

Hartest Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held in The Institute Monday 18 September 2006 at 7.00pm.

In attendance: Cllrs James Long (Chairman), Mary Gough (Vice Chairman), David Loxton, Jo Pask, Rachel Irvine.

Absent: Cllr Schofield (away on holiday), Cllr Robin Oaten (away on holiday)

Attending: Marie Huggett (Clerk), County Cllr Richard Kemp, 3 members of the public

06/87 Declarations of interest: none

06/88 Minutes of the meeting held on 17 July 2006 were approved as a signed record and signed accordingly.

06/89 Matters arising from the meeting of 17 July 2006 Cllr Irvine reminded the Clerk to minute the time a meeting is closed. **Action Clerk**

06/90 Public Forum Erica Clarke advised she had been encouraged by the Parish Plan meeting and hoped HPC and Parish Plan group can work together positively. There had been expressions of involvement made from some residents. Ralph Carpenter advised that there is a conference to be held at Dennys, Moreton Hall, 29 November 1pm, where Ben Hamilton-Bailey, an urban design consultant will be speaking with regard to creative ways to deal with traffic calming. Ralph also advised that an Alternative Energy Group might be revived in respect of the Parish Plan. HPC expressed an interest in this issue.

Mr Cutler raised issues with parking due to a new resident living opposite him, not having a driveway to park his vehicles and therefore parking them on the B1066. This, he feels, is causing a dangerous hazard and is concerned that a vehicle may crash into his home if the situation continues. Mr Cutler passed a photograph of marks left on the road to the Clerk after a near miss that morning. The Chairman advised that HPC has no jurisdiction over the issue of parking but this issue will be discussed at a meeting with Suffolk CC, Babergh DC and the Police on Tuesday 26 September.

06/91 Police Report PC Den Mullett was not in attendance

06/92 County Councillor's Report – Cllr Richard Kemp

Cllr Kemp advised that the SCC Scrutiny Committee meeting on 14 September had analysed the bands of West Suffolk Primary Care Trust to close hospitals. There were 12 votes to 1 regarding the closing of hospitals and therefore the issues has been referred to the Secretary of State Patricia Hewitt.

A motion at SCC was passed to sign up to the Nottingham Agreement in order to be aware of green issues.

The School reorganisation has been extended to 30 September 2006. A decision will be made early next year.

Adult care – SCC had to cut funding for Help The Aged etc – it tried to reverse the cuts but to no avail.

SCC was asking for comments regarding mineral development. Cllr Loxton commented regarding the amount of paperwork that had been circulated for this issue and at what cost. Cllr Kemp advised it was a statutory demand from the Government.

Cllr Kemp advised that SCC has a Welfare Rights Office and staff are able to help people who have had benefits stopped due to compensation payments. Cllr Pask also advised that the CAB is able to help people too. Cllr Pask also raised the issue of Babergh DC charging for Brown Bins and then the compost is sold on whereas residents in Bury St Edmunds are not charged for the bins and the resulting compost is given away free.

06/93 District Councillor's report – Cllr James Long

Cllr Long advised that Babergh DC was unconvinced by Suffolk County Council's potential proposal to move from a 3-tier school system to a 2-tier school system. Mike Hammond had responded to SCC stating that it works in this area so why change it? There is concern that if a change was made, primary schools could be closed down and the environment could suffer with extra transportation required to bus children to alternative schools.

Cllr Long is attending a training course in respect of the Safeguarding Children Act in November – all District Councillors will be undertaking the training.

Stansted Airport – Proposed 2nd Runway continues to cause concern, Cllr Long said that he noticed that aeroplane noise in Steeple Bumpstead was loud on a recent visit.

06/94 Finance

a. bank accounts - The Clerk reported that change of contact details have now been confirmed in respect of the Natwest and Halifax accounts. The tax paid on the Natwest Reserve account has been queried and a response is awaited. The Halifax Reserve account has been reinvested for 6 months at £5000. Cllr Loxton advised that the Alliance and Leicester offers a good rate of interest at 5.4% on a business account. The Clerk advised that SALC suggests that Abbey National and the Bank of Ireland provides good rates to Parish Councils. Cllr Kemp advised that Investec Bank is worth considering and recognised by the Bank of England. **Action Clerk**

b. current finance statements - balances, receipts and payments to be approved – the current finances statement was reviewed as follows:

Invoices to be paid:

1. SALC – postage for sending copies of the Good Councillors Guide £5.43
2. Institute – hire of hall for HPC Meeting 3 ½ hours 17 July £24.50
3. Clerks wages, travel and stationary expenses £369.21

Cllr Irvine proposed and Cllr Pask seconded to approve payment

Invoices that required payment prior to the meeting:

1. Virtual Names – hosting of hartest.com £23.50
2. Lubbock Fine Audit of accounts £141.00
3. Data Protection £35.00
4. SALC New Clerk Training £45.00

Receipts:

1. Cemetery - Cora Boram additional inscription £20.00

PC Cashbook software for HPC Accounts – the Clerk provided information regarding this software package and the Councillors asked for this to be passed around in the information boxes for perusal.

06/95 Planning

a. Babergh Decisions Received:

1. B/06/01031 - Mile End Farm Barn – stable block to be retained – **granted**
2. B/06/01033 - Mile End Farm Barn – erection of single-storey front extension – **granted**
3. B/06/01032 - Mile End Farm Barn – to allow eastern access within site frontage to be retained – **granted**

b. To consider applications received:

1. B/06/01367 - Mill Hill Farm House, Somerton Road – installation of open-air swimming pool with equipment store – **no objections**
2. B/06/01345 - White Cottage, the Green – demolition of a single-storey addition – erection of single-storey extensions – **no objections but clarification required of tiles to be used on replacement outbuilding**
3. B/06/01346 - White Cottage, the Green – erection of single-storey extension and outbuilding – **no objections but clarification required of materials to be used in respect of front elevation (view from the Green)**
4. B/06/01362 - Gatefields meadow, Hartest Hill – renewal of planning permission – change of use of part of existing building and erection of single-storey extension to form an agricultural workers dwelling – consulted as adjoining parish – **no objections**

c. To consider any other applications received:

1. B/04/00100 – Hillbank House, Hartest Hill – erection of two-storey side extension and alterations to roof as amended by plans received (by Babergh DC) on 06/04/04 and

letter dated 01/06/04 – Babergh DC has advised approval had been granted in respect of alterations to windows as per letter dated 3 August 2006 – **Letter to be sent to Babergh DC querying why HPC was not consulted prior to approval**

d. Tree preservation orders applications:

1. B/06/01512 - Brookside Cottage, The Row – reduction in height of Eucalyptus tree to approximately 13 metres high – **Michael Feather, Tree Warden had advised HPC that the tree does not merit a Preservation Order**

06/96 Parish Plan Update – It was agreed with Erica Clarke that copies of the Parish Plan should be distributed to neighbouring parishes and stakeholders and some copies should be held back for new residents. Any other surplus of copies may be sold to cover the financial deficit. Erica advised that she would arrange for the issue of copies to the Records Office, Library and Surgery. It was questioned as to the ownership of the Parish Plan, particularly if the Parish Plan group disbands. This issue will be taken back to the group but it was suggested that the Village owns the plan. The Good Neighbour Scheme was introduced to the Parish Plan Group previously via Gavin Hodge Suffolk Acre who had made an informal visit. It was agreed that a letter be sent to him to thank him for his time. **Action Clerk**

06/97 Environment a. highway repairs – Cooks Farm hole repaired. Cllr Long advised that there is a hole in the road between Cooks Farm and Kew Gardens. **Action Clerk**

b. Parsons Walk – a report was read from Cllr Schofield. The original arrangement to utilise manpower from Crime Concern cannot go ahead due to an issue with using wheelbarrows. SCC will therefore undertake the work. Some hardcore will be required which will be sited off Blind Lane and transported by dumper to Parsons Walk as required. The relevant farmer and landowner have been contacted regarding this. The work has been costed at £1500 and as agreed HPC will contribute £300. **Action Cllr Schofield**

Cllr Loxton advised that he had found some bolts to mend the handrail. **Action Cllr Loxton**

c. The Row – HPC is hosting a fact-finding meeting on 26 September involving SCC, BDC, Cllr Kemp, PC Den Mullett, Mrs Easting, Hartest School Headmistress and HPC Councillors, to discuss the issues at The Row, sourcing funding and taking a viable bid to SCC for works required.

Road markings at school – yellow markings repainted but need to request officially for white markings. **Action Clerk**

Letter received from SCC proposing a 20's plenty zone at the school. It was decided to consider this along with other issues at The Row meeting.

