

## **Hartest Parish Council Minutes of the meeting held in The Institute Monday 20 November 2006 at 7.00pm**

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

Apologies: Cllr Rachel Irvine (unwell), PC Den Mullett

Attending: Marie Huggett (Clerk), County Cllr Richard Kemp, 1 member of the public

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**06/120 Declarations of interest:** none

**06/121 Minutes of the meeting held on 6 November 2006** were approved as a true record and signed accordingly.

**06/122 Matters arising from the meeting of 6 November 2006:**none

**06/123 Public Forum:** no member of the public spoke.

### **06/124 Presentation by County Councillor Peter Jones on the Regional Assembly**

The Regional Assembly was set up in 1999. The overall function of the East of England Regional Assembly is to promote the social, economic and environmental well being of the region. In the East of England, the Assembly undertakes three primary functions:

- It is the recognised voluntary regional chamber for the East of England
- Regional local government association
- Regional employers organisation for local government

Voluntary regional chambers have statutory powers with regards to regional planning and scrutiny of Regional Development Agencies. The Assembly works in partnership with a wide range of organisations in the region to achieve its objectives.

All elected Assembly members are part of recognised groups:

|                   |   |            |
|-------------------|---|------------|
| Conservative      | - | 42 members |
| Labour            | - | 13 members |
| Liberal Democrats | - | 14 members |
| Independent       | - | 3 members  |

To help achieve the goal of improving the quality of life in the East of England, regional strategies have been developed by the Assembly and its partners which include Environment, Housing, Health, Sustainable Development Framework, Cultural, Economic, Social and Spatial.

The Regional Assembly receives the majority of its funding from central Government but income is also received from local authority subscriptions, training courses, lectures, conferences.

The Assembly works in partnership with a wide range of organisations in the region to achieve its objectives including East of England Development Agency, Government Office for the East of England, local authorities, Highways Agency and many more.

The Regional Assembly consists of a split of 70 elected members from Local Government and 30 community stakeholders from private industry, business, charities etc.

Various questions were put to Cllr Jones and there was suggestion that should there be a change of Government then the Regional Assembly may be abolished, that there is possibly a duplication of work and it is not a democratic organisation. There is no accountability to the public as such, only by results. The public can attend meetings. Cllr Jones felt that in respect of the future of Parish Councils the Government might require all Parish Councils to achieve Quality Parish Council status.

Following a change of minister and a white paper, Cllr Jones felt that there were no significant changes as were expected, Ruth Kelly seemed to be happy to "stay as we are".

Cllr Long felt that generally people were not aware of the Regional Assembly and its role, maybe due to a lack of publicity. Cllr Jones advised that the Assembly has PR staff that check on media coverage

The Chairman thanked Cllr Peter Jones for his presentation.

**06/125 Police Report** – A report was read out from the Police for the period 19<sup>th</sup> September to 20<sup>th</sup> November 2006:

- 1 report of a vehicle crime
- 1 report of a theft
- 1 report of a domestic non-crime matter

PC Mullett had advised that the earliest implementation of Neighbourhood Teams would be in March 2007 but could be delayed due to roll out in other areas first. There will now be no Police Base in Lavenham but he is still looking for a suitable base in Hartest. PC Mullett was appreciative of the suggestion of Pear Tree Farm but felt that it is situated too far out of the Village Centre but a post-box for confidential messages could be sited there.

It was suggested that the Institute could be an option if the Police are willing to pay the hire charge. The Church was also another option. Cllr Pask advised that she had problems trying to contact PC Mullett recently with regard to an abandoned vehicle in the Institute car park.

**Action Clerk**

**06/126 County Councillor's report – Cllr Richard Kemp**

With regard to The Row project, Cllr Kemp advised that he had applied to the Access Fund but because the potential project had not met the requirements; a further application will be made to ITV's Peoples Millions Fund within the next month.

The County Council Scrutiny Committee referred the closure of hospitals to Patricia Hewitt. A reply had been received from Helen Robinson, an Account Manager, who had asked for further clarification on several points. It was felt that this approach was delaying the issue.

SCC has outlined budget plans for 2007/2008 and it could be facing a shortfall from Central Government of £22 million, which is the gap that the Council expects to receive in extra income and the increase in cost of services. The main cost increases include a rise in the elderly population requiring services and inflationary pressures such as pay, fuel and power. The level of the Council Tax and the budget will be set at a meeting of the Council on 22 February.

Due to environmental concerns, a lack of landfill sites and government penalties for waste, SCC has to look at new solutions to growing waste problems. One consideration is a waste incinerator or a mechanical biological treatment, which is very expensive.

Beware of a parcel scam – a card is posted through people's doors claiming to be from Parcel Delivery Service, suggesting that a parcel could not be delivered and advising to call a premium rate number. When a person calls they hear a recorded message and are billed £15 for the call. If you receive a card with the number 0906 6611911 please contact Royal Mail Fraud on 0207 2396655 or the premium rate regulator ICTIS on their website at [www.ictis.org.uk](http://www.ictis.org.uk) or the local trading standards office.

