

## **Hartest Parish Council Minutes of the meeting held at The Institute Monday 19 March 2007 at 7.00pm**

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

Apologies: PC Den Mullett

Attending: Marie Huggett (Clerk), 5 members of the public

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**07/36 Apologies for absence** – apologies had been received from PC Den Mullett

**07/37 Declarations of Interest:** None.

**07/38 Minutes of the Meeting held on 27 February 2007** were approved as a true record and signed accordingly.

**07/39 Matters arising from the Meeting of 27 February 2007:** Cllr Pask asked if the Clerk's contract can be an agenda item at the next HPC meeting.

**07/40 Public Forum:** Mr Tullett from Bell Pasture, The Row advised the Council that he was aware that there had been concern regarding some works he has carried out to the bank of the brook and planting of trees on some land he has purchased from the Weller-Poley estate. Mr Tullett advised that he has met with SCC and BDC representatives and is applying for a change of use in respect of the agricultural land purchased. Mr Tullett advised that he had not excavated the bank but is intending to strengthen it to avoid erosion along with erecting a stock proof fence, which will border the footpath and enclose the newly planted hedge (some of which will be replanted following discussions with the rights of way representative).

**07/41 Police Report:** A report received from the Police confirmed that no crimes have been reported for Hartest for the period 16<sup>th</sup> January 2007 to 19<sup>th</sup> March 2007 compared to 4 for the same period last year.

Concern was raised regarding speeding in the village and a request that SID is used again. Cllr Kemp advised the Council to write to Peter Ingram SCC requesting that the speed be monitored. **Action Clerk**

### **07/42 County Councillor's Report:**

- Cllr Kemp advised that he had been in contact with SCC regarding the issues at The Row; SCC advised that they could put up a sign warning motorists of pedestrians. Due to a low accident rate The Row does not score highly for consideration for safety works.
- SCC is £24 million short on budget and is looking to make cuts and redundancies however, 147 SCC staff earn over £100,000 per annum.
- SCC's Conservative Administration agreed a Council Tax increase of 4.5% for 2007-8 on 22 February.
- Mature Suffolk drivers can take a free refresher course to improve their driving skills. A session will be held at Bury St Edmunds on 23 March at Moreton Hall.
- SCC has launched a mobiles library consultation in order to review the routes.
- The proposed closure of Sudbury hospital has been referred to Patricia Hewitt again.
- The School Reorganisation proposal will be debated on Thursday 22 March and a decision will be made whether or not to change to a two-tier system. Cllr Kemp advised that the majority of people who had contacted him were not in favour of the change. Cllr Kemp said he would reflect this view in his voting.

Cllr Loxton asked Cllr Kemp how much the Garbology project was costing in relation to the proposed cuts/redundancies and budget shortage? Cllr Kemp to look into.

Cllr Kemp advised that a two-tier school system will cost £23 million. The Government is providing a £500 million incentive. 48 temporary buildings are still in place in schools from the last reorganisation in the 1970s.

### **07/43 District Councillor's Report:**

- Cllr Long has grave concerns regarding the proposed two-tier system for Suffolk schools and felt there are many unanswered questions relating to financial gain, effect on communities, transporting of (very young) children – safety and security issues and possible knock-on effect to teachers’ morale and more parents considering private education.
- Babergh District Council elections will be held on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2007. BDC has kept Council Tax increases at or below the rate of inflation. The 2007/08 increase in the BDC part of Council Tax is beneath inflation at 2.9% or less than 7p per week. BDC has achieved nearly £2m in cashable and non-cashable savings since 2002 and invested £23 million in capital projects including £14 million on Council Housing.
- Between 2003/4 and 2006/7 BDC ran sports activity programmes resulting in 1680 attendances by young people (484 in the last year).
- BDC has increased the supply of housing that local people can afford to rent or buy; nearly 220 RSL homes were built in the district between 2003/4 and 2006/7. BDC recently adopted Local Plan requires that up to 35% of homes on new developments should be affordable (i.e. for rent or shared ownership).
- BDC has maintained a Safe, Clean and Sustainable Environment by carrying out Council House Repair Works (99% satisfaction rate), constructing on Brownfield sites, minimising household waste and attaining a recycling rate of just over 35%. BDC is committed to tackling Anti-Social Behaviour with funding and recruitment of a Community Safety Manager and Officer.
- BDC provides concessionary travel, supports rural cinema projects and supports and invested in the Quay Theatre, Sudbury.

