

Hartest Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held at The Institute on Wednesday 1 June 2011 at 7pm.

Present: Cllrs Chris Browning (Chairman), David Burr, Jo Pask and David Turner
In Attendance: Co Cllr R Kemp and Mrs P M Lamb (Parish Clerk)

ACTION

11/034 Apologies for absence: Dist Cllr James Long.

11/035 Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the 11 May 2011 were approved and signed.

11/036 Matters Arising: None

11/037 Declarations of interest: None

11/038 Public Forum: Two members of the public were present in connection with the Oak Hill, Somerton Road planning application and a third parishioner attended briefly towards the end of the meeting.

11/039 Police Report: No crimes had been reported for the period 11-31 May.

11/040 County Councillor's Report

At the Full Council AGM on the 26 May Cllr Mark Bee was elected Leader of the Council, with Deputy Leader remaining as Jane Storey. In addition to the leaders, Patricia O'Brien became the Suffolk County Council Chairman for 2011, and Jeremy Pembroke the Vice-Chairman. The Third Suffolk Local Transport Plan, which outlines the County's top transport infrastructure priorities, was discussed. This is a statutory duty and covers the period from 2011 to 2031. The plan includes short term schemes such as the Beccles rail loop, the A14 Copdock improvements and the Ipswich cord. As the plan lasts for twenty years, the Council has also included more medium and long term schemes that they aim to achieve, including the Haverhill NW relief road and the Sudbury western bypass. The plan unfortunately does not see a reprieve of the bus services, but a continuing trend to the use of demand responsive transport. The plan was passed with 46 votes for the plan, 7 against, and 8 abstentions.

Another item on the agenda was the decision to reinstate the County Council's Health Scrutiny Committee, which had been abolished in December when the new scrutiny arrangements were put in place.

Petitions: The petitions at the most recent County Council were some of the most popular to date; these included calls to save the eXplore card, Country Parks, and Household Waste Recycling Centres from the recent cuts imposed at the Council's February budget meeting.

Prior to the meeting the petitions were received by the portfolio holder and then in the meeting the author of the petitions spoke for five minutes to the Council appealing for their petitions to be acted upon. There was much support in the public gallery for the eXplore card petition, with members of youth clubs, schools and colleges attending to watch the discussion and subsequent decision.

After the petitioners had spoken, Cllrs from all parties had the opportunity to contribute to the brief discussion, prior to the portfolio

holder speaking, who stated that the position of the Council remains the same.

The Cabinet, 24 May: Broadband funding, whilst supported by the County Council's Cabinet, was not matched by the Government, which will now lead to a review of the policy as presented to Cabinet. With regard to the Care Homes paper, the Cabinet agreed to note the recommendations put forward by the current business agent, which is to have a structured divestment of the care homes. The Cabinet agreed to receive a further report in February 2012 with details of those who have expressed an interest in the Care Homes, prior to awarding any contracts.

The Cabinet also agreed the revisions to the home to school transport policy, which include removing the subsidised transport for those students who will be admitted to a Roman Catholic aided School, other than for those who are entitled by law. Those students, who already receive the transport, and those who will join the schools in September 2011, will continue to receive the subsidised transport until they leave. The Cabinet agreed that the charges for transport provided by the County Council will be £150 per term; this will increase by £10 each year over the next two years, but will be reviewed at the time by the relevant director and portfolio holder. More information: Suffolk County Council's Council and Democracy page.

County Council launches campaign to halt Pylons: SCC last week launched a campaign to fight the plans to build pylons across the Suffolk countryside. The group, which includes Liberal Democrat Spokesperson for Environment and Waste John Field, objects to National Grid's existing plans for a new line of Pylons between Bramford and Twinsted, as well as the potential threat of a further line between Lowestoft and the existing infrastructure. This could threaten both parts of the Waveney Valley, and the Norfolk Broads. The new lines are seen to be required as a result of the offshore wind farm, and the possibility of Sizewell C being constructed. Instead of the pylons, the group is pushing for high voltage cables laid under the sea bed to transfer the electricity to the South East where it is most required.

11/041 District Councillor's Report: No report available in Cllr Long's absence.

11/042 Finance & Administration:

- (a) Payments: The following payment was approved.
Mr O Cornish: Mowing of Green, Cemetery & Church Yard: £1,000.00
Mrs D Griggs: Internal Audit of 2010/11 Accounts.
Mr M Ashman: Supply and erection of new oak posts for cemetery: £370.00
The above invoices were approved for payment.
- (b) Annual Accounts 2010/11: It was reported that the 2010/11 Accounts had been internally audited and would now be submitted to Messrs BDO.
- (c) Grants: It was agreed that grant requests received would be considered twice a year; end January and end July. The availability of such grants would be advertised and applications invited twice a year via 'Contact'; in June and December. Preference would be given to those organisations demonstrating a strong link to the village.
- (d) Website: Cllr Pask reported that the new website has gone "live" today. Comments and suggestions as to how to improve the site are welcomed. It is intended to update the site regularly. Thanks were extended to Cllr Pask, and especially Mrs Sue Lewis, for their work in this connection. It was agreed that the Parish

