

Hartest Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Institute on Wednesday 4 March 2015 at 7pm.

Present: Cllrs Chris Browning (Chair), Neil Chappell, David Loxton, Graham Manning, Jo Pask, Nick Price and David Turner

In Attendance: Co Cllr R Kemp, Dist Cllr J Long, PC 270 Marshall and Parish Clerk

ACTION

- 14/122 Apologies for absence: None
- 14/123 Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the last meeting held on 4 February were approved and signed.
- 14/124 Matters Arising: None
- 14/125 Declarations of Interest: None
- 14/126 Public Forum: No members of the public present.
- 14/127 Police Report: PC Marshall confirmed that the Parish Council will continue to receive generic reports but more specific information would be provided (as appropriate) when an officer attends a PC meeting. There had been one crime reported; an unprovoked attack on a postal worker by a householder on 19 January. This had been dealt with. The next Priority Setting meeting is at Alpheton Village Hall on 17 March. The information currently provided to subscribers to Police Direct is now being moved to Police Connect due to the former's proposed excessive increased charges.
- 14/128 County Councillor's Report: Cllr Kemp's report, which had been circulated earlier, is attached.
- 14/129 District Councillor's Report: Cllr Long advised that BDC's next Full Council meeting is on Friday 13 March and thereafter on the 21 April. There is to be no increase in Council Tax during 2015/16, but there will be an increase in council house rents of £2.41/week.
- 14/130 Finance & Administration
Bank Balances as at 27.2.15: Current: £2,068.01 Savings: £20,869.74
(a) Receipts: Nil
(b) Payments:
Virtual Names: Virtual Names: Renewal of hartest.com domain name: £10.80
Clerk's Salary and mileage: Jan-Mar 2015: £607.63
HMRC: PAYE: Jan-Mar 2015: £132.20
Mr O G Cornish: Grass cutting: 3 x quarters: £2,632.50
SALC: Provision of 6 months' payroll services to 31.3.15: £16.80
SALC: Councillor Training: N Chappell: Modules 1 & 4 only: £58.80
Boxted & Hartest Institute: Hall Hire: 3.12.14 and 7.1.15: £40.00
The above were approved for payment
(c) The expenditure/income spreadsheet for 2014/15 had been issued.
(d) 2015/16 Budgets: To be finalised at the next meeting.
(e) Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities: This new code had been circulated. The main requirements are that, with effect from April draft minutes are to be published not later than one month after each formal meeting. Before 1 July, the PC will need to

publish: all expenditure items over £100, 2013/14 accounts plus bank reconciliations, variance explanations, annual governance statement, internal audit report and a list of councillor responsibilities.

- (f) Elections Timetable: The following dates – in May - were confirmed:

Clerk/CB

7th: Election

11th: Outgoing councillors retire,
newly elected councillors take office.

13th: Annual Meeting

- (g) Grant Request: A request had been received from Mr E Donald, on behalf of the community, for a donation towards a defibrillator proposed to be sited on the external wall of the GP's surgery. A sum of £490 was sought (following a fundraising total of £1,510) to achieve the £2,000 necessary. Cllr Kemp advised that he would consider providing this from his locality funding upon formal request from the PC. Cllr Kemp was thanked for his generous offer.

Clerk

14/131

Planning

- (a) Decisions Received: None

Withdrawn Applications: None

- (b) New Planning Applications:

B/15/00090/FUL: Windrush, Somerton Road: Demolition and re-build.

Members agreed to support this application.

New planning applications received since the date of this notice:
None

- (c) Tree Preservation Order/Tree Conservation Area applications:

B/14/01603/TCA: Felling: Multi-stemmed Lime – The Green (opposite Rendells)

B/15/00169/TPO: Fell 1 No. Cedar tree & replace with 3 Himalayan White Barked Birch trees – Ty Pegs, The Row

Members agreed to support these applications.

Clerk

- (d) Appeals: None

Other Planning Matters

Storage of Filing Cabinets: Being reviewed shortly.

Neighbourhood Plan: NP reported that formulation of the Plan has commenced; a great deal of work remains. BDC cancelled the meeting arranged with Peter Freer. Consideration had been given to the simplification of the Plan in order to progress. It is hoped the NP Group will ratify this proposal to merely highlight the various issues, reflect them in the Plan, provide to BDC (but nothing further to be done at this stage).

Community Right to Bid

The Crown PH is now listed as an Asset of Community Value, which means that, should it should come onto the open market at any point in the future, the village would be specifically informed in order to have an opportunity to make an offer of purchase.

Following discussion, it was agreed to consider other buildings for listing as ACV. On behalf of the PC, Cllr Browning thanked Cllr Price and all the members of the NP Group for all the excellent work they have done in this regard.