#### 07/44 Finance

Income received:

- £50 received in respect of Cemetery charges
- £365 received from SCC Locality Budget (to assist in payment for works required to the steps on The Green)
- £150.71 received in respect of interest from the Halifax and Natwest Reserve Accounts

Payments approved:

- £479.85 Clerks wages, travel and office expenses
- £35.00 Hire of the Institute
- £11.75 Elections Training (SALC)
- £87.95 PC Software Accounts Package – Heelis and Lodge
- £16.50 Hire of the School

Parish Plan:

Cllr Schofield had checked the Council’s Accounts and established that a balance of £25.67 is required from the Parish Plan group. **Action Clerk**

2007/2008 Budget:

It was resolved that the 2007/2008 budget of £9350 be increased to £10,350 (trees budget increased from £500 to £1,500 due to potential works required). With the expected precept for 07/08 the budget will be in excess of £11,000.

#### 07/45 Planning

a. Planning Decisions received:

1. B/07/00144 – 7 Green View – Felling of 1 Conifer Tree **Granted**
2. B/03/00875 – 2 Brockley Road – Erection of detached double garage (existing garage to be demolished) – Resiting of garage **Granted** - Works to porch cannot be treated as minor amendment as not included in original application, separate planning permission must be sought in respect of requirement for deletion of 1.8m high visibility screen.

3. B/06/01883 – Peartree Cottage, The Green – Removal of existing chimney to rear **Granted**
  4. B/06/01854 – Mill Hill Farm House, Somerton Road – Application for Listed Building Consent – internal and external alterations **Granted**
  5. B/05/02166 – Fosters Farm, Hartest Hill – Change of use of redundant outbuildings to Class B1 Office use – amendments **Granted** with conditions
- b.** Planning applications – none received
- c.** Tree Preservation orders – none received
- d.** Planning queries update:
1. B/07/00072 – Former Banham Coaches Site – Erection of 4 dwelling houses:
    - Plot 1 will be available to rent via a Housing Association with a 106 Agreement
    - The boundaries are identified by a red dotted line on the plans
    - The same entry/exit is shown as in a previous application which was then an issue – this should not be an issue now as less houses proposed and Highways have not negatively commented
    - Natural slate will be used for tiles and timber for the windows
    - No high level street lighting would be acceptable
    - There is adequate parking suggested for occupiers and visitors

A copy of a letter sent to BDC had been received from Suffolk Preservation Society objecting to the Planning Application for Banham Coaches Site.

#### **07/46 Environment**

- a.** Highway repairs – There is a leak by Greenview. Contractors have eroded the triangle at the fork in the road near Spring Bank. The Developers to be contacted regarding reinstatement and edges of the bank. **Action Clerk**
- b.** The Row – Lottery Funding unsuccessful but other funding to be explored. It was suggested that:
- MP Tim Yeo be lobbied
  - An HPC Working Group be set up to deal with the project (Cllrs Pask and Oaten volunteered to be involved)
  - A Traffic survey is undertaken
  - Consideration is given to widening the small path opposite Bell House to provide a safe footpath to access the village for residents living beyond The Row (South).
  - Look into a device that measures the proximity of passing vehicles to buildings

#### **Action Clerk and Councillors**

There has been positive work undertaken:

1. 20's Plenty traffic calming system has been installed
2. A barrier outside the school has been installed (now painted white – Mrs Easting sends her thanks)
3. £20,000 has been pledged by SCC, County Cllr Kemp and BDC for a potential project.

SCC has advised that to install yellow lines at the steps in The Row would be a costly and lengthy matter. Currently the parking problem at The Steps seems to have been alleviated with a resident parking his vehicles in a neighbour's driveway.

