah Jarrold who was standing in for PC Mullet. 2 crimes had been reported: forced entry to a garage and theft of fuel from a vehicle. Cllr Pask asked if speed cameras had been used in Hartest? PC Jarrold replied that cameras would be in Hartest within a few days.

### **06/12 County Councillor's report**

CCllr Kemp reported the future tax situation has dominated matters at Suffolk. The Govt. Grant settlement of only 2.9% means that to standstill SCC needs to find £17million in savings. This will be achieved by cutting back on Social Care, Highways, Education, Bus Subsidies and increasing revenue through increased charges for School buses etc. The crux of the matter is the inequality in funding, i.e. Rural areas get just over £300 per head of population and urban areas £600 plus from Govt. This is in spite of the fact that many of the services in rural areas cost more to deliver due to Sparse Population areas. He also noted that Planning Policy had changed at Babergh DC where officers are now making decisions and not giving the Development Committee a say, even when there are objections to an application. He said that one way to force applications going to committee would be to ask for a DC site meeting. Cllr Loxton asked if Babergh was experiencing more difficulty than other authorities? CCllr Kemp thought that inability to keep staff and some job sharing was causing difficulty due to lack of continuity.

### **06/13 District Councillor's report**

DCllr Long reported on the proposed restructuring of the Police. Suffolk Police are opposed to moves to make an East Anglian Force although the debate was wide ranging and complex. There was comment on the need for cross border co-operation if forces were merged. Babergh DC tax rise was likely to be 2.7%.

### **06/14 Donations**

Donations to Pre School, East Anglian Air Ambulance, Suffolk Accident Rescue and Home Start were considered. In principle it was agreed that donations to the first three would be supported, a decision on allocation would be deferred until the March meeting to ensure that funds were available. It was decided not to donate to Home Start.

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

### **06/15 Finance**

#### **a. review of current finance statement – balances, receipts and payments to be approved**

Nat West Current: £ 146.70

Nat West Reserve: £5928.54

Halifax Guaranteed Reserve: £4257.54

receipts Cemetery fees £25.00

Bank interest £13.50

Payments to be approved as shown on Cash Flow for 16/2/2006:

D Morbey, Clerks wages and expenses £279.01

The Institute, hall hire 21/11/2005 £24.50

C J E King, Tree work in cemetery £240.00

Acceptance proposed: Cllr Schofield, seconded: Cllr Gough **Approved**

**b. grass cutting - review of grass cutting contract.** It was decided that as Mr David Gotts was happy to continue the work at similar rates to last year, good value would be ensured without going to tender. It was agreed to award the grass cutting contract to Mr Gotts for a further year and to thank him for the excellent work this year. proposed: Cllr Oaten, seconded: Cllr Irvine **Approved Action Clerk**

**c. precept for 2006/2007**

The Clerk had prepared two options for consideration. Option 1 was for a precept of 8080 and assumed training budget and contingency all spent in 05/06 while Option 2 was for a precept of 7480 and assumed that the training budget and £500 of contingency remained unspent in 05/06. There was discussion on the budget for tree work, the large amount of reserved funds for projects such as The Green conservation and environmental projects, grass cutting and Clerk wages and expenses. Cllr Loxton asked Council to consider allocating some "seed corn" funds for projects arising from the Parish Plan and to make good the shortfall of £780 which had not yet been raised by the Parish Plan Group from fundraising events. The Clerk reminded Council that this element of fund-raising was a condition of the award by Countryside Agency. It was agreed that consideration of funding for possible future projects suggested by the Parish Plan should be considered when the Plan is published. It was agreed to amend Precept Option 2 to increase the amount for Clerk's wages by £100 and to set the precept at £7585, an increase of 2.5%.

Proposed Cllr Irvine, seconded Cllr Schofield **Approved Action Clerk**

**06/16 Parish Plan**

The Chairman's introduction to the plan was welcomed. Cllr Pask suggested removing the words "if at all" and the Chairman accepted this suggestion.

It was generally agreed that the meeting of 5 January had been excellent. Following discussion with the Chairman, the Clerk had sent a letter to the Parish Plan Group with some additional suggestions for corrections. The final draft was to be sent to The Clerk shortly and this would be circulated to Councillors for any final comments. This had to be done very quickly. **Action All**

**06/17 Planning**

**a. Babergh decisions:**

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

B/05/2061 Hop Hall, Somerton Road, IP294NA Felling of 1 no. Willow Tree. no tree preservation order required.

**b. to consider applications:**

B/05/2166 Fosters Farm, Hartest Hill, IP294ET Change of use of redundant outbuildings to Class B1 Office use.

The Chairman asked for a proposer for approval of the application. As this was not immediately forthcoming a discussion took place with reference to the site meeting which had been attended by 6 Councillors on 14 January.

3 Councillors supported the change of use, 2 supported the concept of the buildings being used for some good purpose but would have preferred residential development and 1 (Cllr Irvine) opposing the application on the grounds that insufficient consideration had been given to a number of aspects and that Class B1 use was all encompassing and could include light industrial use and was therefore inappropriate within a residential area.

A motion was then put that the change of use be supported. Proposed Cllr Schofield, Seconded Cllr Gough, **Carried**

A discussion then took place covering the areas of concern regarding both this application and second related application for conversion of the buildings:

B/05/2167 Fosters Farm, Hartest Hill, IP294ET Application for Listed Building Consent - Change of use of redundant outbuildings to Class B1 Office use; internal and external alterations.