Village Shop: Cllr Chapple reported on a recent meeting with David Marjoram of the Crown re the possibility of building a shop behind the pub (to the rear of the car park). This was found to be totally unacceptable. It is now hoped to proceed with the original plan of using an existing shed-type building for a shop.

Cllr Long offered to provide information on other successful, small village shops (of a similar size).

Affordable House – Banhams Yard: No news; the house is still for sale. The person, who had originally expressed interest in

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purchasing the property, had written to I Tippet of BDC, but no progress had been made. It was noted that £87k is to be paid into BDC in this connection, which the Parish Council would want to use if it had a suitable scheme.

14/132

Green, Cemetery and Churchyard

(a) Cemetery

Extension Layout

Cllr Turner had circulated a quotation from Oliver Cornish re this in the sum of approx. £1k (plus maintenance costs subsequently). Members agreed to this sum being made available from reserve funds.

(b) The Green

Ditch/Drainage: Cllr Price reminded Members of the potentially dangerous situation vis-à-vis a ditch at the entrance to Parsons Walk, which had been dug by a resident, and into which a small child had fallen recently. Members agreed to ask Paul Gant to provide temporary protective fencing to avoid a similar incidence and to provide a copy of same to Co Cllr Kemp. (Post meeting, it was learnt that SCC has no responsibility re this area and Cllr Price kindly offered to make the area safe, as a temporary measure.)

Discussions were held as to the possible use of a 'mole' in dealing with drainage issues on the Green. This remains currently in the hands of Co Cllr Kemp.

Trees: Cllr Pask advised that Mr M Feather is to monitor the horse chestnut with bracket fungus, which may necessitate its removal in due course.

14/133

Highways and Footpaths

Village Road, School Parking, Pavement and Land to rear of School
Cllr Price reported on his recent meeting with Paul Gant and David Stiff of SCC and Ralph Carpenter. (Notes of which had been circulated.) This was an attempt to look for practical, realistic middle ground solutions to improve highway issues. David Stiff had suggested that, what had been done in Felixstowe Road, Martlesham might be a good idea for Hartest. This involves designating a single central lane for motorised vehicles and smaller lanes for cycle and pedestrian use on either side - three lanes on suitable roads in order to change the road's focus. It was suggested that this could be trialled for a few months, and prior to resurfacing the road subsequently (in 3-5 years' time). By having one wide centre lane and two narrower side lanes, there is more room for cycle users, it should help to reduce motorists' speeds and improve safety. A 20 mph speed limit would warrant enforcement and traffic calming measures, such as speed humps. The first step, if it were agreed to pursue this, would be to allow the centre line road markings to wear out over the next two years. The extent of the three lanes would vary according to the road width and pavement. The introduction of the new road markings would be implemented prior to the proposed resurfacing.

Members agreed to try this approach and, also, to request that SCC does not repaint the centre lines. SCC would also be asked to re-position the village name sign on the Row.

It was agreed that a working group, comprising interested parties (including the School), should be set up to look at the various issues in detail and to report back to the PC. Cllr Manning agreed to be part of the group and Cllr Price agreed to help launch the group.

The following action is to be taken:

- SCC to be advised that the centre white lining be allowed to fade with a view to trialling a proposal similar to that of Felixstowe Road in

Martlesham (with the agreement that, if such a trial were found to be unsatisfactory, this would be remedied during the planned resurfacing work in five years' time.

- The Hartest village sign on the Row to be moved further out of the village, as discussed and agreed.
- Extension of the 30 mph speed zones (to the top of Hartest Hill and Somerton Road hill) to be requested.
- A 'steep hill' sign is to be requested for Hartest Hill.

Clerk

Potholes: The road leading to the butchers is very badly potholed (as is the footpath from Rendells to the butcher's shop) and the verges continue to be eroded by vehicles.

Clerk

Poorhouse Cottages, Workhouse Hill: SCC will be advised of a drain outside No 2 in need of jetting.

Clerk

14/134

Correspondence: An email, received from Lawshall Parish Clerk, was read out advising that their PC, Gary Austin, had suggested that they might like to consider a Community Speed Watch project and ask whether Hartest PC might like to participate with them. After discussion, it was agreed that, as several ideas are currently being considered in respect of road layouts etc (in an effort to improve safety and reduce vehicle speeds), the PC felt unable at this juncture to consider participation in a CSW initiative, but would, however, bear this in mind, if circumstances change. Lawshall PC is to be advised accordingly.

Clerk

14/135

Matters of Report Only: None

14/136

Matters for Consideration at the next meeting: Approval of Financial Risk Assessment (carried out in March).

14/137

The meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.

Date of next Meeting: Wednesday 1 April 2015 at 7 p.m. in the Institute

Approved at the Parish Council Meeting held on 12 May 2015