

Hartest Parish Council Minutes of the meeting held at The Institute Monday 15 January 2007 at 7.00pm

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

Attending: Marie Huggett (Clerk), 2 Members of the Public, PC Den Mullett

07/1 Apologies for absence – apologies had been received from County Councillor Richard Kemp.

07/2 Declarations of Interest: None

07/3 Minutes of the Meeting held on 5 December 2006 were approved as a true record and signed accordingly.

07/4 Matters arising from the Meeting of 5 December 2006: None

07/5 Public Forum: Mrs Joy Banham advised the Parish Council of damage caused to her property by a fallen willow tree branch. This is a third occurrence of this problem and Mrs Banham said she was concerned that walkers on the footpath may be injured if action is not taken to deal with the willow tree. HPC agreed to write to the landowner to highlight the issue regarding the footpath.

Mr Cutler raised his concerns with regard to the parking issues at The Row, particularly vehicles being parked opposite his house. Mr Cutler asked if HPC could seriously consider having yellow lines painted at this position.

PC Mullett advised that court proceedings are pending in respect of the obstructive parking but obstruction can be difficult to prove in court. Yellow lines would make it an absolute offence to park.

07/6 Police Report: PC Den Mullett advised that between 21 November 2006 and 15 January 2007 1 burglary had been reported; a vehicle had been stolen from a Hartest residence from a secure shed. A violent public order incident had also been dealt with.

PC Mullett also advised that if he or PC Sally Smith cannot be contacted directly when required, then callers should contact the Martlesham Police station.

07/7 County Councillor's Report: The Clerk read out Cllr Kemp's report in his absence:

A Policy Development Panel is being formed to look at what can be done to protect post offices in Suffolk • The County Council has signed up to the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change • The "No Limits" database is a free voluntary register of children and young people, aged 0-19, with additional needs in Suffolk. It is an information service advising what's happening in Suffolk and the UK for children and young people with additional needs • Graham Dixon has been appointed as SCC's new Director of Resource Management.

07/8 District Councillor's Report: Cllr Long advised information is available regarding saving energy and other environmental issues from the Energy Saving Trust Advice Centre: 0800 512012, www.est.org.uk/anglia • A full Babergh District Council Meeting will take place in February.

07/9 Finance: It was resolved that the following invoices be paid:

Hire of Hartest Institute	-	£28.00
Clerk's wages & expenses	-	£190.27

Action Clerk

The Halifax Reserve Account is due to mature on 5 February 2007 with interest of £113.42 payable on the £5000 invested in August 2006. It was resolved that an amount of £6500 be reinvested for a further 6 months. **Action Clerk**

Cllr Long thanked Cllr Schofield for taking time to look at the Accounts in relation to Precept Setting. Cllr Schofield advised there are a few anomalies relating to the Parish Plan (previous paperwork needs to be consulted) and Locality Budget. It was resolved that the Precept be set at £7585.00 at no increase from 2006/2007. **Action Clerk & Cllr Schofield**

07/10 Planning

1. Babergh Decisions received:

- B/06/01900 Valance Farm, Cross Green – Erection of 4 bay cart lodge **granted**
- B/06/01623 Hartest Pre-school – New Pre-school building (amended location/access to Planning Consent B/06/00362) **granted**
- B/06/01882 Tower Lodge, Chadacre Road – Erection of first-floor extension and link extension between dwelling house and outbuilding **refused**
- B/06/01942 Springbank, Lawshall Road – Felling and works to various trees **BDC do not wish to make a Tree Preservation Order**

2. To consider Planning Applications received:

- B/06/01854 Mill Hill Farm House, Somerton Road – Application for Listed Building Consent – Internal and External alterations **no objections but HPC would like to see no change to elevations outside the site**
- B/06/01729 Barns at Townsend Farm, Melford Road – Conversion of barns to form 2 dwellings (amended scheme) – **Cllr Loxton to study the revised plans in detail and provide a report**

07/11 Environment

1. **Highways Repairs** – Potholes near Waldegrave Farm need to be reported. **Action Clerk**
2. **The Row** – 20's Plenty has been installed. Due to the parking issues near The Row steps, it was resolved that HPC contact SCC regarding introducing yellow lines. Lottery Funding is being applied for in respect of a potential project to provide better pedestrian access. **Action Clerk**
3. **Footpaths – Darney Lane:** SCC has placed barrier netting across part of the route to restrict motorised traffic. The Definitive Map Team is working on a traffic regulation order. **Parsons Walk:** A new hedge has been planted on part of the boundary of the footpath, which may in time affect the footpath – this has been reported to SCC. **Creation of Footpath No 22 Hartest:** Letter received from Birketts solicitors asking for comments on proposed diversion of parts of Somerton footpaths and creation of Hartest no 22 on behalf of their client. Steve Stone had advised that the diversion proposed was a sensible solution to the current problems. HPC has no objections to the proposal. **Action Clerk**
4. **Street Naming** – Babergh DC will pay for further street signs if it is agreed there is a need, however, it was resolved that no further street signs are required in Hartest.

07/12 The Green and Cemetery

1. **The Green Conservation** – Highways have completed the preparation work in readiness for the conservation work, which is due to start this month. Some vehicles have been seen parked on The Green, which causes damage. Once the conservation work is completed the issue of notices may be considered, asking drivers not to park on the Green.
2. **Trees on the Green** – BDC has advised that permission must be applied for in respect of any works on the Trees. Councillors queried a possible blanket permission provided sometime ago, Clerk to enquire. A grant of up to £400 can be applied for to

help with costs. Clerk asked to consult Michael Feather for advice regarding works required. **Action Clerk**

3. **Cemetery** – Cllr Irvine had produced a report in respect of the issues surrounding the Cemetery, works required and options regarding further burial space. It was agreed that the report be considered for the next meeting and in the meantime a letter is sent to the neighbouring land owner regarding acquisition of burial space and an article is placed in the Contact Magazine regarding headstone liability and burial space. **Action Clerk & Cllr Irvine**

07/13 Babergh DC Community Achievement Awards - It was agreed that the Clerk, Marie Huggett attend the Awards Ceremony on behalf of the Parish Council in respect of Carolyn Stokes' recognition with a Community Achievement Award.

07/14 Clerk's Employment Terms and Conditions – The Clerk produced a draft contract supplied by SALC and it was agreed that the Clerk work with Cllr Irvine to produce a suitable contract. **Action Clerk & Cllr Irvine**

07/15 Correspondence received – Two letters had been received asking for donations but HPC felt that a more structured approach should be considered in respect of donations so no further action would be taken at this stage. Information regarding a Bus Shelter was highlighted following a request from Cllr Irvine but it was considered that this issue be deferred for the time being.

07/16 Matters for future consideration – It was agreed that information regarding the precept be placed in the Contact Magazine.

07/17 Date of Next Meeting is Monday 19 March 2007 at 7pm in the Institute.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.35pm.