Clerk

Clerk

- Council minutes would be placed on the site once they had received approval by Members.
- (e) New Councillors/Training: To date no applications for co-option had been received. It was agreed that the provisional training courses would be cancelled. Advertisements have been placed on the PC notice board, 'Contact' and website inviting applicants. Clerk
- (f) PAYE: According to HMRC all Parish Councils have now to pay their Clerks on a PAYE, rather than a self-employed, basis. The Clerk was advised to check with HRMC in her specific connection. If necessary, SALC would handle such work at a cost of £7/month. Clerk
- 11/043 Planning:
- (a) Decisions received:
Permission granted:
B/11/00399/FHA/LM: 1 The Row
Erection of two storey rear extension
Permission refused:
Oak Hill, Somerton Road: Felling of 1 no Oak
- (b) Withdrawn applications: None
- (c) New applications:
B/11/00621/FHA: Mile End Lodge, Somerton Road:
Erection of two storey rear extension following demolition of existing single storey rear extensions. Cladding of parts of dwelling with painted weather boarding. Clerk
Members agreed to support this application.
- (d) Tree Preservation Order/Tree Conservation Area Applications:
B/11/00629/TCA: 14 The Row: Fell 1 no Cypress Tree: It was agreed that Cllr Burr would liaise with Michael Feather in respect of all tree works applications. In this regard, he would liaise and circulate comments with a view to submitting the PC's comments by next Tuesday, 7 June. DB/ALL/
B/11/00630/TCA: Cotters, The Row: Fell 1 no Willow, Abies and Cypress: Action as per PA 14 The Row, above. CLERK
- (e) Other Planning Matters:
Appeal: Consent to carry out work to protected trees: Oak Hill, Somerton Road:
The meeting was suspended to hear comments from Mr M Last On this matter.
The meeting then continued. It was agreed that a copy of the PC's response would be sent to Cllr Burr with a view to reiterating the Council's concerns to the Planning Inspectorate. DB/Clerk
- 11/044 Green, Cemetery and Churchyard
- (a) Undergrounding of Cables: Dates for a possible meeting with UK Power Networks had been provided; it was agreed to request 10 a.m. on 28 June as the preferred date and time. (A resident attended the meeting after closure of this item and asked as to the current plan in this regard, since it would appear such work might affect some of the listed buildings around the Green. Clerk
Clarification would be sought at the aforementioned meeting. ALL
- (b) War Memorial: To be dealt at the next meeting following receipt of quotations for this work. Clerk
- (c) Cemetery Works - Gates/Cemetery Notice etc: The new oak posts had been installed and the gates re-hung. A quotation is awaited re the notice. A further quotation is awaited re the fencing to the rear of the cemetery. Availability and costs of the proposed fencing will be checked in September with planting to follow as soon as possible. JP
DB
JP

Cllr Burr advised that a large square area of land, by a telegraph pole, just outside the new extension, had been left uncultivated, and would soon return to scrub. It was suggested that Mr Lamprell be contacted with a view to planting trees there (and perhaps plant a hedge along his boundary). Alternatively, he might perhaps consider donating the remainder of the area, which, it was originally intended, the PC would purchase, in order to complete the rectangle.

Clerk

(d) Cemetery Headstones: Notices had been placed on three headstones, which had been laid flat. The Burial Register and related paperwork gives no indication as to the purchasers. It was thought that Messrs Hanchetts might be able to help.

Clerk

(e) Church Fete: A request for permission to use the Green for this purpose had been received from Mr Colin Line. Members agreed to grant permission.

Clerk

(f) Lime Tree – Sturgeons Hall: Cllr Pask reported the problem of basal growth on this tree; it was agreed SCC would be asked to remove this.

Clerk

11/045 Highways and Footpaths

(a) Traffic Management: Information re signage, costs etc of a solar powered speed sign had been received from SCC. SCC is to be asked if speed assessments could be carried out in three places; (i) on the A1066 approach to Hartest (between Stowehill and Pear Tree Farm Bungalow), (ii) Further down on the A1066 just before Coppy Meadow and (iii) on The Row by Hartest School playing field (by 1 The Row). If necessary, the PC would make a contribution re the two additional sites. Co Cllr Kemp had kindly offered up to £2k in this connection.

Clerk

(b) Darney Lane: Cllr Burr reported meeting the drivers of three quad bikes, who stated that they had not seen any of the notices prohibiting use by 4 wheel drive vehicles. An email has been sent to Mr P Scrivens, at SCC to ascertain whether these vehicles might be exempt.

11/046 Correspondence: Nothing to note.

11/047 Matters of report: Following a question by Cllr Pask, it was confirmed that the Parish Council has ownership of the Parish Plan, with spare copies residing with Mr D Loxton.

11/048 Matters for consideration at the next meeting: (For meeting in September: Community Shop)

11/049 Date of next meeting: Wednesday 6 July

The meeting was declared closed at 2038 hours.

Approved at the PC Meeting held on 6 July 2011