- c. Footpaths** – FP13 beyond Parson's Walk – resident of Bell Pasture has arranged to reposition new trees with SCC & BDC as advised under Public Forum. Darney Lane – update required regarding temporary and full closure to vehicles. **Action Clerk**
- d. Dog fouling** – an email had been received from Fay Ogden, a visitor to Hartest. It was resolved that a note be included in the May issue of Contact reminding owners to remove any dog fouling. A reply to be sent to Fay Ogden. **Action Clerk**

- e. **Restrictions in Gypsy Lane** – both roads to be reopened to two-way traffic but traffic calming measures will be installed to improve safety for pedestrians and the residents of Hardwick Lane.
- f. **Weller-Poley Land** - Concern has been raised for residents who have or are intending to purchase Weller-Poley or any other land, that they maybe unaware that a change of use planning application is possibly required. A note is to be put into the Contact Magazine reminding residents in this position to contact BDC. **Action Clerk**

#### **07/47 The Green and Cemetery**

- a. **The Green Conservation update and comments received** – an email was read from Jan Ralling who lives on The Green and is unhappy with the conservation works carried out. It was agreed that a reply be sent. **Action Clerk** Most of the work has been done to The Green and a new traditional road direction sign has been situated opposite the Institute. Works should be completed around mid April.
- b. **The Steps on The Green** – SCC has advised that there needs to be a Conservation input. Patrick Taylor from Babergh is to visit the steps and then make some sketch drawings. **Action Clerk**
- c. **Trees on The Green** – The Clerk is to meet with Michael Feather to ascertain what works are required and make a report for the next HPC meeting. **Action Clerk**
- d. **The Cemetery** – a note has been included in the May edition of Contact asking any persons responsible for gravestones to check they are safe and if not to carry out required works to make safe. A letter is to be sent to Mr Jack Ince regarding possible purchase of land to extend the cemetery. **Action Clerk, Cllr Long** Other options that can be considered are the reuse of land, compulsory purchase of land. Should the old cemetery be retained for historical and nature reserve issues? Should there be a cremation area at the top of the cemetery? Cllrs Irvine and Pask are to write to people they have listed with regard to the gravestone safety. **Action Cllrs Irvine, Pask**

#### **07/47 Elections**

The Clerk advised existing Councillors that their service to the public ceases on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2007 following the Parish and District Elections. However the Chairman will remain in service until a new Chairman is voted in at the meeting to be held on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2007. Any person wishing to stand for Parish Council elections must submit their nomination papers to BDC by noon on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2007.

**07/48 School Reorganisation Review** – SCC is due to make a decision on 22 March 2007 in respect of changing from a three-tier system to a two-tier system. HPC requested that comments be sent to SCC regarding the future of Hartest First School advising that the Parish Council would not like to see the school closed as it not only serves the children of Hartest but adjoining communities too.

**07/49 Glemsford & Hartest Surgeries** – HPC had received a letter from Suffolk NHS asking for comments relating to an application from a Mr S Abdullah from Manchester for preliminary consent for inclusion in the pharmaceutical list in Glemsford. A letter had also been received from the Drs Heller, Lesser and Giblin, The Surgery, Glemsford asking for support in objecting to Mr Abdullah's application. HPC felt that there was inadequate information to comment fairly on both arguments and Suffolk NHS was to be advised of this. **Action Clerk**

**07/50 Climate Change Community Workshop** – It was agreed that HPC would support the Climate Challenge Now workshop to be held in the Institute on 23<sup>rd</sup> April. The Chairman, Cllr Long will welcome the Climate Challenge representatives and the public.

**07/51 Annual Parish Meeting** – It was agreed to hold the Annual Parish Meeting on 16 May 2007 at 7pm in the Institute. Invitations will be sent to representatives of Village organisations. **Action Clerk**

#### **07/52 Correspondence received –**

1. Letter from Gill Leeming asking for permission for the Church Fete to be held on The Green on 27<sup>th</sup> August 2007. It was resolved that permission would be granted. **Action Clerk**
2. Letter from Stella King asking for permission for a stall on The Green on 19<sup>th</sup> May 10am to 12pm in respect of fund raising for the elderly and those living alone in Hartest, Boxted and Somerton. Stella also asks for permission to erect a notice on the small green to

advertise a coffee morning on 23<sup>rd</sup> June. It was resolved that permission would be granted in both cases. **Action Clerk**

3. A letter from the Audit Commission proposing that Lubbock Fine would audit HPC's accounts – it was agreed to accept this proposal.

4. A letter had been received from the DCA highlighting memorial safety advice.

5. A letter had been received from the Clerk advising of her intention to resign from the post of Parish Clerk with effect from 1 June 2007. It was agreed that a notice of vacancy be placed in the May issue of Contact magazine and the notice board.

**07/53 Matters for future consideration**

No matters were raised.

**07/54 Date of next meeting** is Monday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2007 in the Institute at 7pm.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 10.25pm.