There was concern on a number of points (listed here in no particular priority order):

The restricted view on exit from the site onto a narrow road, with a suggestion that highways should visit the site before submitting their report.

The possible noise generated by any processes carried out and the disturbance this might be to neighbours.

Disturbance by the use of the site outside the normal working day, although a view was expressed that a restriction would not be necessary if the work carried out did not produce noise, with a contrary view that light pollution could be a concern during hours of darkness.

The possible number of visitors and deliveries and collections at the site and the limited number of parking spaces for such activities.

The method of disabled access and the fact that only one of the units had disabled access, although a view was expressed that such matters (as well as conversion of buildings such as these) was a matter for Babergh DC and not for this Council. A view was expressed opposing the idea of extending disabled facilities to the second unit on the grounds that this would interfere with the integrity of the listed building.

The line of windows in the roof line on the west side. Opinion was divided on the look and placing of the windows with some feeling that it was good to have an industrial look while others thought they were inappropriate on such a building and in such an elevated part of the landscape and should be moved to the east side of the building.

The glass doors and placement of other windows which were felt to be inappropriate by one member.

The chimney colour which it was thought should be black to make it less obtrusive.

A vote was then taken on the proposal to ask Babergh DC to restrict the development to office use only and to specifically exclude light industrial use. This was lost by 4 votes to 3. A vote was taken on the proposal to ask Babergh DC to restrict the hours of use of the development and to place restrictions on noise from the development. This was carried by 4 votes to 3.

It was then decided that the submission to Babergh DC should be as follows:

Acceptance of the application with the following provisos:

There should be no noise or light pollution from the development at any time.

We have extreme concerns about safe access onto the highway.

We have concern about the practicality of the disabled access and about the provision of sufficient parking.

The chimney should be painted black to make it less obtrusive in the landscape. **Action Clerk**

Cllr Oaten left the meeting (at 9.35 pm).

**c. to consider any other applications received since date of agenda:** none

#### **06/18 Environment**

##### **a. highways repairs**

The Lawshall Road water escapes had been dealt with (apparently successfully).

The Street is still awaiting repair

Cracks on the B1066 at Cross Green

Potholes by Kew gardens on the Lawshall Road

Potholes on the Somerton Road just past Mile End Farm

**Action Clerk**

##### **b. footpath problems**

Parsons Walk very muddy past the bridge **Action Clerk**

##### **c. The Row – pedestrian safety and accessibility**

The working Group had compiled a report on the need for traffic calming and improvements to the footpath along The Row and for speed limits generally in the village. It was agreed to adopt the speed limit suggestions and to ask SCC about feasibility and a timetable for their introduction. They will also be consulted on the other proposed measures. The group also suggested proceeding with the investigation to improve access to the cemetery.

**Action Clerk**

It was reported that parking in The Row at school times was becoming very bad and the head teacher should be consulted. **Action Chairman**

##### **d. locked gate between The Church and Parsons Walk**

The Chairman had left a message with the householder and was awaiting a reply.

##### **e. neighbourhood watch**

A reply from the Co-ordinator was awaited. Clerk to chase. **Action Clerk**

##### **f. notification of any new environment matters**

The ditch on Shimpling Road just outside the village was badly eroded. It was suggested that the Shimpling Clerk should be notified. **Action Clerk**

## **06/19 The Green and Cemetery**

### **a. The Green conservation**

Anita Seymour is to meet the Working Group to discuss their report. **Action Cllrs Pask, Oaten and Schofield**

### **b. BT reinstatement of damaged areas**

awaiting springtime

### **c. cemetery gates – action for lower gates**

Cllr Loxton had not yet inspected the old posts **Action Cllr Loxton**

### **d. cemetery management plan progress**

Chris King has completed all of the work allocated to him. Council expressed it's thanks to him for a job well done.

### **e. headstone stability**

Clerk to let Cllr Pask have a list of known relatives for headstones considered potentially unsafe. **Action Clerk**

## **06/20 Emergency Planning**

There was discussion on the role of a previous Emergency Officer and it was agreed that a village survey of those in need of help and those with useful specialist skills in an emergency should be collated. Cllr Irvine to produce a questionnaire. **Action Cllr Irvine**

## **06/21 Correspondence requiring comment or action**

The decision to allow development at Townsend Farm Barns to be questioned. **Action Clerk**

## **06/22 Annual Parish Meeting**

It was agreed that the separate meeting was successful last year and should be repeated. Date 15 May 2006 at 7.00 for 7.30pm in The Institute. **Action All**

The Clerk had suggested a change of minute style for the Annual Parish Meeting. As the meetings are chiefly an historical record of the village and because most speakers produced texts of their speeches it seemed better to have their actual texts as a minute rather than a précis. The Clerk was asked to investigate the legality of attaching these as annexes to the minutes rather than incorporating them within the minutes. It was suggested that speakers should be asked to make their presentations reasonably short. **Action Clerk**

## **06/23 Matters for future consideration**

Street name signs

## **06/24 Date of next meeting – Monday 22 May 2006 at 7.00pm in The Institute**

The meeting closed at 10.35pm.