

Hartest Parish Council Minutes of the meeting held at The Institute Wednesday 5 September 2007 at 7.00pm

In attendance: Cllrs Rachel Irvine (Chairwoman), David Loxton (Vice-Chair), David Burr, Jo Pask, Mary Gough

Apologies: Cllr Maddox (away on holiday), Cllr Oaten (another engagement), County Cllr Kemp (away on holiday)

Attending: Marie Huggett (Clerk), District Cllr James Long, 3 members of the public

Action

- 07/140 Apologies** had been received from Cllrs Maddox, Oaten & Kemp.
- 07/141 Minutes** of 15 August meeting were approved as a true record and signed accordingly.
- 07/142 Matters arising** from 15 August minutes – there were no matters.
- 07/143 Declarations of prejudicial interest** – Cllr Pask declared an interest in the planning application for Place Farm, Cllr Loxton declared an interest in the planning application for the land opposite Pear Tree Farm.
- 07/144 Public Forum** – The meeting was suspended so that members of the public could speak.
- 07/145 Police Report** – The Clerk had received a report indicating that the Police had received two reports of vehicle crime including a pick up truck stolen from a farmyard situated off the Green on 9 August and a ride-on lawnmower on the evening of 28 August. Two thefts had been dealt with including a cordless drill from a shed in a private garden at The Row and a large touring caravan. The Police are raising awareness of their Police Direct Scheme, which provides latest information about local crime along with other information and can be sent to an email address, by text or voice recorded telephone messages.
- 07/146 County Councillor's Report** – Ipswich Borough Council has been asked by the Government to undertake further work and submit additional information to demonstrate conclusively the financial viability of their proposals for unitary status.
SCC is urging residents to book their electric blankets in for a free health check for one week commencing 10 September.
SCC states that more needs to be done to improve children's school results.
SCC is launching the Suffolk Play Strategy in partnership with other organisations to increase and improve play provision in all areas for children and young people in Suffolk.
- 07/147 District Councillor's report** – Cllr Long reported that BDC is very concerned about proposals to extend Stansted Airport including another runway. Cllr Long advised that BDC is looking to improve the administration of grants and sponsorships to provide a more effective process for all concerned.
- 07/148 Planning**
- a. Decisions received:**
1. B/07/01195 – Wheelwrights, The Green – work to trees **granted**
- b. New planning applications:**
1. B/07/01265 – Land opposite Pear Tree Farm – Erection of 5 holiday Cabins, clubhouse and 21 parking spaces. **HPC has no objections however would point out that the planning statement suggests that all boundaries will have hedging which is not shown on one boundary on the plans, the bungalow situated close to the**

site is also not shown on the plans. HPC would not like to see an increase in noise and would agree with the condition of no occupancy during the months of November through to January.

Clerk

2. B/07/01275 – Giffords Hall, Shimpling – Change of use of outbuilding from café/shop to residential accommodation for workers/holiday let

- HPC has no objections

Clerk

3. B/07/01263 – Place Farm – Listed Building Consent – HPC has no objections.

Clerk

4. B/07/01267 – Place Farm – Listed Building Consent – Erection of a Single storey garden room extension and removal of a porch – HPC has no objections.

Clerk

5. B/0701278 – Oakdale, The Row – Erection of summer house/shed - HPC has no objections.

Clerk

c. Tree Preservation Order applications:

1. B/07/01434 – Tandem House, Hartest Hill – Removal of 18 Leylandii Trees – HPC has no objections

Clerk

d. Planning updates: BDC had responded to HPC's concerns regarding the planning application for The Butchers (Basham's), The Green advising that the application is subject to local policies EM24 and CR20 and the Council will have to make a decision whether it is appropriate to set aside these policies with regard to the argument made by the applicants that much investment is needed to restore the listed building and following the policies in this case would prejudice the restoration investment.

07/149 Finance & Administration

a. Finance Statement and payments to be approved:

1. Clerk's wages & expenses - £483.49
2. UK Servers Web Hosting - £23.50
3. BDC Litter Bin emptying - £8.55
4. Institute Hire - £52.50 & £24.50
5. Suffolk Preservation Society (Planning Training) - £15.00
6. Data Protection - £35.00

The above payments were all approved and the finance statement Showed an income of £390.333 due to Cemetery Fees and Bank Interest.