The 'new steps' at The Row – the owner has been advised that these are illegal and SCC will be returning the bank to its original state.

d. Footpaths - Darney Lane – a letter had been received from SCC advising they are consulting the Definitive Map Team regarding a potential traffic regulation order and asked if HPC is seeking a seasonal or permanent order. It was agreed that a reply should be sent advising a permanent order is being sought with the exception of motorised vehicle access for the local farmers. It was also agreed not to take up Whepstead PC's offer to put up laminated signs asking vehicle drivers to use restraint in wet weather at this stage. **Action Clerk**

Rogers Lane – is on SCC schedule for 2 cuts per year.

Footpath 2 Blue Hog Lane – Roger Bird had reported seeing vehicles driving illegally on this footpath. He had reported it to SCC who advised that he could put up a sign. HPC felt this was not acceptable and it should be the responsibility of SCC to put up notices. **Action Clerk**

e. Neighbourhood Watch – nothing to report.

f. The Suffolk Hedgerow Survey – Cllr Pask reported that she is working alongside Michael Feather and Erica Clarke to start up a new wildlife group which will also deal with the survey.

g. Street Name Signing – Cllr Pask has arranged the sites for The Row signs. Babergh DC will pay for the signs, as there is a need for them. It was resolved that the signs can be ordered from Babergh DC. **Action Clerk**

h. Bus Shelters – This issue was asked to be raised again at the previous meeting but due to the amount of business still to deal with it was resolved to look at this issue at a later meeting.

06/98 The Green and Cemetery

a. The Green Conservation – A reply had been received from SCC regarding queries made. It was resolved that the reply should be put into the Councillors information box before a decision is made.

b. Insurance of village assets – HPC insurance is due for renewal on 30 September. It was resolved that the Village sign and HPC Noticeboard be added to the All Risks section and the premium of £215.57 be paid along with the approximate additional premium of £56.80.

Action Clerk

c. Review of Cemetery spaces and action required

d. Cemetery lower gates

e. Headstone stability

f. Review of Burial regulations for tablets – Cllrs Irvine and Pask advised that they had received helpful information regarding Cemeteries and would be working together to look at c, d, e and f. **Action Cllrs Irvine and Pask**

06/99 Emergency Planning – The Clerk had received paperwork from Suffolk County Council asking for updated details for the Hartest Rest Centre in case of an emergency. Currently Hartest Parish School is registered as the only rest Centre and Mrs Easting, Headmistress had indicated concerns regarding this as in a case of emergency there could be chaos with parents rushing to the school to be with their children and residents also arriving at the same time. If an emergency happened outside of school time, it may take sometime for keyholders to arrive. It was resolved that a letter be sent to the Institute Committee asking if the Institute could be listed as a Rest Centre also. **Action Clerk**

06/100 Correspondence received requiring comment or action

1. Letter from SCC in conjunction with Age Concern providing fridge magnets with a telephone contact for older people. The phone line is managed by Age Concern staff who are able to advise older people requiring assistance and information. Cllr Pask to issue magnets.
2. Poster advertising Suffolk Handyperson Service for over 65's – lower labour charges. To display on noticeboard by school.
3. SCC School Organisation Review – HPC felt it could not comment on this as a group – the consultation is geared more for individuals.
4. Letter from Vitalise asking for donations – HPC agreed not to donate (donations being an area that needs more consideration).
5. Community Achievement Awards – HPC would like to nominate Carolyn Stokes.

Action Clerk

06/101 Minute Book – A costing had been obtained from Denny Bros in Bury St Edmunds for a Guildhall Green Minute book (same as previous book) for £28.20 including VAT. It was resolved that a Guildhall Minute Book be purchased. **Action Clerk**

06/102 Matters for future consideration

1. Cllr Irvine asked if the meetings could be shortened and suggested that a monthly meeting may help.
2. It was suggested a separate finance meeting be set to consider the precept etc. It was resolved that this meeting take place on Tuesday 5 December at the school (if available). **Action Clerk**
3. It was suggested that District Councillor Peter Jones' attendance at the HPC meeting on 20 November be postponed until January due to the issue of length of meetings and other pressing business. Cllrs to advise the Clerk.

06/103 Date of next meeting – Monday 20 November 2006 in the Institute

The Chairman closed the meeting at 10.05pm.