SCC is due to publish a report regarding the Schools Reorganisation, Cllr Kemp feels that it will recommend returning to a 2-tier system.

## 06/127 District Councillor's Report – Cllr James Long

Cllr Long advised that Rougham Road Waste Facility in Bury St Edmunds takes dry paint tins and tins which have solid dry paint in, however, tins with liquid paint are not accepted. Babergh can collect hazardous waste for free.

District Councillors are attending a Safeguarding Children Board course; Cllr Long has attended a course, which covers how to handle situations where it is suspected that children may be being mistreated, or calling at a home where children are alone without their parents.

## 06/128 Planning

### a. Babergh DC decisions received:

- B/06/01346 - White Cottage, The Green – Listed Building Consent, demolition of single-storey addition; erection of single-storey extensions **granted**
- B/06/01345 - White Cottage, The Green – Erection of single-storey extensions and outbuilding **granted**
- B/06/01596 - Waldegrave Farm, Lawshall Road – Erection of single-storey extension **granted**

### b. To consider planning applications received:

- B/06/01729 – Barns at Townsend Farm, Melford Road – Conversion of barns to from 2 No. dwellings with detached annexe and cartlodge (amended scheme) - **HPC is very concerned with amended scheme proposals - letter to be sent voicing concern on several points including raised pitch of barn roof, fenestration, impact on wildlife and extra land now included**
- B/06/01882 - Tower Lodge, Chadacre Road – Erection of first-floor extension and link extension between dwelling house and outbuilding – **no objections – would like to see same materials used in keeping with current building.**
- Landmark Plants, Gatefields Meadow, Shimpling – Amendment to Erection of single-storey rear extension with link conservatory – **no objections**
- B/06/01900 - Valance Farm, Cross Green – Erection of 4 Bay cart lodge (following demolition of existing steel frame barn) – **no objections, would like to see cart lodge in keeping with existing buildings, no bright orange tiles but natural pantiles**
- B/03/00875 - Melrose, 2 Brockley Road – Erection of detached double garage (existing single garage to be demolished) – **no objections**

### c. To consider any other planning applications received since the date of this notice: none

### d. Tree Preservation Orders: none

## 06/129 Environment

### a. Highway Repairs

- Greenview, Chadacre Road – water problem
- Anglian Water has been working at the Old Rectory
- Hartest Hill – issues with work by Telecom Company
- The Street – white markings

### b. Parsons Walk Report – work is completed to a high level of satisfaction.

### c. The Row – pedestrian safety, accessibility, speed limits, update

- 20's Plenty Scheme to be implemented in Hartest – Clerk to chase installation date **Action Clerk**

- Babergh DC has offered up to £15,000 to a scheme to change the steps, bringing the total monies pledged to date, just over £20,000. Suffolk Acre is carrying out funding research for HPC and the Clerk has identified two possible lottery funds. **Action Clerk**
- Implementation of yellow lines at the steps – PC Den Mullett has confirmed he can support this. HPC felt that this issue may take some consideration and as a potential scheme is being taken forward, this suggestion is not taken further at this time.
- There are issues again with parents parking illegally outside the School. Mrs Easting has been asked to remind parents of parking arrangements. The matter has also been mentioned to PC Mullett.

#### **d. Footpaths**

- **Darney Lane** – A letter had been received from SCC advising that a decision had been made to keep the byway open to vehicles, however, following an inspection of damage an immediate closure to vehicles for at least six months has been put in place. HPC felt that a permanent closure to vehicles other than access for agricultural vehicles should be made. **Action Clerk**
- **Swan Farm** – replacement footpath sign for Swan Lane has been erected in error at Blue Hog Lane – Cllr Pask has reported to SCC.
- **Road Sign** – by Institute is damaged and requires reporting. **Action Clerk**

**e. Neighbourhood Watch** – nothing to report

**f. Suffolk Hedgerow Survey** – A group is being set up and will meet shortly.

**g. Street Naming** – The Row signs should be erected before Christmas.

**h. Emergency Planning** – Awaiting response from the Institute Committee to confirm if the Institute can be registered as a second rest centre.

#### **06/130 The Green and Cemetery**

- The Green conservation** - work is due to start in January.
- Repairs to the steps at the Green** – one quote has been received, further information is required along with two other quotes. HPC is looking to retain the rail to the steps, replace existing steps with railway sleepers and pea shingle. The bricks will be removed with a grass finish for a natural look. **Action Clerk**
- Trees on the Green** – Chris King has advised to leave the tree work required until May 2007. However the Lime Tree still requires trimming. **Action Clerk**
- The Cemetery, headstone stability, review of burial regulations etc** – Cllrs Pask and Irvine currently looking at this in order to report to the Council in January 2007. **Action Cllrs Pask & Irvine**

#### **06/131 Correspondence**

- Letter from County Councillor Richard Kemp regarding locality budget** – HPC will confirm amount required after the HPC Finance meeting on 5 December 2006.

#### **06/132 Matters for future consideration**

- Cllr Long would like the Council to be notified of any deaths in Hartest that the Clerk is informed of.

**06/133 Date of the next meeting** is Monday 5 December at 7pm at the School.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.50pm.