Clerk

b. Donations – Information had been received via SALC regarding policies and approaches to donation applications which Cllr Loxton will look at and make a report at the November meeting. A letter had been received from the Pre-School Committee asking for a donation to go towards the cost of new I.T. Equipment for the children. It was decided that this be considered at a later stage when the approach to donations have been considered and the letter be acknowledged.

DL

c. Historical Paperwork – The Clerk and Cllr Pask had arranged a date to purchase some storage boxes. Dates for sorting still to be arranged with Cllr Burr.

JP DB
Clerk

d. Training – The Clerk reminded Councillors that their training was due to commence on Monday 10th September and continue for the following three Mondays. Stanstead Parish Council is also attending and sharing the cost.

e. Clerk Vacancy – It was agreed that the Clerk contact SALC in order to advertise the vacancy.

Clerk

07/150 Parish Plan – It was agreed that the Parish Council adopt the Parish Plan and the working group will take it forward. Cllrs Loxton and Pask will arrange for spare copies of the plan to be circulated to new residents, libraries etc. A copy can also be put on to the PC website.

DL JP

07/151 The Green

a. Update – It appears that most of the post work has now been

completed. Some redressing is still required outside Hartest Garage, which has been highlighted to SCC on a few occasions, but the Clerk will chase again.

Clerk

b. The steps – It was agreed that SCC be contacted advising that HPC still prefers using railway sleepers to replace the brick steps and to confirm if this is acceptable from a conservation point. The Clerk was asked to investigate the viability of moving the postbox.

Clerk

07/152 The Cemetery

a. Update report – Cllr Irvine advised that the Public Works Loan Board's interest rate is 5% and this could be further investigated as a possible way to fund the purchase of additional land to extend the cemetery. Other issues to take into consideration with purchasing land are legal & negotiating fees, fencing, land drains and landscaping; a budget should be prepared. Coombs Parish Council extended their cemetery some years ago and increased the precept over five years to assist with the cost. The land was not consecrated in order that burials of other faiths could be included. It was agreed that Mr Hazell of George Hazell & Co be instructed to start negotiations with Mr J Ince on behalf of HPC with an offer of £10,000 subject to funding and/or a successful loan application. Cllr Pask advised that she would circulate a management report she had produced. Erica Clarke is happy to assist with the management of the cemetery; rare grasses and orchids have been found growing in the cemetery. A plan for next year's grass cutting is to be looked at.

RI JP

07/153 a. Darney Lane update – SCC will be making a decision at a Committee meeting in October as to whether or not to close Darney Lane to motorised vehicles.

b. Rogers Lane – Cllr Pask advised that she is concerned that vehicles are damaging Rogers Lane but they are legally allowed to use the route. SCC are working on a collapsed area causing a hole. Hedge cuttings have been left on the pathway, which need clearing.

Clerk

c. Smithbrook Lane – There was concern regarding reports of a four-wheel drive vehicle using the footpath and waste had been dumped, which had been reported to BDC and the Police.

07/154 Sustainability

a. Bottle Bank – There are excellent facilities at Brockley. It is felt that there may not be a suitable site in Hartest. Cllr Loxton to speak to the manager of The Crown to see if it is possible to site a bottle bank in the car park.

DL

b. Low Carbon Villages – Following recent correspondence from Ralph Carpenter, it was suggested that this matter is referred to the Parish Plan group to look into.

DL JP

07/155 Emergency Planning – Cllr Maddox was unable to attend the meeting so this matter was deferred until the November meeting.

07/156 Correspondence – Cllr Oaten had raised the issue of dog fouling advising that it was becoming a problem. It was agreed to put a notice on the noticeboard.

07/157 Any other business – There was no further business.

07/158 Matters for consideration – There were no matters.

07/159 Date of next meeting – Wednesday 7 November at 7.00pm at the Institute.

07/160 The Chairwoman closed the meeting at 9.05pm.